



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Cheshvan/Kislev 5784 - November 2023

Event Highlights 2023-2024

November 8, 2023

JBC Miriam Ruth Black: "Shayna"

November 13, 2023

JBC Eli Elboim: "The Girl Who Survived Auschwitz"

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 7, 2024

3rd Annual Chabad Golf Classic

January 8, 2024

JBC Fayne Frey: "The Skincare Hoax"

January 10, 2024

JMOGD Azi Schwartz Concert

January 21, 2024 – 9 am

Defiant Requiem

January 21, 2024 – 4 pm

Temple Isaiah: "Cantors Sing Sinatra and ..."

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

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

March 6, 2024

JBC Sarah Bimbach: "A Daughter's Kaddish"

March 10-13, 2024

11th Annual Jewish Film Festival

March 18, 2024

Pomegranate Event

March 26, 2024

Federation Day at Tamarisk

April 3, 2024

JBC Rachel Shteir: "Betty Friedan"

April 14, 2024

All Things Israel

May 5, 2024

Yom HaShoah; Holocaust Remembrance

Israel: If Not Now, When?



Alan Potash

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

When will the hatred of Jewish people end? By the time this JCN goes to press the devastating events in Israel could be over or far worse.

Taking a moment of privilege to digest the days shortly after the attacks in Israel. I trust that you have been reading our updates that we have been sending out during this war. The challenges I have in reporting as I am pretty sure whatever I write will be so old or wrong. I hope on either account you will respect what I write.

We all woke up Saturday morning October 6th and learned that our world had changed.

At that time news reports of the attacks in southern Israel were sporadic and incomplete. As the week went

on the devastation was much greater than anything I had ever experienced. People at a music festival gunned down, kibbutzim and moshvim being overrun. Each day brought more terrible news, some of which unimaginable and evil. Having just visited that region a month earlier, I could not have anticipated any of this. Prior to the attack I was following the political issues in Israel and waiting to see how the Judicial reform issues were being addressed.

Knowing that the political horizon was keeping Israel engaged on many levels, I decided to invite a political reporter from the Jerusalem Post. The timing of his visit will prove to be important for us to get a handle on, hopefully, the aftermath of the war and maybe insights on what happened.

I want to let you know and invite you to the Jewish Federation of the Desert on November 7th for a very important and special update with Jerusalem Post Diplomatic reporter Herb Keinon. I have been a reader of his for over 20 years and interviewed him for a documentary I produced with students from the

University of Illinois in 2002.

Herb Keinon is an American-born Israeli journalist and columnist for the Jerusalem Post. Since 2000 he has served as the publication's diplomatic correspondent. He will speak on issues concerning Israeli society, security, and Middle Eastern politics. My guess is he will give us a full accounting of the war and how it has impacted relations with Israel's neighbors.

Herb has also written several books on Israeli society: *LONE SOLDIERS: Israel's Defenders from Around the World* and my personal favorite, *French Fries in Pita: A Collection of Herb Keinon's Columns on Life in Israel*.

Again, with the recent war with Hamas, I am sure Herb will be able to give us a good report on the developments and the future for Israel. If you want to attend his briefing please call Gloria at the Federation to RSVP. Gloria will give you details if a light lunch will be provided.



*Jerusalem Post
Diplomatic
Correspondent
Herb Keinon*

Community

By Arnie Gillman, Federation President

Israel is at war. Now, more than ever, we have to stand together as a community and support Israel.

Prior to the horrendous crisis in Israel, I was thinking about the power of building community.

I recently watched a documentary called *Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones*. The film explored five areas called "Blue Zones" where people are living to 100 at the highest rates in the world. What was the secret to a long and



**Arnie Gillman,
President**

vibrant life? Community.

And what is community? According to the dictionary, community is defined as people with common interests, living or working in a particular area. These common interests can be social, religious, cultural, financial, or political.

But in the Jewish Federation of the Desert, community can mean so much more. We are fortunate to have many groups for our members to join that help us strengthen our Jewish life--where we can pray together or socialize. We even have an eating group called ROMEO (retired old men eating out) that meets regularly.

The Federation is special because we all share a commitment to tikun olam or repairing the world. When someone is in need, whether they are sick or hungry, our community comes together to care for the most vulnerable.

I am proud to be part of this community, and happy that we have each other. If you are looking for ways to get involved, please contact me at my email address hag33150@aol.com. May we all live to be 100 and beyond.

At this time coming together as a family has more value. Wishing everyone a better days ahead, filled with family, love and, most importantly, community.

**everyone
counts**

can we count on you?

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**2023-2024
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Table of Contents

Vol. 51 • No. 4

Community Calendar	15-16
Federation	1-4, 24
Womans Philanthropy	5, 14
Have A Nosh	23
Jewish Family Service	9, 11
School Listing	23
Simchas & Classifieds	23
Temples	15
Tributes	10



**Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT**

Cabaret for a Cause

Starring
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**Monday Evening
November 27**
Tamarisk Country Club

5:30pm Cocktail Reception
6:30pm Buffet Dinner
7:30pm Show

Limited Seating Available
Please RSVP By November 13th
gloria.benavides@jfedps.org
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Tickets \$365 person

**GATHERING
FOR GOOD**



Silent Heroes

By Allan Potash, CEO

We are learning of heroic acts by so many people and they are deserving of the accolades. I have been following a small group of heroes that most people will never know. Their names and photos most likely will never be mentioned. They are doing work that only special heroes are equipped to do: Caring for the dead. Preparing for identification, reuniting with family and preparing for burial. I have already noticed that I have to stop writing

because the emotions are becoming overpowering at times.

How many of us have taken a moment and thought (as of today 1300 people have been reported dead in Israel) how are these people connected with their families are to be buried? Burial in Judaism is very important. And in Israel a small group of rabbis are doing this challenging work to identify the bodies. Bodies; people who days before were easy to identify now filled with bullet

holes, knife wounds, burns and other unimaginable wounds.

They need to clean the bodies, to look for identifiable markings like scars and tattoos, with the pressure to join them with their suffering families for closure. These Rabbis (I believe all male) are doing some of the holiest work possible.

We have a custom to bury our dead as soon as possible so the mourning process and comforting can begin.

With this war, families have been searching for their loved ones. So little information is there but there are lines and lines of family members waiting outside of this closed site, waiting to be able to know if their loved one is there or maybe being held hostage or hiding in a safe place.

May all the heroes who have died be identified, united with their families and properly buried. May they be for a blessing.

Where Does Israel Rank Among the World's Strongest Nations?

First place was taken by the United States, which the US News website calls "the most dominant economic and military power in the world."

By MAARIV ONLINE

New rankings published by US News looked at how much influence each country has in the world, as well as their political, economic, and military power, as well as foreign and security policy.

Although Israel dropped one place in the world ranking, it still made it to a respectable place.

United States

First place was taken by the United States, which the US News website calls "the most dominant economic and military power in the world." The site noted that the nation's cultural stamp extends over the entire world. However, the website noted that US national security is a concern, as is the debt created by wars. The US also leads the developed world in firearm deaths.

China

In second place is China. The most populous country in the world, China is also the second largest economy in the world and is heavily controlled by the ruling Communist Party. However, the site noted that political freedom remains tightly controlled, and China has some of the world's tightest restrictions on internet use. China regularly ranks near the bottom of international rankings for media freedom.

Russia

Russia took third place. The way Russia is perceived around the world due to the invasion of Ukraine, and the Western sanctions on the country's economy certainly affected it.

However, US News states that it's still the largest country in the world in terms of area mass, and also has one of the largest economies in the world, thanks to the production of oil and gas. The site also noted that Russia is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and also takes part in the G20.

Other Nations

Germany climbed to fourth place, followed by England, which rose to fifth place, and South Korea to sixth.

France came in seventh place and Japan in eighth place. Saudi Arabia came in ninth place.

According to the ranking on the site, Saudi Arabia is the "giant of the Middle East", with the vast majority of the land and wealth of the Arabian Peninsula within its borders. However, the survey noted that a strong religious identity dominates the country, with principles of the Koran, conservative teachings, and the strict Islamic Sharia law present in all aspects of life.

Israel

Israel reached a respectable 11th place. "Despite its size, the country played a significant role in global affairs," the survey said.

US News also noted that Israel has a strong economy, and it is of enormous importance to Jews all over the world. However, the rating noted that Israel has

ongoing conflicts with the Palestinians and that it faces accusations of human rights violations.

It also reported that Israel's main exports are diamonds, technological equipment, and medicines. Israel dropped one place from last year when it ranked tenth.



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



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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 the Holocaust. It tells the story of the moral leadership of brilliant Czech conductor Rafael Schächter, who sustained hope and courage for his fellow prisoners by creating a choir and "singing to the Nazis what they dared not say."

■ Program postponed to Sunday, January 21st ■

Join Temple Sinai and the Jewish Federation on Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 9:00 AM for a complimentary brunch followed by a special preview of the award-winning documentary "Defiant Requiem" with the producer.

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

Jewish Federation of the Desert's **SWORDS OF IRON** EMERGENCY ISRAEL CAMPAIGN

Israel needs our support NOW! Go to "Jewish Federation of the Desert" home page and click on "Israel Swords of Iron" to make your contribution. 100% of funds will go to Israel.

Opportunity to Attend A Virtual Program of A Fascinating and Important Book

By Alan Potash, CEO

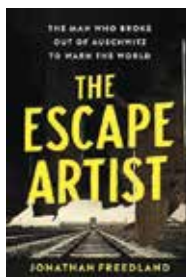
On November 13th, as part of the Jewish Federation of the Desert's Jewish Book Council Authors Series, we will be hosting a virtual session with Jonathan



Jonathan Freedland

Freedland, who will talk about his book **"The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World."**

I recently read this book and found it to



be one of the most important books I have read in years. The research and details Freedland put into the book is incredible, practically rebuilding this man's life from birth to death. He focuses on how Walter Rosenberg created an alias after fleeing Auschwitz to become Rudolph (Rudi) Verba. (You will learn why when you read the book). He survived in Auschwitz and found a way to escape. His personal goal, to which he attributes his survival and escape, was to escape to tell the world and warn the remaining Jews in Europe not to believe the Germans were just relocating them but they were going to be killed once the trains stopped. He and his escape partner, Alfred (Fred) Wetzler, communicated their time in Auschwitz to Jewish and underground leaders what they learned about the transport system and what to expect when they get on a transport train. After hours and days of telling their account of their experience (they were separated because no one believed their story so were separated so their story could be corroborated), but once their accounts were confirmed the work to spread the information became vital. I will leave the story of the escape so you can read it.

I will say, at times it was difficult to read about how anyone could survive in Auschwitz. But, by paying attention to how the Germans operated the camps and the processing of what little people packed in their suitcases for the "journey" they were able to devise a way to escape. I couldn't put the book (Kindle) down. Go and read it.

A little tidbit about Mr Freedland. As a reporter for the Guardian, he co-hosts a podcast with an Israeli journalist called Unholy: Two Jews on the News. I am happy to say this podcast might be better than my own podcast on Israel. The two journalists digest the news in a way I can't. Please check them out; as well as mine IsraelReBound.



Celebrate Jewish values, culture, and tradition

Every month, PJ Library sends more than 650,000 free Jewish books to families around the world raising Jewish kids from birth through 9 years old. PJ Library shares stories that celebrate Jewish values, culture, and tradition, all at no cost to families. Free Jewish middle-grade books for 9-12-year-olds are available at PJ Our Way.

For information about PJ Library activities in our community or help with enrolling to receive books, contact Leslie Pepper at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737.

Connect with families just like yours

PJ Library isn't just about the books. We support hundreds of local programs, most of which are free of cost. Whether you are looking to meet people, want to learn something new, or just need to get out of the house, there are PJ Library events for your family happening in nearly every community across the United States and Canada.



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OF THE DESERT

Strengthening our community together.



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JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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Jewish Federation of the Desert
VOL. 51, No. 4

EDITORIAL

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

JCN STATEMENT

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

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Borns Lecture Series Focuses on Antisemitism

Scholars present three topics coordinated by Congregation Har-El

By Emily Borns, Har-El Vice President of Lifelong Learning

The Borns Jewish studies program began as a boy's dream: Bob Borns, from Gary, Indiana, was the son of Jewish immigrants who had fled violent pogroms and ceaseless persecution in their Ukrainian and Polish birthplaces in search of the American Dream for themselves and their children. He grew up to attend Indiana University, where he met his beloved wife Sandra, the remarkable woman with whom he would build a lifelong partnership in family, business and philanthropy. They married in 1958, and throughout their lives they remained loyal to their alma mater, Indiana University.

In the 1990s, Mr. and Mrs. Borns began actively working towards uniting their love for IU with their shared passion for not only combatting antisemitism, but also teaching about Jewish culture, language, literature and history. At the time, there were few Jewish Studies programs at public universities, and aside from the Yiddish Book Center at Hampshire College there were few, if any, university Jewish studies programs focused not solely on theology, but on the totality of Judaism's immensely rich, vibrant and diverse culture and heritage.

Robert and Sandra worked tirelessly to muster support for the fledgling program, and what began as a dream grew into a large, thriving program featuring numerous degree and non-degree programs and classes. There are now hundreds of alumni, both Jewish and non-Jewish, many of whom have gone on to become Rabbis and Cantors, and many more who have gone on to careers as doctors, lawyers, entrepreneurs and countless other professions ... but what ties them all together is that so many graduates of the program go on to encourage the promotion of Jewish philanthropic



Emily Borns

endeavors, as well as working to combat antisemitism on many fronts.

The program also maintains close ties to the local IU Hillel, which serves the university community with the help of HMO's dynamo of a director, Rabbi Sue Laikin Siiberberg. Working together, the two entities have supported numerous efforts to combat antisemitism, as well as promoting diversity and tolerance in the Bloomington community.

Now, in collaboration with Temple Har-El of Palm Desert, the Borns Lecture Series will be hosting three remarkably compelling and fascinating speakers: Dr. Gunther Jikeli on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 3:30 PM; Dr. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 3:30 PM; and Dr. Alvin Rosenfeld on Saturday, March 9, 2024. The first two

events will be via zoom presentations, while Dr. Rosenfeld's Shabbaton presentation will be hosted at a private residence.

Dr. Jikeli is an Associate Professor of Germanic Studies and Jewish Studies at Indiana University and heads the research lab "Social Media & Hate" Dr. Benjamin is a Professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her primary areas of expertise are investigating and combating antisemitism on US university campuses. Dr. Rosenfeld has been associated with Borns Jewish Studies for decades and is an internationally recognized scholar. His presentation will be titled "What are the Causes of Today's Antisemitism and What Can Be Done to Combat Them?"

This series is in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

BORN'S LECTURE SERIES 2023-2024

Dr. Gunther Jikeli, Zoom and Live Presentation, Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 3:30 PM

Dr. Jikeli is an Associate Professor of Germanic Studies and Jewish Studies at Indiana University and heads the research lab "Social Media & Hate." His Topic for November 8th is: "Tracking Antisemitism on Social Media—What Do We Need to Know?"

Location of presentation will be confirmed at time of registration. To register email harelurjpd@gmail.com

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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.



Fran Kaufman,
Women's
Philanthropy Chair

Wednesday, November 08, 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, November 13, 2023- A second book review is being offered in November, **Eti Elboim's "The Girl Who Survived Auschwitz."** Elboim will present a **virtual** talk on her book at 3:00 PM. This



is a powerful story of Sara Leibovits and the incredible pain and hardships she faced during her time in the death camps. Yet despite the horrors she faced, she always tried to maintain her family's values of courage, faith, and kindness to others. Seventy plus years after the Holocaust, Eti reveals the inherited trauma of the second and third generations and completes the Holocaust survivor's tale.



Monday, December 11, 2023- Card/ Game Day for our Tzedakah Fund

Monday, January 08 Women's Philanthropy offering is a **virtual** talk at 10:00 am by **Dr. Fayne Frey** on her book "**The Skincare Hoax: How You Are Being Tricked into Buying Lotions, Potions & Wrinkle Cream,**" 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



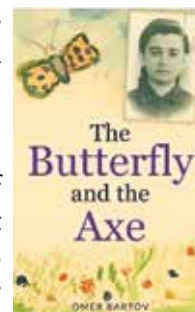
truly effective skincare products that are easy and affordable.

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

Monday, February 5, 2024. Omer Bartov, will present a **virtual** look at his book "**The Butterfly and The Axe**" at 3:00 PM. It takes place Spring of 1944 to a Jewish family in Ukraine. Three generations later, an Israeli woman and a British man of Ukrainian origins set out to find how their families were implicated in the crime.

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



Wednesday, February 07, 2024, Major Gift Event

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



Appelgate holds a Ph. D from Yale University and whose 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.

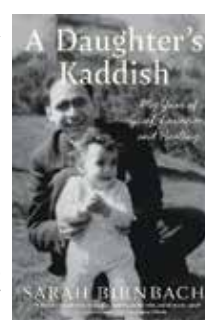
Wednesday, March 06, 2024- Sarah Birnbach will present at 10:00 AM her book "**A Daughter's Kaddish;**" the story

of 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 Pomegranate 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 – 10:00 am Rachel Shteir will give an **In Person** presentation on her 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 **Feast of Jewish Learning** on Sunday, December 23, 2023, and **All Things Israel** on Sunday, April 14, 2024, finishing off this very full season participating in Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 3:00 pm.

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



Safehouse of the Desert with support from our Jewish Federation, provides emergency shelter, intervention, and outreach services to runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis. See page 14

Café Europa 2.0

Programs expanding focus on children of survivors

By Leslie Pepper, Women's Philanthropy and Community Engagement Director



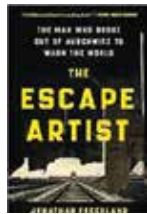
For over a decade, Jewish Family Service of the Desert has conducted the Café Europa program, offering education and support to our local Holocaust survivors. Made possible through the generous support of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, Café Europa has proved to be a meaningful opportunity for our precious survivors. Much like our local Café Europa members, children of Holocaust survivors have varied and unique stories and needs. In response, Café Europa 2.0 has been launched. Café Europa 2.0 is a program series designed by children of Holocaust survivors to offer important education and support to “the second generation.” The series will mirror the current Café Europa format of education coupled with an opportunity to engage and interact, but it will be different in an important way: Café Europa 2.0 programming will be “open to the public,” but it will also feature a private socialization opportunity for second generation participants.

Series programming will largely be made possible through the Federation’s connection to the Jewish Book Council, offering connections to noted authors such as Jonathon Freedland, Omer Bartov, Sarah Birnbach, and others.

Monday, November 13, 2023

Jonathon Freedland *The Escape Artist* Virtual 3:00 pm

Winner of the National Jewish Book Award and a *New York Times* bestseller, this is “a brilliant and heart-wrenching book, with universal and timely lessons about the power of information—and misinformation.” (Yuval Noah Harari) 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

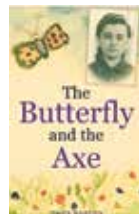
that the difference between truth and lies can be the difference between life and death. Rudolf Vrba deserves to take his place alongside Anne Frank, Oskar Schindler, and Primo Levi as one of the handful of individuals whose stories define our understanding of the Holocaust.

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.

Monday, February 5, 2024

Omer Bartov *The Butterfly and the Axe* Virtual 3:00 pm

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



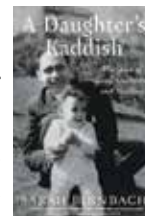
the historical record of the Holocaust by reimagining those who were murdered and erased from memory, and to shed light on the transgenerational effects of trauma. Omer Bartov was born in Israel and teaches history in the United States. His mother emigrated from Galicia to Palestine before World War 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.

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Sarah Birnbach *A Daughter's Kaddish* Virtual 10:00 am

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

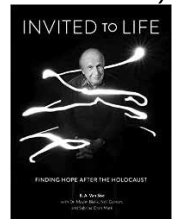
while at the same time grappling with some very painful ones—ultimately discovering how the path of faith and grief can lead to true healing.

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

Sunday, May 5, 2024

B.A. Van Sise *Invited to Life, Finding Hope After the Holocaust* 4:00 pm In Person (Part of Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration).

A moving and joyful celebration not only of 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 photojournalist spent 4 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 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.

For reservations for the three virtual events email Leslie Pepper at leslie.pepper@ifedps.org.

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IDF Kills Hamas Commander Involved in Deadly Attacks

Military says over 100 terror targets struck overnight; evacuation of Sderot residents slated to start; IDF spokesman: Top priority in Gaza op is freeing hostages
By Emanuel Fabian and Time of Israel Staff

The military on October 15 said it killed another commander in Hamas's commando forces who led the murderous attacks on southern Israeli communities

last weekend, as Israel moved to evacuate a border city ahead of the Israel Defense Forces' expected ground invasion of the Gaza Strip.

With the likely incursion looming, the IDF continued to urge Palestinians in northern Gaza to flee to the south of the coastal enclave while stressing its top

priority would be rescuing the hostages held by terror groups since the October 7 onslaught launched by Hamas, in which terrorists killed over 1,300 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapped 150-200.

And Defense Minister Yoav Gallant vowed during a visit to an army base near the border with Gaza that the war against Palestinian terror groups would be "deadly" and permanently change the situation in southern Israel.

The IDF said Billal al-Qedra, the commander of the so-called Nukhba unit's southern Khan Younis battalion, was killed in an airstrike following intelligence efforts by the Shin Bet security agency and Military Intelligence Directorate.

"He was responsible for the murderous raid in Kibbutz Nirim and Nir Oz," the IDF said.

Several more Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists were killed in airstrikes overnight in the Gaza Strip, according to the military.

The IDF said it hit more than 100 targets overnight, including Hamas command centers, military compounds, dozens of rocket launchers, anti-tank missile launch posts and observation posts; and Islamic Jihad command centers.

Following a 12-hour lull, warning sirens blared in a number of southern towns

continued on page 9



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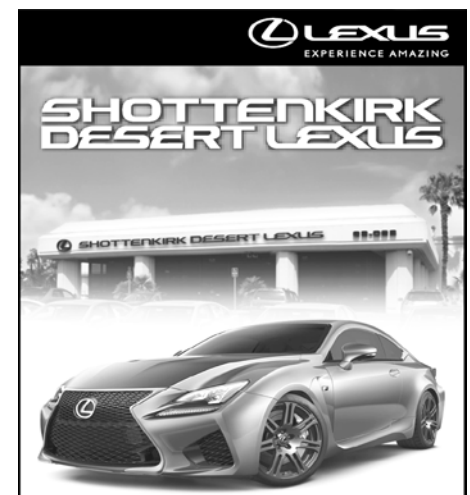
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US Congressman Brian Mast Wears IDF Uniform to Counter Rep. Tlaib's Palestinian Flag

The Jewish News Syndicate

Rep. Brian Mast (R-Fla.) spoke with reporters on October 13, following a Republican conference meeting to discuss the next potential speaker of the House.

After affirming his intent to vote for Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and answering various questions about potential other contenders for the position, he responded to a question about the olive-green Israel Defense Forces



Rep. Brian Mast in IDF Uniform

uniform he wore.

"What's with your threads today? Can you tell us anything about those?" a reporter asked the congressman as he began to leave.

Pausing for a moment, Mast turned to the reporter and said: "Tlaib's got her flag, I've got my uniform."

He was referring to Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), who supported Hamas in the wake of the October 7 terror attacks

that have left 1,300 dead in Israel, more than thousands wounded with as many as 150 taken captive in the Gaza Strip. Rep. Jack Bergman (R-Mich.) filed a motion to censure the Michigan congresswoman.

Mast repeated his remark, adding that "as the only member to serve with both the United States Army and the Israel Defense Forces, I will always stand with Israel."

Corey Fleischer's Erasing Hate Movement Literally Cleans Up Hate

Jewish New Syndicate

Corey Fleischer, 27, drove past a large spray-painted swastika on the way to work one day. Thinking better of that decision, he dismissed his fellow driveway power-washers and went back and cleaned the antisemitic graffiti up *pro bono*. He'd found his calling.

"I jumped out of my truck, mixed cleaning solution and I put the full force of water on that piece of hate, slowly seeing it erase," the Montreal man,

who is Jewish, told *Yahoo Canada*. "The rush I felt from that was a sense of euphoria I had been searching for my entire life."

Fourteen



Corey Fleischer

years later, Fleischer is still cleaning up hate speech—literally. And he has inspired a broader movement called Erasing Hate. He has removed hateful symbols as far as Alaska and Poland, and people can report hateful graffiti via his groups accounts on Instagram and Facebook, which have 142,000 and 51,000 followers respectively.

Fleischer has even helped former

neo-Nazis remove their bigoted tattoos through a global network of artists he convened who are willing to do such work for free.

The public can help remove hateful symbols without investing too much, Fleischer told *Yahoo*. "Ninety percent can be erased with stuff under \$5 at your local dollar store."

continued from page 8

Sunday morning, with a rocket launched from Gaza striking a home in Sderot and sparking a fire. There were no reports of casualties in the direct rocket strike, which came as the evacuation of residents from the southern city was set to begin.

The municipality emphasized that evacuation is not mandatory, but that it recommended that residents leave the area. Those leaving were being moved to hotels in Eilat and Jerusalem, and there was also a possibility of going to Tel Aviv.

There are estimated to be around 7,000 households in the town, according to the Ynet news site.

Last week authorities evacuated residents of the hard-hit Gaza-area communities devastated by Hamas gunmen.

In the south, Gallant said: "The war here is the war of light against darkness."

He said the military "will eliminate the Hamas organization" because it is a "culture that does not accept our existence here — human savages, beasts who murdered our soldiers, our children, our citizens."

"We will reach all the tunnels, we will reach all the Hamas members, and as long as we have not eliminated them, we will not have completed the mission," Gallant said.

Also visiting the south, President Isaac Herzog toured Kibbutz Be'eri, one of the

hardest-hit Israeli border communities in the murderous Hamas assault. Walking between the shattered and bloodstained buildings and homes where many residents were murdered by terrorists, Herzog said: "This land is soaked in blood. There was life here. This was a paradise that was turned into hell."

But he promises that Be'eri will be "a paradise again."

"Out of our grief, the tears, the terrible pain and the darkness in which this community finds itself, and all the surrounding communities, from here we say to the whole world: Nothing will break us."

In the north, Metula has in recent days recommended that residents leave the town following several deadly attacks along the Lebanon border, including the launch of an anti-tank missile by the Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group on Sunday that killed at least one civilian.

Additionally, thousands more living in areas that have come under heavy rocket fire are thought to be displaced, moving to stay in parts of the country that are quieter.

In another incident Sunday morning, the IDF said troops killed a Palestinian terrorist in the kibbutz of Nir Am, near the Gaza border.

According to the military, the gunman was identified in the community, and

infantry forces and tanks were dispatched to the scene.

After an exchange of fire, the terrorist was killed, the IDF said.

The New York Times reported that Israel plans to send 10,000 troops to capture Gaza City and "destroy" the Strip's leadership, citing Israeli military officers who have spoken publicly.

The report said the offensive would be the largest since 2006's Second Lebanon War and will see the IDF attempt to hold on to parts of Gaza, at least temporarily.

A Hamas official told the newspaper its fighters will try to ambush Israeli soldiers by popping out of tunnels behind their advance to surprise the troops.

According to the Israeli officials, the IDF's rules of engagement were being eased so soldiers would be able to shoot at suspects more easily.

Troops will be particularly focused on killing Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar, spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said.

"That man is in our sights," Hecht said. "He's a dead man walking, and we will get to that man."

Another IDF spokesman said the main focus in the military operation was to rescue the hostages, who were "most likely" being held underground.

Noting the "elaborate network of tunnels" in the Gaza Strip, Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus told CNN those kidnapped by Hamas terrorists are "most likely held

underground in various locations."

"It is extremely difficult for any modern military to fight in such a dense urban area," he said.

Conricus additionally said the IDF will not target civilians.

"But again, we must remember... we are going to fight a ruthless enemy that has no problems using everything available... civilians as human shields and using civilian infrastructure for military purposes," he added.

Conricus also emphasized again that residents of northern Gaza should heed the warning to evacuate, with Israel set to begin "significant military operations."

"The important thing here to focus on is that we will commence significant military operations only once we see that civilians have left the area," he said.

"It's really important that people in Gaza know we've been very, very generous with the time. We have given ample warning, more than 25 hours... I cannot stress more than enough to say now is the time for Gazans to leave," he added.

The Hamas-run health ministry said some 2,329 Palestinians have been killed as of Sunday and 9,042 have been wounded in Israeli retaliatory airstrikes in Gaza.

The IDF says it has killed some 1,500 Palestinian terrorists in Israeli territory after they breached the border fence and rampaged murderously in southern Israel.



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- **Bobbi Holland**, Thank you for a wonderful evening, from Shelli Goodman and Bernie Plack.
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- **Barbara Helpman and Family**, In memory of Martin Helpman, from David and Sandy Silberstein.

- **Family of Jim Lewis**, In memory of Jim Lewis, from Paul and Terry Lubar.

- **The Sank Family**, In memory of Arnold Sank, from Carol and Bob Friedman.

- In memory of **Barbara Sidley** from David Sidley.

- In memory of my cousin **Gerald Touch**, from David Silberstein.

Codex Sassoon, Oldest Complete Copy of the Bible, Returns to Israel

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Codex Sassoon, the oldest complete copy of the Hebrew Bible dating back over 1,000 years, arrived home in Israel on October 5 after a world tour following its auction at Sotheby's in May. The codex will be shown in a permanent display at ANU - The Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv.

The ancient manuscript flew on an El Al passenger flight, although it flew in a seat more prestigious than first class: The cockpit. This was deemed the safest place for it on the plane. Upon landing, Captain Amos Aldaag removed the codex from its secure safe in the cockpit and carried it out to a warm reception on the tarmac.

What exactly is a codex and why is it special?

A codex, in the context of ancient texts, is a book, or manuscript that is copied and bound with text appearing on both sides of the page the way a modern book is printed. Before codices became the norm in publication, the Hebrew Bible was copied onto scrolls. The oldest of these, the Dead Sea Scrolls, are located in Jerusalem.

However, the Dead Sea Scrolls and



The Codex Sassoon, the earliest and most complete Hebrew Bible ever discovered.

texts like them do not divide the Bible into chapters and contain no punctuation or indication of how the words should be read aloud. The Masoretic notes, the marks found in modern copies of the Bible indicating how to pronounce and chant the text, did not begin appearing in copies of the Bible until the 7th or 8th century BCE. The Codex Sassoon is the oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Bible that comes complete with the Masoretic notes.



El Al Captain Amos Aldaag carries Codex out to a warm reception on the tarmac

The return of the codex to Israel

Ambassador Alfred Moses, chair of ANU's honorary board and the donor of Codex Sassoon to the museum stated upon its return to the State of Israel: "The Hebrew Bible is the most influential book in history and constitutes the bedrock of Western civilization. I rejoice in knowing that it belongs to the Jewish People. It was my mission, realizing the historic significance of Codex Sassoon, to see that it resides in a place with global access to all people. In my heart and mind that place was the land of Israel, the cradle of Judaism, where the Hebrew Bible originated.

"In Israel at ANU, it will be preserved for generations to come as the centerpiece and crown, *Keter*, of the entire and extensive display and presence of the Jewish story."

The codex is named after its most well-known owner of the modern era, David Solomon Sassoon (1880-1942). It was part of an expansive collection and highly prized by the owner. Over the decades, it changed hands and eventually came to Sotheby's auction house by way of collector Ya'akov Safra.

Beginning October 11, 2023, the ANU Museum will be permanently displaying the codex.

US House Targets UNRWA Incitement, Moves to Prevent US Embassy Relocation

By Andrew Bernard, *The Algemeiner*

Overshadowed by the passage last weekend of a continuing resolution to keep the US government running for 45 days and the subsequent forced ouster of Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) as House speaker, the House of Representatives last week passed a foreign appropriations bill with significant provisions for the US-Israel relationship.

While the House failed to pass the full slate of 12 appropriations bills that would keep the government open through the 2024 fiscal year, one of the four they did pass was the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, which includes heightened scrutiny of the UN agency assisting Palestinian refugees and would deny funding to move the US embassy in Israel out of Jerusalem.

A report from the House Appropriations Committee accompanying the bill notes the US Congress's "longstanding concerns" that the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) supports educational programs that promote incitement to violence against Israelis and Jews.

"The committee notes the longstanding concerns that educational materials used in UNRWA schools induce incitement or are otherwise inconsistent with the values of human rights, dignity, and tolerance," the report says. "The committee is further concerned by the United States Government's lack of visibility on the curricula utilized in UNRWA schools given these allegations and the United States' status as a significant donor to UNRWA."

The report adds that, if the legislation is enacted, the US secretary of state would have 30 days to designate someone to review "a significant and representative selection of textbooks and other educational materials utilized by UNRWA schools in the West Bank and Gaza." The appointee would also be required to submit within six months a report to the appropriate congressional committees on whether "these educational materials contain incitement to violence, hatred, or other inappropriate materials."

A 2023 joint report by Impact-SE, a London-based NGO that tracks school curricula in the Arab world, and UN Watch, a Geneva-based NGO that works

to counter anti-Israel bias at the UN, found that UNRWA employees had created classroom material celebrating the firebombing of a Jewish bus as a "barbecue party," encouraging students to pursue jihad and martyrdom, erasing Israel from maps, and encouraging students to "liberate the homeland" with "their blood," among other examples of incitement to radicalism.

In a statement on October 4, Impact-SE CEO Marcus Sheff commented on the importance of holding UNRWA to account in the State Department's funding bill. "The fact that the House has included these provisions within an extremely complex bill demonstrates the significance that US legislators are now placing on UNRWA's continued incitement and antisemitism through educational materials," Sheff said. "Quite rightly, the House is demonstrating that there is no blank check for hate. It sends a clear and unequivocal message to

UNRWA's leadership and the staff who carry on producing hateful material and poisoning young minds that their actions cannot continue."

Meanwhile, Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY) introduced an amendment to the appropriations bill that also prevents funds from being used to move the US embassy in Israel from Jerusalem.

That amendment passed overwhelmingly with 360 votes in favor, and just 67 opposed. Among the "Nay" votes were staunch critics of the US-Israel relationship from the progressive caucus like Reps. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN), as well as more mainstream Democrats like Reps. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Gregory Meeks (D-NY), the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. All Republicans in the House voted for the measure.

Morton Klein, the president of the Zionist Organization of America, said

in a statement this week that the vote was evidence that support for the US Embassy being located in Jerusalem was moving beyond partisan politics.

"This overwhelming support for Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital is a significant milestone," Klein said. "Except for those with extremist, even Israel-hating opinions, large majorities of both parties support the continued presence in Jerusalem of the US Embassy. There is a true consensus that Jerusalem is important to both the United States and to Israel."

The overall appropriations bill passed 216-212 on mostly party lines, with all Democrats and two Republicans voting against it. A companion appropriations bill needs to pass the Senate so the two chambers can then reconcile the texts in a conference committee before it can be signed into law by the president. The continuing resolution gives lawmakers until November 17 to pass the full slate of appropriations bills.

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California School District Fires Teacher Who Taught Antisemitic Conspiracies

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

The Hayward Unified School District in California has fired high school teacher Henry Bens following an investigation into allegations that he shared antisemitic material in his classes.

The Algemeiner previously reported that Bens was placed on a leave of absence in February after reports emerged that during a unit on Holocaust survivor Eli Wiesel's memoir, titled *Night*, he assigned as class reading "The Hidden Tyranny," an antisemitic pamphlet authored by Holocaust denier Benjamin Freedman.

Among other claims, the work accuses the Jewish community of conspiring to subvert U.S. power, control the media, and dominate world politics.

Multiple students also alleged that Bens pantomimed the Nazi salute during lessons.

"The district will ensure that Mr. Bens will not be returning to Mt. Eden High School," the school district's assistant superintendent for human resources wrote in an internal letter first reported by J. The Jewish News of Northern California.

District Superintendent Jason Reimann had announced the board's decision to



High School Teacher Henry Bens Fired

fire Bens during a public meeting in late September, but did not mention him by name.

When reached for comment for this story, a spokesperson for the Hayward Unified School District told *The Algemeiner*: "The school district has no comment at this time."

Students had told J. The Jewish News of Northern California in February that Bens repeatedly said everything they knew was a lie and that he would "remove the blindfold."

His behavior was first reported in December, but other students said it had persisted for several years. Despite numerous complaints to the administration and direct pleas at school board meetings, he remained in the classroom.

An Algemeiner analysis of Bens' Facebook account from earlier this year revealed that he is an admirer of the Black Israelites and the film *Hebrews to Negroes*, an antisemitic documentary that became widely known after NBA player Kyrie Irving tweeted about it in October 2022.

The following month, Bens posted about the controversy prompted by Irving's tweet, saying, "Oh, is this the link Kyrie posted? Good looking bruh!"

Later, he described as "slave master mentality" efforts to persuade Irving to apologize for promoting *Hebrews to Negroes*, which, in addition to denying the Holocaust, accuses the Jewish community of stealing their religion from blacks.

In another post, Bens shared a YouTube video defending Kanye West's antisemitic rants and claiming that the rapper's actions were similar to a 2002 incident in which the late pop singer Michael Jackson, whose two oldest children were conceived with a Jewish woman, had a public contract dispute with former Sony Music Entertainment CEO Tommy Mottola — who is Italian.

The formal end of Bens' tenure in Hayward comes amid the return to the classroom of an unnamed female Wisconsin teacher who, according to a local blog called Elmbrook Community Need To Know, was accused of pantomiming the Nazi salute and ordering students taking her class at Wisconsin Hills Middle School to respond with either "Heil Hilter" or "Heil" followed by her last name.

According to local media reports, the school's principal sent a letter to parents saying that on September 21, the teacher made an "antisemitic gesture and remark during class that is highly offensive to both Jewish and non-Jewish individuals." The letter went on to say that a subsequent investigation found the teacher did not intend to cause harm but still violated school policies.

The teacher, who has not been publicly identified, received a temporary suspension. According to a local NBC affiliate, the school principal said in a separate letter to parents that "disciplinary action and corrective measures have been implemented including antisemitism education."

Fiji to Open Embassy in Jerusalem in 2024

By Etkar Lefkovits, *Tazpit Press*



Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the United Nations in September.

The South Pacific island nation of Fiji will inaugurate an embassy in Jerusalem next year, the country's Deputy Prime Minister Viliame Gavoka said on October 2, as faith-based diplomacy continues to flourish.

The remarks come as hundreds of pilgrims from Fiji are in Israel to take part in the annual Feast of Tabernacles celebrations organized by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, following last week's first chartered flight to the Holy Land from the Oceania archipelago.

"The commitment is there from the leadership," Deputy Prime Minister Viliame Gavoka said in a telephone interview with

the *Tazpit Press Service*. "We are really keen to see that happen as soon as possible."

He noted that Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka confirmed the embassy decision in a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly general debate in New York in September.

"Our desire to have an embassy in Jerusalem is very strong," said Gavoka of the nation of nearly 1 million. "We as a people feel very close to the descendants of Abraham and want to connect with Israel in its entirety."

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Pompeo Tops List of Israel's Christian Allies

The Washington-based advocacy group Israel Allies Foundation releases the list annually.

By Etgar Lefkovits, Jewish News Syndicate

Former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo heads a list of Israel's top 50 Christian allies around the globe for their unwavering support for the Jewish state.

The Israel Allies Foundation, an advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., that works largely with evangelical leaders globally at a time of growing faith-based diplomacy, released the annual listing on September 29.

Pompeo is a former CIA director and, as secretary of state in the administration of former President Donald Trump, he advocated for Israel, including moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and supporting the Jewish state's right to its biblical heartland.

The next on the list was Jair Bolsonaro, the former conservative president of Brazil who brought relations between Brazil and Israel to new levels.

Christian religious leaders

Among the notable Christian ministry honorees on the list are John Drew Sheard Sr. (No. 8), presiding bishop and chief apostle of the Church of God in Christ, the largest U.S. African-American Pentecostal denomination.

Last year, Sheard led nearly 150 delegates and 30 representatives of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women on a tour of Israel, during the first official visit to the Holy Land by a top leader of the church.

The list includes Joni Lamb (No. 7), co-founder of the faith-based Daystar Television Network, who "provides significant financial assistance to the State of Israel," per the foundation.



"My deeply held faith and conviction has aligned me to stand with and support Israel in every possible way," said Pastor Paula White, a televangelist and former White House adviser on faith, who is also on the list (No. 5).

Pastor John Hagee, founder and chairman of Christians United for Israel, is number six on the list. Mike Huckabee

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Brazil President (2019-22) Jair Bolsonaro, Bishop/Chief Apostle Church of God in Christ John Drew Sheard Sr., Televangelist Joni Lamb, founder and chairman of Christians United for Israel Pastor John Hagee, and Former Arkansas Governor, Pastor Mike Huckabee and Pastor Paulan White.

(No. 9), a Baptist minister and former Arkansas governor, is another prominent member of the list.

The publication of the fourth annual list, which comes amid burgeoning relations

between Israel and the evangelical Christian world internationally, is timed to coincide with the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which many Christians refer to as the Feast of the Tabernacles. The latter holds special meaning to Bible-believing Christians due to a verse in Zechariah that predicts an era when individuals from every nation will come to Jerusalem to celebrate the holiday.

Thousands of Christian supporters of Israel from around the world are expected in Jerusalem for the annual Feast of the Tabernacles, the largest annual tourism event of the year.


'The Impact of Their Support'

"We are honored every year to recognize these incredible men and women of faith from across the world," stated Josh Reinstein, president of the foundation that publishes the list.

"It is due to their years of hard work that we are seeing embassies moved to Jerusalem, antisemitism called out and pro-Israel policies enacted at the highest levels of government," he added. "The impact of their support is truly limitless."

Founded 15 years ago, the foundation has emerged as a powerhouse in mobilizing support for Israel worldwide through faith-based diplomacy. Its ever-growing network includes more than 50 pro-Israel parliamentary caucuses around the globe based on shared Judeo-Christian values.

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Documents on Slain Terrorists Show Hamas Plan to Target Children

Jewish News Syndicate

Hamas targeted elementary schools and a youth center "to kill as many people as possible" during the October 7 terrorist rampage in the western Negev, documents obtained by *NBC News* show.

The detailed plans for the cross-border massacre, labeled "top secret" in Arabic, were found on the corpses of Hamas terrorists and shared to the U.S. media outlet by Israeli first responders.

Terrorists were also given instructions to capture hostages and take them quickly across the border to the Gaza Strip.

Hamas's October 7 terrorist assault claimed the lives of more than 1,300

people and left more than 3,500 wounded. More than 150 hostages were taken back to Gaza.

One page outlined a plan for the attack on Kibbutz Sa'ad calling on "Combat Unit 1" to "contain the new Da'at school" while "Combat Unit 2" was ordered to "collect hostages" and "search the Bnei Akiva youth center" and "search the old Da'at school."

Other plans in the documents included instructions to "kill as many as possible" and to "capture hostages."

The documents contained maps for Sa'ad and for four additional kibbutzim—Kfar Aza, Nahal Oz and Alumim.

Israeli officials said that they are analyzing all of the documents, which show that Hamas had been systemically gathering intelligence on each kibbutz that they raided with the intention to target women and children.

Other documents viewed by *The Wall Street Journal* showed that a Hamas hit squad that targeted Alumim was directed to "achieve the highest level of human losses" and then take captives.

"The dental office, the supermarket, the dining hall," an Israel Defense Forces source told *NBC News*. "The level of specificity would cause anyone in the intelligence field's jaw to drop."

Another IDF official told *NBC News* that he had "never seen this kind of detailed planning" for a mass terrorist attack.

Another document found on a vehicle used in the coordinated massacre showed that the terrorists were instructed to murder civilians and take captives, according to a report by Israel's *Kan News*.

The document was recovered at Kibbutz Re'im, near where at least 260 people were killed and an unknown number of others taken captive back to Gaza during a music festival.

Code words included "black" in Arab to slaughter all of the captives and "bus" to take the captives back to Gaza to be used as human shields. Other instructions were not coded such as plans to burn homes, cars and agricultural fields.

"Hamas's strategy behind this attack was very clear: They were on a mission to hurt and murder as many innocent civilians as possible," Tal Heinrich, a spokeswoman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told the *Wall Street Journal*, in reference to "maps and documents found on the bodies of Hamas terrorists."

"I saw murdered babies. I saw murdered children. I saw mothers and children murdered together," Yossi Landau, a commander of Israeli emergency response organization ZAKA, told *NBC News*.



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT | Women's
Philanthropy



Safehouse of the Desert with support from our Jewish Federation, provides emergency shelter, intervention, and outreach services to runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis.

DROP-OFF LOCATION:

Jewish Federation Building
69710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage

October 30th - November 3rd
10 am - 4 pm

CONTACT: Leslie Pepper

760-324-4737

Leslie.pepper@jfedps.org

Suggested Donations:

Household

.Bed pillows .Twin-Size Sheets .Cookware .Bath towels .Bath mats .Laundry bins
.Shower curtains/liners .Foil Wrap .Napkins .Ziploc Bags (S/L) .Hand soap .Cutlery
.Plates/Silverware.

Cleaning

.Reinforced trash bags .Clorox wipes .HE Laundry soap .Sponges .Floor cleaner .Mops/brooms
.Dish soap (liquid/tablets) .All purpose cleaner.

Personal

.Grey Sweatpants/Sweatshirts .Black/White men's T-Shirts .Socks .Shampoo/Conditioner .Bodywash
.Hair brushes.

Food

.Pasta .Canned foods .Cereal .Condiments .Water bottles





Shabbat Schedule - November 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.

Visitors welcome with valid
identification. 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.
www.chabadrm.com
Weekly Shabbat Services start at
10 am, followed by a sit down lunch/
kiddush.
Check online for weekday and
Friday schedule of services
Text 760-770-7785
or e-mail: info@chabadrm.com to
be added to our mailing list. All
programs and events are updated on
our website.
Ckids Hebrew School 10:00 AM
- 12:30 PM on designated Sundays
throughout the school year. Check
our schedule online Info: chabadrm.
com/ckids or Chaya Posner: chaya@
chabadrm.com or 760-272-1923.

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
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Circle, Youth activities, Holiday
programs and more.

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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

OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar rabbi@
orhamidbar.org
In-person services each 1st Friday
of the month and 3rd Shabbat
morning. Online services all other
Friday evenings and Shabbat
mornings of the month. Kabbalat
Shabbat Service - Fridays 6:30
pm; Shabbat prayer and study -
Saturdays 10:30 am.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES, Palm Desert

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial
Soloist Alan Scott. 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).
Cantorial Soloist Dr. Sarah Sela joins
Rabbi on the bima most weeks.
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs,
CA 92262, 760-325-2281. Email:
temple@templeisaiahps.com; www.
templeisaiahps.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 resuming soon. Check with
Temple Office.

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.
templesinaipd.org 760-568-9699.
Go to templesinaipd.org for access
information. Shabbat services are
in-person and online on Livestream
at www.templesinaipd.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@
templesinaipd.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 - November 2023

Mondays:

Har-El offers three classes with **Rabbi Richard Zions** 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 Zions 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 weekly **BBQ** is back for the season. Check their website (www.chabadrm.com) for convenient reservations/order form.

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:

11:00 am Or Hamidbar: **Rabbi David Lazar** "Covenant and

Conquest: The Book of Joshua" on Zoom. Link: visit.orhamidbar.org.

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: Judaism 2.0: "Jewish Observance in a Contemporary World." To participate, email Rabbi at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

Thursdays:

11:00 am Or Hamidbar: **Rabbi David Lazar** "Actively Engaging: Jews and Christians Reading Together Isaiah 40-55 on Zoom. Link: visit.orhamidbar.org.

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

Saturdays:

1:30 pm Temple Isaiah "Jewish University" is back, featuring adult education classes as well as religious school learning opportunities and Bnai Mitzvah preparation for

the Temple's growing group of young people. Check website for programs: www.templeisaiahps.com.

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. For more information on kids' club events, or to register, visit us on the web www.chabadrm.com/ckids.

Friday, November 3

11:30 am Women of JMOGD Luncheon "A Bit of Italy" Buffet, Del Webb Sun City Mountain View Clubhouse. Guest speaker: Carol Friedman, Volunteer, USC Shoah Foundation. \$40. Prepaid reservations required. Space limited.

Wednesday, November 8

10:00 am Women's Philanthropy opening meeting of season. **Miriam Black**, a Jewish Book Council author, joins us in person for a discussion of her latest book Shayna." See Women's Philanthropy article on page 6.

Wednesday, November 8

3:30 pm Har-El Borns Lecture Series Presentation on Zoom and Live: **Dr. Gunther Jikeli** "Tracking

Antisemitism on Social Media – What Do We Need to Know?" Location of presentation will be confirmed at time of registration. To register email harelurjpd@gmail.com. See ad page 5.

Thursday, November 9

4:00 pm Beth Shalom Book Club. Book: "**The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store: A Novel**" by James McBride. Discussion led by Gwen Schall. Visitors welcome. Information: 760-200-3636.

Monday, November 13

3:00 pm Jewish Federation of the Desert's **Jewish Book Council Authors Series**: The Jewish Federation will be hosting a virtual session with **Jonathan Freedland**, who will talk about his book "*The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World*."

Wednesday, November 15

4:00 pm Jewish Family Service Auxiliary presents Emmy Award winning comedian and writer **Monica Piper's** "Welcome to My Life" at Temple Sinai. See ad page 11.

Email (preferred)
Miriam Bent at
mhbentjcn@earthlink.net
or call 760-323-0255
to have your events
included in the
community calendar.

Slain IDF Officer Saves Lives of Five with Organ Donation

Jewish News Syndicate

The family of a 23-year-old IDF officer killed in the surprise Hamas assault has donated his organs to five patients at an Israeli hospital.

Lt. Roi Nahari's family saved Olga Paikin, a 44-year-old mother of five who suffered from hepatitis, a serious liver disease, for the last 30 years, a 72-year-old man who received Roi's lungs, and

three others.

"When they told me a donation was available, I was very excited, and when I found out the donation was from an officer who had just been killed in the war in the south I was moved to my core," Paikin said in a statement.

"His family has saved my life, and done so during the darkest days of their

lives. There are no adequate words to say how thankful I am to them and Lt. Nahari."

Nahari, from Moshav Ora near Jerusalem, served in the Paratroopers Brigade. He was killed in action in Kibbutz Kfar Aza on October 9.

Dr. Eviatar Neshet, director of the Department of Organ Transplantation

at Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah, said, "Our hearts break for the Nahari family who suffered an unimaginable loss and yet during their darkest hour, they thought about how Roi could continue to help others by donating his organs so that these individuals can have a renewed gift of life."

A Jewish Cemetery in Belarus was Destroyed by Nazis. Now its Headstones Are Being Made into a Memorial

By Jackie Hajdenberg, JTA

Earlier this year, the local Jewish community of Brest, Belarus received a call from a young couple who had just purchased a fixer-upper house and needed some help with a difficult situation: Their basement was built from old Jewish gravestones.

For nearly two decades, the Jewish community — and in recent years, the nonprofit The Together Plan and its American arm, the Jewish Tapestry Project, founded to aid Belarusian Jewry — have been receiving such calls from residents of Brest who have collectively discovered thousands of Jewish headstones in their city's construction. All of the headstones come from a historic cemetery that was destroyed during and after the Holocaust.

Today, an athletic complex sits on the site of the cemetery, which once contained tens of thousands of graves. But by the end of next year, The Together Plan expects to complete a memorial to the cemetery. It has also photographed and catalogued 1,249 remnants of cemetery's headstones, which were used after World War II in construction projects throughout the city.

"Currently there's nothing there to say it's a cemetery," Debra Brunner, CEO and co-founder of The Together Plan, the group leading the project, told CNN.

Before World War II, Brest — also known as Brest-Litovsk, or Brisk to the Jewish community that lived there — was home to more than 20,000 Jews and was a center of Jewish culture and study. But when the city was liberated after the Holocaust, only about 10 Jews remained there. Today, it has a total population of more than 300,000.

The Nazis initially cleared the headstones to make way for listening devices when they occupied Brest in 1941. Throughout the war, the headstones were used as pathways and construction materials. In the decades following the war, when Belarus was part of the Soviet Union and construction materials were hard to find, the gravestones became the foundations of homes, supermarkets, garden walks and cellars. In some cases, the Hebrew lettering on the stones was chiseled away.

The memorial will be erected on what was once a corner of the cemetery, some distance away from the sports complex. It



Members of The Together Plan catalog gravestones from the Jewish cemetery in Brest, Belarus.

will be made from broken pieces of the headstones that have been recovered over the past two decades and will feature a black granite plaque with text in Russian, Hebrew and English. The area surrounding the memorial will be covered with trees, grass and wildflowers.

Jewish cemetery preservation has been at times a contentious issue in Belarus. As recently as 2017, a Belarusian court approved a plan to construct a luxury apartment building on top of a Jewish cemetery in the city of Gomel, near the country's borders with Ukraine and Russia. The Brest municipality has pledged to maintain the upkeep of its city's memorial but did not provide any funds directly to the project. It is being led by the Together Plan and the Jewish Tapestry Project and supported by the Religious Jewish Union of Belarus, the Illuminate Foundation and the charitable Belarus-based organization Dialog.

"Jews have always honored the memory of their ancestors," Boris Bruk, chairman of the Orthodox Jewish community of Brest, said in a campaign video for the project. "And as there is no cemetery, we wanted to have a memorial sign, or a memorial place which would tell our descendants that their ancestors lie at this place, the people who lived, worked and prayed in this city."

In 2004, residents, construction companies and homeowners with properties paved with headstones began making phone calls to Regina Simonenko, the head of the Brest Holocaust Foundation and museum, wanting to return them. In 2011, the municipality of Brest approved the construction of a memorial using the headstones. The Together Plan joined the project in 2014.

Apart from the 1,287 remnants with writing, another 2,000 to 2,500 smaller fragments, without any writing, have been

collected and stored in a warehouse, where they have been photographed, cataloged and added to a searchable database.

The memorial is being designed by Dallas-based artist Brad Goldberg, who plans to build two arcs opposite each other that each feature some of the headstones. According to his website, Goldberg "sees his work as a fusion between sculpture, landscape, and the built environment."

"It isn't a cemetery," he told CNN. "They are all facing in different directions as if they are having a conversation with each other."

He added, "One rabbi that we have consulted has described it as being about life rather than about death."

Goldberg has a connection to Brest, too, which led to his work on the memorial. His family had taken in a Holocaust survivor, the late Jack Grynberg, when Grynberg came to the United States following the war. Somewhere between 70 and 100 of Grynberg's relatives were killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Grynberg was one of only a few Jewish residents of Brest to survive.

In 1997, Grynberg and his son Stephen traveled to Brest together. Stephen Grynberg is a filmmaker who has done work for the Shoah Foundation and was the one who recommended Goldberg as the memorial's designer. The younger Grynberg is also donating towards the memorial's estimated \$325,000 cost.

"In 1997 there were no signs of the cemetery," Stephen Grynberg told CNN. "We were taken there and our guide said, 'This is where the cemetery was.' Like so many things with the Holocaust, you can't really understand them, you just have these complicated visceral feelings."

He added, "I was just trying to compute the idea of them bulldozing a cemetery and building on it. That was the empty feeling I had."

MARK THESE DATES:

CHANUKAH EVENTS

DECEMBER 8 | CHANUKAH FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

DECEMBER 9 | SAT NIGHT GAME NIGHT

DECEMBER 10 | CHANUKAH @ THE RIVER

DECEMBER 12 | CHANUKAH @ WEEKLY BBQ

DECEMBER 13 | JEWISH UNITY EVENT @ ACRISURE ARENA

New to Israel? Rabbis Here Aren't the Same as They Are Elsewhere

Many immigrants assume that the rabbinic model they knew in their country of origin applies in Israel. This is not the case.

By Josef Wolicki, *The Jerusalem Post*

New immigrants to Israel are sometimes confused by the communal structure in Israel. They come from communities that revolve around the synagogue and its rabbi. Their expectations of the rabbi are based on that model. It might help them to understand some of the differences they will encounter here.

I was privileged to serve as a congregational rabbi in three countries: 11 years in the United States where I was born and educated, 14 years in Canada, and 14 years in Israel. In addition, in Israel, I taught practical rabbinics to students who were preparing for service to communities in various parts of the world and to young rabbis serving communities here in Israel.

These experiences taught me that communities in different countries have different expectations. There is no one job description that fits all. In the United States and Canada, there is no central rabbinic authority. Congregations are independent and self-defining. Rabbis are expected to satisfy the "religious" needs of their congregations, and to be involved with families through all stages of the life cycle. One mentor of mine referred to our role as "hatching, latching, and dispatching."

In North America, a rabbi's participation in all life cycle events is essential. In addition, the rabbi is often responsible for local kashrut, the mikveh, the Hebrew school, youth programming, community programming, and fundraising. He is also often called upon to provide marriage



Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi David Lau (left) and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef

counseling and grief counseling. I am sure that I have omitted a few things, but that is the general idea.

A rabbi assuming a new position in those countries must learn the specific expectations of his new community. Failure to meet those expectations could lead to a very short tenure. Rabbis are employees. The lay leadership of the congregation determines the terms of employment and remuneration. Contracts are negotiated between them and the rabbi. Contract renewal is dependent on satisfactory performance by the rabbi.

Why are rabbis in Israel different?

Many immigrants assume that the rabbinic model they knew in their country of origin applies in Israel. This is not the case. The Israeli rabbinate is based on a different model. There

are several kinds of rabbinic positions. Qualifications for each differ, as do the job descriptions.

There is an official, legally constituted rabbinic authority with administrative and judicial authority. The chief rabbis and the Chief Rabbinate council are authorized to oversee personal status issues for the Jewish population of Israel. This includes marriage, divorce, conversion, burial, and verification of Jewish status for new olim. They are responsible for the certification of kosher establishments and ritual baths, as well as for the rabbinical courts.

Rabbinic ordination exams are administered by the Chief Rabbinate. There are different exams for each category of rabbi. The categories include neighborhood rabbi, moshav or town rabbi, regional rabbi, city rabbi, and rabbinical judge. Each category has

its own qualifications. All of the above receive their remuneration from the government.

In addition to the above, many congregations choose to appoint a congregational rabbi. This appointment is outside of the "official" rabbinate. Many of these positions are part-time, or even volunteer positions. These rabbis offer Torah classes, answer personal and congregational halachic questions, and often engage in pastoral counseling. Any remuneration received comes solely from the members of the congregation. For a congregational rabbi to officiate at a wedding, authorization from the official rabbinate is required.

All of the above does not include rabbis who are serving as teachers and administrators in educational institutions.

Many of the counseling functions of the rabbi overseas are provided in Israel by other agencies. Many in the helping professions are sensitive to the religious sensibilities of their clients (even if sometimes not observant themselves), which is often not the case in the diaspora. They are well-trained and provide excellent services.

It is my hope that what I have written will help olim change their expectations about rabbis in Israel. It is an issue that is not usually addressed during the aliyah process and is just one more adjustment for us as olim.

The writer, a retired rabbi and psychologist, made aliyah 37 years ago and lives in Beit Shemesh.

In Sharp Turn after Hamas Attack, French Rightist Party Leader Marine Le Pen Voices Strong Support for Israel

By Michel Gurfinkiel, *The New York Sun*

The leaders of the French National Rally party, Marine Le Pen and Jordan Bardella, in a sharp turn that could change the pattern of politics in France, have issued separate statements of support for Israel in the wake of the Hamas terrorist onslaught.

Mme. Le Pen wrote, "Terrorism cannot be tolerated and the security of the Israeli people is non-negotiable.



Marine Le Pen (L) and Jordan Bardella, leaders of the French National Rally party

The strikes by the Hamas terrorist group against Israeli territory are an unacceptable act of war that pushes any hope of peace further and further away every day. In these difficult times, we stand more than ever alongside Israeli democracy."

Monsieur Bardella, who succeeded Mme. Le Pen as National Rally chairman in 2021 and acts, for all practical

matters, as her closest assistant, went even further: "Pledging support for Israel and the Israeli people facing a large-scale terrorist and Islamist attack, coordinated by Hamas from Gaza. Let us hope this time, for the honor of France, that some people refrain from justifying the worst."

The article, below, was issued by the Times of Israel on October 13, the last day before the Jewish Community News went to press. We intentionally opted to not include photos from the article. The words are horrifying enough.

IDF 'Localized' Raids into Gaza Said to Recover Bodies; Maps Show Hamas Killing Plans

Bodies of Israelis missing since the October 7 massacres said found; documents from terrorists' bodies detail Hamas plans for killing civilians, targeting schools, seizing hostages

By the Times of Israel Staff

Israeli troops who entered the Gaza Strip to conduct "localized raids" found and recovered the remains of Israelis who have been missing since Hamas's shock terror massacre on Saturday, according to reports in Hebrew media.

Haaretz reported late October 13 that armored and infantry forces who went into the Palestinian enclave, where an estimated 150-200 people are being held hostage by Hamas, retrieved the bodies of an unknown number of people and found some items belonging to people still missing since the surprise assault when Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel by land, sea, and air, and rampaged through Gaza border communities and a music festival, killing more than 1,300 people, a majority of them civilians.

The Walla news site specified that the bodies were those of Israelis and indicated that they were recovered close to the border.

Israel declared war in the wake of the Hamas massacres and has since been pounding Gaza with air strikes, saying it is targeting terrorist infrastructure and all areas where Hamas operates or hides.

Israeli forces have also killed some 1,500 Hamas terrorists who infiltrated into its territory since Saturday and have captured an unspecified number of them alive.

Authorities and volunteers continue to work to locate and identify human remains of those slaughtered in Gaza border towns by the terrorists.

Troops have been collecting items from terrorists' bodies, vehicles, and belongings and have found pamphlets with attack plans and schedules, and intelligence information like the number of residents in a given Israeli community.

On October 12, the Kan public broadcaster reported that it uncovered a document left behind by a Hamas terrorist in southern Israel that gives orders to terrorists to kill as many civilians as possible in their

takeover of the Kibbutz Alumim.

The document in Arabic gives instructions to the terrorist squad tasked with raiding the kibbutz to maximize killings, take hostages, fend off security forces, and wait for further orders, according to the report.

Additional documents recovered from terrorists show extensive Hamas plans to target an elementary school and a youth center, kill "as many people as possible" and take hostages quickly into the Gaza Strip from Kibbutz Sa'ad, according to NBC News.

The "top secret" documents reported by NBC include orders for two terror squads to infiltrate the kibbutz near Gaza, "search the Bnei Akiva youth center," "search the old Da'at school," "collect hostages," and "kill as many people as possible."

Other instructions include besieging the kibbutz dining hall and raiding "the dental office, the supermarket, the dining hall," an Israel Defense Forces source told NBC. "The level of specificity would cause anyone in the intelligence field's jaw to drop."

"I've never seen this kind of detailed planning," for a mass terror attack, an unnamed IDF official told the network.

Additional, detailed attack plans were found for Gaza-area communities including Kfar Aza, Nahal Oz and Alumim and show how Hamas gathered extensive intelligence on every Israeli community targeted for attack on October 7 and gave clear instructions to target women and children, according to the report.

The documents, combined with footage obtained from terrorists' body cameras, interviews with survivors and eyewitnesses, and first-hand testimonies from security forces and first responders in the aftermath of the devastation point to an extensively planned and coordinated Hamas operation to target and kill civilians, including women, children, and elderly people.

Earlier Friday, Israeli troops entered the Gaza Strip on "localized raids" to clear the area of potential terrorists and locate missing Israelis, the military said, in what is likely a precursor to a full-scale incursion in response to the weekend shock assault.

IDF spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said armored and infantry forces carried out searches and "thwarted anti-tank guided missile squads that intended to infiltrate into Israeli territory."

"The forces located findings that may help in the effort to locate the missing," Hagari said. "We will continue to make every effort to find every detail about the missing and hostages," he added.

Brig.-Gen. Gal Hirsch, appointed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as coordinator of hostages and missing persons, on Friday announced the establishment of a team of some 200 reserve officers to maintain "personal and direct" interaction with the families of the missing. The team is being headed by reserve general Major General (res.) Meir Kalifi, under the aegis of the IDF's department for hostages and missing persons.

Hirsch said on October 13 that members of the team will visit each family to provide support. "We have recruited for this important and sensitive mission officers and experienced personnel, who will reach out to the families to assist at this time of uncertainty."

Hirsch met in Tel Aviv with representatives of the families and detailed for them what has been done so far, including activities of a negotiation team and a judicial team, his office said. The meeting was attended by some 500 people, including first-degree relatives of those kidnapped and the missing.

Hirsch told them that efforts were being made round the clock to obtain information and that diplomatic efforts had been widened. Relatives raised the demand to establish an

immediate humanitarian corridor to enable the transfer of medicines and facilitate doctor's visits to the hostages.

An estimated 150-200 people were taken hostage by Hamas during its murderous attack last Saturday. The IDF has so far notified the families of 120 hostages that their loved ones are being held in the Gaza Strip.

Clear evidence has emerged showing that Palestinian terrorists murdered several young children during the Hamas attack.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in Tel Aviv on Thursday, cataloged some of what he called Hamas's "countless acts of terror in a litany of brutality and inhumanity," specifying, "Babies slaughtered, bodies desecrated, young people burned alive, women raped, parents executed in front of their children, children in front of their parents."

In Tel Aviv on Friday, visiting US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said he believes the Hamas terror group's activities are worse than what he witnessed carried out by the notorious Islamic State terror group a decade ago.

Austin, who served as the commander of CENTCOM, the US forces in the Middle East, from 2013-2016, told Netanyahu that "as you know, I was the guy that initially put the ISIS campaign together and I know a lot about ISIS, and this is worse than what I saw with ISIS."

On Thursday, the Prime Minister's Office took the extraordinary step of releasing gruesome photos of murdered babies to reporters and the public, seeking to underscore the atrocities carried out by Hamas in the savage rampage on October 7.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office told The Times of Israel that the rationale behind sharing such images was simple: "So that the world will see just a fraction of the horrors that Hamas carried out."

Yom Kippur War Declassified: A Look at the War Like Never Before

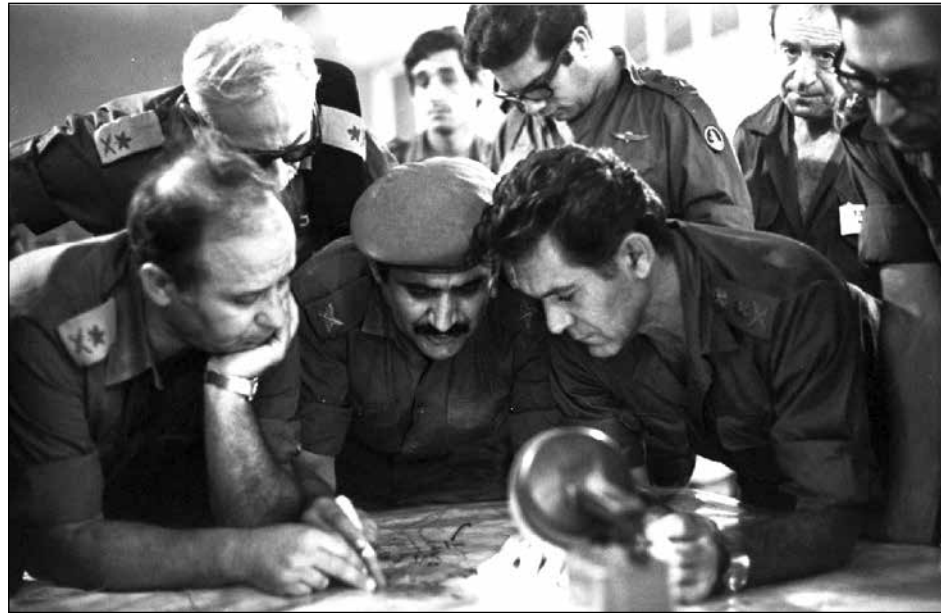
The State Archives said the collection offers "a fascinating glimpse into the decision-making process under conditions of uncertainty."

By STEVE LINDE *The Jerusalem Post*

"In the early afternoon of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, on October 6, 1973, alarm sirens interrupted the silence of the fast, and the signal was given for the start of the Yom Kippur War, which has become a national trauma in Israel's history. Although the war ended with military victories, 2,656 soldiers were killed, hundreds were taken prisoner, and over 7,200 soldiers and civilians were wounded. The fighting and its results were unbearably difficult for a country that just a few months earlier had celebrated its 25th Independence Day."

This is the introduction to the newly declassified material from the Israel State Archives that has been posted on its website in accordance with a government decision ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War. It comprises some 3,500 files, including about 1,400 paper files, 1,000 photographs, 800 audio clips, 150 transcripts, and eight videos.

The Israel State Archives (www.archives.gov.il/en/), which is part of the Prime Minister's Office, said it has been working for the past two and a half years on making the files that tell the story of the Yom Kippur War – on the front lines, on the home front, and in the government – accessible to the public. "For the first time, it is possible to use original documents in order to research and feel the drama and the emotions among the public, the IDF, and the leadership, comprehensively and directly," it said. "Some of the



DF chief David Elazar (right) confers with generals Yitzhak Hofi and Adam Yekutieli on October 10, 1973.



An IDF armored unit in its encampment on the east bank of the Suez Canal during the 1973 Yom Kippur War

This material, most of which was previously classified, has been checked and scanned, and cleared by the censor. It is now available as an archival collection of information on the war, beginning with decision-making by the country's leadership in a time of uncertainty; the fighting on the various fronts; the Israeli home front; diplomatic contacts with Arab states; and mediation by the major powers until the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement.

The documents provide records of deliberations between then-prime minister Golda Meir and security chiefs in the days before Syria and Egypt launched a coordinated attack on October 6, 1973. A day before, Military Intelligence Directorate chief Eli Zeira (who turned 95 this year) signaled that the intelligence establishment did not have enough information on a planned attack by the Egyptians and the Syrians. "I must say, we don't have sufficient proof that they don't intend to attack," he said. "We don't have conclusive indications that they want to attack, but I can't say based on knowledge that they aren't preparing."

Chief Archivist Ruti Abramovitz said the State Archives had endeavored to show "the 360-degree story of the war," which affected every facet of life in Israel.

"The work to reveal the material was done by many employees," she said. "This is the largest effort of its kind that the State Archives has ever undertaken...I invite the public to search for personal information, listen to the audio clips that can take us back in time, turn to the State Archives with requests for assistance if needed, and to look for answers to the open, and perhaps still bleeding, questions."

The State Archives said the collection offers "a fascinating glimpse into the decision-making process under conditions of uncertainty." For those interested in learning more about the Yom Kippur War, material can be accessed at <https://catalog.archives.gov.il/en/publication/ykw-en/>

material relays the events minute by minute and allows us to relive the feelings of those who were present at the events."

What has been declassified from the Yom Kippur War?

There are audio clips and photographs; transcripts and original files from government ministries and the military; diplomatic documents and testimonies; protocols of government and war cabinet meetings; high-level discussions and civil defense assessments; information on the home front; and much more.



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.

Drew Weissman, Jewish Immunologist, and Research Partner Hungarian Katalin Kariko Win Nobel Prize for Their Work on COVID Vaccines

By Philissa Cramer, JTA



Drs. Drew Weissman and Katalin Kariko

Drew Weissman, a Jewish scientist who identified the technology that made possible the mRNA vaccines against COVID-19, has won the 2023 Nobel Prize in medicine. Weissman shared the prize with Katalin Kariko, his Hungarian-born research partner at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kariko and Weissman's story of collaboration became famous in 2020 when the technology they had started experimenting with more than two decades earlier allowed the swift creation effective vaccines against the crippling pandemic.

The pair first encountered each other while photocopying research papers in 1998 and realized they were working on related topics. Kariko, who had been a low-level researcher for years, was trying to prove that messenger RNA, the genetic

material that tells cells what to do, could be programmed. Weissman, a physician who previously worked under Dr. Anthony Fauci, later the U.S. COVID czar, at the National Institutes of Health, was working on a vaccine against HIV.

They teamed up and, in 2005, published a paper showing that mRNA could in fact be altered to instruct cells to take certain actions. But their breakthrough was widely overlooked for decades until it became clear that it could be used to take action against COVID-19, which was killing hundreds of thousands of people and crippling the global economy. Their technology fueled both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which arrived with unusual speed and effectiveness in late 2020 and together have been administered millions of times.

"Through their groundbreaking findings, which have fundamentally changed our understanding of how mRNA interacts with our immune system, the laureates contributed to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times," the Nobel Prize committee said in announcing the award.

About a quarter of Nobel laureates in medicine over time have had one or more Jewish parents, according to Jinfo.org, a website that meticulously documents the Jewish lineage of prize winners across all fields. The site, which was updated swiftly to include Weissman, says that nearly 40% of U.S. Nobel laureates in medicine have been Jewish.

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Have A Nosh

With the horror in Israel, festive foods feel inappropriate; besides there are no Jewish holidays in November for which to prepare dishes. Instead, I'm giving you these four "comfort" dishes, all easy to make and they are really good. The first three are from my collection,



the way to make the Apple Pancake Puff as an INDIVIDUAL souffle (great if cooking for one or two) that is really easy and truly delicious! The fourth is a recipe that was created by Bill Amplo, which I ran in the JCN six years ago. As I wrote at that time, the instructions that he sent me for his sugar-free bread pudding began "start by freezing leftover challah"! It is a recipe he served at a Beth Shalom kiddush ... and it was absolutely wonderful! Enjoy! MHB

APPLE PANCAKE PUFF (12-inch quiche dish)

6 eggs	½ cup brown sugar
1½ cups milk	1/3 cup lemon juice
1 cup flour	2 apples, pared and thinly sliced
1/4 lb. butter or margarine	

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Melt butter in a 12-inch quiche dish (or 9" X 12" baking dish). Coat apples with sugar/lemon mixture. Blend eggs, milk and flour. (Will be lumpy).

Life apples from lemon/sugar mixture and place in the melted butter. Pour batter over. Pour remaining sugar/lemon mixture over top. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes, until puffed and brown. Serve immediately.

INDIVIDUAL APPLE PANCAKE PUFFS

2 teaspoons unsalted butter (1 use margarine)	½ apple, pared and thinly sliced
2 eggs	2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
6 tablespoons milk	1 tablespoon lemon juice
6 tablespoons flour	

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Divide butter (margarine) between two 1-cup custard dishes and melt in oven. Combine eggs, milk and flour until just combined (it will be lumpy). Combine sugar and lemon juice and coat apple slices. Divide batter between each custard cup. Fan coated apple slices on top in middle of the batter. Bake at 425 degrees for 15-20 minutes, until puffy and golden.

EASY CHEESE SOUFFLE (Must be assembled the night before)

1/4 lb. butter or margarine, at room temperature	6 eggs, slightly beaten
8 oz. Jar sharp process cheese spread	2½ cups milk
6-10 slices white bread, crusts removed	

Grease 9" X 13" pan. Set aside. Cream cheese spread and butter/margarine together. Fit bread slices in pan, cutting as needed, to make a single layer. Lift up each slice and spread with half of cheese mixture on one side. Return to pan, cheese side down. Spread remaining cheese mixture on top side. With sharp knife, cut bread into one-inch squares. Combine eggs and milk and mix well. Pour over bread. Cover with saran wrap or foil. Refrigerate overnight. Before baking, let souffle sit at room temperature for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Uncover and bake one hour, or until top is puffed and brown.

Parve SUGAR-FREE CHALLAH BREAD PUDDING

1 full tray of leftover parve Challah (see approximate quantity below)	8 teaspoons of pure vanilla extract
18 large eggs, beaten	4 cups Craisins (or raisins if you prefer)
8 cups of Splenda	Non-stick cooking spray (parve) – (not olive oil)
1 half-gallon of Mocha Mix (parve)	

Make the bread pudding in a full-sized aluminum tray (such as sold in bulk at Costco). Start by freezing leftover parve challah from Shabbat or yontif. When you have approximately 3 full gallon size freezers bags, you should have enough. Cut the challah into cubes and fill the aluminum tray. Let the bread sit overnight to harden.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a large mixing bowl beat the eggs. Mix in the Splenda, Mocha Mix, and vanilla. Pour the liquid over the cubes of bread. Add the Craisins and mix them in. Press down on everything so that all the bread is sitting in the liquid mixture. Let the bread soak for about 10 minutes.

Israeli Veteran Athletes Shine at Invictus Games in Germany

"The competitors understand each other, soldier to soldier, and they admire the IDF," swimmer Shali Zanzuri tells JNS.

By Rolene Marks, Jewish News Syndicate



Swimming medalists Amitai Arnon (left), Shali Zanzuri (center) and Kobi Gershoni (right)



Israeli team leaving for Invictus Games

A 20-member Israeli team participated in the Invictus Games that took place in Dusseldorf, Germany September 9-16, 2023.

Twenty-one nations, including debutant Israel, participated in 10 adaptive sports at the biennial completion for wounded, injured and ill veteran and active defense personnel that included swimming, cycling, archery, table tennis, hand-cycling and

indoor rowing.

Team Israel members were aged between 24 and 68 and were accompanied by four coaches and staff from the Zahal Disabled Veterans Organization (ZDVO). All train at the state-of-the-art Beit Halochem ("Warrior's House") centers in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Beersheva.

The Invictus Games are the brainchild of Britain's Prince Harry and were

founded in 2014. Israel was invited to join the organization in 2022.

Shali Shalom Zanzuri, a financial analyst who trains at Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv, shattered his midfoot during routine training while serving as a combat soldier in the IDF's Kfir infantry brigade. He has been swimming competitively for two years. After winning his medals he stated, "Invictus has been absolutely amazing, it feels like the *Mondial* [FIFA soccer World Cup]. I have made friends for life and people from all over the world have been cheering us on."

"This is the world championships for disabled veterans and we really do this for ourselves. To be there with the Israeli flag was amazing and I am so grateful to the ZDVO, thank you to my coaches, Eran Groumi and Noach Ram.

"When I was in the pool I was crying with emotion. Israel is loved and respected. All the competitors understand each other, soldier to soldier, and they admire the IDF. The USA team sees us as brothers.

"When I was swimming, everything else seemed so small; I fix myself from the inside. This has been so amazing," Zanzuri said.

Ora Seidner, who works on project development for the ZDVO's Zahal Disabled Veterans Fund and accompanied the team, commented, "Team Israel is doing great and they are well into their training routines and starting to compete. We had a fabulous opening ceremony, electrifying, well

beyond our dreams and the new teams from Israel, Nigeria and Colombia were given an extra warm welcome.

"JNF Germany hosted an event in our honor, attended by the German Minister of Defense [Boris Pistorius] and former IAF commander [Maj. Gen. (res.)] Ido Nehushtan, who is from Boeing. Boeing is a sponsor of Invictus," Seidner continued.

"Prince Harry requested a separate meeting and spent 30 minutes meeting the team. He shook everyone's hands. Our chairman of ZDVO, Edan Kleiman, is also here, heading our delegation," she said.

"The commander of the German Air Force [Lt. Gen. Ingo Gerhartz] is a keen cyclist and will join our cyclists in their training session later this week. We have our own Invictus in Israel, using sports as a major component in our rehabilitation for wounded veterans," Seidner said.

Team Israel did well in their inaugural Invictus games. Its 14 medals included silver and gold for mixed doubles in table tennis, Kobi Gershoni taking bronze in 100-meter freestyle swimming, Zanzuri a silver and bronze for swimming, Amitai Arnon, bronze for swimming, Menashe Zurik and Yagur Kasri, gold for table tennis, and Yigal Legaziel and Boaz Arad, silver for table tennis.

The next Invictus Games will take place in 2025 in Whistler, north of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

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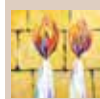
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Simchas

Mazel tov to **Elaine** and **Mark Gershenson** on the birth of their grandson **Benjamin Lev**, son of **Gwynne (Gershenson)** and **David Stein** in New York ... Mazel tov to **Aizik**

Witkes, son of **Mussie** and **Moishe Witkes** on being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat Bereshit, October 14. Delighted grandparents ar **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim**. *Share your simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-323-0255.*



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, November 3	Shabbat Vayeira	5:08 pm
Friday, November 10	Shabbat Chaye Sarah	4:03 pm
Friday, November 17	Shabbat Toldot	3:58 pm
Friday, November 24	Shabbat Vayetze	3:55 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Irving Rubin, Shmuel Wasserman and the more than 1300 Israelis slaughtered by Hamas. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



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JUDGES WILL BE NEEDED for the Jewish Federation's Holocaust and Poetry Contest to be held in April. The contest is open to all teens in the Coachella Valley in grades 8-12. The contest theme this year is "Never Again, Never forget". For more information contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org

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A capacity crowd filled the Jewish Federation conference room on October 10th, coming together in solidarity following the Hamas' massacre 3 days earlier ...

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