



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Adar I/Adar II 5784 - March 2024

Event Highlights 2024

Tuesday, March 5
**Israel Briefing with
Dr. Mordechai Kedar**
11:30 am (Virtual)
At Federation

• Wednesday, March 6, 2024

**JBC Sarah Bimbach:
"A Daughter's Kaddish"**

Saturday-Wednesday:
March 9-13, 2024

11th Annual Jewish Film Festival

• Monday, March 18, 2024

Pomegranate Event

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Federation Day at Tamarisk

• Wednesday, April 3, 2024

**JBC Rachel Shteir: "Betty
Friedan"**

Monday, April 8, 2024

Card/Game Day in Sun City

• Sunday, April 14, 2024

All Things Israel

• Thursday, April 18, 2024

**JBC Joe Posnanski
"Why We Love Baseball"**

Sunday, May 5, 2024

**Yom HaShoah; Holocaust
Remembrance**

Bold - Federation Event

• Event held at Federation Offices

Israel Update



**Alan
Potash**

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

By the time the JCN goes to print I hope that all of the hostages have been released from captivity. I am writing this on day 130 of the war with Gaza and the hostages in captivity. Israel was able to rescue two hostages from the Rafah area in a classic Israeli rescue. The two hostages are Fernando Marman, 61, and Louis Har, 70, both from Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak Har and Marman were taken hostage along with Clara Marman, 62, who is Marman's sister and Har's partner, their other sister

Gabriela Leimberg, 59, and Gabriela's daughter, Mia Leimberg, 17. You might remember Mia because when she was released, she was seen carrying her dog Bella with her.

The need to rescue the hostages becomes more and more critical as each day they are held captive the health deteriorates. Israel and others continue to work on deals to release them but Hamas as unrealistic requests.

Here in the States as we monitor the war and events in Israel our advocacy doesn't stop. We need to continue to contact our elected officials and the White House and let them know we support Israel and demand the release of the hostages. This is easy to do just call and tell them you support Israel and demand the release of the hostages: Call the White House 202-456-1111 or 202 456-1414, Senator Alex Padilla 202-224-3553 and Senator Laphonza Butler 202-224-3841, Congressman Ken Calvert 202-225-1986

and Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz 202-225-5330.

I was walking down El Paseo, and I noticed a sign of support for Israel in front of a store. Chrissy's sign read, "We are Donating a portion of every sale directly to those effected by terrorism in ISRAEL. If you shop at Chrissy's, tell them thank you!"

We have been monitoring city council resolutions around the country and here in the Coachella Valley, several weeks ago I reported that the Indio City council passed a resolution condemning Hamas. But at the February city council meeting out of frustration with the opposing voices they rescinded the resolution and stated the work of the city council is to focus on Indio. Recently, the Chicago City Council had a contentious fight over the resolution calling for a ceasefire. The mayor cast the final vote for the ceasefire.

Please continue to check out updated information on my resource blog...

Jewish Federation Takes Over Daily Operations of Tolerance Education Center



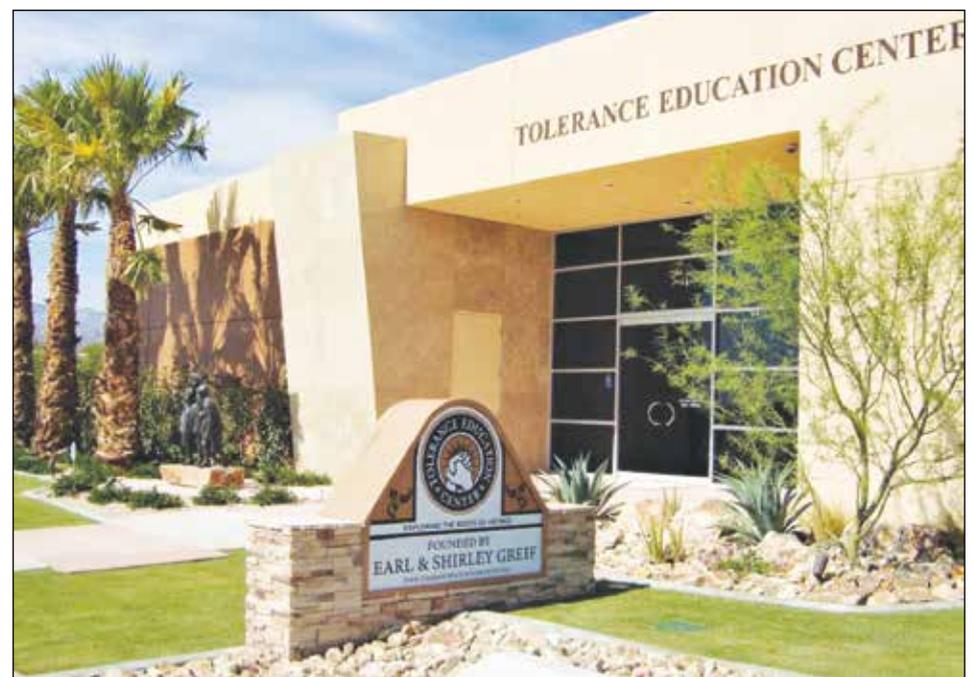
**Arnie Gillman,
President**

A new direction in combating hate and educating about the Holocaust is underway. The Jewish Federation of the Desert and the Tolerance Education Center have agreed to join efforts on behalf of the greater Coachella Valley to promote tolerance, respect, and understanding while eliminating hatred and bigotry.

Through education and engagement, the Jewish Federation of the Desert and the Tolerance Education Center will foster a mindset that rejects prejudice, challenges, and stereotypes and celebrates diversity.

Starting in mid-February, the Federation will take over the daily operations and management of the Center and begin planning for the fall programming.

As President of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, I know this is the right partnership and a great opportunity for the community. During this time of global conflict and local issues, the resources of the Center



will be able to guide the community in a respectful and meaningful way. CEO, Alan Potash, the Federation Board, the Tolerance Education Center Board, and I look forward to making a difference and impact with this new partnership.

Our main goals for the coming year will be education for middle and high school students, teacher education, and community programming around respect and understanding of people from different backgrounds.

**everyone
counts**

can we count on you?

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**2023-2024
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Alan Potash
Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents

Vol. 51 • No. 8

Community Calendar	18-19
Federation	1, 3, 7, 13, 15, 24
Women's Philanthropy	5, 12
Have A Nosh	22
Jewish Family Service	11
School Listing	17
Simchas & Classifieds	23
Temples	18
Tributes	16



PALM SPRINGS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL - 11th Anniversary

* Festival opens SATURDAY, March 9 with a Champagne VIP Event:
SUZANNE SOMERS, ONE INCREDIBLE LIFE™

* 14 films * Q & A with Producers, Directors, Writers & Actors

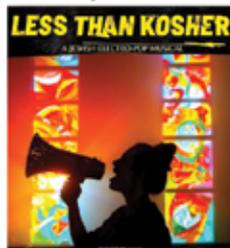
PLATINUM PASS (Champagne VIP Event & all films) \$150
Champagne Opening Event \$35 * Individual tickets \$12



Suzanne Somers ... One Incredible Life!™

Saturday, MARCH 9 - 7:30 pm: **CHAMPAGNE VIP EVENT** • Special filmed performance by Suzanne, Followed by a Live Personal Q&A with her husband, Alan Hamel.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

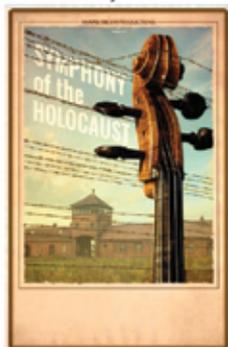


11:00 am * **Rabbi on the Block**
Q&A on Zoom with Rabbi Tamar Manasseh & Director Brad Rothschild.

2:00 pm * **Less Than Kosher**
Q&A live with actress & star of film Shaina Silver-Baird.

* Note: No evening film today as The Academy Awards are tonight! *

MONDAY, MARCH 11



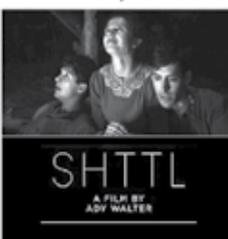
10:00 am * **Israel Swings for Gold**
Q&A live with Team Israel's Scott Burcham

1:00 pm * **Home**
Q&A on Zoom with director/writer Benny Fredman

4:00 pm Israel's romantic * **Matchmaking**
Q&A on Zoom with film maker TBA

7:00 pm * **Symphony of the Holocaust** Followed by a Live Performance of the Shony Braun composition, conducted by Dr. Noreen Green, Founding Artistic Director and Conductor for the LA Jewish Symphony; and Live Q&A with Producer/Director Greg DeHart, Dr. Noreen Green and the family members of Shony Braun.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

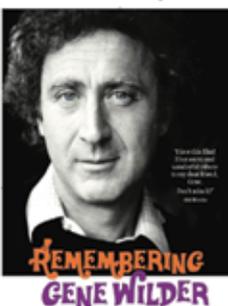


10:30 am * **All About the Levkoviches**
Q&A on Zoom TBA

1:00 pm * **The Boy in the Woods**
Q&A on Zoom with director Rebecca Snow

4:00 pm * **Golda**
7:00 pm * **Shttl**
Q & A Live with Saul Rubinick, actor and star of the film

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13



9:30 am Bagels & Schmoozing
10:30 am * **Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre**
Q&A Live with Roz Rothstein, CEO, StandWithUs

1:00 pm * **No Name Restaurant**
Q&A on Zoom with star Lluzer Twersky.

3:45 pm * **The Goldman Case (Cannes 2023!)**
7:00 pm * **Remembering Gene Wilder**
Q&A Live with introduction by Executive Producer Julie Nimoy, daughter of the late Leonard Nimoy, Karen Wilder, Gene Wilder's widow, and Director/Writer Glenn Kirshbaum.

9:30 pm After Party ... Everyone welcome!

The VIP Event, all films, Bagels & Schmoozing, and After Party will all be held at the Palm Springs Cultural Center (formerly the Camelot Theatre), 2300 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs. For information about becoming a sponsor, call 760-325-2281.

View trailers and purchase your Platinum Pass or individual tickets at www.PalmSpringsJewishFilmFestival.org

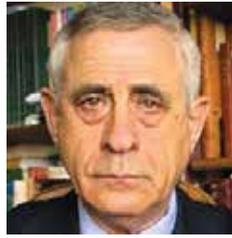
Schedule subject to change.



Israel Update with Dr. Mordechai Kedar March 5

Israel update with noted Israeli Expert, Dr. Mordechai (Motti) Kedar, to the community on March 5th, at 11:30 AM. Dr Kedar will hold a briefing for our community. This will be a unique virtual presentation where Dr. Kedar will give a thorough update on the situation in Israel. He will be open to answering

questions as well. Like many of you in the community, I have known his work for many years. We are fortunate



Dr. Mordechai (Motti) Kedar

that he is available to address our community. RSVPs are required to gloria.benavides@jfedps.org

Dr. Kedar is an expert in Israeli Arab culture. He served for 25 years in IDF Military Intelligence, where he specialized in Islamic groups, the political discourse of Arab countries,

the Arabic press and mass media, and the Syrian domestic arena. He holds a Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University. He is fluent in Hebrew, Arabic, and English. He is described as "one of the few Arabic-speaking Israeli pundits seen on Arabic satellite channels defending Israel."

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.

Eli Yablonek and Martin

By Alan Potash



One of the training obstacles for the dogs and humans

Last year when I attended the luncheon hosted by Helen Varon for Israel Guide Dogs for the Blind, I met the CEO Noach Braun. This past September when I led a group to Israel, I made sure we stopped in on Noach and visit the Guide Dogs for the Blind. It was a hot day and the dogs had just finished their training, but we had a chance to walk the grounds and learn about the training program. This past weekend, Noach and his team were visiting in the area and stopped into the Federation to say hi.

Eli lost his eye and an arm during the Yom Kippur war in 1973. Eli said that Israel Guide Dogs has given him an opportunity to be more part of society. The trust he has with Martin he is able to travel and be free.



Eli Yablonek and Martin



Jews of the Old West

Saddle up your horses and join us

POMEGRANATE EVENT

Monday March 18th 2024 | 12 to 2 pm
at the Federation Building

Event Chair: Paula Klein

RSVP to 760-324-4737
Wild West Speil - Line Dancing

Couvert: \$75
Minimum Contribution of \$1,800
to the 2024 Campaign

Israeli Athletes Compete in Indian Wells Tennis Tournament

By Nina Zale

The Indian Wells Tennis Garden was host to the Uniqlo Wheelchair Tennis Tournament during the weekend of January 26-29. There were teams from all over the world represented, men and women playing singles, doubles and mixed doubles for world ranking and prize awards.

The Israeli team of five wheelchair players along with coaches and chaperones numbered eight people. While these men and women were able to attend the games in Indian Wells, they had missed many tournaments because of the war, which unfortunately affected their world rankings. These athletes have been barred from participating in

games in countries like Morocco and Turkey, as well as not being able to leave the country since October 7.

My husband and I spent the weekend present at the games supporting the Israeli team. We got to spend time with them as well as cheering them on. During the tournament, we watched Shiran Madar play women's singles wheelchair tennis, and congratulated her for winning a silver medal, taking second place.

Shiran, at 23 years old, began her tennis career only a year and a half ago, and is ranked 70th for women's wheelchair doubles. After becoming a combat fitness instructor, Shiran enlisted in the "Lions of the Jordan

Valley" combat unit. As a commander in the IDF, she was injured in a non-combat accident that left her requiring the use of crutches. As a wounded IDF veteran, Shiran took up the sport of wheelchair tennis. Maneuvering her chair while heading for the ball and swinging a tennis racket requires a tremendous amount of strength, control and tenacity.

Shiran, coached by Nimrod Bichler, played her matches with the resolve of a hero warrior that commanded a unit in the Israeli army. As her world rating has risen with the win of the silver medal, she is sure to have a successful career ahead of her in wheelchair tennis, and anything else she chooses to pursue.



JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

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

JCN STATEMENT

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

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

ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

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Liberian Lawmakers Push to Reopen Embassy in Jerusalem

The United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Kosovo and Papua New Guinea have their legations in Israel's capital.

By Etgar Lefkovits, Jewish News Syndicate

A major parliamentary and diplomatic push is underway in Liberia to open an embassy in Jerusalem this year, restoring a bilateral relationship that is rooted in the birth of the Jewish state and that would propel African-Israeli ties to a historic first.

The faith-based initiative would fulfill a 2023 pledge by the predominantly Christian West African nation to reopen its embassy in Israel. It was shuttered a half-century ago amid a cutoff in ties due to African political interests and alignments with the Arab world.

"I strongly believe and am optimistic that we will see this achieved this year," said Liberian Rep. Moimah Briggs Mensah, who serves as the head of the Liberian Israel Allies Caucus and is leading the parliamentary initiative.

Mensah told JNS on Monday that the move had the strong support of many of her colleagues, including Liberia's influential speaker of the House of Representatives, Johnathan K. Koffa.

She added that she would be pressing the case in a meeting with Liberian President Joseph Boakai this month, ahead of a trip to Jerusalem next month of pro-Israel lawmakers from around the world.

'The basis of our faith'

Liberia was one of the 33 U.N. member states to vote in favor of establishing a Jewish state in 1947, and the two countries established relations in the late

1950s. The African country severed ties with the Israeli government in 1973 in response to the Yom Kippur War, but they were re-established in 1983 after a Liberian civil war.

While Israel does not have an embassy in Monrovia, it has an ambassador to Liberia, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

Last year, then-Liberian President George Weah said during a visit to Jerusalem that his nation planned to open an embassy in Israel. However, the move was stalled by the Liberian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, concerned over the political fallout such a move would cause among international institutions such as the European Union and the United Nations.

Dennis Nthumbi, Africa director at the Israel Allies Foundation, said on Monday, "Israel is the basis of our faith from a spiritual point of view, but we need to create a coalition of truth so that countries do not feel isolated and outweighed by international institutions who oppose us."

He noted that Israel had made a notable push to improve relations with African countries, including Liberia, which often votes with Israel at the U.N., citing recent prominent government and business delegations.

The landmark decision by then-President Donald Trump to relocate the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem in May 2018 set the stage for a trickle of additional countries to follow suit in the years since.

Five countries have their embassies in Jerusalem: the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Kosovo and Papua New Guinea.

All other countries that have ties with Israel maintain their embassies in Tel Aviv or its suburbs due to the political sensitivities of the capital city.

Before the Hamas attack in October, Paraguay, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo had also announced their intention to move their embassies to Jerusalem. The four-month-old war has delayed their openings.

"We see time and again that it is Bible-believing Christians, not countries that stand with Israel around the globe, offering both political and diplomatic support in times of peace and in times of war," Josh Reinstein, president of the Israel Allies Foundation, said on Monday.

11th PALM SPRINGS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
CHAMPAGNE VIP OPENING NIGHT EVENT
Suzanne Somers ...
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SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024 AT 7:30 PM
 at the Palm Springs Cultural Center (formerly Camelot Theatre)
 2300 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs

\$35 Purchase online at PalmSpringsJewishFilmFestival.org
 Visit website for synopses of all films and to purchase Platinum Pass or tickets.

'Bible-believing Christians'

**An Afternoon of Music to Kick off Temple Sinai's
 50th Anniversary Year**

Sunday, March 17
 3:00 PM Reception & Silent Auction
 4:00 Concert

Featuring Headline Entertainer **Wayne Abravanel**
 With Special Guest Adina Lawson

East Meets West: The Music of Broadway and Hollywood

General Admission: \$50
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Ladies, New to the Desert?
**Jewish Federation
 Women's Philanthropy
 has its welcome mat
 out for you!**

Welcome

Planning a move to the Desert?
 We have useful information for you.
 Call Leslie Pepper, WP Coordinator
760-324-4737
 email: leslie.pepper@jfedps.org
 or check our website www.jfedps.org.



Women's Philanthropy



Virtual Presentation with Sarah Birnbach March 6: "A Daughter's Kaddish"

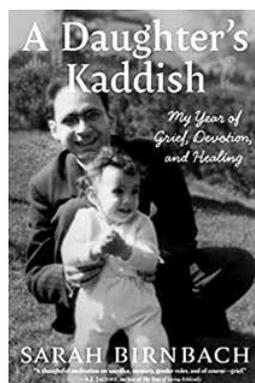
A woman breaks with Jewish tradition to honor her late father in this moving memoir of faith, grief, and transformation.

The community is invited to a virtual book presentation with the author of "A Daughter's Kaddish" on Wednesday, March 6th at 10:00 AM at the Federation building.



A Daughter's Kaddish recounts Sarah Birnbach's year-long odyssey to persevere through an unfamiliar world of Jewish prayer. To honor her beloved father, Sarah commits to reciting the Mourner's Kaddish twice a day in synagogue for eleven months—a Jewish mourning ritual that

was historically reserved for sons—despite her father's initial request that she hire someone male to do so. A novice worshipper and single working mother, Sarah



encountered many obstacles—including gender-based objections to her prayer practice, her own daughter's near-fatal car accident, an incident that tore her synagogue apart, and her mother's

dismissiveness.

Sarah incorporates these religious and spiritual practices into her already hectic 21st-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. Sarah Birnbach began her encore career as a non-fiction writer in 2016 after

successful careers as a human resources management consultant and a family therapist in a juvenile court. She was a sought-after speaker at conferences and delivered more than 500 presentations and workshops. Through her professional life she dedicated herself to enabling individuals to become their best selves.

Sarah is a five-time award winner from the Soul-Making Keats Literary Competition, a program of the National League of American Pen Women, and a two-time award winner in Bethesda Magazine's essay contest. Her stories have been published in numerous magazines and professional journals.

Friedan Biographer Here in Person April 3

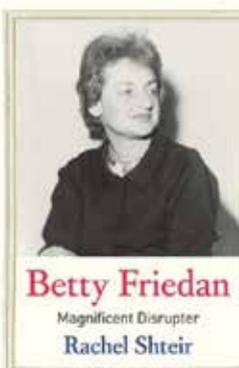
Fran Kaufman, Chair of Women's Philanthropy is excited to announce our next in-person speaker, Rachel



Shteir, author of *Betty Friedan, Magnificent Disruptor*, on Wednesday, April 03, 2024, at 10:00 am. at the Jewish Federation.

Feminist writer and activist Betty Friedan (1921–2006), pathbreaking author of *The Feminine Mystique*, was powerful and polarizing. A

leading figure in the women's movement in the United States, her 1963 book *The Feminine Mystique* is often credited with sparking the second wave of



American feminism in the 20th century. In 1966, Friedan co-founded and was elected the first president of the National Organization

for Women (NOW), which aimed to bring women «into the mainstream of American society now [in] fully equal partnership with men.”

In this biography, the first in more than twenty years, Rachel Shteir draws on Friedan's papers and on interviews with family, colleagues, and friends to create a nuanced portrait.

Shteir considers how Friedan's Judaism was essential to her feminism, presenting a new Friedan for a new era.

Rachel Shteir is an award-winning writer whose work has appeared in national magazines and newspapers

including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. She is the author of three previous books: *Striptease: The Untold History of the Girlie Show* (Oxford University Press, 2004), *Gypsy: The Art of the Tease* (Yale University Press, 2009), and *The Steal: A Cultural History of Shoplifting* (The Penguin Press, 2011). She is also the founder and current head of the Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism Program at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

For more information and to RSVP contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.

Jewish Book Council Program Brought "Madam" Author to our Community

By Leslie Pepper, Director of Women's Philanthropy

The Jewish Federation in conjunction with The Jewish Book Council welcomed Pulitzer prize winning author, Dr. Debby Applegate to deliver an exciting talk on her latest book *Madam* to a most enthusiastic audience. This is the second year we have partnered with the Jewish Book Council to bring wonderful authors to our community to share their "Jewish"

stories with us.

Following coffee and a Valentines nosh, Debby enthusiastically told of her 13 years of research into the life of Polly Adler, a notorious madam in New York City during the Jazz Age from her early beginnings in Russia to emigrating alone to the New World at 13 with no education, money or direction.



More Countries Cut Funding to UNRWA

By Ron Kampeas, JTA

A growing number of countries has suspended funding to the main United Nations agency aiding Palestinians in the wake of allegations that a number of its staffers were involved in Hamas' October 7 massacre in Israel.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, known as UNRWA, protested the cuts, saying that they were accelerating an oncoming famine in the Gaza Strip. The agency was founded to administer relief to Palestinian refugees and their descendants and is the main provider of aid in Gaza, where it employs about 12,000 people from a total staff of 30,000.

The United States and European Union have announced that they are suspending new funding for UNRWA, in addition to Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and other countries.

The cuts follow reports that the agency's staffers participated in the October 7 attack, in which Hamas terrorists killed 1,200 Israelis and took some 250 hostage, sparking the current war. The Wall Street Journal cited intelligence sources who said ties between Hamas and the agency run deeper than previously known, with 10% of UNRWA staffers implicated in the activities of



UNRWA distributes flour to Palestinian refugees in Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip

Hamas. UNRWA last week fired 12 staffers after Israel shared evidence that they were involved in the massacre.

Israel has long accused UNRWA of complicity in Hamas' malign activities. UNRWA staff have said Hamas has stashed weaponry in its schools, and Israel has said Hamas tunnels run underneath UNRWA facilities.

UNRWA's commissioner general, Philip Lazzarini, said the cuts were threatening the "primary international agency" active in Gaza, nearly four months into the Israel-Hamas war that has devastated much of the strip.

"Many are hungry as the clock is ticking towards a looming famine," Lazzarini said in a statement. International health agencies say the 2.3 million people of Gaza, most of

whom have been displaced by the war, are facing starvation.

"The Agency runs shelters for over 1 million people and provides food and primary healthcare even at the height of the hostilities," Lazzarini said.

Other top U.N. officials, including Secretary General António Guterres and World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, joined in expressing alarm at what the cuts will mean.

"The abhorrent alleged acts of these staff members must have consequences. But the tens of thousands of men and women who work for UNRWA, many in some of the most dangerous situations for humanitarian workers, should not be penalized," Guterres said. "The dire needs of the desperate

populations they serve must be met."

It's not clear how much the cuts from the group of nations will affect the agency, but the United States alone provides a third of UNRWA's funding. A number of nations, including Ireland and Norway, said they would continue funding the agency.

"We must distinguish between what individuals may have done and what UNRWA stands for," Espen Barth Eide, the Norwegian foreign minister, said in a statement. "The people of Gaza urgently need humanitarian assistance and must not pay the price for the actions of others."

The Wall Street Journal reviewed the intelligence reports the United States received from Israel. The reports said that 1,200 of the agency's 12,000 employees in Gaza have ties to Hamas, including 23% of its male employees. The Journal did not say which countries aside from Israel provided intelligence.

Of the 12 fired employees, at least two were involved in kidnappings, another two were tracked to the sites of massacres, and others provided logistical support, the intelligence said.

More than 26,000 Palestinians have been killed since Israel launched counterstrikes following Hamas' attack, including thousands of children, according to Gaza's Hamas-controlled health ministry. Israel does not dispute those numbers and says about a third are combatants. UNRWA says that 152 of its staffers have been killed.



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The Jewish Federation has a robust weekly eblast emailed on Friday afternoons to over 1800 email

addresses. Do you receive it?

If you have received it in the past but haven't received it lately it might be in your junk or spam folder. If it is, you need to go into the email settings and highlight the email and move it into the main folder—you can also call the office and we will walk you through how to fix it. It is important that you receive the eblast because we share information not just for the Federation but also for the local Jewish organizations that send us

their events.

If you have never received the eblast it means we do not have your email address ... and we not only invite you but urge that you send us your email so that you can be "in" our community. We do not inundate you with emails ... this is a once-a-week Friday afternoon transmission with important news that impacts us as a Jewish community. Please join us. Email your email to bebsabe.morrison@jfedps.org.

Preventative Medicine – Israeli MDs Share Tough Lessons

By Renee Ghert-Zand, *The Times of Israel*

Soroka is located 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the Gaza Strip, and on October 7, terrorist activity took place as close as 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the hospital as Hamas invaded southern Israel in a surprise attack. In the worst skilled, 1,600 were wounded, and 253 were taken hostage to Gaza.

Between 7:30 a.m. and midnight that Saturday, Soroka received 676 wounded individuals brought in by ambulance, helicopter and private car.

The number of casualties treat non-stop missile barrage was more than quadruple the largest number ever treated before in 24 hours at Soroka. Since October 7, the number of casualties treated at the medical center has risen to over 2,700, most of them soldiers wounded while fighting Hamas in Gaza since October 27.

"During [the initial 24-hour] period, 120 patients who were critically wounded were cared for in our trauma unit. Ninety-six surgeries were performed and 200 blood units were transfused as additional blood supplies were rushed to SUMC. Two-hundred and nine patients required hospital admission due to their injuries," wrote a group of Soroka physicians in an article published recently in the *Intensive Care Medicine* peer-reviewed journal.



Wounded Israelis arrive at the Soroka Medical center in Beersheba, southern Israel, October 7, 2023

Almost immediately, doctors from Soroka Medical Center, like many physicians who treated Hamas victims on October 7, felt the need to quickly disseminate the lessons learned from this unprecedented mass casualty event. Recently, director-general of Rambam Medical Center Prof. Michael Halbertal delivered a presentation on the topic to the British House of Lords.

By examining what went to plan and what did not on October 7, medical staff,

hospital administrators and the Health Ministry have sharpened protocols for individual institutions and the Israeli healthcare system as a whole.

"The philosophy is that the knowledge we gather is not ours. It's for us to share," said Halbertal.

The authors of the article titled, "October 7th, 2023 Attacks in Israel: Frontline Experience of a Single Tertiary Center," are Soroka CEO Dr. Shlomi Codish, Soroka deputy director and director of internal medicine Dr. Dan Schwarzfuchs, critical care specialist Dr. Amit Frenkel, emergency department head Dr. Moti Klein, orthopedist Dr. Alex Gefter, and Soroka deputy director Dr. Jacob Dreier.

In the paper, the doctors provided a detailed timeline of how events unfolded in the hospital on October 7 and several days following. Critically, they explained how Soroka followed a five-part approach that proved successful in handling such an unusual and intense event.

'Early, independent mobilization' is key

First, as early as 8:00 a.m. on October 7, Soroka declared a mass casualty incident in what the authors called an "early, independent mobilization." All the hospital's medical staff was immediately called in to treat the arriving wounded.

To boost staffing, Soroka also requested assistance from external personnel from other medical centers, resulting in help from 28 nurses and 18 physicians by the evening.

The third piece was to quickly reorganize hospital space, equipment and resources to accommodate so many severely wounded people requiring trauma care, surgery and imaging.

Fourth, Soroka began transferring injured patients to other hospitals as soon as the early hours of October 8. In total, 130 of the wounded were transferred out

by ambulance or helicopter within a few days. This allowed Soroka to make room for potential additional waves of casualties as it quickly restocked supplies.

Finally, Soroka simultaneously continued to care for and protect patients already hospitalized. Those who had to stay in the hospital were quickly moved to fortified areas, and 190 were discharged to make room for the incoming casualties.

Caring for staff and families

The article also discussed how Soroka's administration cared for families of the wounded, many of whom did not know if their loved ones were dead or alive, or where they might be.

"As the events of the day unfolded and the public became aware of the large number of victims and missing people, the medical center became inundated with families looking for their loved ones. An information center for the public was opened, providing for these needs both in person and by phone, based on the staff of our social workers," the authors wrote.

Medical staff and others at Hadassah Medical Center gather to mark 100 days since the beginning of the war with Hamas and to stand in solidarity with the 136 hostages who still remain in Gaza,

They also noted that it was their hospital's responsibility to care for its staff during and after the mass casualty incident.

"Firstly, [this meant] caring for the many staff members and families who were directly affected by the deadly events of October 7th, including the death or kidnapping of staff members or close relatives. Daycare facilities were opened on day two of the war, caring for hundreds of staff's children, a service without which the parents could not attend to their life-saving duties," the doctors wrote.

"Supportive care is also provided to the caregivers and first responders who cared for the endless flow of casualties on October 7," they added.

British lords learn from Rambam

Many of the points raised in the article were similar to ones included in Rambam director-general Halbertal's January 24 keynote presentation in the British House of Lords, to which he was invited by Lord Bew, a long-time Israel supporter.

The next day, Halbertal and Rambam's head of trauma Dr. Hani Bachus met with British colleagues at The Royal London Hospital, the busiest trauma center in the UK to discuss possible collaborations.

"One of the main topics they wanted me to speak about [in the Parliament] was Rambam's preparedness and how this can help Britain's National Health System

continued on page 15

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Taglit-Birthright Alumni Rush to Israel to Volunteer after October 7

By Aviva and Shmuel Bar-Am, *The Times of Israel*

As soon as they heard about the October 7 Hamas-led massacre in southern Israel and the ensuing war in Gaza, many Jews all over the world had the same reaction. "What," they wondered, "can we do to help?"

Those who could, donated to the war effort or packed boxes to ship to the soldiers. Others searched desperately for flights to Israel — the vast majority of airlines canceled all flights to and from the Jewish state as soon as the war broke out — so they could help on the ground in the country's time of need.

Birthright Israel, known as Taglit in Hebrew, was one of the first organizations to offer volunteer opportunities after the war began, with a group of volunteers arriving in November of 2023. So far, over 1,000 Birthright volunteers have come to Israel, paying for their own flights and mainly working in agriculture. Interestingly, the vast majority had taken part in one of Birthright's 10-day Israel programs for young adults in the past. And apparently, that short sojourn in the Holy Land had created an unbreakable, emotional bond between the participants and the country.

When we asked a number of volunteers, graduates of the Birthright program, why they had left their comfortable lives to pick strawberries and pack crates, they all said more or less the same thing: "Israel needed me. It wasn't a choice. I had to come."

Hanna Taxy took a Birthright trip when she was 21, forging, she says, a relationship with Israel that otherwise



Volunteers pick pomegranates at Moshav Zrahia



Birthright Israel alumni volunteers at the Bein Hashitin farm

might never have happened. Now, at the age of 36, she couldn't stop crying when she heard about October 7. She

was so distraught that she couldn't work, she couldn't focus on anything. And every time she saw a picture of tiny

Kfir Bibas, captured by terrorists, she saw the face of her own baby. As soon as possible, leaving the baby with her husband, Hanna rushed to volunteer in Israel.

Natalia Gutman made the exhausting 24-hour journey from Uruguay to Israel to pick oranges. She and her volunteer group prepared sandwiches for men and women at the front line, visited wounded soldiers and propped cucumbers up in the fields. "I don't know how much we really helped, but all of the Israelis we met said that just the fact that we had come had improved their morale," she told us.

What was it about the classic Birthright program that had made an impact so strong that its graduates were among the very first volunteers to arrive in Israel?

The standard Birthright trip consists of up to 40 young Jews from the ages of 18 to 26, who are led by both a tour guide and at least one educator specially trained to accompany the groups. Eight Israelis — soldiers or post-army — join the group for five days, a great addition to the trip that results in long-lasting friendships and a very special connection to Israel.

Since its foundation in 1999, Birthright has brought 850,000 young Jews from around the world to the Holy Land, with the aim of connecting participants with their Jewish identity, Israel, and the Jewish community in general and Birthright one of the first organizations to bring volunteers to Israel after October 7.

Former Democratic Representative Defeats IDF Veteran in NY Special Election

Mazi Pilip concedes race for seat left vacant by ouster of George Santos.

The Times of Israel

Democrat Tom Suozzi won a special election for a US House seat in New York on February 13, coming out on top in a politically mixed suburban district in a victory that could lift his party's hopes heading into a fiercely contested presidential election later this year.

Suozzi defeated Republican Mazi Pilip to take the seat that was left vacant when George Santos, also a Republican, was expelled from Congress. The victory marks a return to Washington for Suozzi, who represented the district for three terms



Mazi Pilip and Tom Suozzi

before giving it up to run, unsuccessfully, for governor. The unusual midwinter election became necessary after Santos was ousted

by his colleagues in December, partway through his first term.

With no time for a primary before the special election, Democrats nominated Suozzi, a political centrist well known to voters in the district.

Born in Ethiopia, Mazi Pilip was part of a community of 14,500 Black Orthodox Jews who were airlifted to Israel to escape civil war and famine in 1991. She was 12 at the time. Pilip later served in Israel's defense forces, then moved to the US after marrying a Ukrainian-American doctor in 2005. She

became a US citizen in 2009 and was elected to Nassau County's legislature in 2021.

Pilip conceded the race and said she congratulated Suozzi in a phone call Tuesday night. The short campaign was dominated by issues — abortion, immigration and crime — that are expected to shape crucial suburban races nationwide in this year's battle for control of Congress.

Both candidates expressed unwavering support for Israel in its conflict with Hamas, even appearing side-by-side in an unusual joint event intended to convey solidarity.

Local Community Commemorates International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Story and photographs by Talia Lizemer-Hawley

On January 27, 1945, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest and one of the most infamous and deadliest concentration camps of the Holocaust, was liberated by the Red Army. The soldiers were horrified by what they saw. Emaciated skeletons, some scarred by medical experiments. Most of the individuals were too weak to move. The Soviets set up two field hospitals. Another was brought in by the Red Cross. Unfortunately, for many inmates, the help came too late, and they perished not being able to overcome their tortures. Of the 1.3 million individuals sent to Auschwitz, 1.1 million lost their lives.

In 2005 the United Nations proclaimed January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This day honors the survivors and commemorates the victims of the Holocaust. It reaffirms



Students from Palm Desert Charter and Sacred Heart Middle Schools attended commemoration.

the commitment to never forget and develop educational programs to help prevent history from repeating itself.

On Friday, January 26th, 2024, the Mench Foundation held a



From Left: Ezra Yaron, Steven Geiger, Pastor Gregory Elder, Cantor Joseph Gole, and Jeff Brandt.

commemoration event at the Palm Desert Civic Park. Attendees included Holocaust survivors, city and state representatives, clergy, students from Palm Desert Charter and Sacred Heart Middle Schools, and the community at large.

Steven Geiger, Mench Foundation Founder and Director introduced the speakers: Holocaust survivor Henry Friedman, Palm Desert's Mayor Jan Harnik, Sacred Heart's Pastor Gregory

Elder, St. Margaret Episcopal Church's Reverend Andrew Butler, Jewish Federation CEO Alan Potash, Rancho Mirage Chabad Rabbi Benny Lew, Cantor Joseph Gole and Soloist Ezra Yaron.

The commemoration concluded by walking to the Holocaust Memorial, the only memorial in Riverside County, where seven candles were lit in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.



"There are stars whose radiance is visible on Earth though they have long been extinct. These are people whose brilliance continues to light the world even though they are no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for humankind."
— Hannah Szenes

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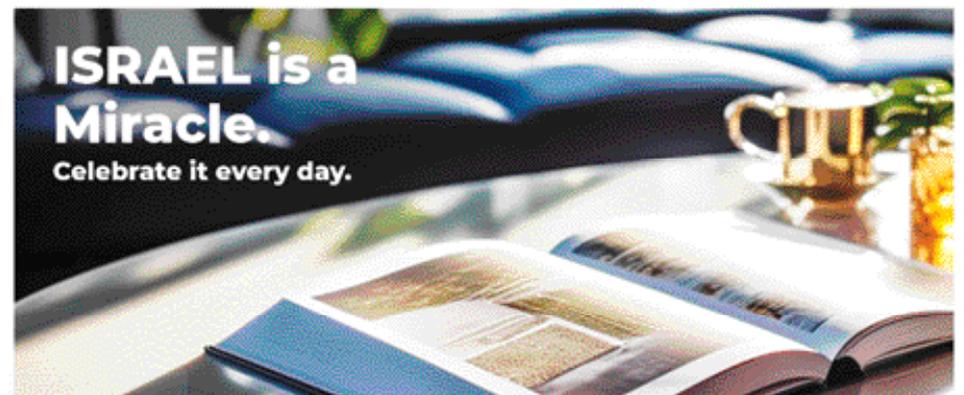
Our nothing to laugh at but no chopped liver Mensch Awardees are



Dinner is \$85. Must RSVP before March 18th.

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For further information and RSVP to menschfoundation@yahoo.com

Steve Geiger, Founder & Director of the Mensch International Foundation Tel. (760) 333-1189
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How Can Israel Treat a Whole Nation in Trauma? Experts Weigh In

According to Prof. Shlomo Noy, President of Ono Academic College, "The events of October 7 and their aftermath have changed the entire concept of trauma therapy."

By Jerusalem Post Staff

If, in the past few months, Israel has often been described as a nation in trauma, no words can adequately encapsulate what the nation has been going through since the horrific Hamas attack that left over 1,200 people killed, hundreds brutally kidnapped, and thousands wounded.

According to Prof. Shlomo Noy, President of Ono Academic College and former director of the Rehabilitation Hospital at the Sheba Medical Center, "The events of October 7 and their aftermath have changed the entire concept of trauma therapy."

Noy delivered these remarks in a panel discussion held on the subject of trauma as part of Ono's Conversation Corner, a series about the issues that the State of Israel will be grappling with the day after the war. Other participants in the panel included psychologist Pamela Paresky, an advisor at New York University's Mindful Education Lab, a senior fellow at the Network Contagion Research Institute, and a writer for Psychology Today, and Sharon Sharabi, whose brothers Eli and Yossi were both kidnapped by Hamas on October 7. The panel was moderated by Maayan Hoffman, Deputy CEO - Strategy & Innovation for the Jerusalem Post.

He stated that while Israel has had a great deal of experience in individual trauma, the events of October 7 and their aftermath, which affected a vast number of Israelis, have changed the entire concept of the therapy of trauma. "No nation in the world will be able to treat so many trauma victims individually."

In order to deal with the level of trauma in Israel, Noy said that new strategies for conducting group therapy in other settings need to be considered, as well as a community approach to trauma therapy. Ono's Trauma Center, he explained, is implementing both of these features in the therapy that it is providing for evacuees from Israel's south who are staying at hotels near the Dead Sea. "We want to go and reach out to the communities at their places and reach many people together," he said.

Expanding on Ono's trauma training,

Noy added that students in Ono's art therapy and behavioral science programs can currently receive a specialization in trauma within these programs. In the coming year, other faculties within the college will be adding courses in trauma specialization. The college has also added basic tools for dealing with student trauma for its 1,200 teachers in its master's degree programs in education.

Finally, Ono will be opening a clinic on campus for the treatment of trauma, as well as a traveling trauma clinic that will treat patients in various cities and locations in Israel, such as Sderot, Ofakim, and other communities in the Gaza Envelope. Noy added that Ono is seeking partnerships with other organizations in its activities in the treatment of trauma.

Sharon Sharabi's brother Eli, a

resident of Kibbutz Be'eri, remains in captivity in Gaza, and his brother Yossi, an Ono alumnus, also from Be'eri, was killed in Gaza. Eli's wife Lianne, and two daughters, Noiya and Yahel, were murdered by Hamas terrorists on October 7. "My family is broken and shattered," said Sharon, who states that the struggle to free the hostages has helped him deal with the trauma that he has experienced.

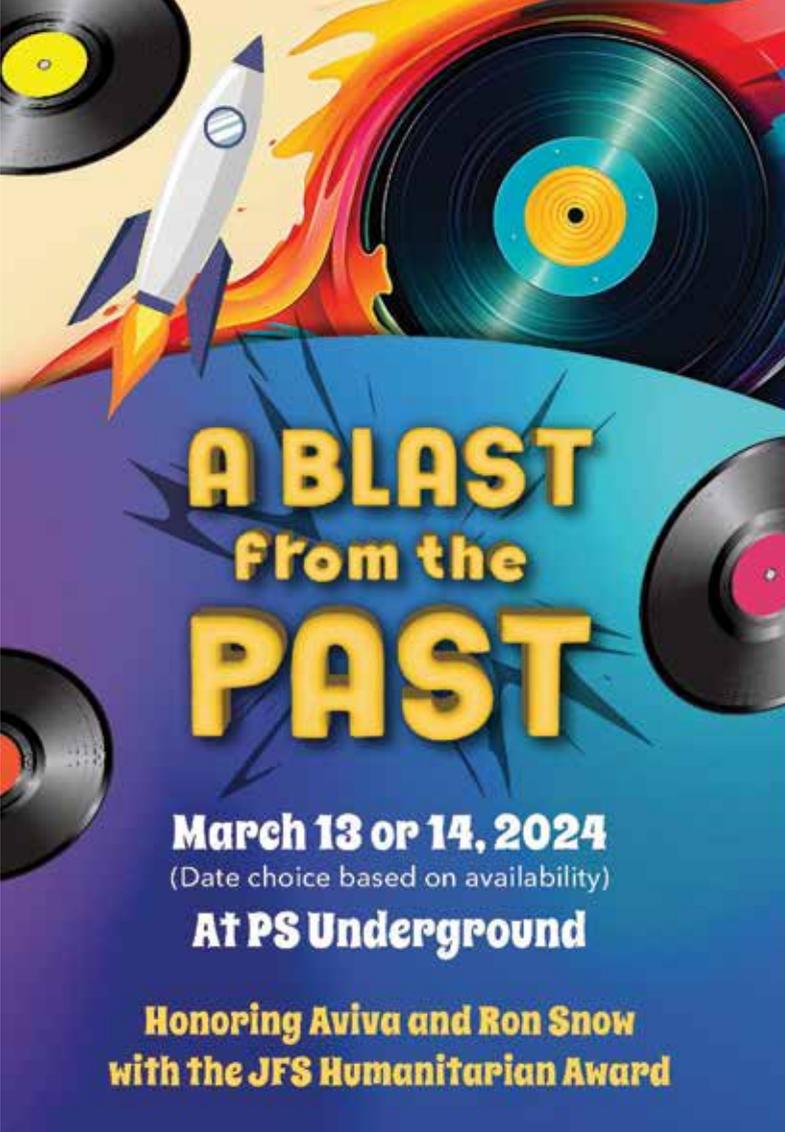
Commenting on Sharabi's reply, Paresky pointed out that what he and others have undergone is a type of 'shattering,' which conveys a stronger meaning than the use of the word trauma. "The word we have in our toolkit is trauma, but I'll be interested to see whether something new emerges," she said. Paresky added that accompanying the trauma that people have suffered is a resolve not to allow the terrorists to

rob them of their joy in life, calling it "a firm determination to cherish life and live life to its fullest."

She concurred with Noy's analysis of the unique nature of the current trauma in Israel, saying, "There isn't an adequate word in the psychological lexicon for what happened on October 7, or for the ongoing experience of Israelis and Jews around the world."

Paresky noted Ono's extensive work in this field and said she has seen a tremendous commitment to helping people rehabilitate and move forward. "I'll be really interested to see the results of the teacher training, the mobile clinic, the research, and everything that they're doing," she stated. Paresky added that programs that focus on positive psychology, art therapy, and play are also essential tools in rehabilitation from

continued on page 14



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Lion of Judah Luncheon

A wonderful morning at Tamarisk Country Club for the JFED Lion of Judah brunch. Co-chairs Margie Kulp and Carol Fragen set the stage for a great program including Israeli Fashion Designer Michal Mangisto, who shared her life story which included great personal tragedy, persistence in building a business and building a future for her family.

This year we welcomed the following ladies to our event, joining us

as new Lions: Pamla Abramson, Elaine Asarch, Wendy Brooks, Susan Edelheit, Sandra Elkins, Barbara Federman, Jan Gordon, Cass Graff-Radford, Cathy Hirschman, Nancy Kantor, Adrienne Kriezelman, Karen Lee, Carol Lewis, and Cathy Maslon,

If you are interested in purchasing your Lion of Judah pin, please contact Gloria Benavides for the latest pricing information on pins and additional stones at 760-324-4737 or gloria.benavides@jfedps.org.



- | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Chairs Carol Fragen (left) and Margie Kulp (right) with Women's Philanthropy President Fran Kaufman (center). | 5. Tammy Birnberg and Barbara Platt | 10. Carol Parsow and Joanne Chunowitz | 14. Lynn Chernis and Arnie Gillman | 20. Ellen Glass | Judith Sontag |
| 2 & 3: Israeli Fashion Designer Michal Mangisto | 6. Adrienne Kreiselman and Gail Scadron | 11. Cydney Osterman and Bobbe Holland | 15. Susan Edelheit, Libby Hoffman and Joann Bianco | 21. Harriet Bernstein | 29. Katie Small and Lisa Roth |
| 4. Michalena Appell and Jewish Federation President Arnie Gillman | 7. Debra Star and Annette Lerner | 12. Women's Philanthropy Director Leslie Pepper, Fran Kaufman and Lili Ann Zisook | 16. Joanne Mintz and Marnie Miller | 22. Cass Graff-Radford | 30. Barbara and Judith Appelbaum |
| | 8. Margie Kulp and Frances Horwich | 13. Lori Fritz, Susie Diamond, Linda Noddle and Marilyn Malkin | 17. Margot Halperin | 23. Amy Nachman | 31. Leslie Pepper and Phyllis Eisenberg |
| | 9. Stephanie S. Ross and Stephanie I. Ross | | 18. Susan Langus | 24. Phyllis Schahet | 32. Ruth Kaufman |
| | | | 19. Susie Diamond and Nancy Ditlove | 25. Toni Victor | 33. Pamela Abramson |
| | | | | 26. | 34. Sandra Elkins |
| | | | | 27. Carol Kaplan | |
| | | | | 28. Nancy Siwak, Nina Zale and | |

Major Gifts

Hosting our Annual Major Gifts Thank You Event was a special night. We were able to transform the Federation building to host the evening. Our special guest

performer was Danny Maseng, who spent his first 25 years growing up in Israel and later moved to the States. He developed a significant reputation as a leader in music and storytelling. Maseng rose to stardom in Israel at a young age and was the star of one of the first TV shows in Israel. Maseng came to America in 1971 to star on Broadway in the musical *Only Fools Are Sad* under the patronage of Golda Meir.



Hal Gershowitz, Sandra Borns, Carol Fragen and Diane Gershowitz



Fran Kaufman, Lori Fritz, Michalena and Joel Appell and Susan Gillman



Susan Walpert, Sandy Seplow, Arnie and Susan Gillman



Guest performer Danny Maseng with pianist Chip Prince



Joanne and Myron Mintz



Toni Victor and Barry Kaiman



Sherwin Turbow, Jewish Federation CEO Alan Potash and Marilyn Miller



Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross

'Symphony of the Holocaust' a Red Carpet Event at this Year's Jewish Film Festival

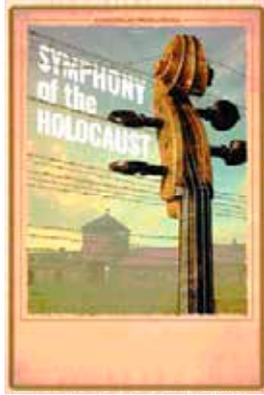
By Miriam H. Bent, Editor, JCN

This year's Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival has several exciting firsts. Everyone is encouraged to check out the festival's website to read about the extraordinary collection of films (PalmSpringsJewishFilmFestival.org) ... and attendees will have the opportunity to experience "The Symphony of the Holocaust" as a live concert performance, a first in the eleven years Temple Isaiah has mounted these Jewish film festivals.

The Symphony of the Holocaust is a feature documentary about the life of master violinist and Holocaust survivor Shony Braun, who used his experiences

in the Nazi death camps to compose *The Symphony of the Holocaust*, a haunting yet hopeful testament to the memory of the millions of Jews murdered

by the Nazis during World War II. After his miraculous survival, Shony composed over 200 works on his prized violin. But *The Symphony of*



the Holocaust was his masterpiece, and he longed to play it at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. His hope was to fill the camp with the beauty of his music. Unfortunately, Shony died before he had the opportunity. But now, Shony's family is fulfilling his wish, by traveling to Auschwitz to witness an Armenian violinist play his symphony in front of the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau gate - the very gate that thousands of Jews traveled through to their horrific deaths.

When Director of the Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival Michael Frydrych first reviewed the film he was so moved by the story that he could imagine the sounds of

a live performance ... and that gave him an idea. His search led him to Dr. Noreen Green, Founding Artistic Director and Conductor for the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, and, with many twists and turns along the way, the entire haunting composition will be played following the screening of the film. We are privileged that the Armenian violinist who played in the movie will perform with the orchestra. There will be a live Q&A that follows, with Dr. Green will join Producer/Director Greg DeHart and members of Shony Braun's family.

Emmanuel Macron Hosts Ceremony Honoring 42 French Victims of October 7 Attack

By Philissa Cramer, JTA

French President Emmanuel Macron presided over a somber ceremony in Paris on February 7 to honor the 42 French nationals murdered during the October 7 attack by Hamas on Israel.

France flew relatives of the victims on a special flight to the ceremony, held in pouring rain in the courtyard of Les Invalides, the national memorial where Napoleon is buried.

Each victim was represented by a photograph, and three empty chairs were placed to represent the three

French nationals who remain hostages in Gaza. The names of each victim appeared on a large screen as a violinist played the instrumental Kaddish written by the French composer Maurice Ravel.

"Hamas launched a massive surprise attack, the largest antisemitic massacre of our century," Macron said, before denouncing "barbarism ... which feeds on antisemitism and propagates it" and vowing to work toward peace in the Middle East.

The ceremony was streamed into Hostage Square, the Tel Aviv site that has become a gathering point for families of the Israelis who remain hostages in Gaza and their supporters. In attendance there, according to Israeli media reports, was Hadas Kalderon, whose sons were taken hostage and later released but whose ex-husband remains in captivity and whose mother and niece were murdered on Oct. 7. All hold French citizenship.

Relatives of the French October 7

victims said they were pleased by the decision of the government to honor their family members.

"This is an important and positive gesture, one we must focus on," Orelia Bliah, head of the French-speaking branch of the OneFamily Fund, an Israeli organization that supports victims of terrorism and their families, said in a statement. "This ceremony deeply moved the families."

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continued from page 11

trauma.

She added that healing trauma can go beyond the concept of resilience to post-traumatic growth, pointing out that historically, this type of positive growth has long been an important component of Jewish national behavior. Addressing how this type of positive growth can lead to antisemitism, she said, "We're also in a strange moment, in which our refusal to be victimized turns us into an oppressor in the critical imagination. Israel is precisely where Jews are strongest after antisemites try to break us, and in the critical social justice paradigm, that strength and the ability to overcome being victimized is not tolerated. This is one of the aspects of antisemitism. The other aspect is that antisemitism requires a kind of suspension of critical thinking. Unfortunately, that's exactly what the liberal, anti-democratic dominant narrative on American college

campuses does. It replaces critical thinking with critical theories that rely on a set of moral and logical inversions and on seeing the world in terms of us and them in terms of oppressors and victims. Whenever we're in a moment in which people predominantly see the world in terms of 'us' and 'them', Jews become 'them.'"

Concluding the panel discussion, Prof. Noy reflected that another reason behind the creation of the trauma program at Ono is that additional traumas in Israeli society are likely to occur in the future, either in the context of national events or environmental disasters, such as earthquakes. Noting that Ono's student body is a microcosm of Israeli society, he said, "We need also to do something for the future. We need to think how to lower the trauma of our internal society in Israel."

This article was written in cooperation with Ono Academic College.

continued from 8

think about improving its preparedness," Halbertal told The Times of Israel.

"It is all about how you get your systems to cooperate and work together — inside the hospital, with pre-hospital [emergency services], and with government partners — how do you get them to work together in challenging times when you need to be the most efficient to save life," he said.

Tailoring preparedness solutions to particular risks

Unlike Soroka, Rambam in Haifa was not on the front lines on October 7. Instead, it mainly received secondary triage patients. However, with ongoing constant IDF engagement with Hezbollah and other Iran-backed terror groups along Israel's northern border, Rambam has been on high alert and is ready to immediately move all operations to its underground hospital — the largest in the world — should a full-scale war break out along Israel's northern border.

"When you want to deal with emergency preparedness, the first thing you need to do is your own risk assessment. Every country has different risk assessments. Obviously, for us, military confrontation is a big issue, but it's not the same all over the world. So you have to drill down to the risks faced by each facility in a country. Different facilities have different



The Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa was prepared for receiving patients following the outbreak of war, October 11, 2023

challenges," Halbertal explained.

"Preparedness plans need to be tailor-made to each facility. It's not cut and paste," he said.

This time around, the reference scenario that Rambam is planning for is 60 days of war, with extremely powerful missiles falling around the hospital every four minutes.

Being ready individually, and as an interlinked system

Similar to the Soroka doctors' emphasis on "early, independent mobilization," Halbertal said that it is up to each medical

institution to be proactive in putting into place what it needs to be fully ready for any emergency.

Halbertal explained that the idea for an underground parking lot at Rambam that can be transformed into a fully functioning,

self-contained 2,000-bed medical facility within 36 hours came from the hospital's board after the 2006 Second Lebanon War.

"The home front was attacked and there was no fortification for the hospital. The staff, casualties and patients were not safe. So at the end of the war, the hospital management concluded that this could not happen again. This commitment for this was by the hospital, not the government or the Health Ministry," he said.

Like the Soroka doctors, Halbertal highlighted the importance of maintaining the resilience of hospitals, so that they don't get overwhelmed in mass casualty incidents.

"You have to look at it all as a system. You cannot work by yourself in big events. Israel is a small country, but this is important in larger countries, too. You have to cooperate with others, and those linkages need to be built ahead of time," he said.

 Sabra Hadassah of the Desert proudly presents a special fundraising event in support of the Hadassah Hospital Emergency Fund

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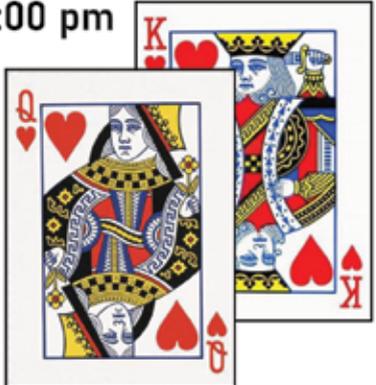
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10:00 am-4:00 pm

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Mah Jongg
Canasta
Bridge
Poker



PUT YOUR TABLES TOGETHER!
\$75.00- includes lunch and snacks

CHAIR: ALAN GITLIN

Proceeds go to the Jewish Federation's Special Tzedakah Fund

For more information contact Leslie Pepper at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737



Tribute Card Donations

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

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Beim**, Thinking of you both and miss you, from Barbara Platt.
- **Jim and Sheri Borax**, Congratulations on your son's marriage, from Ellen and Phil Glass.
- **Phyllis Eisenberg**, Thank you from Marilyn Noll and Barbara Paget.
- **Jerry Feder**, In honor of your 85th birthday, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.*
- **Robert Fraiman**, Best wishes for a wonderful birthday, from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Phil Glass**, In honor of your very special 90th Birthday, from Barbara and Robert Paget,
- **Stan Hack**, Happy 88th Birthday, from Toni Victor and Barry Kaiman*, Alan and Carol Parsow*.
- **Margot Halperin**, Happy birthday to Grandma Margot, from The Spector Family.
- **Arnold Joffe**, In honor of your 85th birthday, from Carol and Alan Parsow*.
- **Leenie Kaplan**, Thank you from Gail Scadron.
- **Nora Kaufman**, Happy birthday from Judy Appelbaum*, Bonnie Carmell*, Harriet Karmin*, Reva Levy, Bertel Lewis", Susan Mardell", and Judy Wallis".
- **Jacob Levy**, Happy 80th birthday, from Judy and Barry Baruh.
- **Gabrielle Parish**, Happy birthday from Michelle and Michael Osterman.

- **Alan Potash**, In honor of your contributions to the Jewish Federation of the Desert, by Lisabeth and Amnon Dotan.
- **Carol Resnick**, Thank you from Gail Scadron.
- **Gail Scadron**, Thank you from Ruth Kaufman.
- **Marcia and Rick Stein**, Congratulations on becoming great-grandparents, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Eran Vaisben and Hillel Administration**, Thank you. We are delighted for the great work you are doing for the students at Hillel, from Geri and Don Shaevel.
- **Aaron Venouziou**, Happy birthday from Rickie and Norman Taras.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Bill Chunowitz**, Wishing you a speedy recover, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Rabbi Jules King**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Stuart Goldfine.
- **Linda Rashkow**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Bob Scadron**, Get well quick! From Phil and Ellen Glass.
- **Helen Varon**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Frank Battat and Family**, In memory of your

dear wife, mother and grandmother, Lee, from Sheila and Ralph Gurevitch.

- **Mark Battat**, In memory of your dear mother, Lee, from Sheila and Ralph Gurevitch.
- **Jeffrey G. Daube and Family**, In memory of your beloved Lorrie, from Barbara and Robert Paget.
- **Freeman Family, c/o Steve Schenker**, In memory of your beloved father and grandfather, from Buddy and Libby Hoffman.
- **Joan Hirsch and Family**, In loving memory of Michael Hirsch, from Nancy and Perry Altshule, Lois Davidson, Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Suzanne and Jeffrey Feder, Barbara Federman and Jim Levitas, Sande and Ed Fineman, Adrian and Cass Graff-Radford, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Pat and Howard Levy, Paul and Terry Lubar, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Barbara Platt, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry and Howard Schor, Elaine and Ted Stein.
- **Veda Ofseyer and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Rabbi Jordan S. Ofseyer, from Judy and Elliott Bernstein.
- **Robbie Winnick**, In memory of your beloved husband, Marvin, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Loreen Jacobson, Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Barbara Winsten**, In memory of Mickey Freeman, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman.
- *Donation made to Israel Emergency Fund*



Har-El Discusses Current Jewish Concerns

Congregation Har-El members and Community Leaders met Sunday, February 18th in the home of Diane Rubin and Lenny Eber.

The topic (Current Jewish Concerns) was the motivation for over 35 people to register. Those attending discussed what circumstances have led to the rise in antisemitism.

The Galen Series includes current discussions, Books and Bordeaux classes, the Summer "Book to Film" Series and courses throughout the year.

After the presentation by Rabbi Richard Zionts, presiding Har-El rabbi, the group had an opportunity to enjoy lunch on the patio and discuss the topic further in smaller groups.

Non-Members of Har-El are always welcome on a space-available basis. For information, email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Jewish Teens are Looking at a New Factor in Their College Search: Antisemitism

By Jacob Gurvis, JTA

Ethan Smith ranks fifth in his New Jersey high school class, scored high on the SAT and aced a full slate of five Advanced Placement tests last year. On October 1, he submitted his application to a nearby Ivy League school, the University of Pennsylvania.

Six days later, Hamas attacked Israel, launching a war that has been accompanied by a reported spike in antisemitism in the United States — including on college campuses. About two months after that, Penn President Liz Magill told Congress that calling for the genocide of Jews wouldn't necessarily violate the rules at her school.

Magill later resigned, but for Smith, the damage was done. He withdrew his Penn application and now plans to attend his home state school of Rutgers University.

"I just felt personally more comfortable there being fully who I am," Smith said of Rutgers, which has a large Jewish population. He worried that Penn would be a place where he would be "constantly looking over my shoulder, worrying what somebody was going to do once I walked into Hillel."

Smith's decision is emblematic of a feeling shared by many teens active in BBYO: As they look at colleges, along with thinking about academics, location and the social scene, many have found themselves weighing a new factor: antisemitism. He knows that by withdrawing his Penn application, he's forgoing a shot at one of the country's most elite schools. But when he looks at the state of college campuses today, he feels good about his choice.

A new survey of nearly 2,000 BBYO participants across North America, taken in recent weeks, found that 64% said antisemitism on campus was an important factor in their decision regarding where to attend college. More than 60% said they had experienced antisemitism in person.

"It made me not apply to some colleges," Bianca De Almeida, a senior from Miami, told JTA regarding the December congressional hearing, where the presidents of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology also declined to say outright whether campus policy

prohibited calls for the genocide of Jews.

"A lot of people didn't apply to those schools," De Almeida said. "It became a safety concern." De Almeida said she has gotten into Penn State but is mostly considering colleges in Florida, including the University of Florida, which is the only university in the country with more Jews than Rutgers. She said UF's large Jewish community and its strong Hillel are appealing to her, though she acknowledged that it isn't immune to bigotry: The campus Chabad was tagged with antisemitic graffiti in November.

The teens' rethinking comes amid a broad reckoning by American Jews in the wake of Oct. 7 and the ensuing war. Widespread, harsh criticism of Israel, a spike in reported antisemitic incidents and what some experienced as inadequate concern about Jewish trauma have caused many U.S. Jews to question their inclusion in institutions and milieus where they previously felt secure.

Colleges have been a particular source of angst, with advocates filing frequent federal complaints alleging antisemitism on campuses, Congress holding a series of hearings on campus antisemitism and parents banding together to share worrying reports about incidents at their children's schools. Some Jewish schools have threatened not to send their graduates to schools that don't commit to keeping students safe.

There's evidence that a large number of students are choosing not to apply to Harvard: The university reported a 17% dip in early decision applications this year. Though the early decision deadline

was Nov. 1, a month before the explosive congressional hearing, Harvard faced scrutiny immediately after the conflict

began, when a coalition of student groups circulated a letter blaming Israel for Hamas' October 7 attack.

50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Programs and artists subject to change



ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 7:30 pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, Music Director
Haochen Zhang, Piano

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor"
Dvořák: Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Sponsored by Phyllis & *Gary Schahet
*In memoriam



SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 7:30 pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen, Music Director
Lisa Batiashvili, Violin

Sibelius: Finlandia
Sibelius: Violin Concerto
Sibelius: Symphony No. 1

Sponsored by Bernice E. Greene,
Douglas G. Stewart, JoAnn G. Wellner

Pre-concert lecture with Kristi Brown Montesano at 6:30-6:55pm.
Lobby doors open at 6pm.
Open seating for lecture portion of concert.
Your concert ticket is your admission to the lecture.

Community Schools

Aleph Schoolhouse

Director: Dina Pinson

73-550 Santa Rosa Way,
Palm Desert

Children 18 months through
Elementary School

Alephschoolhouse.org
347-721-8782



All concerts take place at
McCallum Theatre in
Palm Desert, CA

www.PSPPhil.org
760-341-1013



Shabbat Schedule -March 2024

BETH SHALOM, Palm Desert

(Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)

Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
42600 Cook Street, Second Floor, Palm Desert, CA 92211. 760-200-3636.
IN-PERSON Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am, followed by light Kiddush lunch.

Friday, March 1: Shabbat Eve Service, 7:45 pm, celebrating Shabbat Across America and Hadassah Shabbat with Sabra Hadassah of the Desert followed by Oneg Shabbat Dessert Reception.

Saturday, March 30: Community Torah Reading Shabbat with multiple readers from the congregation: 9:45 am. 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 meals, Shabbat Services, Women's Circle, Youth activities, Holiday programs and more.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL,

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

Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D.; Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus. harelurjpd@gmail.com 760-779-1691. Website: harelurjpd.org. Shabbat Eve Zoom Services are conducted weekly at 5 PM. Rabbi Richard Zions shares a D'var Torah on a timely topic based on our timeless tradition. Cantor Joseph Gole provides inspiring melodies and insights from our Shabbat Eve liturgy. Attendees are encouraged to click on the Zoom presentation early for a conversation with clergy and congregants. Har-El welcomes visitors from out of state as well as those in California and the Coachella Valley. Rabbi Zions holds Torah Study on Zoom every Saturday morning at 11 AM. For a Zoom link, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE, Rancho Mirage

Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Rabbi Andrew Bentley, Cantor Lori Reisman Patterson. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho

Mirage, CA 92270. Shabbat services held on the second Fridays at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage. On second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi Axelrad. Beit Sefer Religious School 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 rabbid@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 join Rabbi on the bima most weeks.

332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. Email: 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.

Dor Hadash (New Generation)

Religious School for children 8 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah held Shabbat afternoons at 1:00 pm online with Rabbi Rosenberg.

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

Rabbi David Novak rabbid@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.

Friday, March 8, 5:30 pm – Special Erev Shabbat with guest speaker from Volunteers in Medicine, followed by Shabbat dinner with Beth Chayim Chadashim Los Angeles, the world's first synagogue founded by and for LGBTQ+ Jews, who will be celebrating a shabbaton in the dessert. Catered by J's Deli. \$38 per person

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 Kreiman - 760-567-6726.



Community Calendar of Programs - March 2024

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.

6:00-7:15 pm Temple Isaiah **Aleph-Bet for Adults** beginning Hebrew Class led by **Dr. Gary Levin**. By end of course participants will be able to read Hebrew prayers in the Siddur. Class closed. Call to register for next course, 760-325-2281.

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: "New course: "What Jews Believe"". 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" features 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.

Tuesday, March 5

11:30 am Jewish Federation virtual **Israel Update Briefing** with Dr. Mordechai (Motti) Kedar. At Jewish

Federation. See article page 3.

Wednesday, March 6

10:00 am Women's Philanthropy virtual book review of **A Daughter's Kaddish** with Sarah Birnbach. At Jewish Federation. RSVP 760-324-4737. See article page 6.

Thursday, March 7

10:00 am Doors open; **10:30 am** A special interactive program for men and women: Sabra Hadassah of the Desert presents **David Bocarsly**, Executive Director, Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California. At Jewish Federation Building, Rancho Mirage. \$10. Email debbie_orgen@hotmail.com for information re: registering to attend.

Saturday, March 9 -

Wednesday, March 13 Temple Isaiah presents 11th annual **Jewish Film Festival**, beginning Saturday evening March 9 at 7:30 pm with **Champagne VIP Opening Event**. See ad page 5 and full schedule of films page 2.

Wednesday, March 13 or

Thursday, March 14

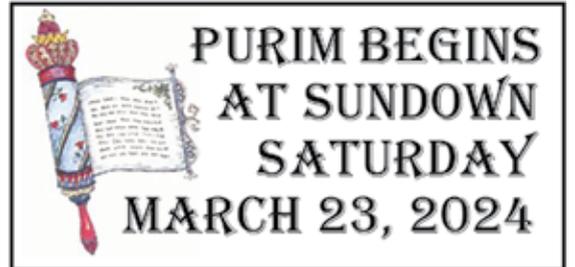
Jewish Family Service **A Blast from the Past** at PS Underground. Honoring Aviva and Ron Snow with the JFS Humanitarian Award. See ad page 11.

Sunday, March 17

3:00 pm Temple Sinai **Afternoon of Music**: "East Meets West: Music of Broadway and Hollywood," celebrating their 50th anniversary year, with Wayne Abravanel and Adina Lawson. See ad page 5.

Monday, March 18

12 noon-2:00 pm Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy **Pomegranate Event** at Jewish Federation: "Saddle Up Your Horses and Join Us." Minimum gift to 2024 Federation campaign: \$1800. Couvert \$75. See ad page 3,



Sunday, March 24

4:00 pm Beth Shalom **Se'udat Purim** Purim celebration including reading from the Megillah, followed by a festive Sephardi style dinner (Se-udah). Community welcome with paid reservations. Early bird until February 28: Members \$25/ Non members \$30. After February 28: Members \$30/Non members \$36. Paid reservations required by Tuesday, March 19. For information and reservations email info@congregationbethshalom.net or call 760-200-3636.

Monday, March 25

6:00 pm Mensch Foundation International "Be a Mensch – Always Leave Them Laughing When You Say Shalom" Dinner at Desert Willows, honoring the memories of Herman Wouk and Gene Wilder. \$85. Kosher meal available on request. Reservation deadline March 18. Call 760-333-1189. See ad page 10.

Tuesday, March 26

Federation Day at Tamarisk Country Club. For details and to RSVP see back page of the Jewish Community News.

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

Ashkenazi Jewish Women Alert: BRCA Gene Impacts Ovarian Cancer

"Ovarian cancer is a serious and potentially deadly disease, Early Detection Critical."

By Linda Winkler Garvin, Founder & President; Patient Advocate Bay Area, Inc.

As a survivor of ovarian cancer, I am committed to using my experience to raise awareness and educate others for an earlier diagnosis.



Recent statistics from OCRA (The Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance) reveal that ovarian cancer ranks as the 11th most common cancer and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women. Furthermore, a woman's lifetime risk of developing ovarian cancer is reported to be 1 in 78. Ovarian cancer is often diagnosed at an advanced stage because early symptoms can be subtle or absent, making early detection difficult.

Unfortunately, certain groups of women have a much higher risk of acquiring ovarian cancer. For example, women of Ashkenazi Jewish descent or women who have never had children are at a higher risk. For this reason, it is vital to know your familial history. If you have a family history of breast, uterine, ovarian, or colorectal cancer this increases your risk.

Your family medical history can provide valuable information about potential genetic or hereditary risks for various health conditions, including ovarian cancer. Many health conditions, including certain types of cancer, can have a genetic component.

The BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes are critical in understanding the genetic risk factors for certain cancers, including breast and ovarian cancers. Mutations in these genes can significantly increase the risk of developing these cancers. Individuals with a strong family history of breast and ovarian cancers should consider genetic testing to identify mutations in these genes.

It is estimated that 1 in 40 women of Ashkenazi Jewish descent have a BRCA mutation. Also, women of Jewish descent have a higher risk than the regular population of being BRCA positive. Women with a BRCA mutation have a 50% lifetime risk for ovarian cancer.

Age is a significant factor in the risk of

developing ovarian cancer, and the risk tends to increase with age, especially after menopause. However, it is important to note that having one or more risk factors does not automatically mean that an individual will develop ovarian cancer, and many women with ovarian cancer have no known risk factors.

Prior to my diagnosis of ovarian cancer, I would characterize my health as excellent. I had been a physically active woman for the last 50 years, eating a healthy diet and weighing in at the same weight I was in high school. My only family history of cancer is a maternal grandmother with stomach cancer in her sixties and being of Ashkenazi decent.

Vaginal bleeding was my only symptom. This led me to call my gynecologist, who quickly ordered a vaginal ultrasound which found a large ovarian tumor. Based on my oncologist's recommendations, I decided to undergo a total hysterectomy. My pathology report indicated that I had a highly aggressive tumor and chemotherapy was ordered.

It was shocking for me to get this diagnosis, particularly since I led such a healthy life for decades. I was fortunate enough to get an early diagnosis and am cancer free at this time.

Breast cancer has received widespread public attention. In contrast, ovarian cancer has often been less talked about, and there are several reasons for this. One challenge is that ovarian cancer is often asymptomatic or presents with vague symptoms, making early detection difficult. The lack of routine screening tests, like mammograms for breast cancer, adds to the complexity of detecting ovarian cancer at an early stage.

Discussions related to ovarian cancer may involve sensitive topics such as reproductive health, as the ovaries are essential for fertility. This has contributed to a certain level of discomfort or taboo surrounding this subject for both women and their healthcare providers.

Ovarian cancer can be challenging to treat, and the statistics are very

concerning. The outcome for individuals diagnosed with ovarian cancer depends on various factors, including the stage at which the cancer is detected, the type of ovarian cancer, the overall health of the individual, and how well they respond to treatment.

The lack of a routine screening test, like the Pap smear for cervical cancer, also contributes to the challenges in early detection. The advanced stage diagnoses that many experience may be due to the lack of noticing and reporting specific early symptoms to your health practitioner, effective screening methods and the need to educate many health care practitioners of the early signs of this disease.

The symptoms of ovarian cancer can be subtle and easily attributed to other less severe conditions, which can lead to delayed diagnosis.

Here are some common symptoms that may be associated with ovarian cancer:

Pelvic or abdominal pain: Persistent pain or discomfort in the pelvic or abdominal region is a common symptom associated with ovarian cancer.

Bloating: Feeling consistently bloated, especially if it persists for more than a few weeks, can be a sign.

Trouble eating or feeling full quickly: A sudden change in appetite, difficulty eating, or feeling full despite eating very little can be indicative of various health issues, including ovarian cancer.

Frequent urination: Increased urgency to urinate and more frequent bathroom trips.

Vaginal bleeding: This symptom needs to be reported to your gynecologist immediately.

Changes in bowel habits: Any significant changes in bowel habits, whether it's constipation or diarrhea, should be discussed with a healthcare professional.

Unexplained weight gain or loss: Sudden and unexplained changes in weight can be a symptom of various health issues, including ovarian cancer.

Fatigue: Feeling unusually tired or having low energy levels consistently.

Back pain: Pain in the lower back may be a symptom.

It is also crucial to note that these symptoms can be indicative of various conditions, and experiencing them does not necessarily mean someone has ovarian cancer. However, if these symptoms are persistent and unexplained, for several weeks, it is important for individuals to consult with a healthcare professional, particularly a gynecologist.

Consider requesting a vaginal ultrasound and a CA 125 which is a biomarker test for ovarian cancer to rule out potential concerns. Early diagnosis can significantly impact the effectiveness of any necessary interventions and is crucial for improving survival rates in ovarian cancer.

Studies indicate that specific risk factors elevate the chances of developing ovarian cancer, whereas other factors may lower a woman's likelihood of contracting the disease. It is crucial to bear in mind that the presence of risk factors does not guarantee the development of ovarian cancer for all individuals.

Some women who get this type of cancer have no known risk factors.

-Factors that may increase your risk for ovarian cancer: A family history of ovarian, breast, uterine or colorectal cancer

-Increased age

-Genetic mutations like in your BRCA genes

-Being post-menopausal

-Ashkenaz Jewish decent (this group of individuals have a higher risk of getting ovarian cancer).

If you think you may be at risk for ovarian cancer, you should speak with your doctor, preferably your gynecologist.

Factors that can decrease your risk for ovarian cancer:

The use of oral contraceptives
Pregnancy
Breastfeeding

Please be vigilant and advocate for your health care. Be attuned to any unusual or persistent symptoms

continued on next page

mentioned above, and if they persist for more than a few weeks, take proactive steps to seek medical attention. Your awareness and proactive approach can make a significant difference in early detection and overall health outcomes.

If diagnosed with ovarian cancer, it is essential to research your disease to enhance your understanding and recognize that you may not have all the answers. A wealth of information is accessible online, including reputable sources like OCRA (Ovarian Cancer Research Association), National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC), the National Cancer Institute, and the Clarity Foundation. These sites provide evidence-based research, and links to them can be found at the end of this article.

Facing a diagnosis of ovarian cancer and undergoing chemotherapy was a difficult journey for me and resulted in many complex emotions. I found out that I could embrace both happiness

and sadness independently and simultaneously.

I found out that as I was facing adversity, with two additional chemotherapy treatments, along with a hospitalization for bilateral pulmonary blood clots, I was able to keep a sense of humor. Sharing laughter with my friends and family, created a sense of connection and support for me during that difficult time.

At the beginning, I feared the unknown. Not knowing how I would respond to treatment, along with how I would proceed after treatment was completed. There were sad days of not having an appetite or not having the energy to even go for a walk. My ability to find moments of happiness and acceptance, gave me the strength and resilience I needed.

Looking ahead several months to taking one day at a time was challenging for me. I found it helpful to make plans for the future, whether it was having a

friend over for coffee, going out to lunch or planning a weekend trip to celebrate my completion of chemotherapy.

Early Detection is Associated with Higher Survival Rates.

My hope for increased public awareness, open conversations, and improved efforts in early detection and research for ovarian cancer is crucial. The progress made in breast cancer awareness, early detection, and treatment options has been significant, and there's great potential for similar advancements in the field of ovarian cancer diagnoses.

Ovarian cancer is relentless! If there is one thing, I would ask that each of you who read this article to take away from my experience, is to gain an understanding of the symptoms and risk factors associated with ovarian cancer, coupled with undergoing annual gynecological check-ups. This will lead to a diagnosis at an earlier,

more treatable stage. Furthermore, advocating for research to enhance screening methods and develop more effective treatments is crucial in minimizing the impact of ovarian cancer on women's health.

Some valuable resources:

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance; <https://ocrahope.org/>

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition; <https://ovarian.org/>

the National Cancer Institute; <https://www.cancer.gov/>

The Clarity Foundation; <https://www.clarityfoundation.org/>

Nancy's list; <https://nancyslist.org/> (Nancy's list is one of the most comprehensive and valuable catalogs of resources I have come across).

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology; <https://www.sgo.org/>

Center for Advancement of Cancer Education; <https://beatcancer.org/>

Harvard University Subpoenaed for Antisemitism Documents

by Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

Following weeks of warnings and ultimatums, the US House Committee on Education and the Workforce subpoenaed Harvard University on February 16 to hand over documents related to its handling of allegations of antisemitic intimidation and harassment.

The order represents an escalation of tactics by the House Committee, which began investigating Harvard University last semester to determine whether it ignores complaints of discrimination when the victims who lodge them are Jewish. Since then, Harvard has been asked twice to submit a trove of materials requested by the committee.

Last week, Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) wrote Harvard a censorious letter accusing school officials of obstructing the committee's investigation with "grossly insufficient" responses to its inquiries and by submitting content of a "limited and dilatory nature."

Harvard maintained that it has cooperated with the committee in "good faith," sending "10 submissions totaling more than 3,500 pages that directly address key areas of inquiry put forward by the committee." Chairwoman Foxx told the outlet, however that the problem is one of

"quality, not quantity," suggesting that Harvard is frenetically pantomiming compliance and not providing anything of substance.

Foxx has requested "all reports of antisemitic acts or incidents and "related communications" going back to 2021 that were sent to Harvard's offices of the president, general counsel, dean of students, police department, human resources, and diversity, equity, and inclusion, among others. She also requested documentation on Harvard Kennedy School professor Marshall Ganz, who, the school determined, had "denigrated" several students for being "Israeli Jews." Originally, Foxx gave Harvard a deadline of Jan. 23 by which to comply.

"While a subpoena was unwarranted, Harvard remains committed to cooperating with the committee and will continue to provide additional materials, while protecting the legitimate privacy, safety, and security concerns of our community," Harvard responded.

The past four months have been described by critics of Harvard as a low-point in the history of the school, America's oldest and, arguably, most prestigious institution of higher

education. Since the October 7 massacre by Hamas, Harvard has been accused of fostering a culture of racial grievance and antisemitism, while important donors have suspended funding for programs. Its first Black president, Claudine Gay, resigned in disgrace last month after being outed as a serial plagiarist. Her tenure was the shortest in the school's history.

As scenes of Hamas terrorists abducting children and desecrating dead bodies circulated worldwide, 31 student groups at Harvard, led by the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC) issued a statement blaming Israel for the attack and accusing the Jewish state of operating an "open air prison" in Gaza, despite that the Israeli military withdrew from the territory in 2005. In the weeks that followed, anti-Zionists stormed the campus screaming "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" and "globalize the intifada," terrorizing Jewish students and preventing some from attending class.

In November, a mob of anti-Zionists — including Ibrahim Bharmal, editor of the prestigious *Harvard Law Review* — followed, surrounded, and intimidated a Jewish student. "Shame! Shame! Shame! Shame!" the crush of people

screamed in a call-and-response chant into the ears of the student who — as seen in the footage — was forced to duck and dash the crowd to free himself from the cluster of bodies that encircled him.

By Dec., Claudine Gay — along with Elizabeth Magill of University of Pennsylvania (Penn) and Sally Kornbluth of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) — was hauled before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to account for her administration's handling of the problem. For weeks, Gay was reluctant to punish students who chanted genocidal slogans and unequivocally condemn antisemitism. During questioning, she told the committee that determining whether calling for a genocide of Jews constitutes a violation of school rules depends "on the context."

Two days later, the committee launched investigations of Harvard, Penn, and MIT.

"We will use our full congressional authority to hold these schools accountable for their failure on the global stage," said committee member and Harvard Alumnus Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) in a statement announcing the action.



Have A Nosh

"... and nosh some hamantashen"

It's hamantashen time again! Purim begins at sundown on Saturday, March 23. As always, my dough recipe is a repeat, the recipe of my beloved mother-in-law (z'l), because I have not found one better. For those who are



hesitant to tackle this project, I promise you that this dough is a joy to work with. Enclosed are more of my favorite fillings. FYI: The chocolate filling bakes into "almost a brownie" in texture, so this hamantashen is delicious but definitely a different taste experience! Enjoy! MHB

GOLDIE'S HONEY DOUGH FOR HAMANTASHEN

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

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

APRICOT-ORANGE-HONEY FILLING (Pareve)

2 cups finely chopped dried apricots	2/3 cup honey
1 1/3 cups orange juice	Zest of 1/2 orange

Bring to boil in saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes until soft and liquid is absorbed (Add water if needed). Cool.

APPLE-PECAN FILLING (Pareve)

1/4 cup dark brown sugar	and finely diced
1 Tbsp. margarine	3/4 cup cream sherry wine
Pinch salt	1 cup finely chopped toasted pecans
1 1/2 lbs. Granny Smith apples, peeled	1 1/4 cups applesauce

Melt the brown sugar, margarine, nutmeg and salt in a large high-sided saute pan. Add the apples and cook over medium heat. Add the sherry, then reduce the heat to low, and cook until the apples are tender, about 15 minutes. Stir in the pecans, then remove from the heat and set aside to cool completely. Fold the applesauce into the cooked apple mixture.

DATE FILLING (Pareve)

1/4 cup coarsely chopped walnuts	1 teaspoon grated lemon rind (optional)
2 cups pitted dates	1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup sultana raisins	

In food processor, with steel blade, process dates with raisins, rind and cinnamon until minced, about 15-20 seconds. Add nuts with one or two quick on/off turns. (May be prepared in advance and refrigerated or frozen)

TRIPLE CHOCOLATE FILLING (Milchig)

5 ounces semisweet chocolate	2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 ounces unsweetened chocolate	2 teaspoons instant coffee
6 tablespoons butter or margarine	3/4 cup sugar
2/3 cup flour	3/4 cup chocolate chips
1 teaspoon baking powder	1/3 cup chopped pecans (optional)
1/4 teaspoon salt	1/3 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
2 eggs	

In a microwave proof bowl melt the semisweet and unsweetened chocolate together. Mix in all the margarine, flour, baking powder, salt, eggs, vanilla, coffee and sugar. Mix to combine and then fold in the chocolate chips and optional nuts. Makes enough filling for at least 3 dozen hamantaschen. *The extra filling (if any) may be made into chocolate brownie drop cookies.*

First-Ever Super Bowl Ad about Antisemitism

By Jacob Gurvis, JTA

Was the first antisemitism-themed ad to air at the Super Bowl tactful or tasteless? How much did it have to do with Israel? And what is "Jewish hate," anyway?

Those are some of the questions that have arisen after the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, the group founded in 2019 by New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, placed a 30-second ad during the game titled "Silence" that featured Clarence B. Jones, the longtime advisor and speechwriter for Martin Luther King Jr.

The ad shows Jones in his study and then, against his voiceover, displays images of a burning cross and swastika and the hashtag "#hitlerwasright." It then shifts to showing people taking action against recent displays of hate, including Islamophobia and anti-Black racism.

"I'd remind people that all hate

thrives on one thing: silence," Jones says in the ad, imagining what he'd write in a speech meant for King to deliver today. "The people who will change the nation are those who speak out, who refuse to be bystanders, who raise their voices against injustice. When we stand up to silence, we stand up to all hate."

The ad concludes with the slogan "Stand up to Jewish hate," which then changes to "Stand up to all hate."

The ad meant to strike a universal tone, and some reactions were positive. The American Jewish Committee called it "powerful" and one Facebook user said it was "the best ad from the Super Bowl." The page for a local community of Los Angeles moms thanked Jones and Kraft's foundation for the ad and wrote, "Now is the time to #standuptojewishhate and use your voice."



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SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

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brought to you by the Sponsors of the Mega-Challah Bake.

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Indicate with whom you wish to sit. Tables of 8 to 10 available.

Program:
**LOS ANGELES JEWISH LADIES CHORALE
& Olivia Schwartz: "Our Modern Day Heroines"**

Proceeds will be donated to give love
and healing for victims of October 7th

RSVP online at 1nation1heart.net, call 760-276-3390, or
mail check, payable to Chabad PS, to N. Cazary,
78-778 Sunrise Canyon, Palm Desert, CA 92211



Simchas

Congratulations to **Temple Sinai** on their 50th anniversary. Last year we celebrated **Temple Isaiah's** 75th anniversary and now Temple Sinai has reached a milestone year. We

checked with Ken Halperin and found out that **Beth Shalom** began 28 years ago... Sun City Jewish Services began 22 years ago (Thank you Nadine Brinhendler) and **Har-El** is celebrating 20 years this year! Rabbi Yonason and Sussie Denebeim brought **Chabad** to our Desert 44 years ago and Chabad

has grown to five locations throughout the Coachella Valley. Newer to our community: **Desert Outreach** and **Or Hamidbar**. We may not be the largest Jewish Community but we are supporting a remarkable number of synagogues/temples, for which we should truly be proud ... And,

finally, we just heard some exciting news ... Congratulations to Beth Shalom member **Gwen Schall** on the publication of her first book, "Web of Deception" ... *Share your Simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call her at 760-835-1022 (cell) or 760-323-0255 (home).*



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We Mourn the Passing of...

Ethel Cooperman, Marilyn Glassman, Michael Hirsch, Mario Jason, Ivan Kassoff, Sandy Maoz, Jan Mendelsohn and Jean Sanderson. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, March 1	Shabbat Ki Tisa	5:00 pm
Friday, March 8	Shabbat Vayakhel	5:06 pm
Friday, March 15	Shabbat Pekudei	6:11 pm
Friday, March 22	Shabbat Vayikra	6:16 pm
Sunday, March 24	Erev Purim	
Friday, March 29	Shabbat Tzev	6:22 pm

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FEDERATION DAY
at
Tamarisk Country Club
Tuesday, March 26, 2024

All men and women of the Coachella Valley are invited to participate in this special event filled day. Whether you play Golf, Cards, Pickle Ball or Tennis, come and enjoy a day of fun, while supporting the most vulnerable in our community. To add to the fun there will be a raffle and prizes.

GOLF FOURSOMES: MEN, WOMEN OR MIXED TEAMS

- Limited to the first 112 players who sign up
- 10 am Continental Breakfast
- 11 am Shotgun-Play in a step-aside scramble
- Drinks and snacks available behind the 9th green
- Join Us for a Cocktail Reception at the conclusion of the day's activities

CARD PLAYERS AND RACQUET SPORTS

- Lunch will be available on the patio, starting at noon
- Join Us for a Cocktail Reception at the conclusion of the day's activities for prizes and raffle winners

To Register and for Questions, call Ron Langus at 914-393-5221 or email at rlangus@gmail.com