



# Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Tevet/Shevat 5784 - January 2024

## Event Highlights 2024

Sunday, January 7, 2024  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chabad Golf Classic

• Monday, January 8, 2024  
**JBC Fayne Frey:**  
"The Skincare Hoax"

Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
JMOGD Azi Schwartz Concert

Monday, January 22, 2024  
**Lion of Judah Event**

• Monday, February 5, 2024  
**JBC Omer Bartov:**  
"The Butterfly and the Axe"

Wednesday, February 7, 2024  
**Federation Main Event**

• Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
**JBC Deborah Applegate: "Madam:  
The Biography of Polly Adler,  
Icon of the Jazz Age"**

• Wednesday, March 6, 2024  
**JBC Sarah Bimbach:  
"A Daughter's Kaddish"**

Sunday-Wednesday:  
March 10-13, 2024  
**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Film Festival**

• Monday, March 18, 2024  
**Pomegranate Event**

Tuesday, March 26, 2024  
**Federation Day at Tamarisk**

• Wednesday, April 3, 2024  
**JBC Rachel Shteir: "Betty Friedan"**

Monday, April 8, 2024  
**Card/Game Day in Sun City**

• Sunday, April 14, 2024  
**All Things Israel**

• Thursday, April 18, 2024  
**JBC Joe Posnanski  
"Why We Love Baseball"**

Sunday, May 5, 2024  
**Yom HaShoah; Holocaust  
Remembrance**

**Bold** - Federation Event  
• Event held at Federation Offices

## Philanthropy and in a Time of War and Antisemitism



**Alan  
Potash**

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

### PHILANTHROPY

First, I want to thank all of you who have stepped up and contributed to the Swords of Iron Emergency campaign. Being that we are a snowbird community many of you have given to your "Home" community and some of you have given to both your home and here. As I have said many times, all giving to Israel, no matter where it comes from, will help. Thank you.

During conversations with many of you about the importance of supporting Israel and our annual campaign have asked the question, if whether raising money for Israel will impact the annual campaign. I replied, "I hope not." Some people think that if we raise money for Israel the community won't support our annual campaign. So far most of our donors are increasing their annual campaign support. Most philanthropic research studies have been conducted around the subject of running dual campaigns. Fortunately, people who understand and value philanthropy and the work we do understand the need to support both campaigns. And do!

### ANTISEMITISM

Most people today especially those in the Jewish community see both the devastating war in Israel and the rise in antisemitism as significant issues. Many have taken up the causes both financially and through advocacy. These two issues are historic and will

need a commitment for some time to come.

I have been reading and hearing stories of prominent Jewish people who in the past have passionately stood side by side supporting their friends during difficult times. Also, significantly supporting their causes. Now, they are feeling a little abandoned by their friends. As we witness the absence of our friends at this time, we should remind them that we stood beside them when they asked us to support their causes.

Let's look at the fallout from the three university presidents who in my opinion lacked the moral courage to say yes, when asked, "if harassing Jewish students with verbal threats and taunts is wrong." The debate around their position in Congress has been front and center as it should be. When it comes to combating antisemitism there seems to be a double standard when it comes to issues and Jews and Israel.

Antisemitism on college campuses is a symptom of a greater problem in society. The Pew Research Center came out with a poll with several results that should surprise us: 65% of Americans polled think Hamas was responsible for the war between Israel and Hamas. When I read that I was shocked. That means 35% of Americans don't think Hamas was responsible. Even after what Hamas did to innocent people on October 7<sup>th</sup>. So, many people have responded, in my opinion from a place of ignorance, "that Israel brought this on themselves, and what about the people in Gaza."

The level of misinformation and disinformation has clouded the judgment around Israel. Mainstream and social media are filled with negative coverage about this war. It is as though Israel should just let anyone who wants to attack Israel can because the world doesn't want Israel to respond the way they would. Look around, what other country isn't allowed to protect its citizens?

Recently, the United Nations passed a non-binding resolution calling on Israel for a ceasefire. No mention of Hamas releasing the hostages as part of the ceasefire. I might remind the UN that on October 6<sup>th</sup> there was a ceasefire in place between Hamas and Israel and on October 7<sup>th</sup> Hamas broke that ceasefire by invading a sovereign country, massacring 1200 innocent people, and taking 240 hostages (Which as of now the International Red Cross has not checked on the hostages).

Why does the United Nations treat the sovereign country of Israel with different standards than it holds for other countries? Currently there are wars going on in Syria, Sudan, and Yemen to name three that voted for the ceasefire. We are not seeing the UN calling for ceasefires in those countries. Look at Israel's neighbor Syria, over the past years over 300,000 people have been murdered by its own government, or how about Sudan who has been in a civil war for decades has recently displaced millions of its own citizens or Yemen, where the Houthis are firing long range missiles at Israel...Come on.

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

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

everyone  
counts

can we count on you?

DONATE

Jewish Federation  
Annual Campaign  
2024

[jfedps.org](http://jfedps.org)  
760-324-4737

**2023-2024  
JEWISH FEDERATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President, Arnie Gillman

Vice President/Treasurer, Ron Langus

Secretary, Stephanie Ross

Immediate Past Co-Presidents

Jackie Cohen

Cora Ginsberg

Allocations Chair, Lori Fritz

**BOARD:**

Sheri Borax

Robert Jacobs

Wendy Brooks

Barry Kaiman

Barry Fisher

Fran Kaufman

Carol Fragen

Margie Kulp

Alan Gitlin

Dan Weisberg

Bobbi Holland

**Alan Potash**

Chief Executive Officer

**Table of Contents**

Vol. 51 • No. 6

Community Calendar	18-19
Federation	1-3, 6, 24
Women's Philanthropy	3, 19
Have A Nosh	22
Jewish Family Service	13
School Listing	23
Simchas & Classifieds	23
Temples	18
Tributes	16

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



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

email addresses. Do you receive it?

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

that send us their events.

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

save  
**theDate**

**February 7, 2024, 5:00pm - 8:00pm**  
for The Jewish Federation of the Desert's  
Annual Major Gifts Dinner.

Arnie Gillman, President of the Jewish Federation of the Desert says, *"This year's major gifts dinner will be a special evening acknowledging and thanking community leaders who have dedicated their philanthropy to supporting the mission of the Jewish Federation of the Desert."* The dinner will be held at the Federation Building.

**Invitation to follow.**

# Message from Arnie Gillman, Jewish Federation of the Desert President

By Arnie Gillman, Federation President

Why is it so important to support Israel during this time of darkness? So much of the world is against Israel's participation in the war with Hamas. As Jews, we should never allow evil to take the shining light from our lives.

This war has brought many Jews throughout the world to fly



Arnie Gillman, President

to Israel with the common purpose to volunteer and help keep the economy moving in the right direction. The following are just a few of the jobs that are being accomplished. Volunteers harvest fruits and vegetables and organize everything from medical to psychological help. People are also writing letters and calling their congressmen to stand up for the state of Israel.

During these difficult times, people

have expressed fear when they wear their Star of David outwardly and have even gone a step further by removing their mezuzahs from their doorposts.

These decisions are based on antisemitism that is confronting the Jewish people in our community and the world.

The topic of conversation among many Jews, is that we must stick together and not allow this light to get dimmer and dimmer. When outside

forces are pushing us apart, we must hold each other close.

Also, here locally, I invite those who are interested in seeing how our allocations support local causes. I am organizing tours of these organizations. Please let me know if you are interested in joining me and others on these tours.

If you want to get in touch with me, my email is HAG33150@aol.com.

## Lion of Judah Brings Michal Mangisto to our Desert



Margie Kulp and Carol Fragen invite our community's Lions and the many out-of-town Lions who winter here to a very special Lion of Judah Brunch

on Monday, January 22, at 10:00 am at Tamarisk Country Club. Couvert for our 2024 annual event is \$85.00, and we're thrilled to feature the renowned Israeli fashion designer Michal Mangisto.

Experience the compelling journey of Michal Mangisto, a sister Lion of Judah, an Israeli Ethiopian woman, and the

adopted granddaughter of Jane and Larry Sherman. As a creative, working mother and wife in Israel, Michal epitomizes inspiration.

This event is set to be profoundly meaningful. Witness firsthand what it means to be a Lion of Judah! Lions of Judah, women of all ages, commit

to an annual gift of \$5,000 or more, supporting the life-changing work of our Federation. These women actively engage in community service, participate in missions to Israel and beyond, and often lead philanthropic causes, transforming lives along the way.

# SAVE THE DATE

Our Speaker

MICHAL MANGISTO  
Israeli Fashion Designer

## Lion of Judah Event

MONDAY

JANUARY 22, 2024

10:00 am

BRUNCH AT  
TAMARISK COUNTRY CLUB



LEXUS  
EXPERIENCE AMAZING

SHOTTENKIRK  
DESERT LEXUS

Let Us Earn Your Business

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

68-068 Kyle Rd. Cathedral City,  
CA 92234

In The Cathedral City Auto Center

(760) 321-5750 • desertlexus.com



Jewish Federation  
OF THE DESERT

Women's  
Philanthropy

GATHERING FOR GOOD



# JMOGD Holds Very Successful Toy Drive

Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert Annual Chanukah Dinner and Toy Drive

By Barry Fisher



On December Monday, December 11, the JMOGD held its annual Chanukah Dinner and toy drive at Sun City Palm Desert's Ballroom. Over 200 members and guests joined us to enjoy a festive dinner, entertainment and free raffle drawing donated by the local community. In addition, JMOGD collects toys for the holidays to be distributed to local children's groups. Over 1000 toys were collected by our members to be

donated to children to make their holidays all the more enjoyable. The chairman of the event was Michael Zaifert who did a wonderful job in coordinating all the activities surrounding. The other JMOGD Board members, including Federation President, Arnie Gillman, and Federation Board Members Alan Gitlin and Barry Fisher also assisted. A fun time was had by all.



Anyone interested in information about the Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert may email [JMOGD2020@gmail.com](mailto:JMOGD2020@gmail.com).

## Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert

By Alan Potash, CEO

The Jewish Federation's campaign theme this year is Gathering for Good. I want to highlight a group in the valley that has been gathering for good since it was created several years ago. Arnie Gillman had the idea of bringing people together to do good things for the community. He wanted to create a group for two purposes to develop a social group to network and have fun and make a positive contribution to the community through charitable work. They have food drives, book drives, backpack drives any kind of effort to help people

The group he established is Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert. They have been very successful on both accounts. Each year more and more people join the group which means they raise more money for their projects. As of last count they have over 160 members.

Recently, they were featured in the Desert Sun after their successful book drive for "Scooters Bottomless Bookshelf" at the Loma Linda Clinic in Indio. Plus, their drive to fill backpacks for students at Martin Van Buren Elementary school. I could go on and on with the list of their

charitable contributions, but I want to thank the JMOGD, for two things: being a member of the Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert these members also support the meaningful work for the Jewish Federation of the Desert. The other thing I want to thank them for is welcoming me to the community. I have spoken at and attended several of their events. These events have been well organized and enjoyable. I can understand why their membership keeps growing! Thank you.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the  
Jewish Federation of the Desert  
VOL. 51, No. 6

### EDITORIAL

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

### JCN STATEMENT

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

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

### ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

Miriam H. Bent, Editor  
760-323-0255  
e-mail: [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net)

### ADVERTISING

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

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

Women of Sinai Invite the Women of Our Community to a

## FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

Featuring the Latest in Stylish Outfits From

**Shirley's Boutique**

Friday, January 26, 2024 at Noon at Temple Sinai

11:00 am pre-show shopping

This event **Sold Out** last year, so get your tickets early!  
You Can Win One of the Great Drawing Prizes!

**\$40.00**

Mail checks, payable to **Women of Sinai**, to Temple Sinai, 73251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260, or call the temple office: 760-568-9699 for credit card payment.

*Ticket purchase deadline January 23, 2024*



# "Embracing Our Transitions: Thriving In A Time Of Change"

Beth Shalom's 13<sup>TH</sup> Annual Scholar-In-Residence Weekend, January 5-6, 2024

Rabbi Susan Leider, member of the Executive Council of the Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism, will serve as Scholar-in-Residence at Congregation Beth Shalom Friday, January 5 and Saturday, January 6, 2024, made possible by a grant from Jewish Federation of the Desert. The Shabbaton's theme, "Embracing Our Transitions: Thriving in a Time of Change," will be explored through creative service modalities, teachings and interactive conversations throughout Shabbat, at the Palm Desert synagogue, located at 42600 Cook St., Second Floor. The entire community is welcome at both Shabbat sessions.



Rabbi Susan Leider

Since her 2006 ordination from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (AJU) in Los Angeles, Rabbi Leider has been a leading West Coast voice in the Jewish and multifaith community. She pioneered women's rabbinic leadership, while serving at Temple Beth Am in Los Angeles and Congregation Kol Shofar in Northern California. Rabbi Leider guides Jewish organizations with Insyte Partners, an international transformation consultancy. A graduate of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality's Clergy Leadership Program, she leads virtual daily meditations for

hundreds of seekers.

Rabbi Leider is recognized for her work in the area of social justice. Following a Rabbinical Assembly visit to Whitefish, Montana, in the wake of antisemitic trolling and threats to the Jewish community, she helped to found "Love Lives in Marin." Rabbi Leider is a leader on the Clergy Council of Roots, a unique network of Palestinians and Israelis living in the West Bank. She is a past Board member of the Industrial Areas Foundation, the nation's largest network of local faith and community-based organizations, and she participates in the Racial Justice Subcommittee of the Social Justice Commission of the Conservative Movement.

On Friday, at 7:45 pm, Rabbi Leider will lead a creative Shabbat experience, "Silence and Song in Enhancing Spirituality," exploring music modalities and meditation, drawing on her background in Fine Arts and voice. She will help participants rethink the use of different kinds of music and how to incorporate silence in our lives. This will be followed by at Oneg Shabbat Dessert Reception – an opportunity for delicious refreshments and delightful conversation.

On Saturday morning, Rabbi Leider will speak on "Becoming a Living Torah," drawing from her own personal experience to help participants think about themselves in deeper, more meaningful ways. The Shabbat morning service begins at 9:30 am

and is followed by a sumptuous Kiddush Luncheon.

During the weekend, Rabbi Leider will be in conversation with Rabbi J.B. Sacks, a local rabbinic figure and Beth Shalom member. Rabbi Sacks is the spiritual leader of Congregation Am HaYam in Ventura, CA and serves as Education Specialist for the Stories of Music Project at UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music.

Rabbi Leider will lead a special Sunday

brunch session designed for Beth Shalom members only.

Both Shabbat services and sessions are free of charge, and the entire community is welcome with valid identification. RSVP for these sessions is appreciated by Friday, December 29. Information is available on the website: [www.CongregationBethShalom.net](http://www.CongregationBethShalom.net) or by email to [info@CongregationBethShalom.net](mailto:info@CongregationBethShalom.net) or calling (760) 200-3636.



**קהילת בית שלום**  
**The Coachella Valley's**  
**Conservative Synagogue**  
*An extended Jewish family, caring for all its members*

SUPPORTED BY  
**Jewish Federation**  
OF THE DESERT

PROUD MEMBER  
**USCJ**

**13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND**  
MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT  
**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ✦ JANUARY 5 AND 6**

**RABBI SUSAN LEIDER**  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

- ✦ MEDITATION GUIDE
- ✦ TRANSFORMATIONS CONSULTANT
- ✦ INNOVATION MENTOR



**EMBRACING OUR TRANSITIONS:**  
**THRIVING IN A TIME OF CHANGE**  
THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IS WELCOME AT ALL SHABBAT SESSIONS

<b>FRIDAY EVENING</b> <b>7:45 PM</b>	<b>"SILENCE AND SONG IN ENHANCING SPIRITUALITY"</b>
<small>FOLLOWED BY ONEG SHABBAT DESSERT RECEPTION GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY BENJAMIN &amp; HEATHER ALTMAN SECURITY SPONSOR: ROBERT ABRAHAM &amp; ÁNGEL ESPIRIDIÓN</small>	
<b>SATURDAY MORNING</b> <b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>"BECOMING A LIVING TORAH"</b>
<small>FOLLOWED BY FESTIVE KIDDUSH LUNCH GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY RABBI IRA HELF SECURITY SPONSOR: BILL AMPLO &amp; BILL SNELLENBERGER</small>	

FOR INFORMATION CALL THE BETH SHALOM OFFICE 760-200-3636  
OR EMAIL US AT [INFO@CONGREGATIONBETHSHALOM.NET](mailto:info@congregationbethshalom.net)  
42600 COOK ST – STE 205, PALM DESERT, CA 92211  
[WWW.CONGREGATIONBETHSHALOM.NET](http://WWW.CONGREGATIONBETHSHALOM.NET)

## Jewish Pop Star Pink Shuts Down Anti-Hanukkah Commenter

By Danielle Greyman-Kennard, *The Jerusalem Post*

Pink, a Jewish pop star, was one of many to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah on December 7. On a photo Pink shared of her menorah, a negative comment quickly came in accusing the star of being "tone deaf" for her post. Pink's response to the comment has since been applauded by many social media users.



Pink

Captioning her post on Instagram, Pink wrote "Happy [Hanukkah] to all those who celebrate. May there be light in darkness always. May there be peace in our hearts, our homes, and in the world."

Pink's celebration of the ancient

Jewish tradition and calls for peace were not well received by everyone. One commenter, whom Pink later replied to, wrote "Really tone death in the current climate. But enjoy your holidays."

In response to the comment, Pink simply wrote: "tone deaf to be Jewish? Or alive? I'm confused."

The commenter later told Pink that it was tone deaf "to post about it. I said previously I have nothing against the celebrating of religion and/or holidays but posting it seems kind of oblivious to the current reality of the situation."

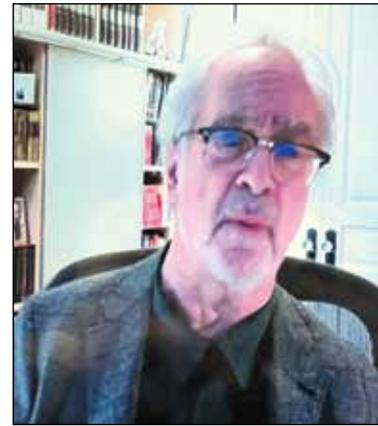
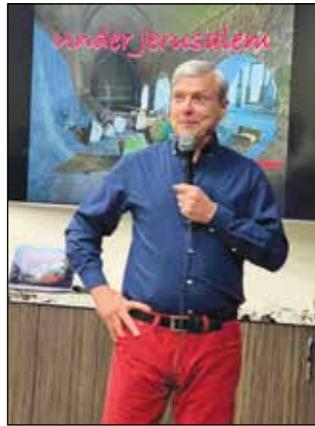
In the less than 24 hours that the post has been up, it has amassed over 350,000 likes.

# Feast of Jewish Learning Brought Fascinating Speakers to our Community

By Leslie Pepper, Jewish Federation Director of Community Engagement

The Jewish Federation's "Feast of Jewish Learning" Author Series featured a diverse lineup of Jewish Book Council authors, drawing in around 150 book enthusiasts who enjoyed engaging talks throughout the day. Attendees experienced in-person discussions from authors like Andrew Lawler, Philip Slayton (virtually attended from Canada), Revital Danker former Consul for Consular Affairs, Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Southwest Los Angeles, and now representing Beit Halochem, Wounded Israeli Veterans who brought Molly, a wounded veteran, with her and who shared her story and the role Beit Halochem has played in her life. Michael Strassfeld, Benjamin Cohen, and Joel Chasnoff, who also delivered a comedic routine.

The authors participated in lively Q&A sessions, providing the audience with in-depth insights. Attendees had the opportunity to purchase and get their books autographed. This marked our second year collaborating with The Jewish Book Council, established in 1944, the oldest organization exclusively dedicated to supporting and celebrating Jewish literature. The Jewish Book Council, founded in 1944, actively encourages and contributes to Jewish literature, aiming to promote the reading, writing, and publishing of quality English language books with Jewish content in North America.



Alan Potash, Andrew Lawler, Phil Slayton, Revital Danker, Wounded Israeli Veteran Molly, Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, Benjamin Cohen and Joel Chasnoff.

**HAR-EL**  
An Institute for Study and Worship in the Reform Tradition  
Member, Union for Reform Judaism

## BORNS LECTURE SERIES 2023-2024

**Dr. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, Zoom & Live Presentation,  
Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 3:30 PM**

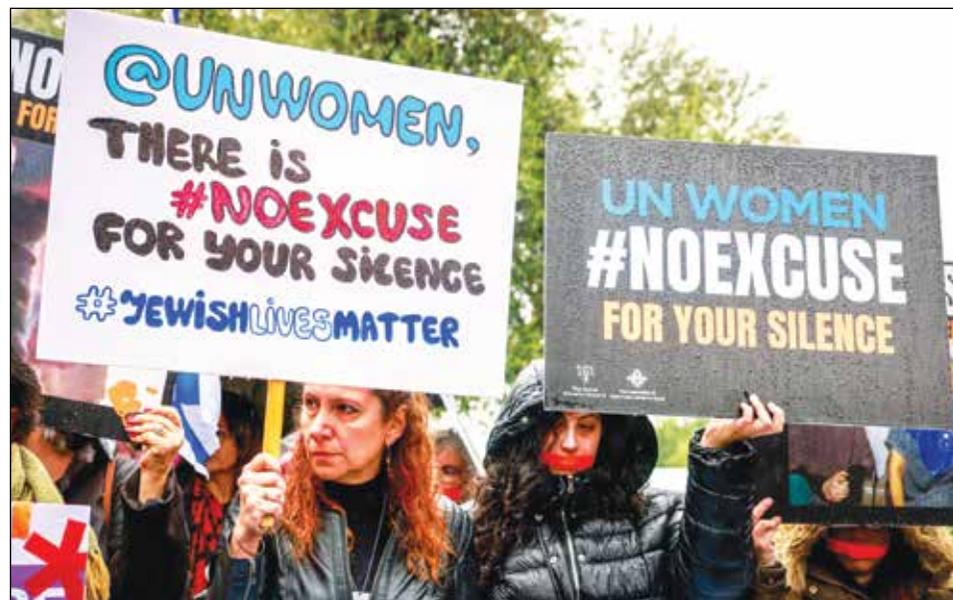
**Dr. Rossman-Benjamin is a Professor at the University of California/Santa Cruz, Her primary area of expertise is investigating and combating antisemitism on US university campuses.**



**Location of presentation will be confirmed at time of registration. To register email [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com)**

# After Backlash Over Silence, UN Women Tweets, Then Deletes, Statement Condemning Hamas Attack in Israel

By Jackie Hajdenberg, JTA



Israeli women protest outside UN headquarters in Jerusalem November 27, 2023

Nearly 50 days after Hamas' attack on Israel left 1,200 dead, and after weeks of criticism over its silence about allegations of sexual violence during the attack, the women's rights group UN Women issued a statement condemning the terror group on Friday.

Then it deleted the post.

"We condemn the brutal attacks by Hamas on October 7 and continue to call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages," read the initial statement, posted on UN Women's Instagram page. It was soon replaced with a statement that dropped the condemnation of Hamas and only called for the release of the hostages.

Word spread quickly among Jewish women activists and Israelis, reigniting their contention that UN Women — an official arm of the United Nations focused on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment — holds a double standard when it comes to gender-based violence against Israeli women. Some of the critics — including Sheryl Sandberg, a former top Meta executive — have lobbied openly on the topic. Many have used the hashtag "#MeToo\_UNless\_UR\_A\_Jew."

Reached for comment, UN Women told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Instagram post had been scheduled in advance and was deleted because the message in it no longer reflected where the organization wanted to put its main focus.

"In any social media team managing multiple campaigns and during a very busy time like the one we are now with 16 Days of Activism, mistakes can occur," a representative for UN Women said in a statement sent to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

In particular, said the media specialist, the release of some hostages over the weekend as part of a temporary truce changed the organization's priorities.

"UN Women social media team had pre-planned days in advance [of] this particular post, but then the news broke on the release of hostages and we really wanted to focus on that," she said. "UN Women has condemned the attacks by Hamas and the deaths of Israeli civilians from the beginning as well as called for the release of hostages, and we will continue doing so until the conflict ends. We have also called for all allegations of gender-based violence to be rigorously investigated, prioritizing the rights, needs, and safety of those affected."

In late October, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza but voted down a provision condemning the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attacks. On Monday, Israel's parliament, the Knesset, held a session on crimes against humanity committed against women during the Oct. 7 massacre.

After an initial statement on Oct. 13 condemning the attacks on civilians in Israel, all of UN Women's public comments

about the war and its impact on women had centered only on Palestinians. Last week, Sima Bahous, the group's executive director, called for an extension of the current temporary truce into a permanent ceasefire and for the release of all hostages.

The National Council for Jewish Women, which had previously criticized UN Women's silence on sexual violence against Israeli women, said the group's second statement last week was inadequate.

"The delayed issuance of a statement that fails to explicitly address the severity of Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel — such as the brutal murder of over 1,200 people in Israel, torture, and rape of women, as well as the targeting of civilians and families — is equally reprehensible," the statement said. "Immediate and unequivocal acknowledgment of these atrocities is imperative, given the blatant violation of international law."

**HAR-EL**  
An Institute for Study and Worship in the Reform Tradition  
Member, Union for Reform Judaism

A CONTEMPORARY CONGREGATION, EST. 2004

## Calendar

### WINTER 2024:

**Wednesday, January 3, 3:00 PM Reception/  
3:30 PM Program: "Books and Bordeaux."**

Galen Course Book Review held at Jewish Federation..

Rabbi Dr. Hillel Cohn, D.Min. Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Emanu-El, Redlands, CA will review *Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism* by Rachel Maddow.

This book is available on Amazon.

Sponsored in part by Jewish Federation. RSVP to harelurjpd@gmail.com.

**Sunday, January 14, 9:30 AM - A FOUR STAR EVENT  
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT.** Men welcome.

Coffee, Silent Auction, Seated Brunch

Presenters: Marcie Kaufman **SOLD OUT** Projects at Mob Museum in Las Vegas; and Rosa Weinstein, Anthropologist

Topic: "Mobsters and Mitzvot"

Sponsored by Marylynn and Andy Gladstein

**Sunday, January 28, 11:00 AM—Tu B'Shvat Brunch**

No-host event. Location TBA--Reservations are required: harelurjpd@gmail.com

**Wednesday, January 31, 3:30 PM on Zoom**

2nd Presenter in Borns Lecture Series:

Prof. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, University of California, Santa Cruz

"Combating Antisemitism on College and University Campuses."

On Zoom and Live. Sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation.

RSVP required. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

**Wednesday, February 7, 3:30 PM, "Books and Bordeaux."  
Title and Location TBA**

**Sunday, February 18, 11:00 AM "Conversations With A Scholar"**

Dr. Steven Windmueller, Past Director, Zelikow School of Jewish Non-Profit Management, HUC-JIR, Los Angeles, CA on "*Current Jewish Concerns.*"

Home Hosted. Reservations required for address and gate code.

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 11:00 AM**

"Har-El Goes to the Movies" —No-Host Lunch. At 12:30 PM,

Film: "Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song" followed by

Presentation with Discussion led by Cantor Joseph Gole, D. Mus. (Hon.)

Reservations required for address and Gate Code.

# Havurah of the Desert



As Jews we live in perilous and difficult times. It can feel like our world is on fire. Weathering these days and times, our sense of Jewish community is essential. Of course it always has been, but more so now.

The Havurah of the Desert provides a supportive and friendly environment focused on Jewish beliefs, culture, and customs. The Havurah was formed in January 2019 to fill the need for more interpersonal cultural engagement. Over the past 5 years membership has nearly tripled and the Havurah continues to evolve in terms of activities and membership.

The Havurah does not try to serve as a substitute for religious services or traditional classes. Rather its strength relies on bringing lectures to the community and engaging with other groups, be they Jewish or Gentile. We host holiday and end of Shabbat gatherings, in the development of community and friendship.

As with all groups, the pandemic presented enormous challenges. The Havurah became adept at using Zoom to provide its members with meaningful connections. We had a weekly Havdalah followed by discussion of a film or program which everyone had previously been asked to watch. Many of the programs discussed aired on the American Jewish University's streaming service, *Maven*, of which the Havurah was a founding partner with AJU.

We sponsored a series of virtual lectures including Dr. Suzanna Heschel, focused on the friendship of her father, Abraham Joshua Heschel, with the Reverend Martin Luther King. This lecture was preceded by a showing of the film, *"Shared Legacies: The African-American Jewish Civil Rights Alliance"* to which we invited *The Brothers of the Desert*. We sponsored Rabbi David Zaslow of Ashland OR to discuss his outstanding book, *"Jesus, First Century Rabbi"*. The lecture was attended by clergy and parishoners of several Christian congregations. We were fortunate to have presented an in-person lecture by HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) dealing with their world wide effort to assist immigrants. We also sponsored a Zoom tour of the Tenement Museum in New York City, and a documentary film, *Sturgeon Queens*, on the famous appetizer store, Russ and Daughters, in New York.

Committed to the value of Tikkun Olam, members participate in local food pantry efforts, volunteer with other Jewish organizations, and the Havurah has had successful fund-raisers to support HIAS' efforts worldwide and to provide blankets and warm clothing for Ukrainians during their harsh winter conditions.

The Havurah is open to Jews regardless of lifestyle or observance. Our goal is to be inclusive. The Havurah continues its monthly Shalom Book Club and holds a monthly member-led Havdalah service followed by a social evening, generally including a meal or dessert in various homes. We also have a sub-group that goes to supper at various restaurants on Wednesdays.

We are not formally affiliated



with any synagogue, so for services, members of the Havurah have found their own connections with additional Jewish institutions both locally and via livestreaming.

The Havurah has thrived over the past 5

years serving as a welcoming community.

For further information about the Havurah of the Desert, please visit us on the web at: [www.havurahofthedesert.org](http://www.havurahofthedesert.org), or email us at: [info@havurahofthedesert.org](mailto:info@havurahofthedesert.org)

## To Replace Santos, NY GOP Taps Ethiopian-born, Orthodox IDF Veteran

By Andrew Bernard, Jewish News Syndicate

New York Republicans selected Mazi Melesa Pilip, an Ethiopian-born, Orthodox Jew and Israel Defense Forces veteran, on December 14 to run for New York's 3rd Congressional District.

A current Nassau County legislator, Pilip is running for the seat that Republican Rep. George Santos held before being expelled from the U.S. House of Representatives, on December 1, following federal criminal indictments for fraud. It was also revealed that Santos had fabricated his backstory, including his supposed

Jewish heritage.

Santos's inventions stand in dramatic contrast with Pilip's real-life biography. Born in Ethiopia, she emigrated to Israel as a refugee in 1991 as part of an Israeli operation to airlift Ethiopian Jews. She served in the IDF as a paratrooper before moving to the United States with her husband and becoming a U.S. citizen. A mother of seven, Pilip was first elected to the



Mazi Melesa Pilip

Nassau County legislature in 2021.

The New York 3rd district special election holds national significance, given how narrowly Republicans control the House. Following the expulsion of Santos, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) wields an eight-seat, fractious majority.

"Winning this battleground seat is critical to maintaining the GOP majority in the House of Representatives," Matt Brooks, CEO of the Republican Jewish Coalition, said in a statement. He endorsed Pilip, whom he called "a

remarkable candidate whose strength of character and firm principles are clear to anyone who looks at her life story and her work."

NY-03 was one of several Republican pickups in New York in the 2022 midterms, though Pilip will face a difficult challenger in the Democratic nominee, Tom Souzzi, who previously held the seat and has been a figure in Long Island politics for decades.

The special election will be held on February 13.

# Argentina's President-Elect, Javier Milei, Visits Lubavitcher Rabbi's Grave to Offer Thanks for his Surprise Victory

By Juan Melamed, JTA

For his first trip abroad since being elected president of Argentina in mid-November, Javier Milei picked an auspicious destination: the tomb of the Lubavitcher rebbe in Queens, New York.

The site is a frequent pilgrimage location for Jews and others who believe there is special spiritual significance to prayers made at the burial place of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the last leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

Milei is Catholic, but his admiration for and engagement with Judaism runs deep. He studies with a rabbi in Buenos Aires, has quoted Torah passages in rallies and walked out on stage for a campaign event to a recording of a shofar. He has said he wishes to convert to Judaism but does not see Shabbat observance as compatible with running his country.

He last visited the rabbi's grave, known as the Ohel, in July during his campaign.

"I am going to be thankful because when I last visited this place, I asked



Javier Milei, Argentina's President-Elect, visits the grave of the Lubavitcher Rabbi in Queens, New York, November 27, 2023.

for courage, wisdom and temperance: wisdom to separate good from bad, courage to choose good, temperance to maintain myself in the position I have," Milei told the TV news channel LaNacion.

"Also to accept the will of the Creator," he added. "The Creator put me in a place of maximum responsibility so I

am going to thank and try to be up to the task."

The trip to the grave was Milei's second Jewish event since the far-right "anarcho-capitalist" was elected in a runoff November 19. On Saturday night, he participated in a havdalah ceremony to mark the end of Shabbat in Once, a Jewish neighborhood of Buenos

Aires, where he received blessings from the Kabbalistic Rabbi David Hanania Pinto.

For his trip to New York, Milei traveled with a few members of his future cabinet, as well as Marc Stanley, the U.S. ambassador to Argentina, and Gerardo Werthein, an Argentinean Jewish businessman who is rumored to be in the running to become Argentina's ambassador in Washington, D.C.

Another Argentinean Jewish businessman accompanied him to the rabbi's grave. Eduardo Elsztein is chairman and chief executive of IRSA, Argentina's largest real estate company, which manages the largest shopping malls in Buenos Aires. Elsztein, who was a protege of the Jewish financier George Soros, has also supported Chabad social programs and Jewish youth-related projects in Argentina.

Milei's inauguration is December 10. He has said he wants his first international trip as president to be to Israel, where he has vowed to move Argentina's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

## 'Flip Your Diploma' Effort Responds to Failure to Curb Campus Antisemitism

By David Swindle, Jewish News Syndicate

Asaf Eyal, a graduate of Columbia University, has started a campaign to show his dissatisfaction with the administration's response to extreme antisemitism in the wake of the October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel.

In response to viral anti-Israel and anti-Jewish demonstrations at Columbia University in New York City, coupled with the lack of action by college presidents and other administrators, alumni have started an online effort to shame their alma maters' failed responses. That effort has now spread to other schools.

The "Flip Your Diploma" campaign calls on graduates who oppose their schools' inadequate responses to the rise in campus antisemitism to take a photo of themselves with their diploma turned upside-down.

The organizers of the effort urge others to "express your opprobrium of the institutional inversion of values and lack of moral clarity with a black-and-white photo showing our upside-down

diploma."

The campaign is sponsored by the Columbia Alumni Association and the SAFE Columbia chapter of SAFE CAMPUS.

A video about the campaign shows photos of those who have joined in, as well as video of protests on the Columbia campus featuring large crowds marching and chanting "intifada" and "from the river to the sea."

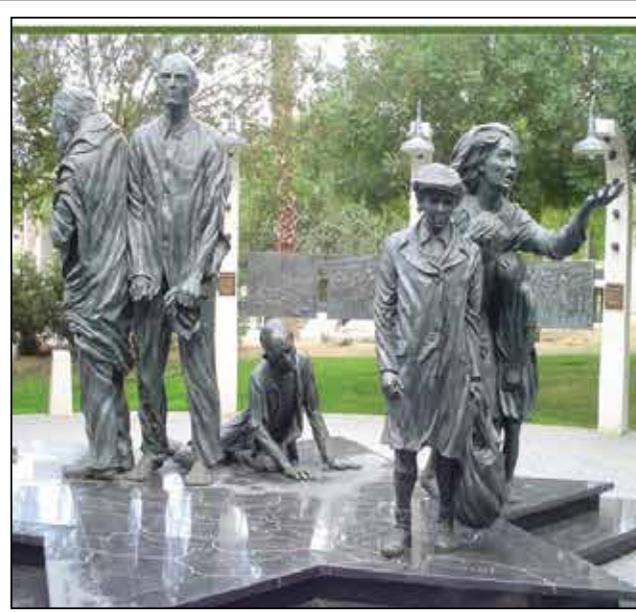
Victor Muslin, a promoter of the campaign, told JNS the campaign began with Asaf Eyal at Columbia, "but has been joined by alumni from more than a dozen major universities in the U.S. and at least one university abroad so far."

Muslin said to JNS that he was surprised how "alumni from different schools have picked up the campaign, even though it started as a purely Columbia initiative. Of course, now that it happened organically, we encourage it."

He said many people had told them privately that they wanted to participate

and agreed with the message, but "are afraid of retaliation." Muslin replied that it "surprised me because the campaign is so innocuous and non-confrontational. For me, this is a sad comment on the current illiberal cultural climate."

Participating schools include American University, Brandeis University, Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, Ohio State University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among others.



**DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL**

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

# Jewish TikTok Employees Open Up About Antisemitism from Colleagues

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

In early December current Jewish and Israeli employees of TikTok opened up about facing antisemitism at the Chinese-owned social media company following the Hamas terrorist attacks on October 7 in southern Israel and the ensuing war between the Jewish state and the terror organization controlling Gaza.

The employees, who opted to stay anonymous, detailed to Fox Business being targeted by coworkers of the video-sharing app with harassment and even calls to boycott companies and products related to Israel. They also said employees openly express antisemitic and anti-Israel sentiments on the company's internal chat system, Lark.

Screenshots obtained by Fox Business even show multiple TikTok employees celebrating the October 7 Hamas massacre and promoting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. The screenshots also show that even after Jewish employees reported to their managers about feeling threatened, TikTok failed to address their concerns.

One employee said many Jews working at TikTok feel like the company "no longer has any control over the 40,000 moderators working to fact-check and remove content that is inflammatory, inciting, and simply incorrect." Another employee said, "The teams dealing with policy at TikTok have always been overwhelmingly staffed with

individuals who are openly hostile to Israel and whose opinions often blur the lines on antisemitism."

The same employee claimed that TikTok allows "the permissible posting of anything violent or gory relating to issues sympathetic to Palestinians. But when videos depicting evidence of atrocities against Jews are removed before the world can see them, we then feel that the world's most popular media platform is working against us as a people."

The Jewish employees who spoke to Fox Business all expressed similar sentiments that they have received insufficient support from senior management at TikTok in response to their concerns.

"Currently, the atmosphere for Jewish employees at TikTok is very difficult," said a Jewish employee based in the US. "We feel we were not provided with the relevant support that was afforded to our peers working in other tech companies at the outset of the conflict. We feel that we had to fight for recognition that something horrible had happened to us and fight for recognition of our very difficult feelings of insecurity."

The same employee said Jews working for the company feel they "should keep his or her head down far more than any other minority in terms of expressing themselves culturally or politically." In addition, the employee added, "many of us who expressed this to our [human resources] HR representatives were simply shrugged off."

A TikTok spokesperson denied the claims made by the employees, saying they "do not reflect the experience of the majority of our employees."

"TikTok has strong policies against discrimination and harassment in the workplace, and employees are encouraged to report their concerns – anonymously if they so choose," the spokesperson said to Fox Business. "Every incident is investigated by the appropriate internal team."

"Hateful ideologies, including antisemitism, are not and have never been allowed on our platform," the spokesperson added. "From Oct. 7 to Nov. 17, we have removed more than 1.1 million videos in the conflict region for breaking our rules, including content promoting Hamas, hate speech, terrorism, and misinformation. Community guidelines are applied equally to all content, and our recommendation algorithm does not 'promote' one side of an issue over another."

In November, a group of more than 50 Jewish TikTok social media influencers, content creators, and celebrities blasted TikTok in an open letter for not doing more to counteract antisemitism and online hatred on the platform. Many of them — including Sacha Baron Cohen, Debra Messing, and Amy Schumer — then participated in a private video call with TikTok executives and accused the video-sharing app of "creating the biggest antisemitic movement since the Nazis."

"There are Jews [working within TikTok and outside] who are trying to fight this antisemitism," said one of the employees who spoke to Fox Business. "But there are two problems. One is that people are afraid of losing jobs and are therefore not speaking out enough. The other problem is that those at the top do not really care about fighting this and are making no real effort to change it."

## Getting to know you...Alison Hyman

alison hyman earth - sea - sky



I hope many of you have had the opportunity to listen to the podcast that Jeff Hocker and I host called Getting to know you? It is a podcast that brings people into the Federation for me to meet and discuss the community. Please check it out.

I continue to enjoy meeting people here in the greater Coachella Valley. Recently I had the chance to meet Alison Hyman. I noticed a beautiful postcard invitation and I asked her if she was an artist. She informed me of an art opening she was having at the Orange County JCC. I had

heard about her work from other people but I had not met her before. If the exhibit is anything like the invitation it is a must see exhibit.

Her exhibit is up through January 30, 2024 at the Slutzky Gallery, Merage JCC Orange County."Earth-Sea-Sky features new paintings, by the Scottish-born Coachella Valley based artist. These works include physical traces of Israel and the California desert, uniting both locales in harmonious color."

-Alan Potash

# Rabbi Kreiman Hanukkah Lights Up Everywhere

By Alan Potash, CEO

He won't like me doing this, but I have to say I am in awe of the joy and light Rabbi Yankel Kreiman and Bikkur Cholim spreads throughout the year. During Hanukkah he seems to fire up his spiritual jet pack and maneuvers in ways most people have no idea how he is able to do this.

Last year I had the opportunity to watch him in action as he made sure almost everyone in the Coachella Valley had a latke, some chocolate gelt, a menorah, and even a gift.

This year I couldn't keep up with him—unlike Rabbi's, my jet pack was electric and needed to be charged up to keep up with him. I did make it to the 6th candle at the Palm Springs City Hall where a packed room was eager to join the Rabbi in celebrating Hanukkah. Not sure how many of the people just wanted a break in the day or knew the joy of Hanukah from previous years. I will say I was very surprised when he started singing songs most of the people in the room knew the words to Oh Hanukkah.



# Egypt, US Shoot Down Houthi Drones Aimed at Israel

US destroyer downed 14 drones launched by Yemen's Houthis in the Red Sea

The Jerusalem Post

A spokesman for Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthis said the group had attacked the Israeli Red Sea resort city of Eilat on December 16 with a swarm of drones.

Egyptian air defense shot down a suspected drone off the Red Sea coast near the resort town of Dahab on Egypt's eastern Sinai coast, two security sources said.

The security sources said the drone's origin was unknown.

Witnesses in Dahab said they saw an object fall into the water. They said they saw another flying object fall in the nearby mountains.

In late October, drones caused explosions that rocked two other Red Sea towns, which Israel said Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi movement sent them to strike its territory.

A US guided-missile destroyer also shot down 14 drones launched by Yemen's Houthis in the Red Sea,

the US Central Command said in a statement.

"In the early morning hours of December 16 (Sanna time) the US Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS CARNEY (DDG 64), operating in the Red Sea, successfully engaged 14 unmanned aerial systems launched as a drone wave from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen," read the statement. "The UAS were assessed to be one-way

attack drones and were shot down with no damage to ships in the area or reported injuries. Regional Red Sea partners were alerted to the threat."

## Houthis threats against international shipping

Earlier in the day, the US military said attacks from Houthi-controlled Yemen struck two Liberian-flagged ships in the Bab al-Mandab Strait,

underlining the threat to vessels in shipping lanes being targeted by the Iran-aligned group.

Part of the Iran-aligned "Axis of Resistance", the Houthis have been attacking vessels in Red Sea shipping lanes and firing drones and missiles at Israel.

The Houthis, who rule much of Yemen, have said they will continue their attacks until Israel stops its offensive in the Gaza Strip.

A poster for the Temple Isaiah ~ Jewish Community Center ELEVENTH ANNUAL PALM SPRINGS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL. The poster features a film reel graphic and the text "Save the dates! March 10-13, 2024". At the bottom, it says "Website online shortly: www.PalmSpringsJewishFilmFestival.org".

An advertisement for Marilyn Hazan Designs and Armando Rosales VIP Stone. It includes a photo of Marilyn Hazan, the company name, and contact information. The text reads: "Marilyn Hazan Designs and Armando Rosales VIP Stone. Extraordinary Service. Extraordinary Results. Interior Design, Remodeling, Custom Furnishings. Website: www.MarilynHazanDesigns.com, Email: Info@MarilynHazanDesigns.com. 68845 Perez Road, Ste. H-2, Cathedral City, CA 92234, LIC # 872751. Marilyn Cell: 310.770.7144, Marilyn Tel: 760.674.0252, Armando Cell: 760.238.7045".

# Academic Group Denounces National Women's Studies Association for Silence

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

A group of feminists and scholars at US universities has issued a searing open letter censuring the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) for not condemning the rapes and other sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas terrorists during their deadly rampage across southern Israel on October 7.

The Section for Women Faculty of the Academic Engagement Network (AEN), a nonprofit that advocates academic freedom and open exchange in higher education, noted in its letter that since the Palestinian terror group's onslaught, the NWSA has issued two statements attacking Israel's military response, neither of which mentioned Hamas' female victims or the 240 people abducted as hostages to Gaza. Beyond the kidnappings, Hamas terrorists murdered 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and injured thousands more.

NWSA's silence, AEN argued, is a seismic moral failure. "We are outraged by the NWSA's abandonment of women and girls who have experienced horrible atrocities and by its utter refusal to acknowledge the plight of Israeli women and girls in either its recent programming or public statements," said the letter, which was shared with *The Algemeiner*. "The two statements that the NWSA released on October 11 and October 31 condemn Israel's military response to the Hamas

massacre yet fail to denounce the brutality of Hamas terrorists, who were given orders to rape."

It added that in refusing to condemn Hamas, NWSA alienated Jewish academics and students of women's studies — a problem, the group explained, that goes back to 2015, when NWSA endorsed the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. The BDS movement seeks to isolate Israel from the international community as a step toward the Jewish state's eventual elimination.

"We are deeply concerned that on account of this indefensible position, Jewish scholars and students are now thoroughly ostracized from the association, and by extension, from the discipline of Gender Studies," the letter continued. "Jewish feminist engagement in the NWSA has been in decline for a number of years. The organization's professional standing has truly been diminished by its antisemitism."

Beyond the NWSA, women's groups and sexual assault centers on university campuses and even within the United Nations have been noticeably silent on well documented cases of Hamas terrorists raping Israeli girls and women, as well as other acts of sexual violence, during their Oct. 7 onslaught.

On December 15, AEN executive director Miriam Elman stressed during a

conversation with *The Algemeiner* that recognizing the traumas Israeli women endured does not exclude advocating for Palestinian women whom Hamas denies basic economic and political freedoms through its enforcement of Sharia law.

"You can show empathy for Palestinian women and girls — and please do — because they are oppressed through subjugation and honor killings," Elman said. "Many in the section also want to say that they recognize that Palestinian women and girls are impacted by the war. You can do that and also recognize that Hamas systematically used rape as a weapon of war, condemn that, and call for the release of women and girls who are still hostages in Gaza."

She added, "There are still young women in their 20s and early 30s still being held hostage. G-d knows what has happened to them since being taken into captivity. NWSA has released two statements that did not say one word about these atrocities."

Feminist author Phyllis Chesler, a professor emerita of psychology and member of AEN's Section for Women Faculty—called NWSA's spurning of Jewish women "craven," adding that "women's studies has been more concerned with the alleged occupation of a country that never existed — Palestine — than with the real

occupation of women's bodies in Gaza and throughout the Arab world."

Founded in 1977 with help from a grant awarded by the Ford Foundation, the National Women's Studies Association is a professional academic society that claims to have over 300 members and institutional partnership with over 350 university academic departments. In recent years, its public statements have rarely addressed rising antisemitism in the US and across the world, doing so only after neo-Nazis marched through Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017. The group has, however, issued statements in support of Asian Americans, African Americans, and Palestinians.

"Palestinian solidarity is a feminist issue," NWSA said during Israel's 2021 war with Hamas while alleging that Israel has "perpetrated" sex crimes against Palestinian women.

Anti-Israel bias in professional academic societies has increased in recent years. Within a year, both the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) and the American Anthropological Association (APA) endorsed the BDS movement, drawing criticism from scholars who condemned the decisions for being "shameful" and "profoundly destructive."

The problem also exists in prestigious post-graduate academic programs, Elman told *The Algemeiner*. She noted that over 100 scholars organized by her group recently issued a second letter denouncing the Fulbright Program, as well as the Fulbright Association, for not issuing any statements denouncing Hamas' atrocities on October 7, despite Hamas abducting one of its alumni, Israeli academic Shoshan Haran, and murdering her husband, sister, and brother-in-law.

The document also denounced a separate letter signed by nearly 1,000 Millennial and Generation-Z Fulbright Scholars, all but one of whom participated in the program during the 21st century, that accused Israel of committing genocide and did not reference the Hamas atrocities.

"Haran was an accomplished alumnus of Fulbright, and you can't say anything about her, you can't speak out, you can't say one sentence calling for her release? Their selectivity of empathy is unconscionable," Elman said. Commenting on the tendency of young scholars to be virulently anti-Israel and to promote falsehoods about the Jewish state, she added, "It's very concerning that all these young scholars are so morally confused."

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE *Third* ANNUAL  
CHABAD GOLF CLASSIC  
BENEFITTING CKIDS AND CTEEN PROGRAMS

SUNDAY 01.07.2024

at *Desert Willow* in *Palm Springs*  
Golf Resort  
38-995 Desert Willow Drive,  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

**RESERVE Now**

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

11:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
SHOTGUN START  
TEAM SCRAMBLE

CONTESTS • PRIZES  
RAFFLES • LUNCH

4:30 PM COCKTAILS, FINE SCOTCH  
FINE CIGARS, SUSHI  
APPETIZERS & MUSIC

5:15 PM HELICOPTER BALL DROP  
BUY A BALL, SPLIT THE POT

6:00 PM AWARD CEREMONY  
& SUMPTUOUS GALA DINNER

TITLE SPONSOR  
THE KOCEN  
FINANCIAL GROUP  
A Regional Financial Advisor

Chabad: Ensuring a strong, proud Jewish future. Here, Israel, Everywhere

# Pew Poll: 50% of Democrats Blame Israel for War in Gaza

Goldberg/Flash90)

By Jewish News Syndicate

More than twice as many Democrats (50%) as Republicans (21%) say that the Israeli government bears "a lot" of responsibility for the war against the Hamas terror organization in the Gaza Strip.

That's according to a new poll that the Pew Research Center conducted of 5,203 adults between Nov. 27 and Dec. 3.

Many more respondents said Hamas is to blame "a lot" (65%) and "a little" (9%) for the war than said the Israeli government is to blame "a lot" (35%) and "a little" (24%). Smaller numbers said the Palestinian people are to blame "a lot" (20%) and "a little" (29%), and that the Israeli people are responsible "a lot" (13%) and "a little" (28%).

It wasn't clear to what extent respondents took the question—"How much responsibility do each of the following have for Israel and Hamas currently being at war?"—to mean morally culpable or otherwise responsible.

Most Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (73%) and Democrats and those who lean Democrat (62%) said Hamas bears a lot of responsibility, per the survey. Nearly half (46%) of those ages 18 to 29 said that Hamas is very responsible for the war.

Pew also asked respondents about Jew-hatred stateside. Nearly half (49%) of those who are or lean Democrat and nearly the same number (48%) of those who are or lean Republican are extremely concerned about increasing violence against U.S. Jews. Half of those who are or lean Democrat are extremely concerned about the war going on for a very long time, compared to 39% of those who are or lean Republican.

Nearly the same number of Democrats and Democrat-leaning Independents (45%) and Republicans and Republican-leaning (41%) worried greatly that the war would expand in the region. The gap was much wider for extreme concern about the war leading to terror attacks in the United States (48% from those on the right, 36% on the left) and to violence against Muslims stateside (53% on the left, 22% on the right).

Some 53% of Republicans are at least somewhat concerned about anti-Muslim violence potentially rising in the United States, while 46% weren't too concerned or concerned at all at that prospect. Just 15% of Democrats weren't concerned too much or at all.

More than four in 10 (41%) of respondents disapprove of the Biden administration's response to the Israeli-Hamas war, with 21% strongly disapproving. Some 35% approve, with



9% strongly approving. Nearly a quarter (24%) wasn't sure.

U.S. President Joe Biden's approval numbers varied among different groups. Most (51%) of those who are or lean Republican disapprove, with 27% disapproving strongly, compared to 33% of those who are or lean Democrat who disapprove, with 15% doing so strongly.

A little more than a quarter (28%) of those who are or lean Republican approve of how Biden is responding to the war, while 44% of those who are or lean Democrat approve, with 14% approving

strongly.

Age was also a factor. Seniors 65 and up approved at a rate of 50% (15% strongly) compared to 37% disapproval (17% strongly so). Those ages 18 to 29 largely disapproved (46%, 26% strongly so) compared to 19% who approved (5% strongly so), and 30- to 49-year-olds also disapproved (43%, 21% strongly) compared to approved (30%, 6% strongly).

A quarter of respondents think that Biden is striking the right balance in dealing with Israelis and Palestinians, while 21% think he favors Israelis too much, and 16%

think he favors Palestinians too much. Some 38% weren't sure.

While 25% of respondents said Israel has the right approach in its military campaign in Gaza, 27% think it's going too far and 16% not far enough. Democrats and Democrat leaners (45%) were much likelier than Republicans and Republican leaners (12%) to reply "going too far."

A quarter of those who are or lean Republican think Israel isn't going far enough, while just eight percent of those who are or lean Democrat think that. Nearly one in five (18%) of those who are or lean Democrat think Israel has the right approach, compared to 34% of those who are or lean Republican.

More than half (52%) overall said a peaceful, two-state solution is possible, with those who are or lean Democrat (62%) considerably more likely to say that than are those who are or lean Republican (43%).

About a quarter overall (26%) said it is watching the war "very" or "extremely" closely.

**A BLAST  
From the  
PAST**

**March 13 or 14, 2024**  
(Date choice based on availability)

**At PS Underground**

**Honoring Aviva and Ron Snow  
with the JFS Humanitarian Award**

Join us at  
**A Blast from the Past,**  
an enthusiastic dance  
variety extravaganza.

PS Underground will perform your favorite tunes from the early days of rock and roll on black and white TV and travel the decades into full Technicolor. Put on your dancing shoes and relive the sounds of the midcentury and beyond!



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

Call JFS at (760) 325-5099  
or email [cscarlett@jfsdesert.org](mailto:cscarlett@jfsdesert.org) or  
visit [jfsdesert.org/become-a-patron](http://jfsdesert.org/become-a-patron)

# Oakland, California Coffee Shop Apologizes for Anti-Israel Employees Blocking Jewish Woman from Bathroom with Antisemitic Graffiti

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

Farley's Coffee in Oakland, California, issued an apology on December 7 after three staffers at the family-owned

coffee shop blocked a Jewish woman from using the store's restroom, which will filled with antisemitic graffiti, and

made anti-Israel comments.

The Jewish woman recorded a video, later shared on social media, that

showed employees at Farley's Coffee standing in front of the door to the bathroom and asking her to leave the shop. The employees did not want the woman to go inside the bathroom and record antisemitic graffiti that said "Zionism=Fascism," and also accused her of "misgendering" an employee.

In a statement posted on Instagram, Farley's Coffee insisted "we're not antisemitic," and said it is "committed to ongoing staff training" after the incident.

"We do not support hate speech; this does not reflect our values," the coffee shop said. "After a customer used the bathroom and wished to return to document the graffiti, they were initially denied access and then allowed to re-enter to document the graffiti. The staff handled the situation poorly, and we apologize for this error and the distress caused to the customer."

The video recorded by the Jewish woman showed her repeatedly telling the three coffee shop staff members she wanted to use the restroom. One employee, seen wearing a yellow beanie and a face mask, told her: "This is a private property. I do need you to leave."

Another employee — wearing glasses, a black shirt, and a black apron — chimed in and said: "We've given you all your food. You've eaten, you're holding up s—t. I know Israel loves taking private property and saying it's their own, but we gotta head ..."

A third employee, who had dyed blue hair and was wearing a red face mask, remained silent during the ordeal but stood in front of the restroom's closed door.



Sun City Jewish Services  
Proudly Presents  
Direct from Park Avenue Synagogue N.Y.C.



An Encore Performance by  
**AZI SCHWARTZ**

World Renowned Cantor, Recording Artist, and Entertainer  
Featuring:

Cantor Lisa Piccott \* Rabbi | Cantor Alison Wissot \* Cantor Jaquie Rafii  
Dr. Tali Tadmor, Music Director

**Wednesday January 10, 2024 at 7 PM**

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church  
47635 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260

VIP Seating  
\$125.00

Preferred Seating (Includes "Meet & Greet")

General Admission  
\$54.00

Open Seating

TICKETS ON SALE 10/1/23:

<https://bit.ly/aziconcert2023>

For more information call: 760-459-5125

[AziSchwartzPalmDesert@gmail.com](mailto:AziSchwartzPalmDesert@gmail.com)

FREE bus transportation from Sun City Palm Desert with advance reservation

**Tear Off To Pay By Check**

Make checks payable to Sun City Jewish Services and mail to:  
38180 Del Web Blvd., PMB #244, Palm Desert, CA 92211

**Indicate Azi Schwartz Concert**

Bus

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

#VIP Tickets @ \$125.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_ # General Admission Tickets @ \$54.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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

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

**Call 323-0255**

# StandWithUs Holds Third Rally in Desert

By Marcia Stein, Chair of the Coachella Valley Chapter and Paula Kelin, Vice-chair

StandWithUs Coachella Valley held its third rally for Israel on December 10 at Destiny Church with Pastor Nate Conant and members of their congregation. The keynote speaker was Mayor of Indio Lupe Ramos Amith. Israeli singer Sapir Tzemah sang the National Anthems of both the U.S. and Israel, along with some other Israeli songs, and also spoke movingly about her sister, who survived the October 7th massacre at the Nova music festival. It was supported by the Jewish Federation of the Desert and the Israeli American Council.



nonpartisan organization that supports Israel and combats antisemitism. The Coachella Valley chapter is chaired by Marcia Stein and co-vice chaired by Paula Klein and Marilyn Feldman together with noted Israeli artist Dorit Etziony. They are aided by a dedicated Board who work hard to support Israel during this critical time and especially, to bring ALL the hostages home.

Previous demonstrations were held in Palm Desert, which featured a message from Rabbi Steven Rosenberg of Temple Isaiah, speaking as a national board member of Rabbis United, an advisory council of StandWithUs, and a speech by Mayor Kathleen Kelly. Many of our elected officials, both State and Federal attended.

Mayor Steve Downs was the keynote speaker at the Rancho Mirage event held in front of the Jewish Federation building on Hwy. 111. The Jewish Federation of the Desert also supported both rallies.



Hundreds attended, holding signs supporting Israel and calling for the release of the 137 hostages captured by Hamas and still in captivity in Gaza. Many people

honked their horns as they drove by and gave "thumbs up" in support of Israel and at the attendees who brandished Israeli and American flags.

**WE STAND WITH ISRAEL** | JOIN US IN SOLIDARITY FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND-USA INVITES YOU TO OUR

## STAND WITH ISRAEL LUNCHEON

**Preserving the Past, Ensuring the Present & Securing Our Future**

---

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024**  
11:30 am – 1:30 pm • Rancho Mirage, CA



**FEATURING**  
**Ambassador Michael Oren**  
*Statesman, Historian, Soldier, Author*

**NO COST TO ATTEND    DIETARY LAWS OBSERVED**

**MORE INFORMATION**  
rsvppalmsprings@jnf.org • 760.864.6208 x952

**RSVP required by February 12, 2024 at**  
[jnf.org/PSLegacy](https://jnf.org/PSLegacy)



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND USA  
*Yom Yehi in Israel*



# Tribute Card Donations

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

## Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Nancy Altshule**, Thank you for a wonderful evening, from Barbara Federman, Pat Hubbard\*, Phyllis Schahet\* and Sheila Sloan.\*
- **Erin Beber**, In honor of Chanukah, from Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kaufman.\*
- **Mr. and Mrs. Michael Beber and Family**, In honor of Chanukah, from Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kaufman.\*
- **Leslie Behr**, In honor of Chanukah, from Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kaufman.\*
- **Robin and Bob Berman**, Thank you for including me as part of your family, from Trudy Schwartz.\*
- **Mr. and Mrs. Dan Block**, Thinking of you this holiday season. Wishing good health and praying for peace in the world, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.\*
- **Mr. and Mrs. Ted Brosnick**, Thinking of you this holiday season. Wishing good health and praying for peace in the world, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.\*
- **David Conney**, Wishing you a very happy birthday, from Joanne and Bill Chunowitz.\*
- **Carol Fragen**, In honor of you, from Sandy Schwartz.\*
- **Jillian Friedman**, In honor of our daughter Jillian's successful surgery, from Robert and Carol Friedman.\*
- **Phil Glass**, Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, from Sandra Borns, Howard and Alison Hyman, Alan Goldstein and Mary Levine.\*
- **Cass Graff-Radford**, In honor of your birthday, from Barbara Federman\* and Jim Levitas\*, and Mary Jo Pomerantz.
- **Cass Graff-Radford**, A donation has been made to the Israel Emergency Campaign from Robin Berman and all your friends.\*

- **Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hirsch**, Thinking of you this holiday season. Wishing good health and praying for peace in the world, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.\*
- **Bobbi Holland**, Thank you for a wonderful evening, from Barbara Federman, Pat Hubbard\*, Phyllis Schahet\* and Sheila Sloan.\*
- **Barry Kaiman**, Happy 74th birthday from Alan and Carol Parsow.
- **Edward Kaufman**, In honor of Chanukah, from Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kaufman.\*
- **Kurt Kaufman and Colleen James**, In honor of Chanukah, from Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kaufman.\*
- **Moshe Kaufman**, In honor of Chanukah, from Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kaufman.\*
- **Rabbi Yankel Kreiman**, Happy birthday from Toni Victor and Barry Kaiman.
- **Mary Levine**, Happy birthday, from Sandra Borns.
- **Reva Levy**, Best wishes for a wonderful birthday, from Cora Ginsberg, Nora Kaufman\* and Loreen Jacobson.\*\*
- **Diane Lubich**, Thinking of you this holiday season. Wishing good health and praying for peace in the world, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.\*
- **Jeffrey Peppercorn**, Happy birthday from Barbara Federman and Jim Levitas.\*
- **Susan Solomon**, Happy birthday from Renee Mayer.\*
- **Marcia Stein**, Happy birthday, from Sandra Borns and Barbara Platt\*
- **Lynda Zions**, Thinking of you with love, from Loreen Jacobson.\*\*

## Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Sherry Schor**, Best wishes for a wonderful recovery, from Cora Ginsberg.\*

## Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **David Borsting**, In memory of your beloved father, Herbert Borsting, from Ana Landau.\*
- In memory of our parents, **Joyce and Henry Freund**, from their children: Marilyn, Dan and Nancy.
- **Dobie and Richard Hunegs**, In memory of your brother, Wayne Applebaum, from Lois Giffis Johnson.
- **Helen Lewis and Family**, in memory of Jim Lewis, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Jerry and Eunice Meister**, In memory of your beloved niece, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa.
- **Michael Scoby and Family**, In memory of your beloved wife Gloria, from Suzanne and Jeffrey Feder, Raymond and Jeannette Galante, Cora Ginsberg, Muriel and Ron Goldberg, Margot and Jerry Halperin\*, Jim Levitas and Barbara Federman\*, Paul and Terry Lubar, Susan Rosser\*, Leslie and Barry Usow.
- **Leslee Shapiro**, In memory of your husband Merton, from Lois Johnson.
- **Tom Weil and Family**, in memory of your beloved wife, Lainie, from Susie and Bob Diamond, Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Cora Ginsberg, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Jim Levitas and Barbara Federman\*, Paul and Terry Lubar, Renee Mayer\*, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Harold and Mimi Paley, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Atma and Joy Wiseman**, In memory of your beloved father, Irving Wiseman, from Dan Weisberg and David Klingenberg.

\* Donation made to Israel Emergency Fund

\*\* Donation made to victims of terror.

*Happy New Year*

# MIT President Called Out For 'Failure to Control Antisemitism' In Letter from Alumni

Hundreds of MIT alumni, particularly 700 Jewish alumni and allies, have criticized the school's administration for supporting President Sally Kornbluth after her controversial congressional testimony.

They argue that her failure to address antisemitism has damaged MIT's reputation and urge concrete actions, including consequences for rule violations, the establishment of an antisemitism-specific task force, and a public announcement regarding expulsion for advocating violence against civilians.

The alumni seek assurance that calls for genocide against Jewish students will be considered harassment and met with disciplinary action.

The letter pointed to President Sally Kornbluth's testimony in Washington, where she "implied that calls for genocide of Jews may not constitute bullying and harassment under MIT's code of conduct, depending on context."

"Exactly what kind of message was the MIT Corporation trying to send to the MIT community, and especially its Jewish members, with such a statement so at odds with the overwhelming majority of the public?" the letter presses.

"President Kornbluth's failure to control antisemitism on MIT's campus has distracted MIT's students and administration from MIT's core mission," the alumni wrote.

"We are alarmed to observe MIT earning a national reputation for antisemitism

on President Kornbluth's watch, rather than for academic excellence, and joining a group of ignominious universities currently struggling with antisemitism on their campuses."

"MIT's public reputation affects its ability to attract the best students, faculty candidates, and corporate research partners for its scientific work."

"Even in view of the disastrous congressional testimony by President Kornbluth, the executive board of the MIT Corporation chose to extend its full support to the President."

"Notably, President Kornbluth was the only University president that did not issue any apology or clarification in response to the intense backlash to her Congressional testimony," they wrote.

"We defy the MIT Corporation to find any other point of common agreement amongst these diverse public figures, or indeed any prominent public figure who found President Kornbluth's testimony from December 5, 2023 to be acceptable," they added.

The alumni pushed for the school to "enforce meaningful consequences for the individuals who violate MIT's rules, create an antisemitism-specific task force on campus, and publicly announce that calls for violence against civilians is grounds for expulsion and amend the MIT Code of Conduct to include this if necessary."

"We look forward to hearing about concrete actions that the MIT administration is taking to right this flailing

ship and create a protected, supported, and safe environment for the entire MIT community without exception, and to reassure Jewish students that calls for their

genocide are considered harassment at MIT and will be met with swift and meaningful disciplinary action," they added.

## Jerusalem Restaurants Chip in for War Effort

By Debbie Lampert, *The Jerusalem Post*

The Torah tells the story of how Abraham's servant Eliezer chose Rivka to be Isaac's wife, thus making her the matriarchal ancestor of the Jewish people. It was her act of kindness at a well that won him over. As if we did not know it, these past few weeks confirm that the Children of Israel have inherited Rivka's quality of kindness.

Taken by surprise on October 7, the country was unprepared for the thousands of homeless refugees from the Western Negev, and the hundreds of thousands of soldiers in the fighting force. Before the authorities could organize themselves to provide for the overwhelming numbers, restaurants all over Israel stepped up to do what they

do best: provide food.

These restaurants did not ask how they were going to do it and how they would pay for it. By the day after the attack, many restaurants had already transformed themselves from serving food at tables to providing packaged meals to soldiers and survivors. Suppliers donated raw ingredients, the kitchen staff cooked the meals, and an army of volunteers came to pack, load, and deliver the meals to soldiers and displaced citizens. This was Israel at its best.

The writer is founder and CEO of *eLuna.com*, an English-language website for kosher restaurants in Israel.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

**Tickets on sale now!**

Subscriptions available from \$730 to \$485, plus annual donation

Programs and artists subject to change



### LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, 5 pm

Zubin Mehta, Conductor

Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 | Beethoven: Symphony No. 3

Sponsored by Barbara Fremont



### ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, 7:30 pm

Vasily Petrenko, Music Director

Isata Kanneh-Mason, Piano

Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 3 | Rachmaninoff: Symphony No. 2

Sponsored by Jane & Larry Sherman, Roberta Holland



### PACIFIC SYMPHONY

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, 7:30 pm

Carl St. Clair, Music Director

Olga Kern, Piano

Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 3 | Brahms: Symphony No. 1

Sponsored by Norman Forrester & William Griffin



### SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, 5 pm

Rafael Payare, Music Director | Pacho Flores, Trumpet

Ortiz: *Altar de bronce*, Concerto for Trumpet

Ravel: *Le Tombeau de Couperin*

Sponsored by Helene Galen & Jamie Kabler, The Neviny Family, Gail Richards



### ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2024, 7:30 pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, Music Director

Haochen Zhang, Piano

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5 | Dvořák: Symphony No. 9

Sponsored by Phyllis & Gary Schahet ("in memoriam")



### SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Thursday, Mar. 21, 2024, 7:30 pm

Esa-Pekka Salonen, Music Director

Lisa Batiashvili, Violin

Sibelius: Violin Concerto | Sibelius: Symphony No. 1

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



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

[www.PSPPhil.org](http://www.PSPPhil.org)

760-341-1013



# Shabbat Schedule - January 2024

## **BETH SHALOM, Palm Desert**

(Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)  
Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader  
42600 Cook Street, Second Floor, Palm Desert, CA 92211. 760-200-3636.  
IN-PERSON Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am, followed by light Kiddush lunch.  
Visitors welcome with valid identification. For information, email [info@congregationbethshalom.net](mailto:info@congregationbethshalom.net) or call 760-200-3636. [www.CongregationBethShalom.net](http://www.CongregationBethShalom.net)

## **CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES**

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim  
250 East Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264 [www.chabadpalm Springs.com](http://www.chabadpalm Springs.com) 760-325-0774. Check website or call to confirm times of Shabbat and holiday services.

## **CHABAD OF PALM DESERT**

Rabbi Mendy Friedman  
Call for information: 760-651-2424.  
[www.chabadpd.com](http://www.chabadpd.com) 760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

## **CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE**

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

## **CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT**

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.

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

## **CHABAD OF LA QUINTA**

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

## **CONGREGATION HAR-EL, a**

Contemporary Reform Congregation (Member, Union for Reform Judaism), offering year-round services, Torah study, youth and adult classes and events. Membership open for residents and non-residents.  
Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D.; Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus.  
[harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com) 760-779-1691.

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

## **DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE, Rancho Mirage**

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

982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270.  
Shabbat services held on the second Fridays at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage. On second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi Axelrad. Beit Sefer Religious School begins again on October 8<sup>th</sup> and is held Saturday mornings (from 9:45 AM to noon. B'nei Mitzvah classes for Children with Arava Talve. "Talkin' Torah": See listing on Community Calendar. Check website for most current information: [www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com](http://www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com) or [www.my-dos.org](http://www.my-dos.org)

## **OR HAMIDBAR**

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

## **SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES, Palm Desert**

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott. In person services in Speaker's Hall in the Sunset View Clubhouse (second clubhouse) in Sun City Palm Desert the first and third Fridays at 7:15 pm. Information: Nadine Brinhendler, 707-332-3947.

## **TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild**

[www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org](http://www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org)  
Email: [templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com](mailto:templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com).  
Shabbat Candle Lighting on Fridays at 6:00 pm on Zoom. 1st Friday with Rabbi Malka Drucker; 2nd Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat; 3rd Friday with Kerry Abram; 4th Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat. Shabbat Book Study with Rabbi Malka Drucker on Zoom Saturdays 4:00-5:00 pm. Check our website for current info including Torah Study with Rabbi Ilana one Saturday morning per month. For more information and for Zoom link call 951-468-0004.

## **TEMPLE ISAIAH, Palm Springs**

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. ([rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com)). Cantorial Soloist Dr. Sarah Sela join Rabbi on the bima most weeks.  
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. Email: [temple@templeisiahps.com](mailto:temple@templeisiahps.com); [www.templeisiahps.com](http://www.templeisiahps.com).  
Shabbat services Friday evenings at 7:30 pm, preceded by Wine and Cheese 'Happy Hour' from 7:00-7:30 pm and Oneg following. Saturday morning torah study, "Nosh and Drash," begins at 10:30 am. All services also streamed online. To access any activity, go to Temple Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program.  
**Dor Hadash** (New Generation) **Religious School** for children 8 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah held Shabbat afternoons at 1:00 pm online with Rabbi Rosenberg.

## **TEMPLE SINAI, Palm Desert**

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)  
Rabbi David Novak  
[rabbi@templesinai.org](mailto:rabbi@templesinai.org)  
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260. [www.templesinaipd.org](http://www.templesinaipd.org) 760-568-9699.  
Go to [templesinaipd.org](http://templesinaipd.org) for access information. Shabbat services are in-person and online on Livestream at [www.templesinaipd.org](http://www.templesinaipd.org). Friday evening services 5:30 pm, preceded by pre-service Oneg at 5:00 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am.  
**Temple Sinai's Avi Levine Religious School** 9:30 - 12:00 AM on designated Sundays throughout the school year. Contact Talia Lizemer-Hawley, Community Educator, for more information, [educator@templesinaipd.org](mailto:educator@templesinaipd.org)

## **BIKUR CHOLIM**

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



# Community Calendar of Programs - January 2024

## **Mondays:**

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

## **Tuesdays:**

**4:00 pm** Temple Sinai weekly class on ZOOM, "Torah in Translation" where participants join **Rabbi David Novak** in reading the Torah in various English translations. Contact *rabbi* for ZOOM information.

**5:00-6:45 pm** Chabad Rancho Mirage's popular weekly **BBQ** is back for the season. Check their website (www.chabardm.com) for convenient reservations/order form.

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

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

## **Wednesdays:**

**11:00 am** Or Hamidbar: **Rabbi David Lazar** "Covenant and Conquest: The Book of Joshua" on Zoom. Link: visit orhamidbar.org.

**7:00 pm** Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: 'Ask the Rabbi': A Weekly Open Q & A with **Rabbi Yonason Denebeim**.

**7:00 pm** Chabad of Rancho Mirage Tanya Class led by **Rabbi Shimon Posner**. For men and women. Hosted each week in Rancho Mirage and also available on Zoom.

**8:00 pm** – Temple Isaiah "Judaism 2.0 with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Online course on ZOOM: Judaism 2.0: "Jewish Observance in a Contemporary World." To participate, email Rabbi at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

## **Thursdays:**

**11:00 am** Or Hamidbar: **Rabbi David Lazar** "Actively Engaging: Jews and Christians Reading Together Isaiah 40-55 on Zoom. Link: visit orhamidbar.org.  
**11:45 am** Temple Sinai: **Rabbi David Novak** hosts a weekly "Lunch 'n' Learn" in Temple Sinai's Goodman Chapel.

## **Saturdays:**

**1:30 pm** Temple Isaiah "Jewish University" features adult education classes as well as religious school learning opportunities and Bnai Mitzvah preparation for the Temple's growing group of young people. Check website for programs: www.templeisaiahps.com.

## **YOUTH AND TEENS:**

Chabad of Rancho Mirage offers programs for children 3 through High School. Ckids Club for children 3-13 offers monthly programs. CTeen is for teens in high school who meet weekly for events, discussion and participation in humanitarian projects. For more information on kids' club events, or to register, visit us on the web www.chabardm.com/ckids.

## **Wednesday, January 3**

**3:30 pm** Har-El "Books and Bordeaux" Galen Course Book Review, sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation of the Desert and held in Federation meeting room. **Rabbi Dr. Hillel Cohn**, Rabbi Emeritus,

Congregation Emanu-El, Redlands, CA will review **Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism** by Rachel Maddow. No fee but reservations required by emailing Har-El at harelurjpd@gmail.com. See ad page 23.

## **Wednesday, January 3**

**6:30 pm** Temple Sinai's Second Bingo Night

## **Sunday, January 7**

**All day** Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Chabad Golf Classic** at Desert Willow Golf Resort. See ad page 12.

## **Wednesday, January 10**

**7:00 pm** Sun City Jewish Services presents **An Encore Performance by Cantor Azi Schwartz**, joined by Cantors Lisa Piccott, Alison Wissot, Jaquis Rafi, held at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Palm Desert. Tickets: \$54 and \$125. See ad page 14.

## **Thursday, January 11**

Sabra Hadassah of the Desert presents **Roz Roz Rothstein, CEO of StandWithUs** who will speak about the rise in Antisemitism on our college campuses and update us on events in Israel. **PROGRAM OFFERED TWICE:**  
**3:30 pm** Jewish Federation of the Desert meeting room (program begins at 4:00 pm)

**6:30 pm** Sun City Palm Desert Sunset View Clubhouse - Oasis Room (Program begins at 7:00 pm). Couvert: \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Register at events.hadassah.org/SabraJanuary 2024 or call Treasurer Vivian Posen, 818-687-9446.

## **Sunday, January 14**

**9:30 am** Har-El **Four Star Event:** Har-El 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Retreat (men welcome) featuring **Marcie Kaufman** and **Rosa Weinstein**, on "**Mobsters and Mitzvot.**" Event includes coffee, silent auction, and seated brunch. \$45. *Almost sold out.* Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for reservations.

## **Monday, January 22**

**10:00 am** Lion of Judah, Page 3.

## **Friday, January 26**

**Noon** Women of Sinai **Fashion Show and Luncheon**, featuring the styles from Shirley's Boutique. \$40. See ad page 4.

## **Wednesday, January 31**

**3:30 pm** Second presenter in Har-El's Borns Lecture Series. Live and on Zoom. **Professor Tammi Rossman-Benjamin**, UC Santa Cruz, "**Combating Antisemitism on College and University Campus.**" Sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation of the Desert and held in its meeting room. To register email harelurjpd@gmail.com. See ad page 6.

*Jews of the Old West*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**12:00 - 2:00pm**

**Monday, 03/18/2024**

**POMEGRANATE EVENT**

*Saddle up your hats and join us*

*at the Federation of the Desert*

# CHANUKAH

*in the desert*  
*at The River*



## *Temple Isaiah*



## *Temple Sinai*



## *Beth Shalom Café Europa*



## *Havurah of the Desert*



# OpEd - Formalizing the Evil of Hamas – Clearly, Officially, and Openly - Analysis

If Israel does not complete its operation in Gaza, we will not be able to eradicate Hamas terrorism.

By Ayelet Frish, CEO – Frish Strategic Consulting Ltd. (The Jerusalem Post)

For seventy-five years, international media coverage of Israel has been, for the most part, asymmetrical, unfair, and hypocritical. For decades, the media has depicted Israel as the strong, Goliath-like conqueror and oppressor, and the Palestinians as the weak oppressed nation, in a comparison that is designed to automatically evoke sympathy for the Palestinian cause. Fake news and a lack of professionalism run rampant in today's media climate and prevent the truth from coming to light.

It is for these reasons that I firmly believe that Israel must obtain international legitimacy and approval for its just war against the Hamas terrorist regime, and the only impactful way of doing so is by presenting all of the evidence in its possession about the unbelievable atrocities committed by Hamas – clearly, officially, and openly – through its highest offices – the prime minister, the president, and the IDF chief of General Staff. The battlefield of the 21st century extends far beyond the terror tunnels of Gaza. I am speaking about the battle of public perception in the global media.

I have stated the following on numerous occasions, and I reiterate: Israel has committed a serious error in judgment by not holding an official open-door media event for the foreign press aimed at publicly displaying and exposing the vile acts perpetrated by Hamas. Since the onset of the war, over 1,000 foreign correspondents have arrived in Israel to cover the aftermath of the October 7th attack and the events that followed. The fact that these journalists traveled far and wide should have been utilized by Israel's government to garner widespread support for its operation. This support is critical. The foreign journalists should have been invited to a massive public press event hosted by an official Israeli agency that their networks would surely broadcast live. They should have heard and seen firsthand, by Israeli officials and survivors, what happened here on Oct. 7th. They should have been provided with all the evidence in Israel's possession – the official, undeniable, horrifying documentation of the brutalities that occurred – and they should have published this evidence as part of their coverage of the war.



Israeli Police Chief Superintendent Yael Reichert

If we want to have a chance of reaching our two major war objectives – the complete elimination of Hamas and the return of all of our hostages- Israel must gain widespread international support from our allies and the moderate Arab world to see the operation through to the end.

Israel must publicly formalize the evil of Hamas, once and for all. It must shake the public sphere with a special press conference that would turn into a massive worldwide media event, live-streamed by all the major international networks, hosted by one of Israel's leaders, under the official capacity of their state office, presenting the official data, forensic pathology reports, the graphic videos, photo evidence, and live testimonies of survivors and released hostages. And I believe it is still not too late.

We have official autopsy reports from world-renowned forensic pathologists who assisted Israeli colleagues in identifying desecrated bodies and human remains- many of the victims were burned, decapitated, and mutilated, essentially unrecognizable. These reports paint a clear picture of what Hamas did, and the evidence is all there, in writing by the experts, ready for public review. We have video footage from security cameras taken from the streets and homes of the kibbutzim, and ambulance footage from the first responders, who are seen running around treating countless civilians and soldiers while under fire. We have security cam footage from the IDF bases that were infiltrated.

We know precisely what Hamas

did because we have go-pro and body cam footage from the terrorists captured and killed in Israel, and we have Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) reports from the interrogations conducted with the

terrorists who survived. We have video from the body cams of IDF soldiers and the official forensics reports of the Israeli Police and law enforcement agencies. In short, we have ample sources of official, reliable, and undeniable information that cannot be contested by any government, agency, or human who views them. All this information must be displayed on the world stage.

The perfect example of how an official display of the evidence steers the public discourse in Israel's favor is the recent special session held at the United Nations this past Monday, aimed at publicly condemning and raising awareness for Hamas' sexual violence during the Oct. 7 massacre. The initiative, spearheaded by Israel's UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan, included graphic testimonies and records obtained during the Israeli Police investigations of what transpired in southern Israel- a compilation of over 700 testimonies from survivors and tens of thousands of videos that chronicle monstrous and shocking acts. Hamas terrorists raped and tortured many women and children in the southern Israeli communities. Some were raped to death, others gang-raped. Some



Ayelet Frish, CEO,  
Frish Strategic  
Consulting Ltd.

women were murdered and then raped. Bodies were dismembered, and some victims were beheaded.

## Formalizing the evil of Hamas – clearly, officially, and openly

All of this information was displayed at the UN conference via Israel's official channels, and it proved effective and highly successful. Israeli Police Chief Superintendent Yael Reichert described the violent acts that were committed. When a policewoman in full uniform, representing Israel's official security body, stands up on stage at an official global event and speaks of the harsh truth, presenting the evidence on record, the world listens.

She stated that what she reported was just "a portion of the shocking testimonies that prove the horrendous crimes against humanity. My life and our lives as women, as a mother and a police officer, will never be the same as before October 7." Another speaker said the bodies of many women raped and killed on Oct. 7 were almost unrecognizable.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, former Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton were among the women who addressed the special session and called out the global failure to support Israeli women. Sandberg said that "silence is complicity, and in the face of terror, we cannot be quiet."

The vast array of gruesome evidence of the depravity of Hamas was shown to an influential audience of diplomats, ambassadors, and members of women's organizations, and was broadcast to the world. The extensive coverage engendered by the UN Conference was also bolstered by the chilling testimonies from former hostages freed from captivity and returned to Israel, who have reported that they were starved, abused, drugged, and even branded with the exhaust pipes of a motorcycle to mark them as captives. These testimonies are so shocking that the international media simply cannot stay silent.

The UN session accomplished its mission, and the world's awareness of Hamas' atrocities has dramatically increased since Monday. The session

*Continued on next page*



## Have A Nosh

### TU B'SHEVAT ... It's All About the Fruit

There are fun recipes that translate well for Tu B'Shevat: recipes celebrating fruits from the many varieties of trees honored during this holiday. I must admit I do not remember where I got the roasted fruit salad recipe, below, but I've



had it for years and it is a inventive way to combine the foods we celebrate during this holiday. TU B'Shevat is January 24<sup>th</sup> this year ... plenty of time to gather the ingredients and try out some of these delicious recipes! (Note that the Turkish fruit compote must be made two days ahead). Enjoy! MHB.

### "PERENNIALS" ROASTED FRUIT SALAD

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2 large apples, thickly sliced  | 1/2-1 tablespoon pomegranate molasses |
| 1 large pear, thickly sliced  | 1 tablespoon olive oil                |
| 1/3 cup raisins   | Tiny pinch of cardamom                |
| 5 Medjool dates, cut into pieces  | Pinch of cinnamon                     |
| 3/4 cup unsalted, raw chopped mixed nuts (suggest almonds and pistachios) | Pinch of salt                         |
| 1/2 pomegranate, seeded   |                                       |

Pre-heat oven to 400°F. Wash and thickly cut apples and pear. Line baking sheet or tray with parchment paper. Add fruit and drizzle with olive oil. Add cinnamon, cardamom and salt. Roast for approximately 45-60 minutes until soft, lightly browned. In the last 20 minutes, add chopped dates. In the last 5-10 minutes, add raisins. While fruit is roasting, toast nuts until browned. Cut and seed pomegranate. Remove fruit from oven. Let sit for a couple of minutes, then transfer fruit to serving platter. Fold in nuts. Add pomegranate seeds and drizzle pomegranate molasses over top. Serve warm. Serves 2 to 4.

### TU B'SHEVAT TRUFFLES

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 cup dried figs (suggest mixture of Calimyrna and mission figs) | available, used cocoa powder) |
| 1 cup raw almonds  | 1 teaspoon cinnamon           |
| 1/4 cup honey  | Pinch of sea salt             |
| 2 tablespoons carob powder (if not                               | 1/2 cup turbinado sugar       |

Toast almonds in 350 degree oven until fragrant. Remove pits from dates and add to food processor along with figs and almonds. Process until finely chopped. Add honey, carob (or cocoa) powder, cinnamon, and sea salt. Pulse several times until the mixture begins to clump together and pull away from the sides of the bowl. Roll into bite-size balls and dip into turbinado sugar. Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to one month.

### FIG-GINGER BALLS

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 2 cups dried black mission figs* (about 8 oz) | 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon |
| 1/4 cup crystallized ginger (about 2 oz)      | 1 Tablespoon honey.          |

Remove the stems from the figs and discard. Coarsely chunk the figs and put in a food processor with the crystallized ginger, cinnamon and honey. Pulse until ingredients are finely chopped but not processed into a paste. Roll the fig mixture into heaping teaspoon sized balls. Makes about 18 balls. \*Other figs will work as well.

### TURKISH DRIED FRUIT COMPOTE

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1/2 cup dried cranberries              | 2 tablespoons pine nuts  |
| 1 cup dried apricots (6 ounces)        | 2/3 cup slivered almonds |
| 4 ounces pitted prunes                 | 3 tablespoons honey      |
| 2/3 cup golden raisins                 | 3 tablespoons rosewater  |
| 7 ounce package figs-cut into quarters |                          |

Pour all dry ingredients into a mixing bowl. Pour honey and rosewater over fruit and nuts. Mix well. Cover all ingredients with water. Mix well. Cover mixing bowl and refrigerate for two days. Serve fruit compote chilled.

*continued from page 21*

and its contents made headlines in all major global news outlets, including a cover story in The Sunday Times, the United Kingdom's newspaper of record, which featured the testimonies of the survivors of the Oct 7th in advance of the UN conference. John Spencer, the head of the Modern War Institute's Urban Warfare Studies Department, posted a thread on X this week about the Hamas atrocities that received over 15 million views. When official agencies work on a high level and invest in a major public display to get an important message through to the world, these are the results.

Information about sexual abuse by Hamas has been underplayed and underreported by international women's organizations. As a woman who worked closely with world leaders on global issues, and in my role as chief strategic advisor to Israel's ninth President Shimon Peres, I met influential and well-respected female leaders, from the late Queen Elizabeth to the former Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel. I witnessed, firsthand, the strength that women possess, and how they can move mountains and change the world. I am ashamed of the silence of international women's rights organizations. They know the facts, and they still choose silence, failing to condemn Hamas. The silence of women is no less severe than the silence of men – perhaps, it is even worse, and they should know when a red line has been crossed and speak up in the harshest tone.

Today is the first day of Hanukkah, and from my perspective, the UN event, led by Ambassador Erdan, that officially publicized what happened in Gaza is the "first light" of Hanukkah, enlightening the world with the truth about what Israeli women endured. It has managed to change the discourse around the world. We need more events of this type that will formally and officially release the details of the massacre.

While it is true that Israel has presented the evidence to world leaders such as President Biden, US Secretary of State Blinken, UK Prime Minister Sunak, and French President Macron, it is not enough. Showing evidence behind closed doors is ineffective, and releasing small snippets on social media is counterproductive, as some might think that the footage was staged or fake.

Some will say that we should be considerate of the sensitivities of readers around the world and spare them the chilling and gory details. We cannot do that. If we do not tell the world exactly what happened, these horrors will likely visit their children, because the terror of Hamas-ISIS is spreading across the globe.

After the success of the UN event, I believe that the US Congress should be the next big stage to showcase the horrors of the Hamas attack to the world. As Israel's closest ally, and as the world's greatest superpower and force for good, the United States has a special role to play in exposing the truth and facilitating Israel in garnering international legitimacy. The most effective way to do this is for the US to hold a special joint session of Congress in the Chamber of the House, or a special open-door congressional committee hearing, centered on displaying official evidence of the October 7th massacre to US leadership, US lawmakers from both chambers and to the entire world, who will surely be watching and reading about the contents of this historic session and the reactions of the congressmembers who were there to witness it in person.

Israel has the hard evidence, and it can easily provide groundbreaking materials to US Congress- evidence that would leave the world astounded and horrified. Israeli officials dealing with hostages and survivors can facilitate bringing brave individuals to give live testimonies of survival, abuse, rape, and torture on center stage. Israel must bring its top officials and leadership to present this documentation of horror to its allies in Congress. There will not be a dry eye in the room when this happens. America, as the world's leading superpower and a beacon of values, morality, and justice, must do this for the sake of the entire world.

The world must realize that the atrocities that Hamas committed were not perpetrated because of a land dispute, or because Israel conquered Gaza. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005. Hamas wants the world to think that their actions took place as a response to Israel's rule over Gaza, which is simply untrue. They attacked because of their fanaticism. If we do not expose the truth about Hamas in a big way, if Israel doesn't complete its operation in Gaza, the threat of Hamas terrorism will not be eradicated from the world.



## Simchas

Mazel tov to **Aidan Dorani**, son of **Yaron and Jennifer Dorani**, who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Sinai on November 18, 2023. Family, friends, Rabbi Novak, and religious school educators were very proud of his exceptional Jewish knowledge, pride in his heritage, and overall performance. *Share your Simchas with us. Email or call Miriam Bent at mh bentjcn@earthlink.net or 760-323-0255*



Aidan Dorani



## Classifieds

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

### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

**SUPPORTERS** welcomed. JFS has rewarding **volunteer opportunities** in its community programs and is now accepting applications for several positions. **Tribute cards** provide a unique way to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one, all while supporting JFS programs. If you're interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities or supporting JFS through the purchase of tribute cards, please contact 760-325-4088 ext. 101.

**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE** Swedish, deep tissue and foot reflexology modalities. Treat yourself or someone you love to a wonderful therapeutic massage in your home. Jewish Massage Therapist with over 35 years' experience, fifteen in the desert. Call or text Leora at 323-394-4947.

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

**LISA SILVERMAN; Intuitive Designer** with an eye for all things beautiful! Recently relocated from San Francisco to Sun City Palm Desert, Lisa will find your unique personal style and create the space you have been dreaming about. 650-401-8813; [www.decoratorguru.com](http://www.decoratorguru.com).

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

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

Best Quality! Best Price Guaranteed!

# RELIABLE ROOFING

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



Todd Gregory Young  
Owner

VOTED #1 IN QUALITY

[www.reliableroofingbytgy.com](http://www.reliableroofingbytgy.com)

**760-568-1673**

SINCE 1987  
Bonded • Insured • Lic #764608

## Community Schools

### Aleph Schoolhouse

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

Children 18 months through  
Elementary School  
[Alephschoolhouse.org](http://Alephschoolhouse.org)  
347-721-8782



## Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 5	Shabbat Shemot	4:08 pm
Friday, January 12	Shabbat Vaerah	4:14 pm
Friday, January 19	Shabbat Bo	4:21 pm
Friday, January 26	Shabbat Beshalach	4:27 pm



## We Mourn the Passing of...

**Gloria Scoby, Lainie Weil Lee Weinstein and Kevin Zolt.** Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.



Har-El, Member Union for Reform Judaism, invites the community to Galen Course **'Books and Bordeaux,'** with **Rabbi Dr. Hillel Cohn**

Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Emanu-El of Redlands, California, who will review and discuss Rachel Maddow's book **"Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism."**

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at the Jewish Federation Office  
3:00 pm Reception • 3:30 pm Program

Program sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation of the Desert.  
Live program. No fee, but reservations required. Email [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com)



**JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT**

69-710 Highway 111

Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

(760) 324-4737

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](http://www.jfedps.org) to be awesome  
or call 760-324-4737.



Jewish Federation  
OF THE DESERT