

The Power of Community

As we have watched events unfold around the world over in 2020 and now with the increasing concern regarding the COVID-19 in the US and within our own community, we are feeling the uncertainty and anxiety of the moment. Thankfully, we belong to a great community that cares for one another.

As we announced last month, our 2021 Campaign is underway. We thank all those who have supported the Annual Jewish Federation Campaign throughout the years and have demonstrated faith in our life-saving work that makes this

all possible. We all rely on these programs and services; they have proven themselves during previous times of crisis and are a critical reminder that we stand together always for the greater good.

Sustaining and strengthening Federation's network of services in our local community is essential. These programs are in place 365 days a year, in ordinary and extraordinary times. Material support is in the forefront these days but equally important is our support of Temples, agencies and organizations that help keep our Jewish values and traditions

alive. Together with other agencies, we provide community educational opportunities presented through a Jewish lens.

Our goal is to make our Jewish community strong and vibrant. We want to grow by attracting others to move to the area and become engaged with us. We are here to build a future for young families and their children. We want our seniors to always feel welcome; sustained, nurtured and supported by "Jewish community."

Please help us by actively participating in this year's annual

campaign. Please help to the best of your ability, so that as a community we remain strong, able to help support each other and able to respond whenever and wherever needed. As you reflect on many things this holiday season, we ask you to think about how you can help our community.

We extend our prayers for those individuals around the world affected by the spread of COVID-19 and to the families who have lost loved ones.

Stay safe and healthy.



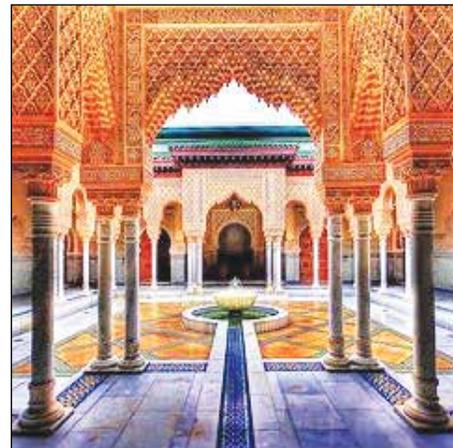
A Rich Jewish Past, and Present: Why Israel's Deal with Morocco is so Resonant

Unlike other longtime and fresh peace partners of Israel, Morocco has an ongoing connection to the Jewish people, and many Israelis will be rushing for a direct flight 'home'

By Raphael Ahren, *The Times of Israel*

The December 10 surprise announcement about Morocco agreeing to establish diplomatic relations with Israel was not a Hannukah miracle, as many Israeli politicians gushed when they lit their holiday candles, though the timing was indeed brightly appropriate. Rather, it had been a long time coming, as the North African kingdom has deep cultural and religious ties with the Jewish state and had long been expected to join the current wave of Arab countries normalizing ties with Israel.

As opposed to Egypt and Jordan, which signed peace treaties with Israel decades ago, and in contrast to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain



and Sudan, three Arab nations that normalized relations with Israel this year, Morocco and Israel have a profound and ancient Jewish connection, and the Moroccan Jewish community, though small, still thrives today.

Moroccan Jewry's origins date back 2,000 years, to the destruction of the Second Temple and exile. In the modern era, the community reached a high of some 250,000 in the early 1940s, when Sultan Mohammed V resisted Nazi pressure for their deportation. Numbers dwindled with the establishment of Israel, and today only some 2,000-3,000 Jews remain, but hundreds of thousands of Israelis are proud of their Moroccan origins. US President Donald Trump's senior envoy Jared Kushner on Thursday put that number at "over a million."

The mimouna party, which the community traditionally celebrates right after Passover ends, has

become a fixture on the Israeli

continued on page 4

everyone
counts
can we count on you?

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Jewish Federation
Annual Campaign
2021



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Table of Contents

Vol. 47 • No. 6

Community Calendar	16, 17
Federation	1, 3, 19, 24
Annual Report	6, 7
Lecture Series	9, 10
Legacy	5
Major Gifts	2
Woman's Philanthropy	10-12
Jewish Family Service	12
School Listing	10
Simchas & Classifieds	23
Temples Listing	16
Tributes	15

SAVE THE DATE

MAJOR GIFTS EVENT

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 4, 2021



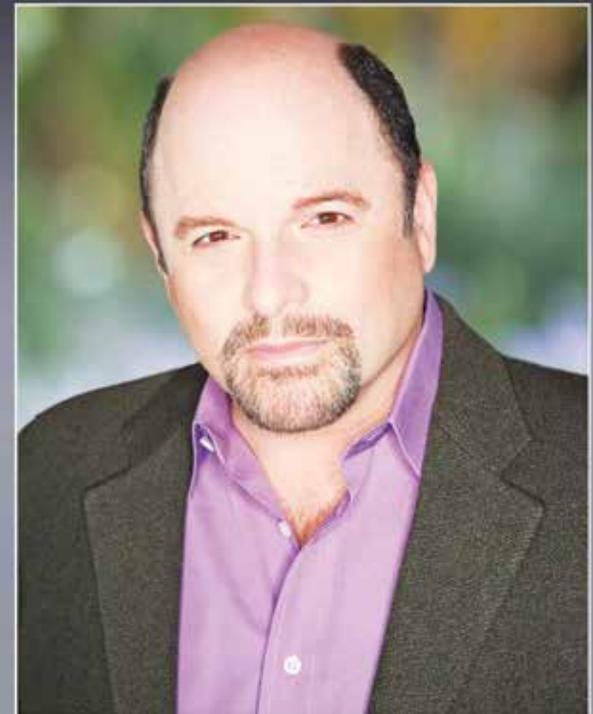
Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

An evening with

Jason Alexander

Though best known for his award-winning nine year stint as the now iconic George Costanza of television's Seinfeld, Jason Alexander has achieved international recognition for a career noted for its extraordinary diversity from lauded performances on stage, screen and television to his extensive works as a writer, composer, director, producer and acting teacher.

Jason tours the country as a speaker, comedian and symphony artist. In his spare time he is also an award-winning magician, children's author, poker champion, and political and social activist.



Relevance



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

Jewish Federation is guided by two basic principles: "Klal Yisrael" - a deep and abiding bond for all Jewish people and a sacred promise that we will be there for each other; and "Chesed" - caring for the most vulnerable.

Times have changed and with it the prevailing paradigm. Both ideologically and through their actions, Jews today are challenging the notion of collective Jewish partnership. Many question it altogether and others challenge the importance and relevance of giving priority to Jewish causes and of privileging relationships with fellow Jews.

Federation functions as the umbrella organization for the Jewish community's agencies, Temples/schools, and programs. Despite this mandate, some question if the

Federation model is still relevant. They ask why they should not only give directly to the agency or program of their choice. The answer is that we are all part of the same community, and our collective needs are relevant. Federation is the glue that holds us together and sticking together as a community will always be relevant. In these uncertain times, our need to support each other is of the greatest relevance. The basic model and mission remain the same as it did from its inception, but we adapt to the changing times and needs of our Jewish community. Unfortunately, today that means funding increased security needs due to rising anti-Semitism, but it also means developing programs for our demographic, offering virtual programming as we remain homebound, creating offerings for children, all in a Jewish space.

Someone once said to me, "If there were no Federation, we would have to invent one." We do not need to invent Federation. It exists and it merits all of our support, especially in this time of change. There is work to be done for our community. If we allow Federation to fail, to close its doors, we do so at our own peril. Federation's work is too

important.

What does our community look like without Federation? I have no doubt that the effective organizations that serve our community will endure. They will serve their own constituents. But what about the community? What about the overarching issues outside the purview of any single organization? Only Federation is uniquely positioned to address these broader community and overseas/Israel needs, to help convene and mobilize the entire community.

Cries of irrelevance emanate from those to whom we have failed to communicate or those who are angry at some differences in approach, ignoring those areas of commonality that are critical to us all. We need to focus on the many areas in which we undoubtedly agree. We cannot agree on everything, but we need to agree and support the many issues that will dictate our Jewish future here.

We have just come out of a year of heartbreaking challenges and inspiring successes. We have significantly impacted lives, and I thank you, because we have done this together. We are building a safe, secure, vibrant Jewish community and we are doing

so together.

This year, we want to spend more time with you, our most important partners in our work. We will be seeking your participation at our virtual events scheduled for this season. You will see catch phrases that demonstrate we want to "start strong" to be able to successfully take on any challenge we face. We want to "look forward" in our fundraising efforts to create a lasting legacy for future generations. We will do all this thanks to "the power of community." Together, we can — and will — be both stronger and more successful.

To those of you who have already pledged, thank you for being philanthropic leaders. For those of you who have yet to make your gift, please consider generously powering this year's campaign now. Join our stakeholders in demonstrating that you see the continuing relevance of Federation's mission. Now more than ever we have to see to the needs of our Jewish community. Thank you so very much.

Promoting the Jewish Experience



ROBERTA NYMAN

JEWISH
FEDERATION
BOARD CHAIR

Thank you to our Board of Directors, the many Woman's Philanthropy volunteers and our hard-working Campaign Cabinet who give tirelessly of their time and expertise to our Federation. I am proud of the partnership between

our board and staff that has enabled us to work together to successfully guide our Federation. I was president of the board when we selected Bruce Landgarten as our Chief Executive Officer eleven years ago. Now Bruce and I are again working together to look for innovative ways to promote the Jewish experience here in the desert. Thank you, Bruce, for your leadership and able management.

Communications with our donors is important, even more so these days as we cope with our restricted lives due to the covid virus. Our Federation monthly newspaper, the

Jewish Community News, reaches over 3450 homes. I suspect few people have read the "JCN Statement" that appears on page 4, stating the paper's mandate to "provide news and feature material of special interest ... to create a heightened sense of Jewish identity through the dissemination of information about people, events and issues at home and abroad." Its importance is heightened at these difficult times. I eagerly anticipate and look forward to our newspaper each month. I also want to say how much we appreciate the hard work of our editor, Miriam Bent. Thank you,

Miriam.

Obviously due to covid, organizations are not holding events and advertising in our JCN is significantly down. Please look for the information page and coupon regarding the JCN on page 19 and make a donation to help us to continue to bring our paper to your homes. Thank you.

From my family to yours, a Happy and Healthy New Year ... and stay safe.

Acts of kindness are among those things that have no limit. (Mishnah)

continued from page 1

cultural calendar, with countless people barbecuing in parks and politicians rushing to as many mimouna celebrations as possible, eating mufletot and other Jewish-Moroccan delicacies.

While Israeli tourists have begun discovering the Gulf only very recently, they have been flocking to Rabat, Marrakech, Casablanca, Tangiers and Fez via third countries for many years. Once the two countries establish diplomatic relations and open direct air-links, that number can be expected to increase dramatically.

Following the 1995 Oslo Accords, Morocco and Israel opened mutual "liaison offices," but they were closed a few years later after the Palestinian Second Intifada broke out in 2000.

Both Moroccan King Mohammed VI and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cited the long and deep ties binding Morocco and Israel in their statements on the historic agreement.

"Everybody knows the tremendous friendship shown by the kings of Morocco and the people of Morocco to the Jewish community there. And hundreds of thousands of these Moroccan Jews came to Israel, and they form a human bridge between our two countries and our two peoples, of sympathy, respect, of fondness and love," Netanyahu said during a Hanukkah ceremony at the Western Wall.

"Morocco has played a historic role in bringing the peoples of the region together and supporting security and stability in the Middle East... [there are] special ties that bind the Jewish community of Moroccan origin, including those in Israel, to the person of His Majesty the King," a statement from Morocco's royal

court said.

Still, the king did not suddenly decide that his love for the Jewish people required him to recognize the State of Israel; it was rather a US-brokered deal that pushed him to take the plunge.

Trump announced, in a tweet followed by an official proclamation, that Washington as of now recognizes Moroccan sovereignty over the entire Western Sahara territory and "reaffirms its support for Morocco's serious, credible, and realistic autonomy proposal as the only basis for a just and lasting solution to the dispute over the Western Sahara territory."

The UAE got an Israeli commitment to halt plans for a unilateral West Bank annexation and it appears to have secured the F-35 fighter jets it long coveted (though that deal has not yet been finalized). Sudan got taken off the US terror list and received promises of massive aid. And Morocco got a first, vital Western country to formally recognize its claim over the contested territory claimed by the Algeria-backed Polisario group, which seeks to establish an independent state there.

Some countries, like France and a few members of the Arab League, have long supported Rabat's claim to Western Sahara, but so far no country has formally recognized the kingdom's sovereignty over the entire area. (The Emiratis in October opened a consulate-general accredited to Morocco in the Western Sahara city of Laayoune, which some analysts consider as de-facto recognition.)

Evidently, King Mohammed reasoned that incoming US President-elect Joe Biden would be unlikely to make the move, so he took advantage of Trump's last 40 days in office.

Netanyahu on Thursday predicted a "very warm peace" with Morocco, but time will tell if the kingdom's 35 million citizens — virtually all Muslim Arabs — will welcome the deal as warmly as Emiratis and Bahrainis have.

According to a recent poll, only 16 percent of Moroccans have a favorable view of Israel, while a whopping 70% view Israel unfavorably. In contrast, three-quarters of respondents expressed positive sentiments toward the Palestinians.

The survey, conducted by Jerusalem-based pollster Mitchell Barak on behalf of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, also found that only 17% of Moroccans support Israel's Abraham Accords with the UAE and Bahrain, while two-thirds oppose them. Indeed, only 26% believe that Israel has a right to exist, according to the poll.

In a call to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas Thursday evening, King Mohammed reiterated his staunch support for a two-state solution, stressing that his position was "unshakably supportive of the Palestinian cause."

The monarch is reportedly expected to participate in a phone call with Netanyahu and Trump in the near future, but it's noteworthy that he felt it necessary to speak to the Palestinian leader first.

In the call with Abbas, the king also noted his "distinguished relations with the Jewish community of Moroccan origin, including hundreds of thousands of Moroccan Jews in Israel," according to a readout provided by the royal court.

Many of those Israelis may already be planning their next vacation, hoping to see where their parents and grandparents once lived.

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the
Jewish Federation of the Desert
VOL. 47, No. 6

EDITORIAL

Bruce Landgarten,

Chief Executive Officer

Miriam H. Bent, Editor

Bailey Communications,

Layout & Design

JCN STATEMENT

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

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

ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

Miriam H. Bent, Editor

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ADVERTISING

The JCN does not endorse the goods or services advertised in its pages and makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products and services in such advertising. The publisher shall not be liable for damages if, for any reason whatsoever, it fails to publish an advertisement or for any error in an advertisement. Acceptance of advertisers and of advertising copy is subject to the publisher's approval. The JCN is not responsible if ads violate applicable laws and the advertiser will indemnify, hold harmless and defend the JCN from all claims made by government agencies and consumers for any reason based on ads carried in the JCN.

Canadian Campus Fraternity Behind Racist, Anti-Semitic Chatroom 'Seething with Hate'

By Algemeiner Staff

A fraternity at the University of Windsor, in Canada's Ontario Province, is in the spotlight for running a private online chatroom reportedly "seething with hateful comments" against Blacks, Jews and the LGBT+ community.

Delta Chi members made slews of racist, anti-Black, homophobic and anti-Semitic barbs in the private chatroom, according to screen captures shared with *PinkNews* by anti-racist activists on the campus who exposed the chatroom's existence.

An email written by one of the

activists said that members of Delta Chi referred to Black Lives Matter protesters as "criminals" and "idiots" and talked about "how they hate Black people and that Black people were better as slaves."

The email continued: "They describe how they wish they could own Black people as slaves, and they dream about the day there are less immigrants in Windsor and even shooting Indians."

Members also spoke of recreating tortures enacted by the Klu Klux Klan and routinely used racial slurs, the source added, before claiming that they "talk about burning Jewish people".

In a statement Dr. Rob Gordon, University of Windsor president and vice-chancellor, said the chats were "disturbing, unacceptable, and entirely incongruent with the values of our school and the work we are

doing to create a more inclusive and equitable community at the University of Windsor."

Gordon stressed that the university took "responsibility for the progress we need to make to ensure that our campus protects the emotional, physical, and psychological safety of everyone in our community" and the University "will immediately be launching an investigation into this matter."

HAR-EL, the Modern Jewish Experience – A Reform Approach

Member, Union for Reform Judaism • harelurjpd@gmail.com • harelurjpd.org



We are grateful that over 17,000 North American donors have committed over \$1 billion in legacy gifts through the collaboration with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY Initiative.

Locally dozens of donors have already committed a legacy gift to Jewish Federation of the Desert and other organizations that have shaped their lives. This is just the beginning of a community-wide effort to ensure a vibrant Jewish future in the Palm Springs and Desert area.

For more information contact Kevin Giser at Kevin.giser@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737.

**What Do You Want
YOUR Legacy To Be?**

A GALEN PRESENTATION



Join us for discussions on relevant, fascinating and entertaining films

Wednesday, February 10 - 3:30 PM

The Testament An Israeli film that examines a historian with an unshakable commitment to the truth at the cost of ruining his professional and personal life. Discussion led by Judy Wallis/Mitzi Webber.

Wednesday, March 10 - 3:30 PM

Gut Shabbos Vietnam A documentary in which a young Israeli couple go to Ho Chi Minh City to establish a Chabad community. Review and discussion led by Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim.

Wednesday, April 14 - 3:30 PM

A Serious Man A Coen Bros. film of an ordinary man's questioning God/modern depiction of the story of Job. Discussion led by Prof. Penny Rivin & Rabbi Zionts.

It is recommended that the films be seen as soon as possible due to limited showing of films. Testament & Gut Shabbos Vietnam available on Amazon Prime. Serious Man on Netflix.

Sandra & Robert Borns Lecture Series



RABBI SUE SILBERBERG
Executive Director,
Indiana University Hillel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13 - 3:30 PM

"College Life During Covid"
What every parent & grandparent should know.

Rabbi has served as Hillel Director for 30 years. Her leadership role in speaking out about anti-Semitism and injustice has been significant in making Indiana University a safe and more welcoming place for Jewish students. Email for ZOOM invite to attend.

Weekly ZOOM Shabbat Services & Torah Study

Friday Evening Shabbat Services

5:00 PM Conducted by
Rabbi Richard Zionts
and Cantor Joseph Gole

Saturday Torah Study

11:00 AM Conducted by
Rabbi Zionts

January Torah Portions

2: Va-Y'chi 9: Sh'mot
16: Va-Eyra 23: Bo
30: B'Shallach

**All welcome. For ZOOM invite:
Email harelurjpd@gmail.com**

Har-El INTERFAITH Tu B'Shvat Seder

Join Rabbi Zionts & Cantor Gole as we celebrate Tu B'Shvat, Judaism's commitment to the environment.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27 • 3:30 PM
Contact harelurjpd@gmail.com for a ZOOM invitation. You & your friends of all faiths are welcome.
Funded in part by Jewish Federation of the Desert.

החכם THE SAGE What are you doing for the next several months?
Isolating!

That is not new. Every day is new for me. I attend all the Har-El courses, services, and try the recipes on their website!

Can I isolate with you?
Yes, we can watch, discuss ... and eat!

Check out our new website:
harelurjpd.org
Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for Zoom invites.
Phone: 760-779-1691



Dear Friends,

The purpose of an Annual Report is to reflect, and boast a little, on accomplishments from the past fiscal year (July 1 through June 30), while providing organizational accountability through sound financial reporting. However, this year is unlike any our community has faced. Fortunately our major fundraising events had taken place before the Corona Virus overwhelmed our country, but for fully one third of our fiscal year (March through June 2020) and in the months since, we have been impacted by the financial crises growing out of the pandemic.

As of the writing of this report, we are still in the midst of this crisis. Members of our community need help making mortgage payments or buying food for their families. Jewish institutions are grappling with financial shortfalls. Individuals and families face uncertainty about the coming year. The world around us is experiencing extraordinary distress, illness, and havoc wreaked by a global virus, COVID-19. Businesses have come to a standstill, society is in hibernation, people are hungry, scared, and anxious.

It is important that we share with you the generous response by our Jewish community to meet needs of our community. We are proud of the fundraising we did accomplish so that we could be there for those who needed us. This is a report on the important work of the Federation and the impact of our donors' generosity.

In the aftermath of 9/11, John Ruskay, the then CEO of the New York City Jewish Federation, famously said, "We were effective on 9/11 because of the capacity of our network on 9/10." The same holds true today: we were positioned to respond quickly to meet the pressing and urgent needs of COVID-19 because of the strength and effectiveness of our network pre-COVID.

Thanks to the generosity and trust of donors, Federation was here for you yesterday, we are here for you today, and we will be here for you tomorrow – ready to weather and respond to whatever tomorrow may bring. Federation never closes!

Your acts of tzedakah continue to make the world a better place. Everything we do is deeply rooted in bringing people together to identify and address the most critical issues faced by our diverse community. In 2020, that meant providing direct assistance to individuals in need, investing in the resilience of our Jewish institutions, and adapting and nourishing Jewish life here. This collaborative approach defines who we are, what we do, and how we do it—during both good and challenging times.

Together, we move forward as a community that is changed but unchanged: resilient, compassionate, and ready to forge new and even more vibrant paths of Jewish life. Thank you for being part of this community, and for all that you do to enhance it.

On behalf of the Board and staff at Federation, we thank you for your continued support and commitment to our Jewish community. Likewise, we are grateful to the beneficiary agencies for their dedicated service to our diverse community here and around the world.

With great appreciation,

Roberta Nyman
Roberta Nyman, Board Chair

Bruce A. Landgarten
Bruce Landgarten, CEO

Financial Overview

Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/20

Where our Dollars Come From

Regular Campaign	\$1,710,492
Men's & Women's Tamarisk Tournaments	\$65,200
Special Events	\$39,234
Revenue from Endowments	\$100,000
General & Other Contributions	\$107,917
Donor Advised Contributions	\$91,561
Net Investment Income – Operating	\$64,236
Net Investment Income – Endowment Fund	\$74,789
Net Investment Income – Donor Advised Fund	\$1,288
Net Investment Income – Board Designated Fund	\$28,244

Total Support & Revenues **\$2,282,961**

Where our Dollars Go

Local Allocations – Caring for the Vulnerable	\$345,500
Local Allocations – Jewish Education & Engagement	\$121,700
Local Allocations – Community Inclusion & Engagements	\$68,000
Overseas Allocations – Israel & World Jewry	\$425,000
Programs & Services Cost	\$510,169
General & Administration Cost	\$329,610
Fundraising Cost	\$301,672
Donor Advised Grants	\$65,820
Donor Directed Grants	\$43,342
Depreciation Expense	\$49,372

Total Allocations & Expenses **\$2,260,185**

Total Net Increase in Funds **\$22,776**

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash	\$412,288
Investments	\$2,106,259
Pledge Receivables	\$548,792
Federation Building & Property Net	\$1,496,750
Endowment Fund	\$2,371,207
Donor Advised Fund	\$144,798
Board Designated Fund	\$1,211,136

Total Assets **\$8,291,230**

Liabilities & Net Assets

Allocations Payable	\$1,006,833
Current Liabilities Payable	\$187,812
Fund Balances Payable	\$415,640

Total Liabilities **\$1,610,285**

Undesignated	\$2,953,804
Board Designated	\$1,211,136
With Donor Restrictions	\$2,516,005

Total Net Assets **\$6,680,945**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$8,291,230**



TOGETHER,

WE

DO

EXTRAORDINARY
THINGS

JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT ALLOCATIONS

Year End 6/30/20 For Distribution 2020/2021

Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs	\$4,000
Congregation Har-El - Interfaith Passover Seder	\$1,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert -Jewish Community News	\$50,000
Temple Isaiah - Palm Springs Film Festival	\$8,000
Temple Isaiah - Twice Blessed	\$5,000
Community Inclusion & Engagement	\$68,000

Congregation Beth Shalom - Scholar in Residence	\$5,000
Aleph Schoolhouse – Scholarships	\$5,000
Inland and Desert Hillel Council - Core Support	\$70,000
Temple Har Shalom of Idyllwild - Judaism in 2021	\$3,200
Temple Sinai - Hebrew School Scholarships	\$21,500
Temple Sinai - Madrichim (Teacher Assistants)	\$7,000
World of Difference Institute by ADL	\$10,000
Jewish Education & Engagement	\$121,700

Aleph Schoolhouse - Sunshine Circle Meals	\$5,000
Bikur Cholim - Community Mission & Programs	\$110,000
F.I.N.D. - (Covid 19) Emergency Food Distribution	\$70,000
JFS of the Desert - Senior Care Management	\$45,000
JFS of the Desert - Ner Tamid (Eternal Light)	\$35,000
JFS of the Desert - Lets' Do Lunch	\$5,000
JFS of the Desert - Mental Health Outpatient Treatment	\$40,000
Mizell Senior Center - Meals on Wheels	\$17,500
Temple Sinai - Mitzvah Food Delivery Project	\$10,000
The Joslyn Senior Center - Meals on Wheels	\$5,000
The Joslyn Senior Center - Lets' Do Lunch	\$3,000
Caring for the Vulnerable	\$345,500

Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind	\$2,000
Jewish Federations of North America - Birthright Israel	\$10,000
Jewish Federations of North America - Annual Contribution	\$80,000
Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) - Core Funding	\$125,000
Ramat HaNegev Regional Council	
- Center for Children with Special Needs	\$90,000
Ramat HaNegev Regional Council -Pitchat Nitzana	
- Children & Youth Programs	\$36,000
The Jewish Agency for Israel	
- Former Soviet Union (FSU) Camps	\$15,000
The Jewish Agency for Israel - Ofek Mechinot	\$15,000
The Jewish Agency for Israel - Youth Futures, Eilat	\$27,000
The Jewish Agency for Israel - Nativ	
- Strengthening Jewish & Israel Identity	\$10,000
ZAKA - Search and Rescue	
- High-impact Psychological Support	\$15,000
Israel, Overseas & World Jewry	\$425,000

Total Allocations \$960,200

King David-Era Fort Unearthed in Golan Heights

Jewish News Syndicate

A fortified building complex from the time of King David has been discovered in the southern Golan Heights, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced.

The archaeologists who uncovered the complex during IAA excavations in Moshav Haspin assess that it was a fort built by the Kingdom of Geshur (Iron Age, 11th-10th centuries BCE).

The excavation—conducted ahead of the construction of a new neighborhood in Haspin—was carried out predominantly by residents of Haspin and nearby Nov, in addition to youth from the pre-military academies at Natur, Kfar Hanassi, El Rom, Metzhar and Katzrin. It was funded by Israel's Housing and Construction Ministry and the Golan Regional Council.

According to IAA excavation directors Barak Tzin and Enno Bron, the fortified structure was

built strategically on a hilltop above the Nahal El Al Reserve and encompassed by 5-foot-thick walls made of basalt boulders.

"In the excavation, we were astonished to make a rare and exciting find: a large basalt stone with a schematic engraving of two horned figures with outspread arms," they said.

The IAA noted that a similar horned figure with outstretched arms was discovered on a cultic stone stele—uncovered last year during the Bethsaida Expedition Project, just north of the Sea of Galilee—next to a raised platform adjacent to the city gate. Since the Haspin stone was situated on a shelf next to the fort's entrance, with two such horned figures depicted on it, the archaeologists speculated that "a person who saw the impressive Bethsaida stele [may have] decided



Ofri Eitan of the Kfar Hanasi pre-military academy next to the engraved stone at the site of the ancient fortified building complex uncovered in the Golan Heights.

to create a local copy of [it]."

The IAA explained that Bethsaida, a fortified city, is considered by scholars to have been the capital of the Aramean Kingdom of Geshur, which ruled the central and southern Golan 3,000 years ago. The Bible recounts that the kingdom enjoyed diplomatic relations with the House of David and that one of David's wives was Maacah, the daughter of Talmi, king of Geshur.

According to the IAA, while cities of the Kingdom of Geshur, such as Tel En Gev, Tel Hadar and Tel Sorag, are known to have existed along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, hardly any such sites from the Iron Age have been found in the Golan Heights. The discovery of the Haspin complex is thus spurring new research in the area.

The discovery has also led to changes in the construction plan for the new neighborhood in Haspin, to prevent damage to the ancient complex—the surroundings of which will be developed along the El Al River's bank for open-air educational archaeological activities. This endeavor aligns with the policy that "learning the past through experiencing work in the field strengthens the young generation's bonds with their roots," said the IAA.

Anti-Semitic Outrages Account for More Than 1 in 5 Hate Crimes in Europe

By Allgemeiner Staff

Anti-Semitic acts made up more than 20 percent of hate crimes committed in the larger European area in 2019, according to a new report from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Gathering data from 34 of the OSCE's 57 member states

— which include the US — the report counted 1,704 acts of anti-Semitism within an overall tally of 6,964 incidents.

Jews were more than three times more likely than Muslims or Christians to be targeted, the figures revealed, with 577 attacks against Christians and 511 against



"Stamp on the Jews" — Anti-Semitic graffiti on an Italian street

Muslims.

Europe's Jewish population is less than one percent of the total on the continent.

Acts driven by racism and xenophobia accounted for 3,033 incidents while anti-LGBT outrages involved 1,278 incidents.

In publishing the data, the OSCE emphasized that collating the true number of hate crimes was virtually

impossible, since most incidents are not reported and many countries are yet to train their police and judicial officials to deal with such crimes.

"In many countries there are mechanisms in place to record and collect comprehensive data on hate crimes," the OSCE said in a statement. "However, a large number do not provide police and prosecutors with the tools and knowledge they need to recognize, record and effectively investigate such crimes. This frequently deprives hate crime victims of the opportunity to access much-needed specialist support."



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Beit T'Shuvah's Charismatic Rabbi to Lead Three Virtual Programs

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Ordained in 2000 at the University of Judaism with a Master's in Rabbinic Literature, Rabbi Mark Borovitz combined his knowledge of Torah and street smarts to shape his calling: helping recovering addicts find their way in the world. Spiritual Leader, Author, Senior Rabbi, CEO, ex-con, recovering alcoholic, and overall

anomaly, he is able to reach both the addict and the congregant, and de-stigmatize this life-threatening disease.

As the CEO and Senior Rabbi of Beit T'Shuvah, a nonprofit, non-sectarian, Jewish addiction treatment center and



Rabbi Mark Borovitz

synagogue community in Los Angeles, Rabbi Mark's leadership is unparalleled. Community members, addicts, educators, dignitaries, and executives all seek his wisdom, a blend of street savvy, and wise rabbinic teachings. When working with people, he is living proof that change is possible; when speaking to the congregant, he stands for the hope that every man has a higher purpose. After being released from prison in 1988 he began his work at Beit T'Shuvah. Over the past thirty-two years, he has helped co-create one of the most exceptional approaches to addiction treatment and criminal rehabilitation and reintegration in the world.

With his wife, Harriet Rossetto,

a LCSW, he developed the treatment modality that integrates Spirituality, Psychotherapy, 12-Steps along with Career, Creative Arts to help recovering people learn to live a whole life integration, responsibility, and joy. They are both published authors. Harriet was recognized by the Obama Administration as an Advocate for Recovery and Harriet and Rabbi Mark were recognized by President George W. Bush for their innovative and successful treatment model.



Harriet Rossetto

Itamar Medical Wins National Sleep Foundation Award

Itamar's WatchPAT ONE is the first disposable home sleep apnea test that connects to a smartphone app and easily transmits sleep data for review.

By ISRAEL21c Staff

The Washington, DC-based National Sleep Foundation named Itamar Medical winner of the 2020 SleepTech Award recognizing the year's most innovative achievement in sleep technology.

Itamar Medical makes non-invasive devices and solutions to aid diagnosis of respiratory sleep disorders.

Itamar's WatchPAT ONE, sold in the United States, Japan, and Europe, is described as "the first and only disposable home sleep apnea test that connects to a smartphone app

and easily transmits sleep data for review."

The public company is based in Caesarea, Israel, with US headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

"We congratulate Itamar Medical for winning our 2020 SleepTech Award by further innovating their product to help advance sleep technology. Their response to customer insights and needs is particularly relevant this year in the effort to promote better sleep



health during a pandemic," said John Lopus, CEO of the National Sleep Foundation.

Gilad Glick, CEO of Itamar Medical, said sleep apnea is serious disease that is severely underdiagnosed. "It's estimated that 54 million to 60

million people have sleep apnea in the United States, and 80% of these people are going undiagnosed and untreated," he said.

"We are very proud of the home-based innovative technology and the digital health platform we have built to deliver simple and reliable solutions for the diagnosis and management of this condition without the patient needing to leave home or be exposed to infection, with a focus on additional care pathways," Glick said.



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Jewish Federation OF THE DESERT

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Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy

A Lion Gift and its Legacy, from Generation to Generation



learned from their parents and grandparents, a tradition each has continued and built on in their adult lives and what they have taught to their children.



Fran Kaufman grew up in Downey, California and was the only Jewish student in her class. She was driven to Sunday School at the Wilshire

Boulevard Temple in LA where she went through Confirmation. Fran was surrounded by strong Jewish female role models. Her grandmother was always involved in Jewish activities as was her mother. When her family moved to the Desert her parents helped found Temple Sinai in Palm Desert. Fran has always felt that her Jewish involvement was a part of her DNA and made sure to be a role model for her children, seeing that her two children were involved in Jewish activities in the Desert, attended Sunday School, Jewish Summer camps and on Birthright trips to Israel. In recent years Fran and her late husband Mark were active members of Har-El, where she is on the board and the immediate past

president.

Fran served on the Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy Board for nine years, including two years as President. She also sat on the Federation Board, including serving as Board Secretary. Her annual gift to the Jewish Federation is as a Lion of Judah.



Carol Fragen's grandparents were born in France, Russia and the United States. While Yiddish was never spoken at home, Jewish values were important, and she and her siblings were taught to get involved in doing good deeds. Her parents were role models in what it meant to "Make the World a

Better Place," installing in Carol that as human beings being charitable was paramount. Carol's father was the President of their Reform Temple growing up and she went to Sunday School through Confirmation. Carol and her late husband Ron raised their five children in the Desert, belonging to Temple Isaiah where they went through Hebrew School and saw their parent' involvements in the Jewish and secular community. Carol serves on the board of Temple Isaiah as well as the board of the Mizell Senior Center in Palm Springs. Carol has been a member of the Federation's Women's Philanthropy Board, including serving as its President. She gives on the Lion of Judah level and last year chaired the event with Fran Kaufman.

RALPH NURNBERGER LECTURE JANUARY 5



One of our community's favorite lecturers, Dr. Ralph Nurnberg, is coming - via Zoom - with a fascinating yet largely unknown story coming out of the Holocaust: the improbable, yet true, story of **Nicholas Winton and the Kindertransport from Prague.**

Nicholas Winton was a 29-year British stockbroker on vacation in Prague in December 1938. While there, he encountered thousands of refugees who had fled to the

city from the Nazis.

Although he had never worked on refugee rescue, was not involved with any organization that did this kind of work, did not have financial backing, did not even speak Czech and only remained in Prague for three weeks, he was determined to assist as many children as possible.

He ultimately saved 669 children from the Nazis by arranging transport and then finding homes in Britain for them. His story remained "a secret" for nearly 50 years. Neither his family, nor those he saved, had any idea what he did, until this was accidentally discovered in 1987.

Lecture is at 4:00 PM. Email info@jfedps.org or call 760-324-4737 to receive your invitation code to 'attend' this fascinating lecture.



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VIRTUAL EVENT

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JANUARY 2021



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

Women's
Philanthropy

Roberta Nyman
Chair of the Board

Bruce Landgarten
Chief Executive
Officer

Jewish Federation's Women's Cultural Alliance, in Partnership with JFS, Launch 'Baby Pantry'



For decades, Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Service have been helping Jewish families and individuals, directing their efforts as needs are identified. Today, one of the demographics particularly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic are financial strapped young families, stressed by their inability to meet the basic needs of their babies and young children. Federation and JFS

are stepping up to help, gathering needed supplies for those who are struggling.

Our Jewish Federation's Women's Cultural Alliance and JFS Desert have come together for this hands-on volunteer opportunity to meet tangible needs in the Jewish community. "Baby Pantry" is being launched this month to collect staples as diapers and wipes, formula and

baby food.

A secondary demographic may be included as recipients of this program: young families who have just moved to the desert. Giving them a package of items for their babies would be a very special way to "welcome" them and accelerate their integration into our Jewish community.

Items should be brought to the Jewish Federation Office, 71,690

Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, but we ask that you always call first (760-324-4737) to be sure there is someone in the building. Due to the pandemic, most of our staff work from home most of the time.

Thank you in anticipation of your support. The Baby Pantry is the right idea at the right time.

EU Invites All Members to Adopt Definition of Anti-Semitism Includes Israel Hatred

By Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA

The Council of the European Union, which is a key driver of EU policy, "invited" all the bloc's 27 members to adopt a definition of anti-Semitism that includes anti-Israel vitriol as anti-Semitic.

The invitation to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition came in a declaration published December 2 by the Council, which is made up of cabinet ministers from all the bloc's member states.

"Member States that have not yet done so are invited to join the other Member States and endorse the IHRA working definition as soon as possible," reads the document, titled "Council Declaration on Mainstreaming the Fight against

Anti-Semitism across Policy-Areas."

The IHRA working definition describes various forms of anti-Semitism, including hatred and discrimination against Jews and Holocaust denial. It also includes examples of anti-Israel criticism it defines as anti-Semitic, including comparing the country's policies to those of Nazi Germany, denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination and "applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation." Criticism of Israel similar to that leveled at any other country is not anti-Semitic, the definition also states.

Palestinians and their supporters

worry that the definition, by condemning certain forms of anti-Israel rhetoric, will have a chilling effect on criticism of Israel more broadly.

The European Parliament, the EU's legislative branch, adopted the IHRA definition in 2017, as have dozens of countries.

The Council declaration also reiterated earlier language expressed in declarations and resolutions by various EU bodies about the need to fight anti-Semitism with legal means and "decisive



President of the European Council Charles Michel

action" because the phenomenon is "an attack on European values," as the declaration states.

The document speaks of the need to carry out Holocaust education and also of "Protecting Jewish life and making it more visible as part of Europe's identity." It does not list concrete actions to achieve this.

Several Jewish groups welcomed the document. In a statement, World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder called it a "significant step forward in making Europe a better place for Jews."

European Jewish Congress President Moshe Kantor said it was an "important decision" that "appreciates the sad growth of anti-Semitism."

US Supreme Court Hears Two Cases Related to Holocaust Restitution

By Jackson Richman, Jewish News Syndicate

On December 7 the U.S. Supreme Court heard related to the issue of Holocaust restitution.

The court will decide if the United States has the jurisdiction, in accordance with the 1976 Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, to rule about crimes that happened abroad where there was no American involvement.

Although foreign governments usually cannot be sued in U.S. courts, exceptions for acts of terrorism or acts of property confiscation violating international law have been made in the past. The plaintiffs in both cases, *Federal Republic of Germany v. Philipp* and *Republic of Hungary v. Simon*, will seek to have their cases heard based on the latter.

"The Foreign Sovereign Immunity Act gives our courts jurisdiction over lawsuits alleging property was taken in violation of international law—for instance, if the perpetrators took it as part of an effort to deliberately create conditions of life which were calculated to destroy a religious or ethnic minority group, and so violated international law by committing genocide," Arthur Traldi, who was of counsel in filing a brief on behalf of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists in support of the petitioners, told JNS.

"Our courts have jurisdiction as long as there is a sufficient commercial nexus to the United States, whether or not the plaintiffs are United States citizens," he continued. "The lower courts found a sufficient commercial nexus as to these defendants, and that issue is not on appeal."

In *Federal Republic of Germany v. Philipp*, the Supreme Court will hear the case about a German art museum and whether or not a treasure trove known as the "Guelph Treasure" (or

"Welfenschatz") should be returned to the heirs of four Jewish art dealers in Germany.

The dealers have argued that they were forced to sell it to the Nazi-controlled Prussian government in 1935 in what they called a "genocidal taking."

The collection, worth around \$225 million, consists of medieval church relics and was owned by the House of Guelph in 1671 until it was sold to a group of art dealers in 1929. The items currently sit in the Kunstgewerbemuseum (Applied Arts Museum) in Berlin.

'It cannot defend its action'

In a May 26 filing, then-U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco argued that the heirs have failed to make the case—in accordance with the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act—that the collection was confiscated "in violation of international law" in that the Nazi seizure was domestic. That law includes limitations as to whether a foreign sovereign nation may be sued in U.S. courts, either state or federal.

Francisco also noted that although the 2016 Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery (HEAR) Act "demonstrates Congress's concern with art seizures that occurred as part of the Holocaust," that law doesn't "create a cause of action in U.S. courts" for the heirs' case.

Michael Bazylar, a law professor



who is an expert on Holocaust restitution and joined a group that filed a brief in support of the plaintiffs, told JNS that "depending on how the justices decide, it will determine the viability of suing European countries that participated in the Holocaust in the United States."

"The case will also determine the viability of filing suits in American courts for Nazi-looted art against museums, galleries and other private collectors that have such art in their collections, especially art located in Europe," he said.

Bazylar called for the Supreme Court to "make clear that the Holocaust began in 1933, and reject the specious argument made by Germany and supported by the United States that German Jews had civil rights before the start of World War II and before the beginning of the mass murder that began in 1941."

Nathan Lewin, national vice president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, filed a brief in support of the plaintiffs in the case against Germany. He emailed JNS that the Supreme

Court "should take judicial notice of the indisputable fact that Jews in Frankfurt Germany (like the owners of the Guelph Treasures who had to capitulate to the proposal made by Hermann Goering through a bank intermediary) were not 'citizens' of Germany in June 1935 even though the law that stripped them of citizenship was not enacted until September 1935."

Lewin went on to claim that "Germany violated international law principles by extorting the Guelph Treasures from individuals who did not have the rights of all other non-Jewish German citizens, and it cannot now defend its action because of the rule supported by the solicitor general that says that the Sovereign Immunities Act would relieve Germany of liability in a U.S. court."

'Win something without doing much for others'

In *Republic of Hungary v. Simon*, the Supreme Court will hear the case of 14 Holocaust survivors—four of whom are naturalized U.S. citizens—suing the Hungarian government and the government-owned railroad for their role in transporting Jews to death camps. They are seeking restitution for the property that was confiscated by the government at that time.

Jeremy Rabkin, a constitutional

continued on page 14



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Har-EI Congregation announces new website, available January 1, 2021

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continued from page 13

and international law professor at the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, told JNS that because questions surround the jurisdictional aspect, even if the plaintiffs win in any or both of the cases, they would be sent back to the lower courts for years of litigation in which the petitioners could lose and not get restitution.

On the other hand, in the case against Germany, the victims could “negotiate a compromise settlement” that would probably include “a stipulation that Germany does not regard the payment (for this case) as acknowledging liability for similar cases later on,” explained Rabkin. “So the plaintiffs can win something without doing much for others in their situation.”

In the case against Hungary, he said the “justices are likely to be very wary of letting this go forward”; doing so could raise foreign-policy problems at a time when we’re all supposed to be welcoming a return of improved U.S.-European relations.”

Rabkin cautioned that if the case against Hungary goes forward, it could set a precedent for cases in U.S. courts against other countries. “The trend of Supreme Court rulings over the last 20 years has been rather cautious toward transnational litigation, in part because justices recognize the foreign-policy complications,” he noted.

‘Likely to be deployed against Israel’

The World Jewish Congress, Holocaust Survivors

Foundation USA, and other groups and individuals, filed amici curiae briefs in support of the victims in both cases. An amici curiae brief was also filed on behalf of a group of members of the U.S. House of Representatives in support of the victims in both cases.

Traldi remarked that “the United States has worked around the world for decades to give Holocaust survivors and their heirs a chance to realize their moral rights to restitution for the mass thefts that were part of the Shoah. Congress has found restitution is in our national interest. Preserving access to American courts for survivors and their heirs is a vital part of that process.”

Rabkin said that while “everyone feels sympathy for Holocaust

victims,” he warned that the precedents surrounding the cases “are likely to be deployed next against Israel.”

“Arab claimants will say the [Israel Defense Forces] destroyed their homes—or the Irgun did in 1947—and Israel needs to compensate them,” he said. “They will say they have no more chance of getting a fair hearing in Israeli courts than Hungarian refugees in Hungarian courts.”

In an email, Rabkin also warned that Arab petitioners will say “it’s all connected to genocide or enough so to justify property compensation claims. And there’s [no] statute of limitations, so no reason not to dredge up claims from the 1940s ... as the U.S. Supreme Court has just agreed is proper,” although he predicted that the court likely won’t rule in favor of the plaintiffs in the cases that will be heard on Monday.

Stuart Eizenstat, a longtime diplomat who has made the issue of Holocaust restitution part of his life’s work, said contrary to Rabkin’s claim, that while the cases won’t cause Arab plaintiffs to sue the Jewish state, instead of using the power of the Supreme Court, it’s best to have

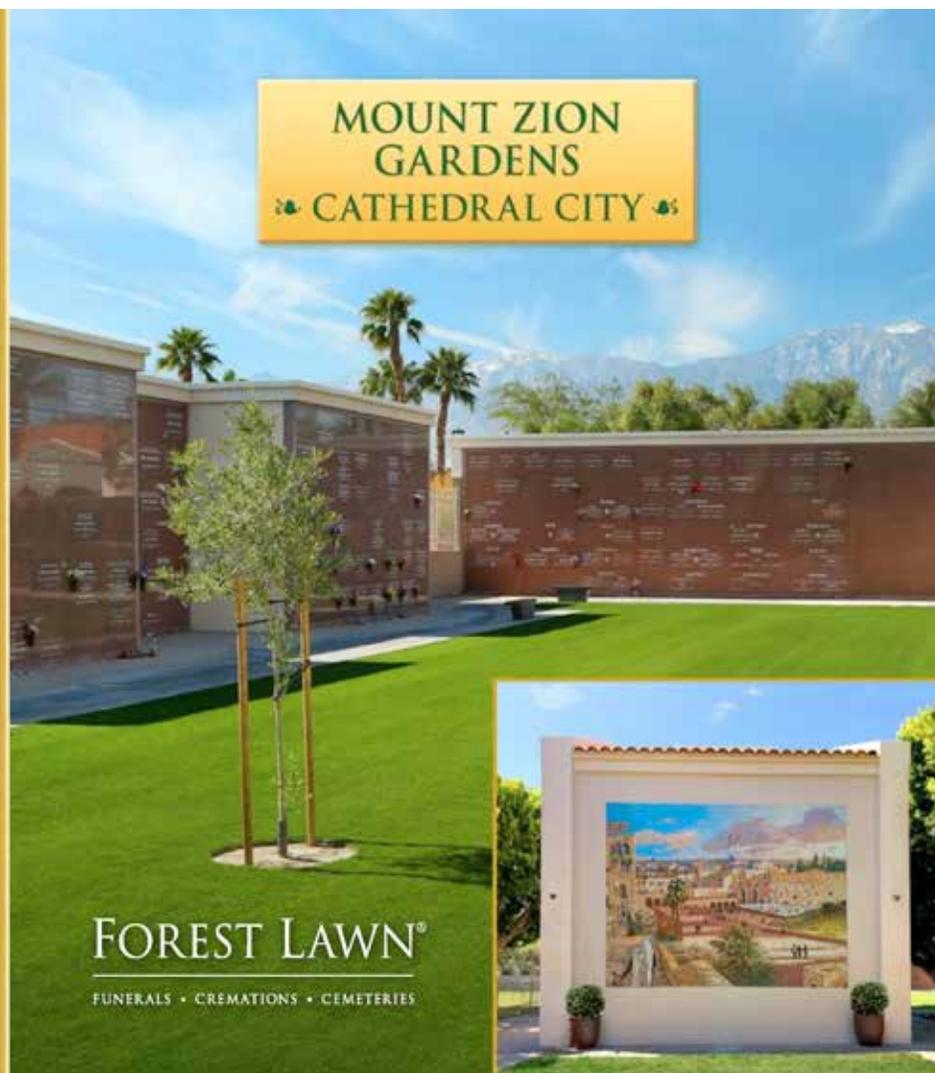
continued on page 15

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- **Inland and Desert Hillel**, In your honor. Mazel tov. From Don and Geri Shaevel.
- **Roberta Holleb**, Wishing you a very happy birthday, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman.
- **Marjorie and Steve Kulp**, Happy 30th Anniversary with love from Carol Horwich Luber.
- **Marjorie Kulp**, Happy and sweet 70th birthday from Carol Horwich Luber.
- **Rabbi and Mrs. Shimon Posner**, In honor of your son Shlomo Aharon's Bar Mitzvah, from Barbara Platt.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Robin and Bob Berman**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery from Gail and Bob Scadron.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Baker Family**, donation made to Fromm Youth Enrichment Fund in memory of Amy, by Barbara and Bernie Fromm.

- **Karen Cohen**, In memory of your beloved husband Chuck, from Roberta and Allan Nyman.
- **Dr. and Mrs. Dolin and Family**, In memory of your beloved sister Ricki, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Laurie Ember** Deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved mother, Ann, from Cora Ginsberg.
- In loving memory of our beloved father-in-law, grandfather and father **Irving Ginsberg**, from Lynda and Trevor Bailey, Jeremy Ginsberg, Alexis and Warren Engdahl and the Ginsberg family.
- **Dr. Barry Goldberg**, In memory of your beloved wife Jane, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Stuart Goldfine**, Remembering Susan Goldfine with affection, from Eddie and Jackie Cohen.
- **Noel Hanford**, In memory of your beloved husband Lloyd, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Frances Horwich, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Loreen Jacobson, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Sherry and Howard Schor
- **Fran Kaufman**, In memory of your beloved husband, Dr. Mark Kaufman, from Fred and Linda Cherniack, Jackie and Eddie Cohen, Cora Ginsberg, Edward Gubman, Barbara Platt, Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- **Dr. Bart Ketover**, donation made to Fromm

Youth Enrichment Fund in memory of your mother, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm.

- **Mrs. Donald Levinson**, In memory of your beloved sister Harriett, from Jill Steinberg.
- **Carol Lewis**, Condolences on the passing of your aunt, Selma Schnitzer, from Frances Horwich.
- In memory of **Sherry Markowitz** by Jay Markowitz.
- **Mrs. Robert Paley**, In memory of your beloved husband Bob, from Marnie Miller.
- **Bobbie Rosenberg**, In memory of your beloved husband Shelly, from Roberta and Allan Nyman.
- **Carrie Rosenstein and Family**, In memory of your beloved Herbie, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Ken Schoenfeld**, In memory of your beloved wife Beverly, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Cora Ginsberg, Loreen Jacobson, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Barbara Platt, Gail and Bob Scadron, and Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Sally Schwartz**, In memory of your beloved mother Cece, from Marnie Miller.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Albert Silverman**, Deepest sympathy on the loss of your dear brother, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, Libby and Buddy Hoffman.

continued from page 14

governments like that of the United States use their power in leveraging foreign governments and entities to give Holocaust-era restitution.

One example he cited was that in 2014, as special advisor for Holocaust issues in the U.S. State Department, a position he still holds, he got a French railway company, SNCF, to give \$60 million in compensation to Holocaust survivors deported by the railway during the Nazi takeover of France.

In 1998, while serving in the U.S. State Department, Eizenstat got a Swiss bank to give out \$1.25 billion in claims to Holocaust survivors.

"All of these were done because of the reputational damage that would've been done to the companies if they hadn't settled, and because the U.S. government chose to make it a priority, and to elevate the issues and to insist that justice be done quite apart from the legal technicalities," he told JNS. "So what could happen [in the Supreme

Court cases] is the same thing, trying to find ways in which these can be mediated."

Were the plaintiffs to win, while it would ultimately be up to Hungary and Germany in their respective cases to issue restitution, neither country would want to ignore the highest court in the United States, stated Eizenstat, who declined to take a position on the cases due to his current role in the Trump administration.

On an interesting note, Lewin's

brief includes a biblical quote in the original Hebrew.

From Kings I ("Melachim Alef" in Hebrew), it challenges what Lewin called "Germany chutzpah in taking this issue to the Supreme Court by quoting what Elijah said to King Ahab after Ahab's Queen Jezebel had arranged to murder Naboth so that Ahab could seize Naboth's vineyard. ... 'Have you murdered and also inherited?'"



January Shabbat Schedule

Due to the uncertainties from the Covid Pandemic, we urge you to check online or call any temple or shul you are interested in attending to find out what is currently being offered.

BETH SHALOM (Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)
Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
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www.congregationbethshalom.net
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Virtual Shabbat Morning Services:
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CongregationBethShalom.net
For information, email BethShalom18@gmail.com or call 760-200-3636.

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES
Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim
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760-325-0774
5:30 pm: Pre-Shabbat services offered online Friday afternoons. Check website for information.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT
Rabbi Mendy Friedman
Call for information:
760-651-2424. www.chabadpd.com
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Rabbi Shimon Posner
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760-770-7785 "Taste of Shul" available Fridays on Zoom and Facebook live. Check website or call for additional services and classes being offered.

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Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
See Chabad of Palm Springs.

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Rabbi Richard Zions; Cantor Joseph Gole. harelurjpd@gmail.com
760-779-1691. New website: www.harelurjpd.org.
Zoom Shabbat Evening Services 5 pm with Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D., Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus. and a Guest Cantor. Discussion with attendees before and after the Shabbat Services.
Saturday 11 am—Zoom Torah Study with Discussion conducted by Rabbi Zions. For Zoom invite email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT (Reform)
Rabbi Kenneth Milhandler, 1320 W. Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220.
Contact 951-392-5380.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE
Rabbi Jules King; Cantor Lori Reisman Patterson. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com. Virtual services held the second and fourth Fridays at 7:00 pm on Zoom. For link and password contact rabbi@desert-outreach-synagogue.com.

OR HAMIDBAR
Rabbi David Lazar rabbi@orhamidbar.org. Virtual Kabbalat Services Fridays at 6:30 pm and Shabbat morning services at 10:30 am. For information email info@orhamidbar.org.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES
Rabbi Kenneth Emert; Cantor Alan Scott. Virtual Services held the first and third Fridays at 7:15 pm. Information: Contact Susan Katzman, 760-641-0411 or email SusanK92253gmail.com.

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Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom the third Friday of each month with Rabbi David Lazar. This month's service January 15 at 6:00 pm. Every other Friday of the month: Shabbat Candle Lighting with Rabbi Emerita Malka Drucker at 5:45 pm. Saturday morning January 16 at 9:30 am: Shabbat study. Contact templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com for Zoom Address.

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Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program. Friday evening services accessed, as above, on website or directly on Facebook 'Temple Isaiah Palm Springs' at 7:30 pm. Twice a month we offer Shabbat Under the Stars from our outside bima. Check website to confirm which weeks each month. Outside service also available on Facebook Live.
Shabbat morning Nosh and Drash Virtual Torah Study Saturdays at 10:00 am via Zoom. "Jewish University" from 1:30-3 PM also on Zoom. No charge. RSVP requested.

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73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260. www.temple sinaipd.org 760-568-9699. All services offered via Zoom. Connection: https://zoom.us/j/5653101739?pwd=Rm5Na1hieERvR3BqUVJwYWQyR0hxUT09. Friday evening services 5:30 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am.

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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..

Biden Names Dr. Rochelle Walensky to Head CDC

JTA

A Jewish doctor from Boston on the front line of that city's coronavirus response is President-elect Joe Biden's choice to helm the Centers for Disease Control.

Rochelle Walensky, the chief of infectious diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital and a professor at Harvard Medical School, was among

the members of the new government health care team announced December 7th, noting Walensky, a leader of Boston's Pandemic Team, is a "leading expert on virus testing, prevention, and treatment."

Walensky, a member of Temple Emanuel in Newton, told Boston's Jewish Journal in April that she was

seeking solace in her Jewish community as she faced down the disease. "I said to them, 'I'm thinking I need you more than you need me,'" Walensky said. "I have a sense it's



Dr. Rochelle Walensky

getting emotionally pretty hard I certainly have everybody's cell phone number ... I may need to use it in the weeks ahead."

Also named as coordinator of the COVID-19 Response and Counselor to the President is Jeff Zients, an economist who, incidentally, owns a chain of Jewish delis in Washington D.C..



Community Calendar of Online Programs - January 2021

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

Mondays:

2:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: The Prayerbook, with Sussie Denebeim
7:30 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: "The Prophets: Stories that shaped our history" with Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger.

Tuesdays:

7:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: "Insights for Daily Living, from the Torah" with **Sussie Denebeim**.

Wednesdays:

1:00 pm - Temple Isaiah Virtual "Coffee with the Rabbi" with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Go to website: templeisaiahps.com and click on link.

Thursdays:

3:30 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs - Virtual class: "The Mystical Parsha" with **Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger**. RSVP to Boz Werdiger, boz@chabadps.com, or 760-550-5793

7:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual "Ask the Rabbi" with **Rabbi Yonason Denebeim**.

Tuesday, January 5

4:00 pm Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy Virtual Event: Lecture by **Dr. Ralph Nurnberg: "Nicholas Winton and the Kindertransport from Prague."** See ad page 10.

Thursday, January 7

4:00-5:00 pm Sabra Hadassah virtual meeting. Program: **Mark Werner**, author of "**A Passion for Israel: Adventures of a Sar-el Volunteer.**" See page 18 to "attend."

Thursday, January 7 and 21 and Tuesday, February 2

Time TBA Jewish Federation Virtual series with **Rabbi Mark Borovitz of Beit T'Shuvah**. See article page 9.

Tuesday, January 12

4:30 pm Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy **Lion of Judah and Pomegranate** Virtual Event, featuring **Mayim Bialik**. See ad page 11.

Wednesday, January 13

3:30 pm Har-El Sandra & Robert Borns Har-El Lecture Series program: **Rabbi Sue Silberberg**, Indiana University, "**College Life During Covid.**" See ad page 5.

Wednesday, January 27

3:30 pm Har-El Tu B'Shevat **Interfaith Seder** online. See ad page 5.

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

Unique Women's Health Innovation Center Opens in Israel

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Femtech – technologies to manage women's health more innovatively, accurately and efficiently – is the newest focus for the ARC (Accelerate Redesign Collaborate) Innovation Center at Sheba Medical Center in Israel.

"We can not only share our ideas with the world but really change the clinical paradigm," says the Women's Health Innovation Center's director, obstetrician/gynecologist Dr. Avi Tsur.

Launched in July to promote patient and doctor safety during Covid, the initiative grew in scope. Big data, artificial intelligence (AI), precision medicine, telemedicine, virtualization and surgical innovations are being harnessed to find new approaches to high-

risk pregnancies, postpartum follow-up, contraception, IVF, gynecologic oncology and other OB/GYN medical assessments.

"My goal is selecting projects that will disrupt and improve women's healthcare," Tsur tells ISRAEL21c.

"I'm not trying to publish papers but to change clinical paradigms. I think that is unique."

The center selected 20 projects, which include technologies for managing high-risk pregnancies and decision-making in labor and delivery; at-home monitoring of



Dr. Avi Tsur, director of the Women's Health Innovation Center at Sheba Medical Center.



gestational diabetes and post-term pregnancies; and identifying the best medication to prevent complications in each high-risk pregnancy.

One project is an AI model for predicting shoulder dystocia — baby's shoulder getting stuck during birth – based on work Tsur did at Stanford using data from Sheba. Shoulder dystocia has always been unpredictable and therefore unpreventable. Validated on Stanford and University of

Texas data, this model would have each laboring mother undergo an ultrasound growth evaluation.

About a dozen staff OB/GYNs under Dr. Eyal Sivan, director of Sheba's Josef Buchmann Gynecology and Maternity Center, are working with Tsur and other ARC members. Some of the projects have partners in other Israeli institutions.

"The shared vision is leveraging the passion of the OB/GYN department for innovation together with the resources at Sheba," says Tsur.

"Our strength is the integration of the different disciplines across the hub. I don't think any other hospital in the world has such a set of resources for digital health."

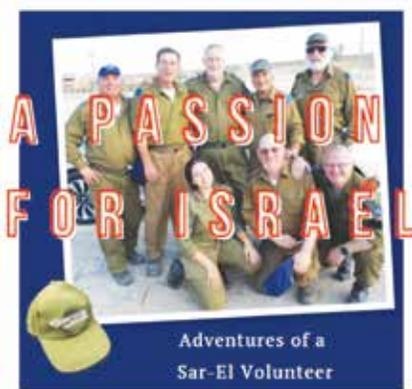
Sabra Hadassah Brings Author of Book on Sar-el on Zoom January 7

The author of a new book on Sar-el will be the program for Sabra Hadassah on Thursday, January 7 from 4:00-5:00 PM on Zoom. Mark Werner, a retired attorney living in Raleigh, North Carolina, has volunteered for the past 18 years to serve on military bases around Israel for two or three weeks each year through Sar-el, an Israeli organization whose mission is to connect Diaspora Jewry with Israel through volunteer service on IDF bases. Since its creation in 1982, Sar-el has enabled over 150,000 volunteers from all over the world to work in a civilian capacity on Israeli bases, freeing up IDF soldiers for

more vital duties.

Werner's father, a Holocaust survivor and partisan during the war, instilled in Werner a deep sense of the importance of Israel to all Jews. As an adult, he found himself wanting to do more than write checks to show his support for Israel, and found a gratifying way of doing this as a civilian volunteer on IDF bases through Sar-el.

Werner will share stories from his book *A Passion for Israel: Adventures of a Sar-El Volunteer*, speaking of the joys and challenges of being an American Jew who travels halfway across the world to don an olive-green uniform and sweat (or freeze)



A strategic partnership agreement between the Israeli Watergen company and Emirati Al-Dahra signed in Abu Dhabi

while doing physically demanding, but not particularly intellectually challenging, volunteer work on an Israeli army base 10,000 kilometers

from home. He will share stories about the many faces of the IDF, including Druze soldiers, special needs youngsters in the IDF's "Special in Uniform Program," and the brilliant young people he met in the Talpiot program, trained to contribute to new technologies.

Participation in this Zoom program is a donation of \$20. Mail checks, payable to Hadassah, to Nancy Singer, 78098 Allegro Court, Palm Desert, CA 92211 or call Nancy at 760-345-7647 with credit card information. You will need to provide your email address and the Zoom link will be sent prior to the program. Men and non-Hadassah members welcome to join this special program.

Abu Dhabi Company to Bring Israeli Drinking-Water Technologies to Gulf

Jewish News Syndicate

A strategic partnership agreement between the Israeli Watergen

company and Emirati Al-Dahra was signed on November 25 in Abu Dhabi.

The agreement establishes a partnership between the companies to bring Watergen's revolutionary water solutions to the United Arab Emirates and other countries in the region.

The partnership will target many sectors, including but not limited to agriculture, offices and apartment buildings, hotels, industry, maritime, etc.

The agreement between Al-Dahra, headed by vice chairman and co-founder HE Khadim Al Darej, and



Watergen, led by president and CEO Dr. Michael Mirilashvili, comes on the heels of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in Israel in October when a high-ranking delegation of Al-Dahra executives visited Israel.

"From the moment that we signed this agreement, it has shown how important the signing of the Abraham

Accords was and the tremendous wisdom of our leaders in making this breakthrough for our region and the world. Though I had other plans, as soon as I learned of the accords I rushed here in order to show the world the tremendous impact and importance of this historic step. With this agreement, we're showing our two nations, the region and the world what is possible with peace," says Mirilashvili.

Watergen is an innovative Israeli company that has developed a cutting-edge patented technology to generate clean drinking water from the air using cost-effective energy consumption. Its impact creates an additional clean drinking water source while accomplishing it in the most economically efficient manner.

High temperatures and humidity of the region's air are ideal conditions for Watergen's devices, which can produce up to 5,000 liters of clean drinking water per day.

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With our normal community activities on hold due to the pandemic, the Jewish Federation has been arranging for many interesting, compelling programs to offer to our community online. As we sent out notices for these programs we realized that we do not have email addresses for about half of our JCN readership. We'd love to add you to our list. You will not be overrun with emails (about half a dozen a month) and you'll get information about some terrific programs.

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The JCN, published by Jewish Federation of the Desert, has grown over the years. With a hard copy distribution of 10,000 copies and an online edition, thousands of readers living in Coachella Valley keep up-to-date on all things Jewish happening.

It is important to our Federation's mission that we provide this paper free of charge to everyone in our community. But the newspaper is not inexpensive to produce. Paper and production costs have increased greatly over the past few years.

We welcome donations to help offset our expenses. With your generosity, we can continue to offer such a top-notch paper to our Jewish community for many years to come. Thank you!

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Jewish Federation OF THE DESERT

Where Biden's Secretary of State Choice Tony Blinken Stands on Jewish issues, from Immigration to Israel

By Gabe Friedman, JTA

Tony Blinken, President-elect Joe Biden's choice for Secretary of State, is the stepson of a Holocaust survivor whose stories shaped his worldview and subsequently his policy decisions, including in the Middle East.

Blinken, 58, has been one of Biden's closest policy advisers for over a decade and espouses the opposite of Trump's "America First" agenda, which prioritized nationalist goals over international diplomacy. Multiple reports say that Blinken will seek to rejoin many of the international agreements that Trump left as president, notably the Paris Climate Accords and the Iran

nuclear deal (an agreement with major diplomatic consequences for Israel).

Under Blinken, the State Department will usher in a much different foreign policy era, including on Israel. Like Biden, Blinken has close ties to the country forged from his decades of strong support of the Jewish state.

Here is what you need to know about the new top diplomat.

His Jewish Parents Were Influential in Their Own Right

Blinken was born in New York City, where he spent most of his early years. His father, Donald, co-founded the hefty E.M. Warburg Pincus & Company (now Warbug Pincus) investment firm and served as the U.S. ambassador to Hungary for four years under President Bill Clinton's administration. There is an archive at George Soros' Central European University in Hungary named for Donald Blinken, now 95, and his second wife, Vera, who survived the Holocaust, in part for their support of the "democratization process in the United States and in Hungary."

Donald Blinken's grandfather Meir Blinken also was a noted Yiddish author whose stories were published in a book in the 1980s that features an introduction by scholar Ruth Wisse.

His Stepfather's Holocaust Experience Shaped his Worldview.

Tony Blinken's mother, Judith, remarried Samuel Pinar, a Holocaust survivor and attorney who advised President John F. Kennedy and multiple French presidents. Pinar,

who survived the three concentration camps, also worked for the United Nations,

wrote a libretto title "Kaddish-A Dialogue With God" at the behest of Leonard Bernstein and penned an award-winning memoir about his Holocaust experiences. There is a Yad Vashem program named after him.

Blinken has said that Pinar's experiences have informed his vision for the "engaged" role that the United States should play on the global stage. Here's one story he tells frequently (source: *Jewish Insider*):

"One day as they were hiding out, they heard this deep rumbling sound," Blinken recounted, "and as my stepfather looked out, he saw a sight that he had never seen before — not the dreaded Iron Cross, not a swastika, but on a tank a five-pointed white star. And, maybe in a foolhardy way, he rushed out toward it. He knew what it was. And he got to the tank, the hatch opened up, and a large African-American G.I. stared down at him. And he got down on his knees and he said the only three words that he knew in English, that his mother had taught him before the war: 'God bless America.' And at that point, the G.I. lifted him into the tank, into freedom, into America. That's the story that I grew up with — about what our country is and what it represents, and what it means when the United States is engaged and leading."



Tony Blinken

His diplomatic career has spanned decades and gained him a reputation as a centrist.

That career began on the National Security Council under Clinton. Blinken also was appointed staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which was headed by Biden during the George W. Bush years.

In 2008, Biden tapped Blinken to help his presidential campaign, and when Biden was chosen as Barack Obama's vice president, Blinken followed, becoming one of his national security advisers. In 2014, Obama elevated Blinken to deputy secretary of state under John Kerry.

During those years, Blinken was heavily involved in the crafting of Middle East policy, including the landmark Iran deal.

Blinken has been described as a centrist and an interventionist, and he's said to have a "mind meld" with Biden on foreign policy — an area of governance in which the president-elect specializes and wants to prioritize in the Oval Office.

Blinken is more hawkish on issues such as Russia, whom he considers a foe (he helped Obama's team respond stiffly to Vladimir Putin's encroachments into Crimea).

On Israel, Blinken's views reflect the Democratic mainstream.

Within the Democratic Party, a minority of lawmakers and advocates have been trying to shift the party to the left on Israel issues. Progressives including Bernie Sanders have suggested that aid to Israel ought to be conditioned on certain policy choices.

The Trump administration has

continued on the next page



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Innovative Genome Editing Treatment Destroys Cancer Cells

A study from Israel shows promise for a novel nanotechnology that can increase life expectancy in people with brain and ovarian cancers.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

There's been a lot of press about upcoming Covid-19 vaccines built with mRNA – genetic messengers that carry instructions to cells to make proteins to treat or prevent disease.

This same technology was used to treat cancer in mice in the laboratory of Prof. Dan Peer, VP for R&D and head of the Laboratory of Precision Nanomedicine at the Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research at Tel Aviv University.

The novel lipid nanoparticle-based delivery system, called CRISPR-LNPs, carries mRNA that encodes for the enzyme Cas9. This enzyme acts as a molecular pair of scissors that snips the cancer cells' DNA, effectively destroying them.

The results of the study, funded by Israel Cancer Research Fund, were published November 18 in the *Science Advances* journal.

"This is the first study in the world to prove that the CRISPR genome

editing system can be used to treat cancer in a living animal effectively," said Peer.

"It must be emphasized that this is not chemotherapy. There are no side effects, and a cancer cell treated in this way will never become active again. The molecular scissors of Cas9 cut the cancer cell's DNA, thereby neutralizing it and permanently preventing replication."

Peer and his team chose to test the technology on two of the deadliest cancers: glioblastoma and metastatic ovarian cancer.

Glioblastoma is the most aggressive type of brain cancer, with a five-year survival rate of only 3%. A single treatment with CRISPR-LNPs doubled the average life expectancy of mice with glioblastoma tumors, improving their overall survival rate by about 30%.

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal cancer of the female reproductive system; only a third of the patients

survive this disease. Treatment with CRISPR-LNPs in a metastatic ovarian cancer mice model increased their overall survival rate by 80%.

"The CRISPR genome editing technology, capable of identifying and altering any genetic segment, has revolutionized our ability to disrupt, repair or even replace genes in a personalized manner," said Peer.

"Despite its extensive use in research, clinical implementation is still in its infancy because an effective delivery system is needed to safely and accurately deliver the CRISPR to its target cells. The delivery system we developed targets the DNA responsible for the cancer cells' survival. This is an innovative treatment for aggressive cancers that have no effective treatments today."

He said the research team now intends "to go on to experiments with blood cancers that are very

interesting genetically, as well as genetic diseases such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy. It will probably take some time before the new treatment can be used in humans, but we are optimistic."

The researchers include, among others, Daniel Rosenblum, Anna Gutkin and Dinorah Friedmann-Morvinski from TAU; Dr. Zvi Cohen, head of neurosurgical oncology at Sheba Medical Center, Dr. Mark Behlke, CSO at Integrated DNA Technologies; and Prof. Judy Lieberman of Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

"Through Ramot, the technology transfer company of Tel Aviv University, we are already negotiating with international corporations and foundations, aiming to bring the benefits of genetic editing to human patients," said Peer.

continued from previous page

shifted U.S. policy to the right in recent years, moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv and saying that the United States would consider the movement to boycott Israel officially anti-Semitic.

Blinken is a centrist here, too. He has said that a Biden administration will not condition aid to Israel on policy choices, will keep the embassy in Jerusalem and will staunchly support Israel at the United Nations — a body that often singles out the Jewish state for human rights abuses without condemning offenders such as Syria and China. In May, Biden wrote that he "firmly" rejects the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, and Blinken has backed up that stance.

Blinken's appointment drew praise

from centrist Democrats, but also from Sanders' foreign policy adviser, Matt Duss, who tweeted that it would be "a new and great thing to have a top diplomat who has regularly engaged with progressive grassroots." Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., a progressive who is known for her harsh criticism of Israel and support for boycotting Israel, responded that she would be happy as long as "he doesn't try to silence me and suppress my First Amendment right to speak out against Netanyahu's racist and inhumane policies."

Blinken's record has earned him respect from Israeli officials, even when he hasn't always agreed with them. Michael Oren, a conservative former Israeli ambassador to the U.S., called Blinken a man of

"singular intelligence and warmth" in a passage of his 2015 book "Ally: My Journey Across the American-Israeli Divide" — even in describing how Blinken rebuked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for expanding settlement building after agreeing not to. "How could you do this to Israel's best friend?" Blinken said about Biden to Oren, who was the ambassador at the time.

On Twitter Oren said he could think of "no finer choice" for the post, and news of Biden tapping Blinken drew praise from a cross-section of Israelis who have encountered him in the course of diplomacy.

As he told a "Sesame Street" character, Blinken is compassionate toward refugees.

President Trump prioritized

closing off U.S. borders and punishing immigrants who sought asylum in a policy set by a Jewish adviser, Stephen Miller.

Biden has said his approach to immigration — an issue important to many American Jews — will be much different. Blinken explained his attitude about refugees in a 2016 video with the "Sesame Street" character Grover, in which he explains to the fuzzy blue puppet that refugees should be treated the same as "you and me."

"We all have something to learn and gain from one another, even when it doesn't seem at first like we have much in common," Blinken said after asking Grover to imagine how challenging it must be for someone to feel so unsafe that they decide to leave their home.

Philippines Honored for Aiding Jews in Holocaust and Support for Creation of Israel

By Shiryn Chermeztian, *The Algemeiner*

The Confederation of General Zionists (CGZ) — a faction of the World Zionist Congress (WZC) — gave a special certificate to the first secretary and consul of the Philippines Embassy in Israel, Reichel Quinones, on November 29, in honor of the republic's aid to Jews during the Holocaust and its support for the creation of the State of Israel, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

The certificate, awarded in a ceremony at the Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv, noted the republic's vote in favor of UN General Assembly Resolution 181 on November 29,

1947, and the Open Doors policy of the late former Philippines President Manuel Quezon.

Quezon offered a safe haven to Jews seeking refuge from Nazi persecution and his Open Doors policy saved over 1,300 Jews, according to a CGZ press release, cited by *The Jerusalem Post*.

Resolution 181 called for the partition of British Mandatory Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. The Philippines was the only Asian country to support the resolution, which helped pave the way for the creation of the State of Israel.



"The Jewish people have a long memory and President Quezon deserves to be remembered for his brave act of kindness during such a dark period of Jewish history," stated CGZ Vice Chairman David Yaari. "As leaders of the General Zionist faction of the World Zionist Organization, we deeply appreciate

the consideration of the Philippines to vote in favor of Resolution 181 (the partition plan) on November 29, 1947."

Former Knesset member and CGZ Secretary-General Dov Lipman said, "In a world filled with enemies of Israel and the Jewish people we cannot take it for granted when a country saves Jews and supports Israel."

"We owe a debt of gratitude to the Philippine government and people, and today was just the beginning of showing our appreciation," he added.

Woman Screaming 'Slaughter the Jews' Attacks Rabbi as Onlookers Stand By

By *Algemeiner Staff*

A woman screaming "Slaughter the Jews" attacked a rabbi in broad daylight on a Vienna street on November 26 as passersby reportedly looked the other way.

The attack occurred at 4pm in the Austrian capital's Third District. The woman, said to be about 50 years old, approached the rabbi at a tram stop shouting "Slaughter the Jews" and brandishing a knife. She then ripped the rabbi's hat and kippah from his head and kicked him before fleeing the scene.

According to Austrian media reports, the rabbi — who was not seriously harmed — told police officers that despite the presence of several witnesses, no-one came to his aid. Police are currently trying to apprehend the woman.

Austrian politicians were quick to condemn the attack.

"We must fight anti-Semitism with all our determination and do everything to make Jewish life here in Austria safe," Chancellor Sebastian Kurz stated following the outrage.

Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said he had ordered extra security around synagogues following the attack and pledged to find the rabbi's assailant.

"All measures will be taken to quickly clear up this obviously anti-Semitic attack," he said. "There is no tolerance for anti-Semitism — regardless of whether it is politically or religiously motivated."

The head of the Jewish community in Vienna called the attack "disturbing."

"But the Jewish community will not be intimidated," Oskar Deutsch declared on Twitter.

On Friday, Vienna's Catholic Archbishop added his voice to the condemnation.

"I am dismayed by yesterday's attack on a rabbi in the middle of Vienna. I assure our fellow Jewish citizens of my complete solidarity," said Cardinal Christoph Schönborn. "Anti-Semitism must have no place among us. It endangers the peaceful coexistence of us all."

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.

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JEWISH MEN'S OUTREACH GROUP OF THE DESERT take tikkun olam (repairing the world) to heart, raising funds and gathering gift or food items throughout the year for holidays and special occasions. This photo shows the \$1100 check for funds they raised for Thanksgiving dinners for Angel View plus board games and toys for the Boys and Girls Club. Pictured with Jewish Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten (far left) and Federation's Director of Community Impact Kevin Giser (far right) are (left to right) Arnie Gillman, Matt Fisher, Michael Zaifert and Ben Weissbach.



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 1	Shabbat Vayechi	4:05 pm
Friday, January 8	Shabbat Shmot	4:11 pm
Friday, January 15	Shabbat Vaerah	4:18 pm
Friday, January 22	Shabbat Bo	4:24 pm
Friday, January 29	Shabbat Beshalach	4:31 pm

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Martin Berman, Hedy Ferber, Irving Ginsberg, Dr. Mark Kaufman, Henry Kotzen, Barbara Levin, Alan Magdovitz, Bertha Jane Nebenzahl, Dr. Lester Safier, Joann Sarkowsky, Susan Sarto, Norman Subotnik, and Amy Zendle. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



With sadness the Jewish Federation of the Desert announces the passing of **Irving Ginsberg** (1930-2020) who served as the Federation Executive Director from 1989 through 1994, and returned to fill in between later directors. Affable and generous with his time and expertise, many will fondly remember Irving for his enthusiastic support of the annual Jewish Federation golf tournaments at Canyon Country Club.



Classifieds

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THIS NEW YEAR
DO SOMETHING
AMAZING:
GIVE

If you care, if you want to make an amazing difference in the world, now is the time. It's the New Year, a time of resolutions, the right moment for each of us to give to what means the most to us.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Go to www.jfedps.org to be awesome
or call 760-324-4737.



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT