



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

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A Few Meaningful Days in Israel



Alan Potash

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

Traveling to Israel during a major conflict can have its challenges. The lack of airlines traveling to Israel made finding an affordable flight difficult but not impossible. This was the greatest challenge until the IDF started scrambling GPS and I found myself in Cairo—not really but according to the GPS that's where I was. There were rockets in the North but I was in the South. I witnessed the aid trucks being inspected and headed into Gaza.

I had the opportunity to return to Israel after the Oct. 7th attack and massacre. Six months have gone by and there are still 133 hostages in captivity. My trip focused on three initiatives: to show solidarity with Israel, volunteer in some capacity, and bear witness without being in the way.

One notices right away after getting out to the plane at Ben Gurion airport that the country isn't the same as it was when I was there in September. One sees the posters and other reminders of the hostages taken on Oct. 7th. One also notices that there are very few tourists arriving in Israel. I was the only one going through the customary passport control—Israelis use a different lane. Only one baggage carousel was off loading a few dozen suitcases, car seats and strollers. Also, no lines anywhere (which means no pushing or shoving; trademarks of Israel.)

One estimate was that tourism is down 90% (I haven't been able to verify that number but from my 10 days that that seems about right). Israel was on schedule to have one of the best tourism years in 2023 and 2024 but that



is not going to happen. Even though there are groups coming to volunteer and show support the numbers are just not there. Part of Israel's economy is dependent on tourists. Even the hotels I stayed in didn't have any tourists just people who needed to be evacuated from their homes and Israelis taking a break from the trauma.

Day to day life in Israel is challenging



and many people are trying to find normalcy which is not easy. Over the past year, before the Oct. 7th I observed the country during rallies and protests around the judicial reform and

this time I observed rallies in support of the hostages and their families. A difference between the rallies there were more flags and a spirit of

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**Yom HaShoah / Holocaust Memorial Observance
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**Remembrance
of Things Present**

Inspiring and unexpected stories from the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. See *Remembrance of Things Present*, a work of theatre from The Braid. Real experiences, brought to life by professional actors. Recorded on Thursday, April 20, 2023 from a live performance presented at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in NYC.



In collaboration with The Braid, stories of the descendants of Holocaust survivors, once kept secret, will be brought to life at a showing on Sunday May 5th as part of our community's Yom Ha Shoah Holocaust Commemoration.

As we live in the shadow of the Holocaust, it shaped the generations that came after it, both within the Jewish world and the whole of humanity. Too rarely have their experiences been given a stage. The Braid has curated a collection of stories, brought to life by professional actors, offering heroism, healing and hope at a time of rising antisemitism in our world.

Join us on Sunday, May 5 to 3:00 pm to see this filmed piece as part of our Yom Ha Shoah commemoration.



nationalism at the judicial reform rallies. At the hostage rallies it was more about bringing them home—now. The chant of *achshav*: Now was constant. Family members leading the chants.

The solidarity part my trip took place over several days mostly in Tel Aviv as I attended Kabbalat Shabbat Services at Hostage Square and then returned again Saturday night for the rally. I also met with people in Tel Aviv and kibbutzim in the area to show my support.

Heading South towards the communities directly hit on Oct 7th we stopped at the memorial site for the Supernova music festival. This area has become the main location for people to gather and reflect. Out of respect to the communities directly attacked on Oct. 7th I decided to not disturb them as they are trying to put their lives back together.

The emotional impact of visiting the Supernova sight is powerful. There are makeshift memorials, a forest and individual spaces for those who were murdered and kidnapped from there.

Next it was off to volunteer outside of Nitzana. We were directed to a farm a short distance from the Egyptian border to pick and pack strawberries one day and tomatoes the next. Joining me were Dee Robins and Judy Monetathchi from Palm Springs. Also volunteering on the farm were people from France, Holland, Poland, Switzerland and Israel. We were the only Americans,

We did make time to hike and see a little of the country.

We concluded our time in the south



by meeting up with a member of Kibbutz Revivim who showed us and told us about the temporary cemetery

that he set up on the kibbutz for those who were murdered on Kibbutz Berei—his stories about the people buried

there and who were murdered on Oct 7th will forever be in our memories.

The Jewish Community News was preparing to go to press when Iran attacked Israel with some 312 missiles and drones the night of April 12/13. Fortunately over 99% were detonated in the air, and the few that reached land did minimal damage. Israel's response may or may not take place before you receive your paper.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Our Jewish Federation utilizes a weekly e-blast, sent Friday afternoons, to keep our community informed and reminded about upcoming events. It is also available in times of emergency or when special information needs to reach you. If you haven't given us your email address until now, we urge you to do so NOW, for times such as these. Simply send your email address to Gloria.Benavides@jfedps.org. Thank you.

"Genocide"

Do you know Raphael Lemkin? He was a Polish Jew born in 1900. He escaped occupied Poland during the late 1930's and eventually came to the United States. In 1942 he joined the War Department as an analyst, and went on to document Nazi atrocities and in his 1944 book "Axis Rule In Occupied Europe" he introduced the word, GENOCIDE. He later served with a team of Americans working to prepare the Nuremberg trials, and was able to get the word 'genocide' in the



Arnie Gillman,
President

indictment against Nazi leadership. It is remarkable that Raphael, who lost 48 members of his family to the Holocaust, coined the word 'genocide' to show the world how the Nazis wanted to destroy all of the Jewish people. Now 75 years later, the word Genocide is used against the country of Israel. Israel, the only democratic state in the Middle East is only trying to protect itself from the terrorist group, Hamas. Most of the world are calling for a



Raphael Lemkin

cease fire without knowing the history of Israel and the Palestinians.

Passover is approaching and most families will be celebrating around the seder table. There should be conversations with all family members about Israel's history. Israel is important to the world and we as Americans need to make sure it exists for future generations. We at the Jewish Federation are working with local politicians and other interfaith communities to make sure they understand why it is so important to support Israel. Enjoy your Passover holiday and know that the Jewish Federation stands with Israel.

B.A. Van Sise, Speaker at the May 5 Yom HaShoah Commemoration

B.A. Van Sise is an author and photographic artist focused on the intersection between language and the visual image. He is the author of two monographs: the visual poetry anthology *Children of Grass: A Portrait of American Poetry* with Mary-Louise Parker, and *Invited to Life: After the Holocaust* with Neil Gaiman, Mayim Bialik, and Sabrina Orah Mark. He has previously been featured in solo exhibitions at the Center for Creative Photography, the Center for Jewish History and the Museum of Jewish Heritage, as well as in group exhibitions at

the Peabody Essex Museum, the Museum of Photographic Arts, the Los Angeles Center of Photography and the Whitney Museum of American Art; a number of his portraits of American poets are in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. His short nonfiction and poetry have been featured in *Poets & Writers*, *The North American Review*, *Nowhere*, *the Los*



Angeles Review, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *The Southampton Review*, *Eclectica*, and *The Intrepid Times*, and he is a frequent reviewer of poetry and photography titles for the *New York Journal of Books*. He is a 2022 New York State Council on the Arts Fellow in Photography, a Prix de la Photographie Paris award-winner, and an Independent Book Publishers Awards gold medalist.

Published Works

Photography & Text; *Invited to Life: After the Holocaust* (Schiffer, 2022); *Children of Grass: A Portrait of American Poetry* (Schaffner, 2019)

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EDITORIAL

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Layout & Design

JCN STATEMENT

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

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Introducing "Seeing the Constitution Through Jewish Eyes"

By Rabbi Richard Zionts, Congregation Har-El

The current Jewish population of the United States is nearly six million. However, at the time of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the Jewish population was approximately 3,000, concentrated largely in six communities along the eastern seaboard. These communities were: Newport, Rhode Island, New York City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Richmond, Virginia, Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia.

There were no Jewish delegates to the Constitutional Convention, but the ideals of Judaism run throughout the Constitution particularly in the teachings of the great biblical prophets of Israel and Judah and the later rabbinic sages. The Judaic ideals of freedom and opposition to tyranny were part of early America. Colonial preachers on the eve of the American Revolution utilized texts from the Hebrew Scriptures to justify anti-monarchy sentiment. A proposal for the Great Seal of the United States, which was submitted to the Continental Congress in 1776 by Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson portrayed Moses stretching his arm over the sea with the waters overcoming Pharaoh who is shown wearing a crown. Franklin urged that the national motto of the United States on the Great Seal should read: "Rebellion to Tyrants is Obedience to God."

The inspiration for the battle to achieve independence was culled from Judaic sources primarily the Hebrew Bible. The founders of the American republic were probably not aware of the teachings of the great rabbinic sages which were translated into the rules and practices for Jewish community life.

For example, each kehillah or community was governed by a Parnas who was elected democratically by the members of the community. The Rabbis, as spiritual leaders and judges of the community, were enjoined to adjudicate with fairness and equity and not to issue a decree over the community which the



Rabbi Richard Zionts, Ph.D.

majority of the community cannot follow.

As Jews, so often denied civil rights and serving as the targets of irrational hatred and physical violence, the democracy of American government and the laws of the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights and certain amendments, provided a safe haven. Our ancestors who came to escape unfair restrictions and pogroms found a refuge and a land in which they and their descendants could flourish. Those who entered the legal profession and rose to be appointed as judges, including seats on the United States Supreme Court such as Louis D.

Brandeis and Ruth Bader Ginsburg have, through their interpretations of the law, amplified and expanded the protection of the Constitution to millions of their fellow Americans.

We hope that this course on "Seeing the Constitution Through Jewish Eyes" will not only enlighten us but also enable us to further appreciate the rich heritage of our faith tradition pertaining to law as well as our freedoms and responsibilities as citizens of the United States of America as outlined in that remarkable document we call the Constitution.

החכם THE SAGE This chair, my book and TV are my comfort zone.

A created comfort zone is not an excuse to refrain from speaking out.

How do my thoughts count? I am only one among the crowd of opinions.

We live in a 237 year-old democracy and every vote counts.

I would need to shout to be heard.

No. Speak with reason, facts and sincerity.

Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, said that the Constitution gives us rights — It's our responsibility to guard them.

In other words, it is time to educate, listen and draw rational conclusions.

SPEND THE SUMMER ATTENDING CLASSES, LEARNING AND REFINING OUR THOUGHTS AND ISSUES.

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★ 10:00 AM Registration; coffee. ★ 10:30 AM Opening presentation by Steve Moyer ★ 11:45 AM Complimentary Lunch

★ 12:30 PM PANEL DISCUSSION: FOUR ATTORNEYS & A RABBI



Barry Messinger
J.D., Attorney



Rabbi Richard Zionts
Ph.D.



Jeffrey Moliver
J.D., Attorney



Steve Moyer
J.D., Attorney



Samuel Trussel
J.D., Attorney



Moderated by: Har-El President Barry Messinger, J.D.
Participant and Consultant: Rabbi Richard A. Zionts, Ph.D.

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My Israel Mission with Jewish National Fund

By Marilyn Feldman

My life completely changed after October 7th when Hamas brutally attacked our beloved Israel, killing 1200 young women and men, elderly people raping and disfiguring young women, burning houses with people inside, burning and beheading babies and kidnapping over 240 people, including babies and young children becoming hostages in the pit of hell.

Our Stand With Us group held three rallies but I knew I had to do more.

I heard about the Jewish National Fund mission to Israel, and I started learning more about it and felt this is what I had to do. All my friends said we're so proud of you for going because we certainly couldn't do it. There was really no hesitation for me.

Then we heard about the Shurat HaDin mission, which is the Israeli law center and my husband agreed to join me for that.

After much planning, I boarded the plane for Tel Aviv in Los Angeles on February 14th. The plane was full of people going on missions. All were not planned, just wonderful people bringing supplies for soldiers and those who had been evacuated.

It was truly heartwarming to be on the plane with everybody feeling that they needed to help Israel. Everyone I met, when I landed in Israel, said thank you so much for coming and helping us. It makes us feel not alone.

We were housed at the Carlton Hotel on the beach in Tel Aviv. Many of the evacuees were staying there, and we had many conversations with them.

Opening night of JNF, was the orientation of the week ahead, where we met everyone from all over the US. It was very interesting to hear about the reasons for being on the mission. We had talks by the JNF staff and IDF officers. I cried a lot hearing some of those heartbreaking stories.

Day 1: after a great Israeli breakfast, we went on the bus to one of the farms that supplies so much citrus to the Israeli markets. They had lost their Thai and Filipino workers, who were either kidnapped by Hamas or they went back home. The farmer was quite desperate and his daughter came and spoke with us. I thought she was 14, she looked so young, but she had finished her army duties. We picked lemons, probably 10 huge bins. We thought we did such great work, but we were told that the Thai workers were five times as fast as us. Still we were greatly appreciated.

We then drove to Alexander Muss/JNF school where American children come and

spend a semester or two. Their lives are forever changed, and they truly become Zionists in their love for Israel. I heard many of these stories and our guide on the bus was a teacher there. I fell in love with her, and I can imagine what a great teacher she was; she really taught us so much on the bus rides and made our journeys much more interesting.

There were Kibbutz families staying there after being evacuated from their homes. We talked with them and felt their pain, not knowing when they could return home. Their stories filled me with such sadness.

We assembled boxes and filled them with gifts for the soldiers. I only wished we had more for them.

We then went to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. We heard the chief trauma surgeon speak about the horrific injuries caused by the Hamas terrorists.

The injuries were so significant that they had to prioritize in order of severity. I was an RN, and I have never heard of a ruptured intestine being clamped and abdomen closed, till the following day, when they could repair it. This amazing physician and his medical students, pressed into service that day, never thought that they would ever see such horrors.

We were treated to a JNF project, Beersheba River Park, a jewel in Israel's desert. A massive lake which was formerly a garbage dump, created by purified waste water, will have paddle boats on it and is second largest lake after the Kineret.

Beersheba is second largest city in Israel and this project created by JNF, will hopefully draw more people to live there. Of course having many high tech industries helps.

We went to the Nova Festival site where all the pictures of the beautiful young men and women who were killed on October 7th were displayed. It was so heartbreaking, all of us were crying. There were many IDF soldiers there and men with guitars, playing and singing. We all put our arms around each other and swayed with the music. It was a moment that will remain with me forever.

Afterwards as we were walking to the bus, one of my new friends from New York, told me that Stephen Harper, the former Canadian Prime Minister was there, and I said I have to go back and meet him as I was born in Canada, but our guide said no time. I missed meeting Stephen Harper! We all wished that he was still the Prime Minister as he was a real friend to Israel and the Jewish people, unlike the current Prime Minister.

Driving back from the Nova site, we were told that this was the road that were filled with the dead bodies and burned out cars. We went into one of the shelters where many of the young people were hiding, but unfortunately there was an opening, and that's how they were all killed. All those beautiful young people's lives ended so tragically.

JNF paid for all the shelters that you see along the highways. You really see how important JNF is to Israel.

The next day we went to Kibbutz Or HaNer, where all the residents had been evacuated. IDF soldiers were stationed there and it was badly in need of rehab. The residents were scheduled to return shortly.

Russell Robinson, the CEO of Jewish National Fund, was there to speak to us, it made me feel so proud to be there volunteering. We cleaned and painted and got the kindergarten classroom ready for the kids to return there shortly.

I, being a gardener, set out weeding and cleaning out the debris. Someone from the kibbutz said, "there is a woman who knows what she's doing" and they brought several people to help me. It was very rewarding to see how our hard work made the area so much more appealing.

We then went to an area where the soldiers could eat rest and recharge. The food in this particular area was cooked by the mothers of the soldiers. We were also treated to this delicious food and best of all, saw something that all of us will never forget. A program supported by JNF USA, integrates young Israelis, with disabilities into the Israeli Defense Forces, a program that you will never see in any other country, but in Israel!

We were treated to this group of soldiers, because they had formed a wonderful band, and they performed. It really uplifted us and we all danced with joy.

We heard that this group has been helping soldiers on the front line; they found out that socks, underwear and flashlights were needed. So they collected and donated care packages to the front lines and found an even greater purpose during this difficult time.

We visited Sheba, Tel Hashomer hospital, Rehab where so many injured soldiers were. One American soldier who was badly injured, but really recovering, told us of the great care he received. We spoke with the rehab nurses and we were all very impressed by them. It is not easy to work on a rehab unit especially in time of war.

The next day, we went up north to a very special Druze woman. Her husband was an IDF soldier, who suffered a very serious injury and was in a coma for many years. When he died, Basma, her name, decided she wanted to really do something to make a difference. She started cooking for the soldiers out of her restaurant and became kosher, so she could serve all the IDF.

We all pitched in to help. I was on schnitzel duty, pounding and breading the chicken. Thank goodness I didn't have to fry it in hot oil. We got one of the younger guys to do it. We made salads, rice and desserts and then we packed up 400 to go boxes..

Many of the soldiers came in to eat, and it was amazing to me to see a blonde American soldier, and several Ethiopian soldiers. One was a young Ethiopian woman, and we were told by the head IDF, JNF liaison not to be fooled because she was a woman. She was head of a very strategic command post.

We all fell in love with Basma and found out that she needs a new grill so that she can serve many more meals. Several of us donated to her.

Our last day of the mission was Jerusalem. We went to the Jerusalem forest, a municipal pine forest, located in the Judean mountains on the outskirts of Jerusalem. There we planted trees with pictures of the hostages, and we all said prayers. It was very emotional. Then we drove to Ammunition Hill, where we listened to a reservist telling us his story. His father was killed when he was five years old, and all his fellow soldiers told his mother, that this boy will have many fathers. He will not be alone, we will always take care of him. They kept their promise. He said he had many fathers growing up. It was a really beautiful story. We visited the wall with plaques of all the soldiers that served in the IDF over many years from all over the world.

Visit to the Kotel where we prayed, said Kaddish and cried. It was quiet there as it was not Shabbat. Of course we visited the Shouk, where we all bought some food and various items. Our last evening was a very special dinner where we all came together, including Jewish national fund Futures, which is the younger generation of future JNF leaders.

A lot of us spoke about this wonderful mission, but really, the younger generation filled me with great hope for the future of our people.

We all said goodbyes the next morning and promised to keep in touch.

Yale Academics 'Astounded' by Trip to Israel

'Muslim and Christian Arabs, Druze and Jewish students (in Israel) understand that their job is to learn, not to fight each other.'

By Shula Rosen, United With Israel

A group of 25 faculty members told *Newsweek* they were "astounded" after their 5-day trip to Israel, and were impressed by the inclusivity and cooperation they witnessed at Israel's universities.

The authors of the *Newsweek* editorial described the cooperation and harmony between Arab, Christian, Druze and Jewish students at various Israeli institutions of higher learning.

Edward H. Kaplan, Professor of Operations Research, Professor of Public Health, and Professor of Engineering and Eva Morris, Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging and of Biomedical Engineering at Yale University, describe how they were pleasantly surprised by what they saw.

They wrote, "Contrary to the apartheid charge leveled against Israel in general and Israeli academic institutions in particular, we saw precisely the opposite."

"At Hebrew University, we received a presentation from two young female students, one a hijab-wearing Muslim and the other Jewish, just returned from reserve duty. The presentation ended with their heartfelt embrace," they explained.

"Muslim and Christian Arabs, Druze and Jewish students understand that their job is to learn, not to fight each other."

The academics were also amazed by the resilience in higher educational institutions

and society in general under the trying circumstances.

"The environment is challenging, yet the Israeli academic enterprise has proven breathtakingly resilient."

"Imagine operating a university where a quarter to a third of students, staff, and faculty have been murdered, injured, taken hostage, or are on active military reserve service," they explained.

"Imagine teaching in classrooms with both Arab students (some with family in Gaza or the West Bank) and Jewish students (many just returned from military service or with casualties among family and friends)," they added.

"Imagine trying to manage standard faculty promotion, review, and tenure processes in the face of boycotts and similar discrimination from hostile academics around the world."

Contrary to the propaganda heard on US campuses, the academics talked to Israeli Arabs and found that many of them didn't want to break away from Israel, but were seeking to thrive within Israeli society.

They also noted that the number of Arabs in Israeli medical schools greatly exceeded their proportion of the population.

The academics from Yale visited Ben Gurion University of the Negev, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, the Weizmann

Institute of Science, and Tel Aviv University.

In addition, they met with heads of Sapir college in Sderot which came under attack

and Tel Hai Academic college which has been evacuated because of Hezbollah attacks.

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While our PJ Families are socially isolating and enjoying family time during these very extraordinary circumstances, reading PJ library books with our children and grandchildren and teaching them to be "balabusts" in the kitchen have filled many of our homes. If you or your friends raising the next generation of Jewish children are interested in this free Jewish book and music program, please contact Leslie Pepper at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or call 760-324-4737.




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Strengthening our community together

'US Stands with Israel, Despite Clash of Personalities'

By Yoni Kempinski, Israel National News

Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY) spoke to Arutz Sheva - Israel National News from the Western Wall April 2nd, during his visit to Israel as part of a delegation organized by the UJA-Federation of New York.

"It is the first time I've been in Israel since October 7th, and I have found a country that is transformed," he said, "I'm here with a simple but essential message: that Israel is not alone. I stand with Israel, most of America stands with Israel, and most of the United States Congress stands with Israel. And the US-Israel relationship is alive and well."

The Congressman described how witnessing the scenes of the massacre firsthand was different from seeing images and videos from an ocean away. "I went to the kibbutz, Nir Oz, and what I saw was so sobering. I mean, one-fourth of the population had either

been murdered or kidnapped. One-third of the homes were burned down. I met members of the hostage families who are connected to half of the hostages that were held captive by Hamas."

Torres recounted one story in particular that moved him. "I heard the story of the oldest hostage, who lived through not one, but two massacres of Jews, not only October 7th, but the Farhud in Iraq. And so the stories were so sobering."

He said that he "can sense in Israel that the country remains in a state of deep trauma and shock and grief. And yet, despite the overwhelming shock of October 7th, I'm amazed by



Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY)

the remarkable resilience of the Israeli people."

"I spoke to one of the survivors of the Nova music festival, and he had a tag that read: "We will dance again." And those words, 'we will dance again,' beautifully captures the resilience encoded in the Israeli DNA," he said.

Rep. Torres admitted that there are currently tensions between the Israeli government and the American government as well as a disturbing anti-Israel element in the left-flank of his Democratic party.

"The United States approved the transfer of weapons to Israel," he noted. "What we're witnessing is not a change in American policy, but a clash of personalities between the Biden Administration and the Netanyahu Administration. I would tell people to ignore the background noise and

recognize that the US-Israel relationship remains fundamentally intact, and US policy toward Israel remains fundamentally unchanged."

"I have concerns that the far-left could be to the Democratic Party in American politics what Jeremy Corbyn became to the Labour Party in British politics," he admitted. "The burden falls on pro-Israel Democrats like myself to actively resist the Jeremy Corbynization of progressive politics. And I'm hopeful that we will win."

Addressing the wave of antisemitic incidents in the US in the wake of October 7th, Torres said, "There's nothing new about antisemitism, which is an ancient hatred. What is new, what is unprecedented, is the algorithmic amplification of antisemitism on platforms like TikTok."

"In the House, we passed legislation that would force the sale of Tiktok, which to me would be a real breakthrough against antisemitism. We need the legislation to pass at the United States Senate.

"Am Yisrael Chai," Congressman Torres concluded.

The events on October 7th, 2023, and the subsequent war in and around Israel have brought about profound feelings of dread, anger, anxiety, and grief for many local members of the Jewish community and others.

Jewish Family Service of the Desert (JFS) is offering a group for anyone seeking support, a chance to share their feelings of sadness and worry, or a place to feel accepted.

The group **Shoulder to Shoulder** will meet via Zoom biweekly 4:30-6 pm, starting Monday, May 20, with 8-10 sessions designed to help participants mitigate troublesome and sometimes debilitating feelings associated with the atrocities of Hamas' actions and the subsequent rise in antisemitic words and actions throughout our country and the world.

Registration is easy:
call 760/325-4088 ext. 121 or send an email to intake@jfsdesert.org to sign up or request additional information

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McDonald's to Buy Back 225 Restaurants from Its Israeli Franchise After Sales Decline from Anti-Israel Boycotts

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

McDonald's Corporation signed an agreement to purchase all of the restaurants that comprise its franchise in Israel, the American fast food chain announced on April 4 after facing an anti-Israel boycott of its stores because of the ongoing war in Gaza.

McDonald's will buy back all 225 of its restaurants in Israel, which have been owned and operated for more than 30 years by the local licensee Alonyal Limited. The agreement is "subject to certain conditions" and expected to close in the next several months.

"For more than 30 years, Alonyal Limited has been proud to bring the Golden Arches to Israel and serve our communities," said Omri Padan, who is the Israeli owner and CEO of Alonyal Limited. "We've grown the brand to be the leading and most successful restaurant chain in Israel and are grateful to our management, employees, suppliers, and customers who made this possible. We are encouraged by what the future holds."

"We thank Alonyal Limited for building the McDonald's business and brand in Israel over the past 30 years," said Jo Sempels, president of international developmental licensed markets at McDonald's Corporation. "McDonald's remains committed to the Israeli market and to ensuring a positive employee and customer experience in the market going forward."

McDonald's reported in February weak sales growth in the Middle East after anti-Israel activists boycotted the brand because its Israeli licensee offered discounts and free meals to Israeli soldiers and other security personnel who were defending the Jewish state after the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attacks launched the ongoing war in Gaza. Hamas terrorists murdered 1,200 people, mostly civilians, during the massacre last year in southern Israel and a further 253 were taken as hostages back to the Gaza Strip.

McDonald's CEO Chris Kempczinski said in February that the company experienced a drop in sales in some markets outside the Middle East as well because of the boycotts,



including Malaysia and Indonesia, both of which have Muslim-majority populations, and France. "The company is monitoring the evolving situation, which it expects to continue to have a negative impact on Systemwide sales and revenue as long as the war continues," McDonald's said in a regulatory filing at the time.

Branches of McDonald's in Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, and Australia were vandalized because of the Israeli franchise's decision to provide free food and discounts to Israeli soldiers and security forces. Pro-Palestinian rallies were also held outside several other McDonald's locations around the world, including in London and the US. Some McDonald's branches in Muslim countries — including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Oman, and Kuwait — published statements distancing themselves from the Israeli franchise while vowing to donate funds to help humanitarian aid efforts in the Gaza Strip.

Kempczinski said the boycotts were a result of "associated misinformation" about the company and its stance in the Israel-Hamas war. The McDonald's Corporation released its own statement explaining its position during the ongoing fighting.

"We are dismayed by the disinformation and inaccurate reports regarding our position in response to the conflict in the Middle East," it said in November. "McDonald's Corporation is not funding or supporting any governments involved in this conflict, and any actions from our local Developmental Licensee business partners were made independently without McDonalds' content or

approval."

"Our hearts are with all of the communities and families impacted by this crisis," the company continued. "We abhor violence of any kind and firmly stand against hate speech, and we will always proudly open our doors to everyone. We are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our people in the region while supporting the communities where we operate."



DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

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

'You Must Earn Our Vote': Joe Lieberman's Last Statement Warned of Political Consequences for Dems' Anti-Israel Shift

By Jack Elbaum, *The Algemeiner*

Former US Senator and Democratic Party vice presidential nominee Joe Lieberman's last statement was a warning to Democrats about the political danger of turning against Israel.

Lieberman died on Wednesday after sustaining a fall.

Alan Dershowitz, a professor emeritus at Harvard Law School, detailed the late senator's concern in a new op-ed for the *Wall Street Journal*.

"Hours before his fatal fall on Tuesday, former Sen. Joseph Lieberman put his final touches on a statement we were writing together about Israel, the 2024 election, and the future of the Democratic Party," wrote Dershowitz, who, like Lieberman, was a strong supporter of the Jewish state.

Dershowitz explained the message was a "warning" to the re-election campaign of US President Joe Biden that it can "no longer count on pro-Israel Jewish voters" to vote for the Democratic Party if it turns against Israel.

"We are here to say that you can no longer simply count on our vote

just because Jews traditionally have voted Democratic. We are here to say you must earn our vote," the joint statement read.

It continued: "We want to continue to support Democratic candidates, but you need to know that if you abandon Israel in order to garner the support of anti-Israel extremists within the Democratic Party, it will be difficult for us to support Democrats who are on the ballot this November."

In the 2020 US presidential election, only 30 percent of Jews voted for former US President Donald Trump, a Republican, while 68 percent voted for Biden, a Democrat. Since 1968, an average of 71 percent of Jews have voted for the Democratic candidate in the presidential race.

"None of us can or will vote for any candidate who supports cutting military support for Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas. So please, do the right



thing. Do not abandon Israel and its time of great need. And we will not abandon you," the statement concluded.

A recent Pew Research Center poll found that 89 percent of American Jews believe Israel's reasons for fighting the Hamas terror group in Gaza are valid. A December poll found that 81 percent of American Jews support Israel's mission to "recover all Israeli hostages and remove Hamas from power."

Lieberman and Dershowitz wrote that they "appreciated President Biden's statements in the wake of the Oct. 7 Hamas barbarisms" but that "more recently ... we have become concerned about what appears to be a weakening of support for Israel by President Biden, Vice President Harris, and some other leading Democrats."

"We are especially concerned about the possibility that some of this weakening may be influenced by domestic political fears of losing electoral support from anti-Israel voters who have threatened to stay home unless the Biden administration pulls away from Israel," the statement noted.

In Michigan, a key battleground state and home to America's largest Arab population, a campaign to vote "uncommitted" during the state's primary rather than for Biden gained significant support — including from US Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI). More than 100,000 people, making up

more than 13 percent of the total voters, cast an "uncommitted" ballot. It was a small spike of uncommitted votes in terms of proportion relative to when former US President Barack Obama ran for re-election in 2012, but a significant spike in terms of raw numbers.

There have been questions raised about whether an anti-Israel stance would actually help Biden's re-election stance, though. A recent Morning Consult/Bloomberg poll of Michigan voters found that, while only 1 percent of respondents said the Israel-Hamas war was the most important issue to them, a striking 67 percent said the issue was either "very important" or "extremely important."

Lieberman's last statement "was intended to be circulated among prominent pro-Israel Democrats and sent to the White House in a public release," according to Dershowitz. "Its goal was to make it clear that if domestic political considerations — the so-called two state solution, meaning Michigan and Minnesota — were influencing the administration's change of attitude toward Israel, there would be a domestic political price to pay for such a change."

Lieberman has long been a staunch supporter of Israel. When he ran for vice president on Al Gore's ticket in 2000, he was the first Jew to be on a major party ticket in American history.

He also observed Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest. Although some questioned how he was able to cease all work on Friday nights and Saturday while also being a US senator, he responded, "I don't think I could be a senator and not observe Shabbat."

Lieberman was considered a moderate Democrat who aimed to work across the aisle.

"Joe's tragic death won't end his campaign to keep support for Israel a bipartisan issue," Dershowitz wrote. "Joe believed in this to the depths of his being. And those of us who were working with him to send this message will continue this campaign in his memory."

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Ending His Sit-in, UC Berkeley Professor Says Campus Response to Antisemitism Has Improved

By Andrew Lapin, JTA

Israel studies professor Ron Hassner ended his two-week sit-in at his University of California, Berkeley office, saying the school had made sufficient commitments to satisfy his concerns about the safety of Jewish students on campus.

The university has pledged to monitor an ongoing pro-Palestinian protest in the center of campus that left many Jewish students feeling harassed. It has also joined a consortium operated by Hillel International, the Jewish campus organization. And Ran Bar-Yoshafat, an Israeli speaker whose talk the university canceled last month amid violent protests, returned to campus this week to speak.

What's more, Hassner said, the university has assured him of plans to fund antisemitism and Islamophobia training for staff and student leaders, and surprised him by saying that students would soon have the option to minor in Israel studies, his field.

Those recent developments, Hassner concluded, met the demands he laid out when he moved into his office — which has a bathroom but no shower — earlier this month.

"I have started packing my bags so that I can go home to my family," Hassner wrote in an email to students, inviting them to a celebratory Shabbat dinner at the campus Chabad the next night.

A representative for UC Berkeley did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Campuses across the country have dealt with a host of antisemitism concerns since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in October, but Berkeley has occupied a spotlight for weeks. A planned Feb. 26 talk by Bar-Yoshafat, an Israeli army reservist and pro-Israel speaker, was shut down after a pro-Palestinian protest turned violent, with people assaulting Jewish students and damaging campus property. And an ongoing pro-Palestinian protest at Sather Gate, a central campus gathering spot, has reportedly included blocking passage through campus, targeting Jewish students and blasting audio purportedly of Israel's

bombing campaign in Gaza.

These incidents have triggered a series of responses. Berkeley's leadership announced an investigation into the February 26 events, which are also now the subject of a Title VI discrimination investigation at the U.S. Department of Education as well as a congressional investigation. Meanwhile, Hassner, chair of the school's Israel Studies department, moved into his office and announced he would not leave until more decisive action was taken, a protest that has been taken up by faculty at other campuses in California.

Hassner appears to have gotten his wish. On Monday, Bar-Yoshafat returned to Berkeley at the invitation of Chabad and the campus pro-Israel group Tikvah and spoke to an audience of 150 at a tightly controlled event. There, according to the Jewish News of Northern California, he refuted campus pro-Palestinian groups' claims that he supported



Israel Studies Professor Ron Hassner

killing innocent people in Gaza while also insisting Israel needed to continue its campaign "to go inch by inch to find all the Hamas terrorists and weapons."

Also this week, UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ told the campus community that hired observers would begin patrolling the Sather Gate protest to monitor any instances of harassment or other kinds of violations.

"Political protest is a protected — indeed a valued — activity on the Berkeley campus, it is also subject to time, place, and manner regulations," Christ wrote. She also hinted that new guidelines for protests might be put in place in the near future.

This week Hillel International announced that UC Berkeley is joining its Campus Climate Initiative, a program designed to provide schools with antisemitism training, along with the entire University of California system and dozens of other universities. "The University of California is committed to ensuring that our campus communities are safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all — including for our Jewish students, faculty, and staff," Michael Drake, president of the UC system, said in a

press release.

Partially in response to faculty statements about the war, Berkeley's Board of Regents has also been debating a new policy that would limit political speech on university websites; this week the board delayed a vote on the policy until May.

The return of Bar-Yoshafat and a more forceful response to Sather Gate were two of Hassner's three protest demands. In his letter, Hassner said that he had also received assurance that the university would fund his third demand — mandatory antisemitism and Islamophobia training for any students in leadership positions — and that it would also create a new minor in Israel Studies, which he welcomed as "fantastic news" although it had not been among his demands.

"Attacks and intimidation of students on U.S. campuses are designed to drive some students away. The new minor in Israel Studies will do the opposite," Hassner wrote. "It will attract students from all backgrounds to our campus precisely because we are the greatest campus in the country for studying the complexities of Judaism and Israel in an inclusive and rigorous manner."

Are you receiving the weekly e-newsletter or the Israel updates? If not, please check your junk mail file.



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.

Gaza Hospitals Serve as Terror Hubs, Islamic Jihad Spokesman Confesses

By Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News

In a confession made to the Shabak that the intelligence agency publicized April 4, a Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) member admitted that his organization and Hamas dominate all the hospitals in Gaza.

"Gaza terror groups use all of the hospitals in the Gaza Strip," PIJ spokesman Tarik Salame Uda Abu Salouf told his interrogators.

The medical centers are meeting points, he said, where "Decisions are made in these rooms, for example if we want to attack Israel."

"There is internet and electricity 24 hours a day," he noted. "We take a room from the X-ray, emergency, internal medicine or a specialist department without closing the entire department."

Abu also described specific departments in Gaza City's Shifa Hospital that were at the terrorists' command.

"In Shifa there is the ambulance unit and the emergency room," he said. "There is a fellow who has connections with one of the ambulance managers, so he uses him to transfer senior operatives, wanted men, wounded, and drives along with them."

Abu Salouf had been captured in the Shifa Hospital during the IDF's second seizure of the medical center last month, after intelligence revealed that Hamas and PIJ fighters had returned and were using it as a command center

again in northern Gaza.

More than 200 terrorists were killed and over 500 were taken prisoner, proving the intelligence correct.

While the international community has been slamming Israel for its military incursions into Gazan hospitals, calling it a violation of international law, once a medical center is used as a military base it becomes a legitimate target by that very law. It is also a war crime.

Aside from the terrorists they have fought in the hospital compounds they have raided, IDF forces have found thousands of rifles, grenades, explosive devices, bullets and millions of shekels of cash hidden in patients' rooms, staff offices and all kinds of examination rooms, along with terror tunnels running underneath.

Abu Salouf also described how Hamas, PIJ and other groups' "communications departments" closely coordinate to get false stories out to the world, such as the "lie," he said, that Israel struck the Al-Ahli Hospital in October, when it was "a PIJ rocket launch" that failed.

While much of the international press that seized the story walked this story back after the IDF quickly proved it to be false, according to Abu Salouf, foreign reporters are generally tame tools in the terrorists' hands.



Income Statement

Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/23

Where our Dollars Come From

Annual Campaign	\$1,755,306
Tamarisk contributions (Federation Day)	\$126,699
General Contributions & other	\$158,439
Gain on Investments	\$99,336
Interest and dividend income	\$270,989
Special Events	\$16,876

Total Support & Revenues **\$2,427,645**

Where our Dollars Go

Local Allocations - Caring for the Vulnerable	\$303,894
Local Allocations - Community Inclusion & Engagement	\$212,400
Local Allocations - Jewish Education & Identity	\$187,500
Overseas Allocations - Israel & World Jewry	\$307,500
General and administrative	\$437,122
Fundraising Cost	\$291,104
Programs Cost	\$498,891

Total Allocations & Expenses **\$2,238,411**

Net Surplus (Due to Assets reclassification) \$189,234

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$608,140
Pledges receivable, net	\$430,823
Investments	\$5,627,446
Prepaid expenses	\$1,666
Other Assets	\$33,815
Federation Building & Property Net	\$1,376,496

Total Assets **\$8,078,386**

Liabilities & Net Assets

Allocations Payable	\$1,664,148
Accrued vacation	\$20,521
Deferred revenue	\$16,580

Total Liabilities **\$1,701,249**

Undesignated	\$2,368,619
Board Designated	\$1,774,455
With Donor Restrictions	\$2,234,063

Total Net Assets **\$6,377,137**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$8,078,386**



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JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT ALLOCATIONS

Year End 6/30/23 For Distribution 2022/2023

Angel View - Jewish Resident Homes (Tamarisk)	\$20,000
Bikur Cholim - Mitzvah Mission & Programs	\$125,000
Bikur Cholim Programs (Tamarisk)	\$15,000
Desert Arc (Tamarisk)	\$10,000
Jewish Family Service - Let's Do Lunch	\$5,000
Jewish Family Service - Café Europa	\$25,000
Jewish Family Service - Senior Care Management	\$35,000
Jewish Family Service - Mental Health Outpatient Treatment	\$35,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Tzedakah & Burial Fund (Tamarisk)	\$39,000
Mizell Senior Center - Meals on Wheels	\$15,000
Temple Sinai - Mitzvah Food Delivery Project	\$7,500
The Joslyn Center - Let's Do Lunch	\$4,500
The Joslyn Center - Meals on Wheels	\$7,500
Safehouse	\$2,500

Caring for the Vulnerable 32% \$346,000

Congregation Beth Shalom - Scholar in Residence Program	\$7,500
Congregation Har El	\$6,000
Inland and Desert Hillel Council	\$75,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Jewish Community Education Series	\$20,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Jewish Community Outreach	\$20,000
Jewish Summer Camp Scholarships (Tamarisk)	\$10,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - PJ Library - Books for Children	\$8,000
Temple Isaiah - Palm Springs - Jewish Film Festival	\$20,000
Temple Isaiah - Palm Springs - Twice Blessed - LGBTQ Outreach	\$4,000
Temple Sinai - Palm Desert - Hebrew School Scholarships	\$10,000
Temple Sinai - Desert Keshet	\$1,000
Sun City Jewish Concert	\$2,500

Jewish Education & Engagement 17% \$184,000

Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs - Jewish Holidays Programming	\$5,500
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Jewish Community Newspaper (JCN)	\$60,400
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Outreach & Holocaust Memorial	\$9,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert & SCN - Active Threat Training Workshop / Programs	\$9,100
Inland and Desert Hillel - Antisemitism & Antizionism, Interfaith	\$7,000

Inland and Desert Hillel - Address Antisemitism & Israel Advocacy (Tamarisk)	\$15,000
Or Hamidbar - Interfaith Programming	\$5,000
Jewish Federations of North America - National Dues	\$75,000
The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Youth Futures, Eliat	\$30,000
ADL	\$20,000

Community Inclusion, Security & Addressing Antisemitism 22% \$236,000

Caring for the Vulnerable:

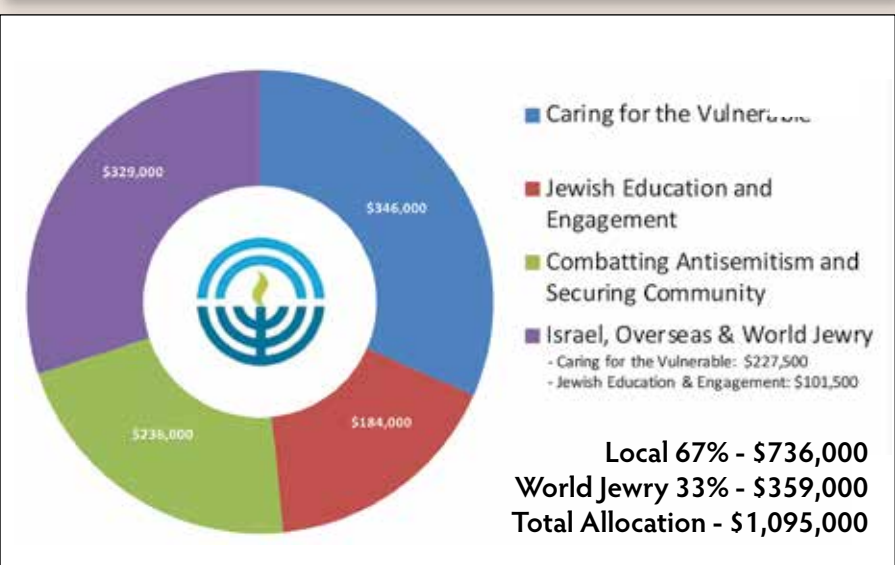
Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind - Guide Dog Training	\$2,500
Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Reuniting Ethiopian Families	\$15,000
Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) - Humanitarian Assistance to Former Soviet Union	\$150,000
Ramat HaNegev - Center for Children with Special Needs (CCSN) & Other	\$60,000

Jewish Education & Engagement:

Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Former Soviet Union (FSU) Camps	\$12,500
Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Nativ	\$12,000
Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Ofek Mechinot	\$17,000
Ramat HaNegev - Center for Children with Special Needs (CCSN) & Other	\$60,000

Israel, Overseas & World Jewry 30% \$329,000

Total Allocations \$1,095,000





Shabbat Schedule - May-July 2024

BETH SHALOM, Palm Desert

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Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
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net or call 760-200-3636. www.
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Shavuot: Wednesday, June 12: First day
of Shavuot services 9:45 am. Thursday,
June 13: Second day Shavuot, including
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Rabbi Mendy Friedman
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schedule of services Text 760-770-7785
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com/ckids or Chaya Posner: chaya@
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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.

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Rabbi Moshe Katz
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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.
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Mirage, CA 92270. Shabbat services
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Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425
Via Vail, Rancho Mirage. On second

Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am Torah study
on Zoom with Rabbi Axelrad. Beit
Sefer Religious School begins again
on October 8th and is held Saturday
mornings (from 9:45 AM to noon. B'nei
Mitzvah classes for Children with Arava
Talve. "Talkin' Torah": See listing on
Community Calendar. Check website for
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Saturdays 10:30 am.

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Soloist Alan Scott. In person services
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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:

temple@templeisaihps.com; www.
templeisaihps.com.
Shabbat services Friday evenings at 7:30
pm, preceded by Wine and Cheese
'Happy Hour' from 7:00-7:30 pm and
Oneg following.
Saturday morning torah study, "Nosh
and Drash," begins at 10:30 am. Once a
month, usually first Shabbat, Nosh and
Drash includes a Shabbat morning/torah
service. Check website to confirm.
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.

Shavuot services: First day service
Wednesday, June 12, 10:30 am. Second
day service/Yizkor Thursday, June 13,
10:30 am.

TEMPLE SINAI, Palm Desert

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi David Novak
rabbi@templesinai.org
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert,
CA 92260. www.templesinai.org 760-
568-9699. Go to templesinai.org for
access information. Shabbat services are
in-person and online on Livestream at
www.templesinai.org. Friday evening
services 5:30 pm, preceded by pre-
service Oneg at 5:00 pm. Saturday
morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat
morning services 10 am.

**Temple Sinai's Avi Levine Religious
School** 9:30 - 12:00 AM on designated
Sundays
throughout the school year. Contact Talia
Lizemer-Hawley, Community Educator,
for more information, educator@
templesinai.org

BIKUR CHOLIM

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



Community Calendar of Programs - May-July 2024

Sundays:

11:00-11:30 am Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City **Tanya Teachings**. For men and women.

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:

5:00-6:45 pm Chabad Rancho Mirage's popular weekly **BBQ** ends for the season, most probably in early June. Check their website (www.chabadm.com).

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, beginning in the fall, 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 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.

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.chabadm.com/ckids.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

3-5 pm Jewish Federation of the Desert **Yom HaShoah / Holocaust Remembrance** program at the UC Riverside/Palm Desert Campus Auditorium. Guest speaker: Photographer B.A. Van Sise, and The Braid's "Remembrance of Things Present." See ads on page 2 and back page.

Thursday, May 9

6:30 pm doors open / **7:00 pm** Program. Sabra Hadassah of the



SHAVUOT

Erev Shavuot Tuesday, June 11
First Day: Wednesday, June 12
2nd Day/Yizkor: Thurs. June 13

Desert presents Attorney/Author/Lecturer **Barry A. Ross**: "**Are You the King or Queen of Your Castle? Probably Not. Let Me Tell You Why.**" A special program for women and men. Members \$20. Non-members \$25. Mail check, payable to Hadassah, to Hadassah, 38180 Del Webb Blvd, PMB #315, Palm Desert, CA 92211. Questions/credit card payment call Vivian Posen, 818-687-9446.

Sunday, May 19

9:00-11:00 am Sabra Hadassah is participating in the Southern California wide **Walk for Israel** walkathon. Our Desert Area will walk locally at The Shops at Palm Desert. Security will be provided. For more information contact Cindy Hailpern 760-360-4902 / cinhailpern@gmail.com. Fee.

Wednesday, June 26

10:00 am Har-El program: "**Seeing the Constitution Through Jewish Eyes,**" held at Jewish Federation Office. Participants: Attorneys **Barry**

Messinger (moderator), **Jeffrey Moliver**, **Steve Moyer** and **Samuel Trussel** and **Rabbi Richard Zions**. Includes complimentary lunch. Reservations essential. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com. See ad page 5.

Thursday, July 11

Sabra Hadassah of the Desert Interactive "**Hands on Art Related Event**" in a private home in Rancho Mirage. Contact Kathy Levy at 631-258-5339 for details.

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

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

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Arnie and Sue Gillman**, Thank you for being great friends, from Bob and Dorothy Friedlander.
- **Stanley Hack**, Happy birthday from Ellen and Phil Glass.
- **John Kovler**, Mazel tov on a great recovery, from Debra and Mickey Star.
- **Gary Leifer**, Happy special birthday, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Renee Mayer**, In honor of your 85th birthday, from Toni Ackerman, Audrey Bernstein, Joanne Chunowitz, Carol Fragen, Adrienne Garland, Diane Gershowitz, Sheila Keeshin, Dolly Levy, Marnie Miller, Gail Scadron, Sandy Schwartz, Nancy Siwak, Debbie Star, and Leslie Usow *
- **Gail Scadron**, Thank you for a fabulous evening, from Albert and Cecille Silverman.
- **Wendy and David Scherl**, Best wishes for happy birthdays, from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Pat and Elliot Schutzer**, Thank you for a wonderful evening, from Elaine and Ted Stein.*
- **Eskie Shepard**, Thank you for a wonderful evening, from Suzanne Feder and Cora Ginsberg.
- **Jane and Larry Sherman**, Thank you for a memorable evening, from Shelli Goodman and Bernie Plack, and Judy Schwartz.
- **Nina Zale**, Thank you for all the amazing work you do, from Cathy Scheman, Leslie and Barry Usow.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Nancy Ditlove**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Lori Fritz**, Refuah Shleimah, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.

- **Wendy Goodfriend**, You'll be dancing soon! from Wendy Hahn and Kent Whinnery.
- **Joe Kirshenbaum**, In hopes for your complete and speedy recovery, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Fern Carlin**, In memory of your brother Howard, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Ann Cohen**, In memory of Alan, from Wendy Hahn and Kent Whinnery.
- **Eileen Eisenberg**, In memory of Marc Kashinsky, from Sue and Arnie Gillman.
- **Bob Greenbaum**, Condolences for the passing of your mother, Peggy Greenbaum, from Gregg and Candie Mandinach.
- **Jim Greenbaum and Family**, In loving memory of your wife Peggy, from Susie and Bob Diamond, Kirk and Anne Douglas Foundation, Sherrie and Alan Eisenman, Barbara Fremont, Bobby Garon and Robin Levy, Enid and Shelly Goldman, Doreen Herzog, Pat Hubbard, Loreen Jacobson, Jay and Carolyn Kaplan, Jennie Karotkin, Gregg and Candie Mandinach, Tony and Sally Mann, Suzanne S. Miller, Jean Mintz, Morris and Melinda Mintz, Rella and Monty Rifkin, Sara Edwards Sands, Phyllis and Lisa Schahet, Albert and Cecille Silverman, Leslie and Barry Usow, Irwin and Arlene Volk, and Diane "Dede" Weil.
- **Joan Hirsch**, In memory of your beloved husband Michael, from Ron and Dani Cukier, Susie and Bob Diamond, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Cydney Osterman and Ken Schoenfeld, Dale and George Rotner, Phyllis and Lisa Schahet, and Sherry Schor.
- **Sharon Kaplan**, In memory of your beloved husband Sanford, from Barbara and Craig Fierstein, Sue and Arnie Gillman, Jay Jarvis and Audrey Liebross, Stuart and Ellen Markus,

Norma and Ted Nelson, Stephanie and Dr. Paul Ross, and Sue West.

- **Jean Mintz**, In memory of your beloved twin sister Peggy Strauss Greenbaum, from Bernice Gordon, Dianne and Marc Magids.
- **Kayla Pressman**, In memory of your brother, from Phyllis Eisenberg.
- **Leslie Pepper and Family**, In memory of your beloved Phyllis Pepper, from Phyllis Eisenberg, Talia Lizemer-Hawley, Frances Kaufman, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Frances Miller, and Barbara Platt.
- **Candace Ross**, In memory of Mark Ross, from Sue and Arnie Gillman.
- **Sherry Schor**, In memory of your beloved husband Howard, from Susie and Bob Diamond, Ellen and Phil Glass, Enid and Shelly Goldman, Shelli Goodman and Bernie Plack, Wendy Hahn and Kent Whinnery, Judy and Mel Hecktman, Sheila Lewis, Rella and Monty Rifkin, Albert and Cecille Silverman.
- **Michael Scoby**, In memory of your beloved wife Gloria, from Albert and Cecille Silverman.
- **Sheila Sloan**, In memory of your brother, Dr. Marvin Starman, from Phyllis Eisenberg.
- **Eileen Stern**, In memory of your beloved husband Marvin, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, and Frances Miller.
- **Sheila Stone**, In memory of your beloved husband Ira, from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Sande and Ed Fineman, Toni and Bobby Garmisa, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Gail and Bob Scadron, and Sherry Schor.
- **Robbie Winnick and Family**, In memory of Marvin Winnick, from Susie and Bob Diamond.

*Donation earmarked for Israel Emergency Fund

Monies received from Tribute Card purchases go into our SPECIAL MITZVAH FUND which enables the Jewish Federation of the Desert to respond to emergency needs of Jews living in our community. To order a card call 760-324-4737.

'One Nation One Heart'

By Betty Denebeim

Over 150 women gathered on March 17 at the 'One Nation One Heart' brunch in Sun City to celebrate our sisters in Israel and to learn more about how to offer comfort, encouragement and love to recently bereaved and displaced Israeli women.

The planning committee, chaired by Sussie Denebeim, included Miriam Bent, Lenore Leon, Nadine Brinhendler, Nadine Cazary, Betty Denebeim, Judy Goldman, Debbie Orgen-Garrett, Beverly Ross, Mela Sarda, Noreen Silverman and Donna Wolfe.

After entering the Sierra ballroom, we gathered in groups of ten at large, white-clothed tables enhanced with centerpiece bouquets of yellow roses, sunflowers and baby's breath, arranged by Beverly Ross. At every place setting was a package with a tzedakah box, Shabbat candles, a challah cover, and a photo of one of the missing hostages.

The program began with a welcome by Shaindy Friedman. Aviva Morse read her moving poem composed specifically for this 'One Nation One Heart' event.

After a delicious lunch of smoked salmon, various salads and homemade chocolate pastries, the talented Los Angeles Jewish Women's Chorale, singing in three-part harmonies, took the stage and performed traditional melodies and joyful songs, including yearnings for Yerushalayim. They concluded with Uva'u Ha'ovdim, a triumph of dance and joy.



Olivia Schwartz spoke to us about Our Modern-Day Heroines. She told the stories of three women who exhibited outstanding bravery. She spoke of other women seeking to help heal Israeli mothers, wives and families suffering from the traumatic events of October 7 and the more than 100 hostages still being held. Ms. Schwartz suggested actions we can take to support all Israelis at this difficult time.

The event concluded with each one of us writing a letter of encouragement and love to an Israeli sister. The letters will be sent to Israel along with the funds raised by donations and the drawing tickets, sold to win one of four lovely baskets, also provided by Beverly Ross.

Participants left expressing thanks to those who helped plan and produce the special experience. Many stated how wonderful it was to gather with so many Jewish women from across the Coachella Valley. They expressed how the day's events gave them more confidence that they can better provide support for Israelis and that they are feeling more hopeful.





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Thank you for your gift to the Jewish Federation of the Desert!

The Jewish Federation of the Desert and its beneficiary agencies thank our devoted and loyal donors who gave so generously to the 2023 Annual Campaign. Thank you for helping to secure the present and fortify the future with your support of our Campaign.

Federation's Annual Campaign fills a

gap as our community's needs expand and our needy grow in number. We take seriously our responsibility to ensure that needs are met whilst staying committed to creating a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community and strengthening our connection with Jews in Israel and around the world. Your generosity has

breathed life into the words that define and guide our efforts: "Caring for the vulnerable, strengthening community." On behalf of those who cannot say thank you themselves, thank you.

Alan Potash, Chief Executive Officer
Arnie Gillman, President

We have endeavored to honor every special request that we received, including those individuals who wish not to be listed on the Honor Roll, and apologize in advance for any mistakes.



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Have A Nosh

This year Shavuot begins the evening of June 11 ... and the tradition is to serve dairy meals for this holiday, and to truly indulge ourselves, the decadent dessert favorite is cheesecake. Going one step further, this year my recipes will all feature chocolate! Enjoy! Indulge! Happy Shavuot! MHB



No Bake Double Chocolate Cheesecake Truffles

1 8-ounce package of cream cheese (bar, not whipped)
4 tablespoons sour cream
½ cup melted chocolate chips (use high-quality chocolate)
3 tablespoons confectioner's sugar
15 chocolate wafer cookies

Melt chocolate chips in the microwave for 15 seconds then stir, repeat until melted. Dump cream cheese, sour cream, melted chocolate chips and confectioner's sugar in a medium-sized bowl. Mix with an electric mixer until smooth, creamy and well blended. This will probably take about 3 minutes. Take a taste and be pleasantly surprised how much it really does taste like chocolate cheesecake! Use an ice cream scoop (or a spoon) to make pretty little circles. I like them larger, so it makes about 6, but you could make them smaller if you prefer. Place bundles of creamy chocolate joy on a cookie sheet and put in the freezer for 15 minutes.

Blitz chocolate wafer cookies in the Cuisinart until fine, like dust or cocoa powder, to coat the outside of your truffles. After 15 minutes carefully roll the truffles in the cookie dust. Refrigerate for 45 minutes. After 45 minutes, put them on a pretty plate and serve!

Double Chocolate Cheesecake

24 Oreo Cookies, crushed
1/4 cup (half stick) butter or margarine, melted
4 8-oz packages Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
3 Tbsp flour
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 8-oz. package Baker's Semi-Sweet Chocolate, melted & slightly cooled
4 eggs

Heat oven to 325 degrees F. Mix Oreo crumbs and butter or margarine and press onto the bottom of a 9: X 13" foil lined pan. Bake 10 minutes. Remove from oven and cool slightly. Meanwhile, beat cream cheese, sugar, flour and vanilla with mixer until well blended. Add chocolate; mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing at low speed after each until just blended. Pour over crust. Bake 45 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool completely and refrigerate four hours before serving. Use foil to lift cheesecake from pan. Serves 16.

Chocolate Cappuccino Cheesecake

1 cup chocolate cookie crumbs
¼ cup butter, softened
2 tablespoons white sugar
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
3 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
1 cup white sugar
3 eggs
8 (1 ounce) squares semisweet chocolate
2 tablespoons whipping cream
1 cup sour cream
¼ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons instant coffee granules dissolved in 1/4 cup hot water
¼ cup coffee flavored liqueur
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup heavy whipping cream
2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
2 tablespoons coffee-flavored liqueur
1 (1 ounce) square semisweet chocolate

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Butter one 9 or 10 inch springform pan. Combine the chocolate wafer crumbs, softened butter, 2 tablespoons white sugar, and the cinnamon. Mix well and press mixture into the buttered springform pan, set aside. In a medium sized bowl beat the softened cream cheese until smooth. Gradually add 1 cup white sugar mixing until well blended. Add eggs, one at a time. Beat at low speed until very smooth.

Melt the 8 ounces semisweet chocolate with 2 tablespoons whipping cream in a pan or bowl set over boiling water, stir until smooth. Add chocolate mixture to cream cheese mixture and blend well. Stir in sour cream, salt, coffee, 1/4 cup coffee liqueur, and vanilla; beat until smooth. Pour mixture into prepared pan.

Bake in the center of oven at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 45 minutes. Center will be soft but will firm up when chilled. Do not over bake. Leave cake in oven with the heat turned off and the door ajar for 45 minutes. Remove cake from oven and chill for 12 hours. Just before serving top cake with mounds of flavored whipped cream and garnish with chocolate leaves. Yields 16 servings.

To Make Flavored Whipped Cream:

Beat whipping cream until soft peaks form, then beat in confectioner's sugar and 2 tablespoons coffee liqueur.

To Make Chocolate Leaves:

Melt 1 to 2 ounces semisweet chocolate in a pan or bowl set over boiling water, stir until smooth. Brush real non-toxic plant leaves (such as orange leaves) on one side with melted chocolate. Freeze until firm and then peel off leaves. Freeze chocolate leaves until needed.

Biden Signs Spending Bill Which Halts UNRWA Funding Through 2025

The bill also forces the UN and other international organizations funded to assess and report on efforts to combat anti-Israel bias and antisemitism and to vet staff for connections to terrorists.

By Hannah Sarisohn, JTA

On March 23 the US Congress overwhelmingly passed a \$1.2 trillion budget bill, which included a ban on US funding for UNRWA until 2025.

The bill also eliminates funding for the UN Commission of Inquiry against Israel and fully funds the annual US security commitment of \$3.3 billion for Israel, which allocates funding for the Iron Dome and other defensive systems.

"The historic ban on US funding to @UNRWA that passed today with an overwhelming bipartisan support, demonstrates what we knew all along: UNRWA is part of the problem and cannot be part of the solution. UNRWA will not be a part of Gaza's landscape in the aftermath of Hamas," Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a post on X.

"Thousands of UNRWA employees are involved in Hamas terror activities and their facilities were used for terrorist purposes. I urge more countries to follow the US and ban funding to this organization. Thank you Speaker Johnson, Rep Jeffries Sen Schumer and Leader McConnell for your leadership and continued bipartisan support of Israel during our just war against Hamas murderous terrorist regime," Katz added.

President Joe Biden's administration said in January it was temporarily pausing new funding to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) after Israel accused 12 of the agency's 13,000 employees in Gaza of participating in the deadly Oct. 7 Hamas attack.

Additional features of the bill

The bill also forces the UN and other international organizations funded in the bill to assess and report on efforts to combat anti-Israel bias and antisemitism and to vet personnel for connections to terrorist groups, the Act withholds funds

from the UN Human Rights Council to hold it accountable for blatant anti-Israel actions and reform the Council's election process to prevent human rights abusers from becoming members.

The Act will also implement new conditions on any assistance to Gaza, including mechanisms for coordination with Israel, prevention of diversion to Hamas or other terrorist entities, and a requirement for third-party monitoring, House Republicans on the Appropriations Committee touted earlier this week.

Progressive law-makers reactions to the bill

Several progressive US lawmakers voted against the bill, criticizing it is defunding of UNRWA and military support for Israel.

"Despite the many good provisions included in the bill, I could not support the bill's unconscionable elimination of humanitarian assistance for 2 million people facing imminent starvation and death because of Israel's war against Hamas," Rep. Andre Carson (D-IN) posted Friday on X after the House voted on the bill. Carson said he will be working with his colleagues on new legislation to restore UNRWA funding and continue efforts for a permanent ceasefire.

On X, Rep. Pramilia Jayapal said, "GOP dysfunction has led to a flawed budget process. They produced a bill that increases an already bloated Pentagon budget, promotes bad immigration policy, and cuts off funding to UNRWA, which is why I voted no on this funding bill."

"The spending package included a provision to cut funding to UNRWA. We know this will likely mean a death sentence for 1.1 million people in Gaza facing imminent threats of famine. Voted NO," Rep. Ilan Omar (D-MN) said.



Simchas

Mazel tov to **Rabbi Mendy** and **Shaindy Friedman** of Chabad of Palm Desert, on the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son **Aryeh**, being held at the Kotel (Western Wall)

in Jerusalem on Thursday, May 23. Proud grandparents are **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim** of Chabad of Palm Springs and Sun City. Shaindy's sister and brother-in-law **Chaya** and **Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger** of Chabad Palm Springs

are going to Israel for the Bar Mitzvah, and three days later their son **Nossen Werdiger**, will have his upsherin on Sunday, May 26, in the Nachpelah Cave of Hevron. Shaindy's brother **Rabbi Arik** and **Chaya Denebeim** of Chabad Palm Springs, and sisters

Elke and **Leah** also plan to join the family simcha in Israel, and other family members are hoping to make it as well! ... *Share your simchas with us. Email mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call Miriam Bent on her cell: at 760-835-1022.*



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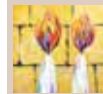
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Friday, May 3	Shabbat Acharei	6:48 pm
Friday, May 10	Shabbat Kedoshim	6:54 pm
Friday, May 17	Shabbat Emor	6:59 pm
Friday, May 24	Shabbat Behar	7:04 pm
Friday, May 31	Shabbat Bechukotai	7:08 pm

June

Friday, June 7	Shabbat Bamidbar	7:12 pm
Tuesday, June 11	Erev Shavuot	7:14 pm
Wednesday, June 12	2 nd night Shavuot	After 8:41 pm
Friday, June 14	Shabbat Naso	7:15 pm
Friday, June 21	Shabbat Bahalotcho	7:17 pm
Friday, June 28	Shabbat Shelach	7:17 pm

July

Friday, July 5	Shabbat Korach	7:17 pm
Friday, July 12	Shabbat Chukat	7:15 pm
Friday, July 19	Shabbat Balak	7:12 pm
Friday, July 26	Shabbat Pinchas	7:07 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Sanford (Sandy) Kaplan, Don Shaevel, and Sally Tenner. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*

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GUEST SPEAKER

B.A. Van Sise

B.A. Van Sise is an American photographer and author. He has worked as a travel photographer, and collections of his fine art photography have been exhibited in public installations by US museums.

B.A. Van Sise, a seasoned photojournalist, spent four years collaborating with Holocaust museums and outreach organizations to assemble these compelling images and narratives. The result is an inspiring testament to the human spirit, capturing the wisdom and strength forged from the ashes of despair. Van Sise's extensive background in photography, including exhibitions at prestigious institutions and publications in renowned media outlets, underscores the depth and quality of this cherished keepsake.



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