



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Elul 5785 - Tishrei 5786 - September 2025

שנה טובה

Happy New Year





As you prepare for the High Holy Days, remember there are those living in our community who are struggling. Your gift to the Jewish Federation today will make a real difference in their lives.

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Table of Contents

Vol. 53 • No. 2

Community Calendar	17-18
Federation	2-4, 15, 24
Holiday Greetings	19-21
Have A Nosh	22
PJ Library	22
School Listing	3
Simchas & Classifieds	23
Temples	17
Tributes	18

Finding Meaning in the Jewish High Holidays Today



Arnie Gillman

Board President,
Jewish Federation
of the Desert

As the High Holidays approach, I'm reminded of how meaningful this season can be—not just spiritually, but personally. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur offer something that feels increasingly rare: a moment to pause,

reflect, and truly reset. In the rush of everyday life, the opportunity to examine our values, seek forgiveness, and begin anew is both powerful and grounding.

For me, these days are about more than personal growth—they're about community. We come together in prayer, in tradition, and in purpose. In that spirit, I'm also reminded how much our community depends on shared support and responsibility.

That's why I encourage you to consider making a donation to the Jewish Federation this High Holiday season. The Federation does more than preserve

Jewish life, it strengthens it; from providing care for seniors and families in crisis to supporting Jewish education culture, connection across generations, and across the globe. In difficult times of uncertainty and change, our work is a lifeline.

If these holidays move you to reflect, I invite you to also take action. Your gift—no matter the size—helps ensure that Jewish values and community endure, not just during the High Holidays, but all year long.

Wishing you and your loved ones a sweet, meaningful, and peaceful new year.
Shanah Tova.

Community Mourns Passing of Sheri Borax

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

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is saddened by the passing of Sheri Borax on August 2nd. She was a true "Aishet Chayil," a Woman of Valor. Sheri was a remarkable soul whose warmth, grace, and unwavering dedication to Jewish life touched everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

Sheri's commitment to Jewish causes was nothing short of exemplary. She was actively involved in the Jewish Federation, Jewish National Fund, Hadassah, Magen David Adom, and numerous synagogues. Sheri was an active member of the Jewish Federation of the Desert and served on the Federation board of directors for many years. Her passion was not just in participation, but in leadership,

in advocacy, and in heartfelt support. In 2021, she and her beloved husband Jim were honored with the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund — a recognition

so well deserved for their years of generosity and dedication. Sheri was a classy woman, yet so down to earth. She carried herself with elegance, but never with pretense. Her laughter was infectious, her wisdom profound, and her presence comforting. She lived her life as an example to all — with kindness, dignity, and purpose. Despite facing health challenges in



Sheri Borax

recent years, Sheri remained upbeat, engaged, and full of humor. Her spirit never dimmed. She had a way of making everyone feel seen and valued, always asking about others, always caring deeply about the world around her — especially the Jewish world she so loved.

Sheri will be deeply missed. Her memory will live on in the lives she touched, in the causes she championed, and in the love she gave so freely. May her memory be a blessing to all who knew her, and may we continue to honor her legacy by living with the same compassion, strength, and devotion that she embodied every day.

Baruch Dayan Ha'Emet.

' Hamas Must End Its Rule in Gaza': Qatar Joins Other Arab Countries in Demanding Terror Group Disarm, Step Down

By Jack Elbaum, The Algemeiner

Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the Arab League, signed onto an unprecedented declaration on July 30th, calling on the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas to disarm, relinquish control over the war-torn Gaza Strip, and release the Israeli hostages it is still holding.

At a French and Saudi-led United Nations conference on reviving conversation and advocacy for a two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict, 17 countries, the 22-member Arab League, and the European Union signed onto the declaration.

"Hamas must end its rule in Gaza and hand over its weapons to the Palestinian Authority, with international engagement and support, in line with the objective of a sovereign and independent Palestinian State," it read.

"Governance, law enforcement, and security across all Palestinian territory

must lie solely with the Palestinian Authority, with appropriate international support."

While European and other Western countries have consistently made their condemnation of Hamas and its attacks clear, as well as their commitment to a two-state solution, it is notable that many Arab countries — including Qatar, which has historically supported Hamas diplomatically and financially — signed

continued on next page

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onto the declaration.

Some foreign policy experts noted the striking inclusion of Qatar, which continues to host senior Hamas leaders.

"Qatar's role here is interesting to me. I'd like to see the government come out and declare this unilaterally," Jonathan Schanzer, executive director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington, DC-based foreign policy think tank, posted on X.

The declaration also condemned Hamas's deadly Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel, which left 1,200 dead and another 251 taken hostage, and called for an end to the subsequent war which has devastated Gaza.

This is the first time since the Israel-Hamas war began that a united front of Arab countries condemned the Oct. 7 massacre and called on Hamas to disarm and step down from power.

When it comes to a post-war Gaza, the declaration proposes "a temporary international stabilization mission" under the auspices of the United Nations and upon invitation by the Palestinian Authority. It also notes that some countries have expressed readiness to contribute troops to the cause.

"By bringing the Arab countries for the first time to condemn Hamas and call for its disarmament, we are creating, or recreating, the conditions for this political solution that, again, is the only path forward, and we are paving the way," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said in an interview with CBS News.

"We're paving the way for the future Abraham Accords that the US administration might lead," he argued, referring to a series of US-brokered deals normalizing ties between Israel and several Arab countries.

Michael Koplow, the chief policy officer of the Israel Policy

Forum, a pro-two-state solution think tank, called the declaration "remarkable" and wrote that the Israeli government "should treat this as an unprecedented accomplishment."

"It explicitly called for a Palestinian state to be demilitarized, marked PA incitement in school curricula as something that must be addressed, and promised Israel full regional integration. It's basically attaching the full Israeli wishlist to two states," he argued. At the same time, "there's plenty in here that Israel reasonably finds objectionable. Full right of return is a non-starter, and the real carrot of a pledge for full normalized diplomatic relations across the board is missing"


He concluded, "When Israel talks about peace through strength and a transformed regional and [international] environment re: accepting Israel, this is what it actually looks like. If this [government] had an ounce of sense, it would crow about this as the world accepting what it has long demanded and build on it."

The United States and Israel did not participate in the conference.

State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said in a statement that the conference is "unproductive and ill-timed," and that it is "a slap in the face to the victims of Oct. 7 and a reward for terrorism."


"This is a publicity stunt that comes in the middle of delicate diplomatic efforts to end the conflict," she continued. "Far from promoting peace, the conference will prolong the war, embolden Hamas, and reward its obstruction and undermine real-world efforts to achieve peace."

Israeli officials have similarly argued that recognizing a Palestinian state at this time would "reward" Hamas's terrorism, embolden the Islamist group to continue fighting, and only lead to a failed state.



Shana Tova

In preparing to welcome the Jewish New Year here in the Desert for the first time, I am inspired by the bountiful number of High Holy Day options featured in our Jewish Community News. The many celebrations, services, and gatherings that will be taking place throughout the Desert are a wonderful reminder of the vibrancy of our community!



Wherever and however you choose to celebrate the new year, the Jewish Federation of the Desert wishes everyone a year filled with fulfillment, health and peace. May our community continue to grow and may this moment in our Jewish calendar serve as a time of reflection and renewal.

Shana Tova Tikateivu,
Danny Labin
CEO, Jewish Federation of the Desert

Photo features the Great Choral Synagogue in Kyiv, Ukraine, where our Federation has helped support the Jewish community for many years, including the last years of devastating war. Thanks to our support, High Holy Day Services will take place this year in this beautiful synagogue.

**Community
School**
Aleph Schoolhouse

Director: Dina Pinson
73-550 Santa Rosa Way,
Palm Desert
347-721-8782

Children 18 months
through
Elementary School
Alephschoolhouse.org

Tzedakah Fund

By Alberto Tejero, CFO, Jewish Federation of the Desert



Our Federation's Tzedakah Fund dispenses financial aid to Jewish families and individuals in need throughout the Coachella Valley. Though often defined in English simply as charity, "tzedakah" is a uniquely Jewish value whose meaning in Hebrew relates directly to righteousness and justice.

The Tzedakah Fund provides urgent and critical support by offering a maximum of \$2,500 to individuals with significant need. When a grant is made, Federation directly pays a third-party bill, usually to a management

company, utility company or other entity. Over the years, Federation's Tzedakah Fund support has covered needs from urgent dental bills to moving expenses. Each application for financial help is carefully assessed by the Federation and treated with maximum expedience and confidentiality.

Our records show that nearly four hundred families and individuals have been helped since the Tzedakah Fund was established in 2006. The request for financial aid has increased dramatically in recent years. This year, we anticipate receiving record-breaking levels of

aid requests. Your donations are more critical than ever to ensure funds are available to those who are most vulnerable and in need in our community.

We are grateful for your continued support of the Federation's Tzedakah Fund through tributes, honoraria, and direct contributions. If you have ever wondered how your Federation tributes make a direct impact in the lives of our community, it's through the Tzedakah Fund!

Please contact Bebsabe Morrison for your Tzedakah Fund donation or questions: (760) 324-4737, bebsabe.morrison@jfedps.org.

Tzedakah Grants Paid by Category

Rent	56%
Health & Medical Procedures & Equipment	18%
Electric, Gas & Water	11%
Home Repairs & Expenses	8%
Auto Insurance, Repairs & Payments	3%
Day Care & Camp Tuition	3%
Misc.	1%
Total Tzedakah Grants Paid	100%

JEWISH
COMMUNITY
NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Miriam H. Bent, Editor
Bailey Communications,
Layout & Design
Chief Executive Officer
Danny Labin

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.

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Madrikh Ruḥani Ken Hailpern

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Congregation Beth Shalom

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CONGREGATION

קהילת בית שלום

BETH SHALOM

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S'liḥot

Saturday, September 13

S'liḥot 7:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 23

First Day 9:15 am

Wednesday, September 24

Second Day 9:15 am

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 1

Kol Nidre 6:00 pm

Thursday, October 2

Morning 9:15 am

Yizkor 4:30 pm

Afternoon / Ne'ilah 5:15 pm

Sounding the Shofar 7:15 pm

4 • JCN • September 2025 • Elul 5785 - Tishrei 5786 • www.jfedps.com

New Israeli Underground Radar – Gamechanger for IDF

By World Israel News Staff

Exodigo is an Israeli startup revolutionizing visualization of the underground world – without digging. Its technology blends multi-sensor data collection with AI-powered analysis to create high-resolution 3D maps of subsurface environments. The fusion of sensors includes ground-penetrating radar, electromagnetic sensors, seismic tools, and drone-based platforms. The data from all these sensors are combined

with cloud-based AI to generate precise underground maps with positional accuracy down to centimeters.

Exodigo's technology has been adopted by the IDF to detect and neutralize tunnel networks beneath urban terrain. It is considered a game-changer for underground warfare, especially in Gaza and Lebanon. The brutal Hamas assaults in October 2023, coupled with intensified fighting against

Hizbullah, underscored the urgent strategic need to uncover and dismantle underground tunnel systems.

Both groups constructed sprawling subterranean networks that present a significant operational hazard to Israeli forces. These hidden corridors, stretching over long distances, were used to shuttle hostages, fighters, armaments, and even vehicles—often weaving beneath densely populated urban zones

and critical civilian infrastructure.

The new tech enables combat engineers to map subterranean threats without physically entering the area.

Recently the company raised \$96 million in Series B funding, doubling its valuation to ~\$700 million. Exodigo says it is redefining AI for geophysics, unlocking a \$500 billion global market in underground intelligence.

Outrage Amid Rising Antisemitism

By Ailin Vilches Arguello, The Algemeiner

An olive tree planted in memory of a young French Jewish man tortured to death in 2006 was vandalized and cut down this week, sparking outrage in France amid a troubling surge in antisemitic attacks.

In January 2006, Ilan Halimi was abducted, held captive, and tortured by a gang of about 20 people in a low-income housing estate in the Paris suburb of Bagneux.

Three weeks later, Halimi was found in Essonne, south of Paris, naked, gagged, and handcuffed, with clear signs of torture and burns. The 23-year-old died on the way to the hospital.

In 2011, an olive tree was planted in Halimi's memory. On Friday, this memorial was found felled, probably with a chainsaw, in the northern Paris suburb of Epinay-sur-Seine.

Halimi's memory has faced attacks before, with two other trees planted in his honor vandalized in 2019 in Essonne, where he was found dying near a railway track.

French officials have pledged to plant a new tree following the latest attack, which has drawn condemnation from the country's local Jewish community amid a troubling rise in antisemitic acts.

French President Emmanuel Macron has condemned the incident, vowing that the perpetrators will be brought to justice while affirming that France's fight against antisemitism will remain "uncompromising."

"Felling the tree in honor of Ilan Halimi is a second attempt on his life. This will not happen: the nation will not forget this son of France who died for being Jewish," the French leader said in a post on X.



AHAVAT ACHIM

Sun City Jewish Services


High Holy Day Services

5786 - 2025

Conducted by Rabbi Dr. Kenneth A. Emert & Cantorial Soloist Ezra Yaron
Accompanist Bruce Magnum

Selichot	September 13	6 PM	Lakeview Clubhouse
Erev Rosh Hashanah	September 22	7 PM	Lakeview Clubhouse
1 st day Rosh Hashanah	September 23	10 AM	Lakeview Clubhouse
2 nd day Rosh Hashanah	September 24	10 AM	Lakeview Clubhouse
Kol Nidre /Yom Kippur	October 1	7 PM	TBA
Yom Kippur	October 2	10 AM	TBA

Due to Sun City Palm Desert's modernization project, some locations and times will be determined in September.

For more information please contact:
Nadine Brinhendler, President 707-332-3047  **Susan Katzman, Membership** 760-641-0411

The Women's Retreat is now "The Retreat" ~ celebrating Har-El's 21st Anniversary!

"THE RETREAT" Sunday, October 19, 2025, 10:00 AM

Hosted by Marylyn and Andy Gladstein

10:00-10:45 AM BRUNCH BITES AND COFFEE BAR



Keynote Speaker: DR. STEVEN WINDMUELLER ~ "The Current State of American Jewry: Antisemitism, The Divisions Among Americans Today and the Impact of Social Media."

Following keynote address there will be two breakout sessions, led by Professor Samuel Trussell, JD, and Leslie Pepper, Director of Community Engagement/Jewish Federation of the Desert. Following program: Handel's Ice Cream Sampling and Anniversary Cake in honor of Har-El's 21st anniversary.

Couvert: \$36 • Sponsor: \$72 • Patron: \$144
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LOCATION AND GATE CODE PROVIDED FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF PAID RESERVATION. Questions? mtzionspd@aol.com

PLEASE CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION IN HONOR OF HAR-EL'S 21ST ANNIVERSARY:
Silver (\$360); Gold (\$500); Titanium (\$1000 and over). Your name(s) will be listed on the program.

Some Prominent Canadian Jews Say They Plan or Consider Moving to US

A Jewish leader in Vancouver wrote that “for my family, the luxury of patience has run out and our confidence in Canada’s political leadership is gone.”

Mike Wagenheim, Jewish News Syndicate

Several well-known Canadian Jews have said that they are moving to the United States, or are considering doing so, to escape rising Jew-hatred in the Great White North, according to a National Review article.

Georgann Burke, a political strategist in Ottawa, is moving to Florida after nearly 40 years in Canada. She told NR that she first moved to Toronto from Buffalo, N.Y., seeking more Jewish educational options for her children.

The National Review article also says that two of Burke’s children are also “fleeing” Canada, and that Avi Glina, a



Jewish real estate developer and investor in Toronto, and Dahlia Kurtz, a Jewish radio host, are also thinking of relocating. “I get death threats, I get rape threats,”

Kurtz told the magazine. “I’ve had people tell me that the gas chamber is waiting.”

The National Review article didn’t cite statistics on how many Jewish Canadians might move. Vivian Bercovici, the Canadian ambassador to Israel from 2014 to 2016, told the magazine, “I know a lot of people who’ve left. I know a lot who are leaving, and I know many more who are talking about it.”

Michael Sachs, who was director of Western Canada for the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre until last month, penned a recent op-ed in the National Post titled “Why I’m moving my family

to the United States.”

Sachs, who is now senior director of strategic philanthropy at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Okla., wrote in the article about “multiple death threats over the last few years for advocating for my community.”

“For my family, the luxury of patience has run out, and our confidence in Canada’s political leadership is gone,” he wrote.

Data from the 2021 Census reports some 335,295 Canadians identified as Jews by religion, up from 329,500 in 2011.

University of California Settles Antisemitism Lawsuit

\$6.13M Payout, Includes Donations to Jewish Groups

By Asaf Elia-Shalev, JTA; and J-Jewish News of Northern California



UCLA Campus

The University of California has agreed to a sweeping settlement in a high-profile lawsuit that accused UCLA, one of 10 campuses in the UC system, of enabling antisemitic discrimination during campus protests in 2024.

The agreement, announced July 29, includes roughly \$6.13 million in payments, according to Becket, the religious liberty law firm that backed it — a number that may resonate with many Jews. It also includes a permanent court order requiring the university to prevent the exclusion of Jewish students from public spaces.

The lawsuit, Frankel v. Regents of the University of California, was filed by students and supported by Becket. It alleged that during last year’s pro-

Palestinian encampment, UCLA officials allowed protestors to establish what the lawsuit called a “Jew Exclusion Zone,” barring Jewish students and faculty from accessing parts of campus, including classrooms and libraries.

A federal judge granted preliminary relief last summer, ordering UCLA to ensure the free movement of Jewish students, and this week’s agreement makes that injunction permanent.

“When antisemites were terrorizing Jews and excluding them from campus, UCLA chose to protect the thugs and help keep Jews out,” said lead plaintiff Yitzchok Frankel, a recent UCLA Law graduate. “That was shameful ... but today’s court judgment brings justice back to our

continued on next page



This High Holiday season – and all year long – don’t just attend services, be part of something deeper. Join a vibrant and welcoming community that is proudly Jewish, proudly inclusive and proudly supportive of Israel and one another.

We are CONGREGATION BEIT HAVERIM, the Coachella Valley’s new center for contemporary Jewish life – where our tent is wide enough to welcome everyone and close enough to make you feel truly embraced. Come find connection, meaning and community. Come home to Beit Haverim.

High Holiday Services held at Mizell Center in Palm Springs. Friday night Shabbat services with delicious Oneg held at Mizell throughout the year. Shabbat Services + potluck dinners held in a private home.



RABBI STEVEN ROSENBERG
HAZZAN DR. SARAH SELA



Call 760-766-3212 or email beithaverimps@gmail.com for more information re: joining Beit Haverim or to attend High Holiday Services.

2025 - 5786 HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Monday, September 22, 2025	6:30 PM
Rosh Hashanah morning	Tuesday, September 23, 2025	10:00 AM
Kol Nidre	Wednesday, October 1, 2025	6:30 PM
Yom Kippur morning	Thursday, October 2, 2025	10:00 AM
Yizkor		5:30 PM
Neilah (closing service)		6:00 PM

campus."

The settlement comes amid growing national scrutiny of how universities handle campus protest and antisemitism — and mounting pressure from the federal government for them to take a hard stance. In the aftermath of the UCLA encampment, the university set up a task force, which acknowledged the university allowed antisemitism to fester amid proPalestinian protests, citing incidents such as swastikas drawn inside classrooms, hateful slogans like "Israelis are native 2 hell," and assaults on Jewish students and staff that went insufficiently addressed by administration.

Still, UCLA initially fought the lawsuit for over a year before conceding to a judgment and settlement. In a joint statement with the plaintiffs, both parties said, "We are pleased with the terms of today's settlement. The injunction and other terms UCLA has agreed to demonstrate real progress in the fight against antisemitism."

As part of the settlement, UCLA will contribute \$2.33 million to eight Jewish and antisemitism-focused organizations, including Hillel at UCLA, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles's Campus Impact

Network. An additional \$320,000 will go to UCLA's Initiative to Combat Antisemitism, a program launched earlier this year by Chancellor Julio Frenk, who is Jewish and assumed his position on January 1.

The total financial outlay, including damages to the plaintiffs and attorney's fees, makes the deal the largest private settlement in a campus antisemitism case, according to Becket. Columbia University recently agreed to pay more than \$200 million in a settlement with the Trump administration over antisemitism allegations there.

University of California officials framed the agreement as an extension of ongoing efforts to combat antisemitism systemwide.

"Antisemitism, harassment, and other forms of intimidation are antithetical to our values," UC Board of Regents Chair Janet Reilly said in a statement. "Today's settlement reflects a critically important goal that we share with the plaintiffs: to foster a safe, secure and inclusive environment for all."

Daniel Gold, Hillel at UCLA's executive director, applauded the settlement as a move in the right direction.

"This settlement is an important and

meaningful step forward in addressing the very serious challenges that Jewish students have faced at UCLA," Gold said in a statement. "There is still much more work left to be done to build a safer, more welcoming, and more supportive campus that is free from antisemitic harassment and intimidation, and we look forward to working closely with the university and the UC system to counter antisemitism and bias at every turn."

The Jewish Federation of Los Angeles also welcomed the outcome.

"Accountability is a vital first step," its board chair Orna Wolens and CEO Rabbi Noah Farkas said in a statement. "While no settlement can erase the sense of isolation and fear that so many Jewish students continue to feel, this settlement clearly affirms: antisemitism has no place at UCLA or on any campus."

The case sets a legal precedent, said Mark Rienzi, Becket's president. "Campus administrators across the country willingly bent the knee to antisemites during the encampments," he said in a statement. "They are now on notice: Treating Jews like second-class citizens is wrong, illegal, and very costly."



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Temple Sinai Palm Desert ~ High Holy Days 5786

Rabbi David Novak and Cantorial Soloist Wayne Abravanel

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 22

7:00 PM

Oneg following

Rosh Hashanah Morning

Tuesday, September 23

10:00 AM

Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre

Wednesday, October 1

7:00 PM

Yom Kippur Day:

Thursday, October 2

10:00 AM

Healing Service & 12-Step Service
During the Break

Afternoon Service/Yizkor: 4:00 PM.

Break-the-Fast following (Reservations
Required)



*To inquire about High Holy Day
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please email Toni Robinson at
administrator@templesinaipd.org*

**73251 Hovley Lane W., Palm Desert
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Columbia University Suspend, Expels, Revokes Degrees of Pro-Hamas Activists

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

Columbia University has imposed severe disciplinary sanctions — including degree revocation — on upwards of 70 students who perpetrated an illegal seizure of campus property during the final weeks of the academic year and refused to surrender it unless school officials acceded to a list of five demands which, among other things, called for a boycott of Israel and divestment from armaments manufacturers.

As reported by the New York Post on Tuesday, a school official told the paper that Columbia on Monday expelled a “handful” of students and suspended “dozens” of others who stormed and occupied Butler Library on May 7, an action which resulted in two Columbia private security officers being assaulted when a crush of students attempted to breach a human barrier they had formed to prevent additional protesters from joining, and thereby strengthening, the demonstration.

Without stating the number of punishments meted out to the students, Columbia University confirmed the main contention of the Post’s reporting — while

announcing one disciplinary measure, degree revocation, to which it was not privy — on Tuesday in an unsigned statement.

“The sanctions issued on July 21 by the University Judicial Board were determined by a UJB panel of professors and administrators who worked diligently over the summer to offer an outcome for each individual based on the findings of their case and prior disciplinary outcomes,” the university said, stressing that the punishments resulted from a consensus reached by officials representing every level of the university. “While the university does not release individual disciplinary results of any student, the sanctions from Butler Library include probation, suspensions (ranging from one year to three years), degree revocations, and expulsions.”

During the May protests, events forced president Claire Shipman — the school’s third new chief executive in two years — to summon the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to Butler Library after negotiations with the protesters to end the occupation hit an impasse, a decision

Shipman later justified in a statement as “necessary” for preserving Columbia’s academic mission. The NYPD quickly completed its operation to clear Butler after arriving there during the early evening. Bundling the protesters “20 at a time,” as described by the Columbia Daily Spectator, the officers transferred the students to an NYPD bus used for mass arrests.

On Tuesday, Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), chairman of the US House Committee on Education and the Workforce, commended Columbia University for penalizing misconduct, a step the institution has allegedly eschewed in the past.

“Columbia has more progress to make before Jewish students can truly feel safe on its campus,” Walberg said in a statement. “The committee’s work has underscored the depth and breadth of antisemitism at Columbia that can’t be ignored. We will continue to investigate antisemitism at Columbia and other universities and develop legislative solutions to address this persistent problem. Our nation’s institutions of higher education must fulfill their legal obligations under federal antidiscrimination law.”

Meanwhile, the group behind the protest and many others which have disrupted academic life at Columbia since the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, massacre across southern Israel issued a statement charging that the university’s trustees are conspiring with Jewish organizations and the Trump administration to promote “their Zionist agenda.” The statement concluded by threatening further actions of “struggle,” which were left undefined.

“The sanctions are believed to be part of a federal deal Columbia is about to announce that includes a formal partnership with the Zionist [sic] Anti-Defamation League and an agreement to use the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s] definition of antisemitism, which equates criticism of Israel with discrimination against Jews,” a non-recognized group which calls itself Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD) said in a press release. “The disciplinary letters demand suspended students submit apologies in order to return to campus in one to three years, which some students have stated they will refuse. If those protesters hold their ground by refusing to apologize, the suspensions will convert into de facto expulsions and the number of permanent sanctions will skyrocket.”

Earlier this month, Columbia University announced a series of reforms to address campus antisemitism amid its negotiating a deal to pay \$200 million to settle allegations that it exposed Jewish students and faculty to discrimination.

In a statement, Shipman said the

university will hire new coordinators to oversee complaints alleging civil rights violations; facilitate “deeper education on antisemitism” by creating new training programs for students, faculty, and staff; and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism — a tool that advocates say is necessary for identifying what constitutes antisemitic conduct and speech.

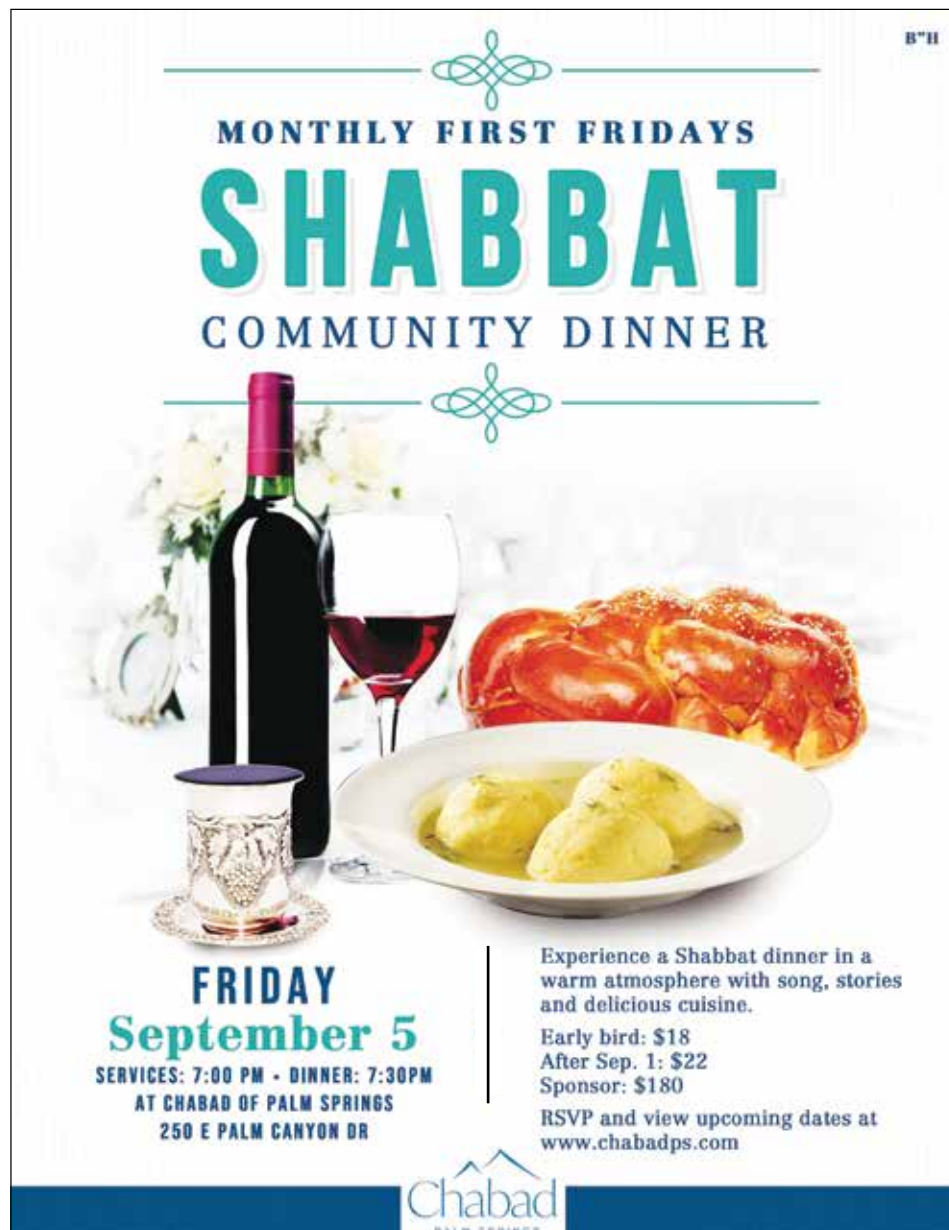
Shipman also announced new partnerships with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and other civil rights groups while delivering a major blow to the anti-Zionist movement on campus by vowing never to “recognize or meet with” CUAD.

As previously reported by *The Algemeiner*, Columbia University’s campus has yielded some of the most indelible examples of anti-Jewish hatred in higher education since the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas’s Oct. 7, 2023, massacre in southern Israel set off explosions of anti-Zionist activity at colleges and universities across the US. Such incidents included a student who proclaimed that Zionist Jews deserve to be murdered and are lucky he is not doing so himself and administrative officials who, outraged at the notion that Jews organized to resist anti-Zionism, participated in a group chat in which each member took turns sharing antisemitic tropes that described Jews as privileged and grafting.

Amid these incidents, the university struggled to contain CUAD, which in late January committed infrastructural sabotage by flooding the toilets of the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) with concrete. Numerous reports indicate the attack may have been the premeditated result of planning sessions which took place many months ago at an event held by Alpha Delta Phi (ADP) — a literary society, according to the Washington Free Beacon. During the event, ADP reportedly distributed literature dedicated to “aspiring revolutionaries” who wish to commit seditious acts. Additionally, a presentation was given in which complete instructions for the exact kind of attack which struck Columbia were shared with students.

In September, during the university’s convocation ceremony, CUAD distributed literature calling on students to join Hamas’s movement to destroy Israel.

“This booklet is part of a coordinated and intentional effort to uphold the principles of the thawabit and the Palestinian resistance movement overall by transmitting the words of the resistance directly,” one of the pamphlets given to freshmen students said. “This material aims to build popular support for the Palestinian war of national liberation, a war which is waged through armed struggle.”



East German State Announces New Citizens Must Accept Israel's Legitimacy

By David Swindle, The Algemeiner

East German State Announces New Citizens Must Accept Israel's Legitimacy by David Swindle, The Algemeiner
Beate Meinl-Reisinger (M), Foreign Minister of Austria, receives Johann Wadephul (CDU, l), Federal Foreign Minister of Germany, and Gideon Saar, Foreign Minister of Israel, at the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria.

Those seeking citizenship in the East German state of Brandenburg must now acknowledge the right of Israel to exist.

René Wilke, minister of the interior and for municipal affairs of Brandenburg, told the state parliament in Potsdam on July 17 about the policy, which had gone into effect on June 1 for people seeking naturalization and passports. Wilke clarified that while the policy intended to demonstrate German solidarity with Israel, it would not provide a free pass for the Jewish state, warning that not all Israeli actions will receive support.

"This is a commitment to the right of the State of Israel to exist," the minister said. "It is not a commitment that everything any head of government in Israel has ever done and will ever do will also receive solidarity and approval."

Andreas Büttner, who serves as antisemitism commissioner for Brandenburg, advocated for the policy.

"Israel is the promise of protection and self-determination," Büttner said, according to German media. "Anyone who attacks Israel is attacking this promise."

However, not all leaders in Brandenburg support the prerequisite for citizenship.

Friederike Benda, state leader of the leftist Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance party (BSW), pushed back, labeling the move "a slap in the face for democracy."

"While Brandenburg is calling for a commit to peaceful coexistence between peoples and against wars of aggression, the German government continues to supply weapons to an Israeli government that is committing genocide in the Gaza Strip and has attacked Iran in violation of international law. That is hypocrisy!" Benda wrote on Facebook.

The new citizenship policy required affirmation of other German values, including support for democracy and the country's Constitution as well as recognition of the Nazis' atrocities and the importance of protecting Jewish life. Applicants must also reject bigamy and wars of aggression. The laws have tightened in economic and national security terms too, now requiring potential citizens to show they will not rely on welfare, can speak the German language, and have not committed crimes in previous countries.

The German state of Saxony-Anhalt introduced a similar measure in 2023 linking naturalization to a recognition of

Israel's right to exist.

Berlin could be next, according to the German capital's governing mayor, Kai Wegner.

"Personally, I can well imagine including the recognition of Israel's right to exist as a prerequisite for naturalization," Wegner told the German publication Tagesspiegel this past weekend.

Germany has experienced a sharp spike in antisemitism since the Hamas-led invasion of and massacre across southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, amid the ensuing war in Gaza.

The number of antisemitic incidents in Germany almost doubled last year, the semi-official German body that tracks antisemitism reported last month.

The Federal Research and Information Point for Antisemitism (RIAS) said it had registered 8,627 incidents of violence, vandalism, and threats against Jews in Germany, almost twice the 4,886 recorded in 2023, and far ahead of 2020's 1,957. Approximately 25 percent of total outrages last year featured what the report described as "anti-Israel antisemitism."

"Objectively, the risk of being persecuted as a Jew in Germany has increased since Oct. 7, 2023," Benjamin Steinitz, head of RIAS told a press briefing when the figures were released. "But debates about what counts as an expression of antisemitism seem to take up more space than empathy for the victims."

In Berlin specifically, the number of antisemitic incidents in just the first six months of 2024 alone surpassed the total for all of the prior year and reached the highest annual count on record, according to separate figures from RIAS.

The figures in Berlin were the highest count for a single year since the federally-funded body began monitoring antisemitic incidents in 2015, showing the German capital averaged nearly eight anti-Jewish outrages a day from January to June last year.

However, experts believe that the true number of incidents is much higher but not recorded because of reluctance on the part of the victims.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz told Fox News in June that immigration had increased antisemitism.

"We are doing everything we can to bring these numbers down," Merz said. "We are prosecuting those who are against the law. And frankly, we have a sort of imported antisemitism with the big numbers of migrants we have within the last 10 years, and we have to tackle this and we have to resolve this problem."

In February, Berlin police arrested a Syrian refugee for allegedly stabbing a tourist at a Holocaust memorial. He reportedly told the officers he wanted "to kill Jews."

Merz said he wanted "to make it

very clear" that Germany's government and "the vast majority of the German parliament" opposed antisemitism.

"We are doing everything we can to bring these numbers down," Merz said.

In May, Germany's Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul warned that the country's longstanding support for Israel had its limits.

"Our committed fight against antisemitism and our full support for the right to exist and the security of the state of Israel must not be instrumentalized for the conflict and the warfare currently being waged in the Gaza Strip," Wadephul said. "We are now at a point where we have to think very carefully about what further steps to take."

In April, Germany deported four pro-Hamas demonstrators — three European

Union citizens and one US citizen — on the basis that they posed a "threat to public order."

On Feb. 23, Merz — then a candidate for chancellor — expressed his support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visiting the country without fear of arrest in response to an International Criminal Court warrant.

"I think it is a completely absurd idea that an Israeli prime minister cannot visit the Federal Republic of Germany," Merz said, revealing that he had told Netanyahu they "would find ways and means for him to visit Germany and leave again without being arrested." Merz said he would support such a visit "in defiance of the scandalous International Criminal Court decision to label the prime minister a war criminal."

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Tuesday, September 23
Wednesday, September 24
Wednesday, October 1
Thursday, October 2

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First day Rosh Hashanah	9:30 am
Second day Rosh Hashanah	9:30 am
Kol Nidre	6:30 pm
Yom Kippur - morning	9:30 am
Lecture/study with Rabbi	Noon
Music & Meditation: Hilary Smith	3:30 pm
Mincha	4:30 pm
Yizkor	5:00 pm
Ne'ilah	5:30 pm
Havdalah	6:30 pm
Break the fast	7:00 pm



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California School District Rules Teacher Accused of Antisemitism Violated Policy

By Dion J. Pierre, The Algemeiner

A California school district which stands accused of refusing to address antisemitism has ruled that a teacher who allegedly showed her students antisemitic, discriminatory, and biased content violated policy when she screened an offensive video about the Holocaust in her classroom.

The move, taken by the Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD), came without the prompting of the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, with which two Jewish civil rights groups, StandWithUs (SWU) and the Bay Area Jewish Coalition (BAJC), filed a complaint against the district in April.

Among other things, SWU and BAJC

alleged that an SCUSD employee, Wilcox High School teacher Kauser Adenwala, screened a documentary produced in Turkey which compared the war in Gaza to the Holocaust. The graphic film at one point "displays a picture of a young Jewish child who was branded with a number by the Nazis during World War II and then suddenly shows an untraceable image of children with Arabic writing on their arms," according to the lawsuit, which alleged the teacher's conduct violated numerous district policies and potentially state law. However, she remains employed by the district to this day.

The district subsequently investigated the incident and said in an official letter

that was just sent to BAJC on July 25 and obtained by The Algemeiner that Adenwala breached the Governing Board's policies.

"For the reasons stated above, the district determined that Ms. Adenwala showing the video in class violated Board Policy," the district said. "She failed to exercise good judgment when showing her class a video that promoted a bias toward Jewish students."

SCUSD added that Adenwala behaved in a manner which constituted harassment, unprofessionalism, and presumption, as she veered outside the area of her academic expertise and in doing so caused a distraction "from the education process." She will soon be required to take "corrective actions" to remedy the hostile environment she was said to foster.

Other disturbing incidents have occurred in SCUSD schools since the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas's Oct. 7, 2023, massacre across southern Israel, amid the ensuing war in Gaza, according to the April civil rights complaint.

Students have graffitied antisemitic hate speech in the bathrooms, vandalized Jewish-themed posters displayed in schools, and distributed stickers which said, "F—k Zionism," the lawsuit detailed. Another Wilcox teacher allegedly berated a Jewish student, arguing that her name is not derived from Hebrew but Arabic. No known action has been taken against the instructor.

At Peterson Middle School, the complaint said, a group of students taunted a Jewish peer with slurs. They uttered similar rhetoric on social media as well, in full view of the local community. Forced to address what had become a hostile climate after Jewish parents filed more complaints with district officials, SCUSD did not acknowledge the antisemitic nature of the incidents, opting instead to send "a generalized communication to families about bullying, harassment, and hate speech."

"It is both shocking and heartbreaking that it has come to this," BAJC lawyer David Rosenberg-Wohl said after the complaint was filed. "After 1.5 years of

continuous attempts to constructively address the situation to no avail, SCUSD Jewish students feel abandoned, leaving us no choice but to file this official complaint."

Antisemitism in K-12 schools has increased every year of this decade, according to the latest data compiled by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). In 2023, antisemitic incidents in US public schools increased 135 percent, a figure which included a rise in vandalism and assault.

The problem has led to civil rights complaints and lawsuits.

In September 2023, some of America's most prominent Jewish and civil rights groups sued the SAUSD for concealing from the public its adoption of ethnic studies curricula containing antisemitic and anti-Zionist themes. Then in February, the school district paused implementation of the program to settle the lawsuit.

Jewish child assaulted in San Bernadino County School

One month later, the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, StandWithUs, and the ADL filed a civil rights complaint accusing the Etiwanda School District in San Bernarino County, California, of doing nothing after a 12-year-old Jewish girl was assaulted, having been beaten with stick, on school grounds and teased with jokes about Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

"While an increasing number of schools recognize that their Jewish students are being targeted both for their religious belief and due to their ancestral connection to Israel and are taking necessary steps to address both classic and contemporary forms of antisemitism, some shamefully continue to turn a blind eye," Brandeis Center chairman Kenneth Marcus said in March. "The law and federal government recognize Jews share a common faith and they are a people with a shared history and heritage rooted in the land of Israel. Schools that continue to ignore either aspect of Jewish identity are becoming dangerous breeding grounds for escalating anti-Jewish bigotry, and they must be held accountable."



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"Whites-only, No Jews Allowed"

Arkansas Community is Legal, Says State's Attorney General. How?
By Hannah Feuer, The Forward

On July 31st Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin said that 'Return to the Land', which bars non-whites and Jews from membership in its northern Arkansas living community, doesn't violate state or federal law.

"Racism has no place in a free society, but from a legal perspective, we have not seen anything that would indicate any state or federal laws have been broken," Griffin said in a statement provided to the Forward by a spokesperson.

Griffin's comments walk back legal concerns he previously expressed about the whites-only settlement. Earlier, Griffin told TMZ that Return to the Land — a community where prospective residents must verify their "ancestral heritage" in a written application and interview — raises "all sorts of legal issues, including constitutional concerns."

The Forward reported in June about Return to the Land's hopes of replicating its whites-only settlements across the country, with the stated aim of "trying to put land back under the control of Europeans." Eric Orwoll and Peter Csere lead the group, which Morgan Moon of the

Anti-Defamation League described as one of the most established white supremacist residential communities in the United States today.

In a June 30 email obtained by the Forward through a public records request, Gary McGee, an investigator with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission wrote that "as of today, AFHC has not discovered any actual property owned by this organization or its founder, nor any advertisements for housing."

Records show that a limited liability company in both Csere and Orwoll's name, "Wisdom Woods LLC," owns adjacent parcels of land totaling 157 acres near the town of Ravenden, where Sky News reporter Tom Cheshire visited the group and spoke with residents of the whites-only community in July.

Griffin did not respond to the Forward's request for clarification about why the office believed Return to the Land had not broken any laws and whether it had considered the property owned by Wisdom Woods LLC.

McGee's email appears to echo arguments made by Return to the Land about the legality of the arrangement.

"There is no actual change of real estate title occurring, nor are they renting the land," Csere wrote in a message to the Forward, differentiating between directly owning land versus purchasing membership units of the LLC that owns the land. "The land stays under the ownership of the business entity that they are becoming a part-owner of."

Return to the Land updated their website with a "legal disclaimer," writing that "RTTL does not engage in the sale or rental of real estate," and they posted similar information on Substack in response to, "Is RTTL legal?" RTTL says it's exempt from the Civil Rights Act because it's a private club, and housing is not the group's primary purpose.

Arkansas' attorney general has not contacted Return to the Land, Csere wrote in a message to the Forward, adding that the group continues "to work with legal professionals to explore all facets of our organization, to ensure that we are operating in a lawful manner."

But Stacy Seicshnaydre, a law professor at Tulane University who specializes in fair housing and anti-discrimination law, said she still believes that Return to the Land is likely running afoul of federal housing law.

She said the structure reminds her of a co-op, where members purchase shares in the corporation that owns the building

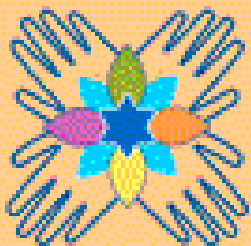
rather than owning individual apartments. "Imagine a co-op in New York City, in Manhattan, saying 'no Jews,' and it says, 'Oh, but we're a private association,'" she said. "I mean, the purpose of the co-op is to run a housing business."

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 is intentionally broad to cover circumstances like these, she said. And yet another law, the Civil Rights Act of 1866 — which prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of both race and religion — has no exemptions.

"I'm not aware of any reason why the civil rights laws would not apply in this circumstance," Seicshnaydre said.

Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey appeared to agree with Seicshnaydre. Local media asked him about the legality of Return to the Land after Orwoll told a Missouri news station that he hopes the group will soon expand to the state.

"Bailey is committed to protecting the constitutional rights of all citizens," a spokesperson for Bailey told the Missouri Independent in a statement. "The landmark Supreme Court case *Shelley v. Kraemer*, which originated in St. Louis, made clear that government cannot enforce racially discriminatory housing practices, and Missouri will not tolerate efforts to revive them."



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Cal Prof's 'Sleep-in' Against Antisemitism Leads to Change on Campus and National Changemaker Award

By Emma Goss, J-The Jewish News of Northern California

What started last year as one Cal professor's insistent, round-the-clock protest against his university's handling of antisemitism concerns captured attention across the world and led to change on campus.

On July 29, UC Berkeley professor Ron Hassner, who began working and sleeping in his office in March 2024 in protest of his university's lack of support for Jewish students, earned recognition from a national nonprofit for his "extraordinary courage" and "moral leadership."

Hassner, the Chancellor's Professor of Political Science and the Helen Diller Family Chair in Israel Studies, accepted the inaugural Faculty Changemaker Award from the Academic Engagement Network (AEN), a group that mobilizes university faculty and administrators to counter antisemitism and anti-Zionism. Mark Yudof, former president of the University of California system and former chancellor of the University



Professor Ron Hassner in his UC Berkeley Office
faculty and others who attended the event.

"It was very moving. And my mom who watched the video has kvelled, which is, after all, why we do these things. It's a tremendous honor," said Hassner, who is also faculty co-director of Cal's Helen Diller Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies.

Miriam Elman, executive director of AEN, said in a statement that Hassner "took a bold and deeply principled stand, guided by his conscience and by a profound sense of responsibility to his students, colleagues, and the ideals of the university itself."

The award ceremony took place in Washington, D.C., during the Israel on Campus Coalition's national summit of 700 college students, the largest annual pro-Israel student gathering in the U.S., according to AEN.

Several political leaders spoke at the summit, including former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.), as did former hostages Keith and Aviva Siegel and hostage family members Rachel Goldberg-Polin and Jon Polin, whose son, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, was killed last summer in Hamas captivity.

In April, inspired by Hassner's leadership, AEN said, it launched the Faculty Against Antisemitism Movement (FAAM) specifically to help academics stand up against antisemitism

and anti-Zionism on their campuses.

Ron Hassner lived in his campus office for two weeks straight in March 2024 with the goal of pushing Cal's administration to take action against antisemitism.

Hassner worked, slept and entertained in his tiny office for two weeks in March 2024. For one night during the campaign, more than 30 professors across California also slept in their offices and posted about it on social media to show solidarity with Cal students facing antisemitism.

When Hassner ended his office sleep-in, he did so triumphantly, writing in an open letter to students that Cal administrators had agreed to the actions he'd called for:

- They vowed to ensure clear and safe access through Sather Gate, the main entrance to campus, which had been repeatedly blocked by anti-Israel protesters since Oct. 7, 2023.

- They agreed to invite Israeli attorney and IDF combat reservist Ran Bar-Yoshafat back to campus to speak, after pro-Palestinian protesters stormed Zellerbach Playhouse, cancelling his scheduled talk in February 2024.

- They promised to institute mandatory trainings about antisemitism and Islamophobia for all incoming students and resident advisers, starting last fall.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, while Hassner was on leave from teaching, the federal government launched multiple investigations into allegations of antisemitism at UC Berkeley, including by the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

"It's a crucial moment. We're undergoing all sorts of change. I think one of the key changes is that gaslighting Jews about antisemitism on campus is no longer an option, Hassner told J. "It's become very clear to everybody from looking at the evidence and listening to the testimonies and hearing story after story that antisemitism on American campuses is a real issue."

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Canada's Antisemitism Envoy Resigns Abruptly: 'It Was Hard to Get People to Speak Up'

Deborah Lyons' exit comes as new data shows that Jews remain the top target of hate crimes in Canada.

By Grace Gilson, JTA

Canada's envoy for combating antisemitism is leaving her job early, partly out of exhaustion from "waking up every day to a fight."

Deborah Lyons had been serving as Canada's special envoy on preserving Holocaust remembrance and combatting antisemitism since she took the job soon after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel. Her term was to end in three months.

In a post on X on Thursday announcing her departure, Lyons wrote that her tenure had brought her "many challenges, some profound disappointments, but also, ultimately, real achievements."

"In recent years, it has been troubling to witness our lack of patience, our intolerance, and our inability to bridge the gap that separates us," Lyons continued. "I know we are better than this, and although I am leaving my role as Special Envoy, I will continue the mission we all share, that of a united, compassionate, and inclusive Canada."

Lyons was appointed by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was unseated earlier this year. She was the second person to hold the post after former Attorney General Irwin Cotler, who served in the role from 2020 and 2023. Lyons, who is not Jewish, also served as Canada's ambassador to Israel from 2016 and 2020.

In an interview with The Canadian Jewish News, Lyons explained that her departure was partially due to exhaustion.

"I would say that during this period, these last two years, I've been really quite amazed and often become quite despondent and despairing about the fact that it was hard to get people to speak up, to speak with clarity, to speak with conviction about what we were seeing happening here on Canadian soil," she said.

Lyons' exit comes as Canadian Jews have faced surging antisemitism since Oct. 7. In 2024, Jews remained the top target of hate crimes in Canada, with a total of 920 hate crimes being directed at Jews, according to data released this week by Statistics Canada.

Lyons also told the Canadian Jewish News that she was "very confident" that the Canadian government would fill her vacancy, adding that she had "talked about several different candidates" and that she hoped the next person to fill the role would be Jewish.

In a statement, Canadian Heritage told the Canadian public broadcaster CBC that



Deborah Lyons, Canada's envoy for combating antisemitism

Lyons for her "leadership, partnership and deep friendship towards Canada's Jewish community."

"From championing Holocaust education to addressing the rise in antisemitism across Canada and abroad, she's brought clarity, conviction and compassion to a critical mandate," the statement continued.

Lyons' departure means that both Canada and the United States do not have anyone in their antisemitism envoy roles. President Donald Trump has announced his pick for the role of antisemitism envoy, a Hasidic fixer named Yehuda Kaploun, but Congress has yet to schedule a confirmation hearing for the nominee nearly six months into his term.

Lyons' replacement would be appointed "in due course."

"The special envoy is retiring to spend more time with her family after reaching the milestone of turning 75 and a distinguished career in the public service," the statement said.

In a post on X Thursday, the Canadian Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs thanked



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Argentine Lawmaker Indicted Over Anti-Israel Social Media Posts, in a First

Vanina Biasi was indicted over eight social media posts comparing Israel to the Nazi regime.

By Juan Melamed, JTA

An Argentine lawmaker has been indicted on criminal charges after comparing Israel to the Nazi regime and calling it a "genocide state" on social media.

Vanina Biasi of the left-wing Workers' Party is the first sitting legislator in Argentina to

be indicted for antisemitism, and the case against her marks the first time social media posts demonizing Israel have been legally recognized as antisemitic in Argentina.

The indictment comes as Argentina takes an aggressive stance against antisemitism and

anti-Israel activity, fueled by the philosemitism of its populist president, Javier Milei. A prosecutor first lodged charges against Biasi were first filed in late November 2023, days after Milei's election and before he was sworn in. Biasi lost a series of appeals, leading to the

formal indictment on Thursday.

The case against Biasi centers on eight tweets she posted on X between Nov. 27, 2023, and Jan. 29, 2024.

"The Zionist Nazis need to destroy UNRWA humanitarian aid so the extermination can accelerate. They use famine, like in Nazi concentration camps, as a method of extermination," Biasi wrote in one of the tweets. In another, she wrote, "The Zionist state is Nazi because of its practices and ideology."

The first prosecutor argued that Biasi's messages went beyond free speech and constituted hate speech under Argentina's Anti-Discrimination Law. A federal judge backed that assessment in April, saying that her posts incited hatred against Jews, and ordered a seizure of assets equal to about \$7,500.

Biasi's legal team appealed on free speech grounds.

On August 7, the Federal Chamber unanimously upheld the indictment and asset seizure. The judges ruled that freedom of expression is not absolute and can be restricted to protect others' rights, national security, public order, health or morals. They agreed that Biasi exceeded the limits of allowable free speech.

Biasi is a prominent leader of the Workers' Party, a former national lawmaker, and a recently elected member of the Buenos Aires city parliament. If convicted, she could face a prison sentence of one month to three years.

The case has divided Argentinians, with some arguing that even if her posts might be seen objectionable, they should not be treated as illegal. Others say they are glad the government is taking a strong stance against antisemitism.

The Argentine government adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which defines some forms of Israel criticism as antisemitic, in 2020.

DAIA, Argentina's main political umbrella group, supported the charges, saying in a statement that the posts reproduced "classic stigmas of modern antisemitism" and that Biasi's prominence meant their "negative impact and reach" were extended.

Biasi does not appear to have been restrained by the prosecution, which she said was politically motivated. "Now the court confirms the prosecution ... when the whole world is talking about nothing but the genocide being perpetrated by the State of Israel," she tweeted, calling for a mass protest against Israel on August 9. "There is no greater absurdity than believing they will silence us with judicial persecution."

Why did Har-El reschedule the Film "Keeping Up With the Steins" from Wednesday, August 20th to Saturday, October 11th?



Answer: The Director of "Keeping Up With the Steins", Scott Marshall, son of the late Garry Marshall, has offered to comment and lead a discussion of this iconic film. His father appears in this film, along with Jeremy Piven and the late Doris Roberts, Cheryl Hines, Daryl Hannah, Richard Benjamin and Neil Diamond.

Movie refreshments includes all beef hot dogs, chips, candy bars, popcorn and soft drinks. NO FEE. Recommended contribution: \$10.00 per person. Join us for nosh at 11 AM, with movie beginning at 11:45 AM, followed by discussion led by Scott Marshall.

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Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D.,
Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus (Hon),
President Barry Messinger and the Har-El
Board of Directors welcome you to celebrate
the 2025/5786 High Holidays with us.

Services: Erev Rosh Hashanah, First Day Rosh Hashanah,
Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur (morning + afternoon Yizkor & Neilah)

Non-members: \$100 per holiday. Receptions included.
Break the fast: \$38 ■ RSVP required.

For information email harelurjpd@gmail.com



Israeli Firm Rafael Unveils New Laser Interception Systems at Paris Air Show

'High-energy laser weapon systems' includes mobile interceptors that can be mounted on trucks, APCs to target drones, rockets and other aerial threats

By Emanuel Fabian, The Times of Israel



A Rafael laser interceptor system

After the Israeli military disclosed it had been using a laser interception system to shoot down Hezbollah drones amid the fighting in Lebanon last year, the Rafael defense firm unveiled several new versions of its Iron Beam and other laser systems. Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is showcasing its family of "high-energy laser weapon systems" at the Paris Air Show in June. The systems included the Iron Beam 450, an upgraded version of the in-development Iron Beam, which is set to be delivered to the Israel Defense Forces by the end of 2025.

Rafael said the Iron Beam 450 is "widely considered the most advanced high-energy laser air defense system in the world," and is capable of shooting down drones, rockets, and other aerial threats up to distances of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

"These upgrades enable longer-range interceptions, faster engagement cycles and even more precise targeting, while maintaining its unique advantages: speed-of-light threat neutralization, negligible per-intercept cost and wide-area defense against rapid and complex aerial threats," Rafael said. Top of Form

The Iron Beam is not meant to replace the Iron Dome or Israel's other air defense systems, but to supplement and complement them, shooting down smaller projectiles and leaving larger ones for the more robust missile-based batteries such as the David's Sling and Arrow systems.

The 'Iron Beam' laser-based air defense system is seen intercepting a target over southern Israel, March 2022. (Defense Ministry)

As long as there is a constant source of energy for the laser, there is no risk of it ever running out of ammunition. Officials have hailed it as a potential "game-changer" in the battle against projectile attacks.

The main downside of a laser system is that it does not function well in low visibility, including heavy cloud cover or other inclement weather.

Alongside the powerful system, Rafael was set to reveal at the airshow the Iron Beam M, a compact and mobile version of the laser interceptor, designed to be mounted on a truck and used by ground forces or to protect strategic sites, the company said.

The defense firm also said it will unveil the Lite Beam, which is a lightweight, compact, and lower-powered laser interceptor designed to be mounted on armored personnel carriers or other armored vehicles during ground operations.

A laser interception system deployed to northern Israel, in an undated photo published by the Defense Ministry on May 28, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

Rafael also said it was developing a maritime version of the laser interceptor, which could be deployed on Navy boats to protect assets at sea.



A lower-powered laser interceptor system used by the IDF's newly revived 946th Air Defense Battalion, which operates anti-drone systems, shot down some 35 Hezbollah drones over northern Israel last year, the military said.

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



Ozzy Osbourne's Jewish Ties and Love for Israel Remembered After his Death at 76

Before his debut concert in Israel, Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne visited key religious and historical sites, including the Western Wall and Yad Vashem

By Vered Weiss, World Israel News

Rock icon Ozzy Osbourne, who died July 22 at age 76, is being remembered not only for his legendary music career but also for his deep personal connection to Judaism and Israel, a bond mainly shaped through his wife, Sharon Osbourne.

Though raised Anglican, Ozzy embraced Jewish culture through his marriage to Sharon, daughter of Jewish music impresario Don Arden.

"Judaism is the only religion I have and the only one I'm comfortable with," Sharon said in a 2024 interview, adding that the faith was "at the heart of our household."

Ozzy, known for asking "Why don't



Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne

people like Jews?" from the start of their relationship, was deeply puzzled by modern antisemitism, Sharon told Jewish News.

The Black Sabbath frontman performed in Israel twice, first in 2010 at Ozzfest in Tel Aviv and again in 2018 on his farewell "No More Tours 2" tour.

Before his debut concert, he and Sharon visited key religious and historical sites, including the Western Wall and Yad Vashem. "We were very pleased to have the opportunity to come to Israel and visit the holy sites," Ozzy told The Jewish Chronicle.

Amid growing calls for artists to boycott Israel, Ozzy remained unfazed.

"I try to stay away from politics. They don't understand me, and I don't understand them," he said.

When asked about the pressure, Sharon firmly responded, "I'm half a Heeb. We play where we want to play. That's it."

Beyond music, Ozzy and Sharon joined more than 200 public figures in 2025 to

condemn the BBC documentary Gaza: How to Survive a Warzone. The couple signed an open letter criticizing what they called the network's "systematic bias against Israel."

Despite failing health later in life, Osbourne's two Israeli concerts drew massive crowds and, according to promoters, helped normalize performances by other global rock acts in the country.

After his death, Israeli fans flooded social media with tributes and memories—photos of Ozzy at the Western Wall, on stage in Tel Aviv, and words celebrating his lifelong bond with the Jewish people.

France Demands Probe into Refugee Vetting Process as Gazan Expelled by Top University Over Antisemitic Posts

By Ailin Vilches Arguello, The Algemeiner

A Palestinian from Gaza studying at the prestigious Sciences Po Lille has been expelled after French authorities

discovered hundreds of antisemitic social media posts, including praise for Nazi leader Adolf Hitler and calls for the murder

of Jews.

The episode has led ministers in the French government to demand answers

and push for an investigation into the vetting process that allowed the Gazan student to enter France in the first place.

After receiving a scholarship, 25-year-old Nour Atalla arrived in France earlier this year, planning to begin her law and communications studies at the Institute of Political Science in Lille, northern France.

She is one of 292 Gazans admitted to the country with support from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, following a court ruling that opened the door for Gazans to seek refugee status based on their nationality.

On Wednesday, the university announced it had revoked Atalla's enrollment after hundreds of her past antisemitic and violent social media posts went viral, sparking widespread condemnation from political leaders and members of the local Jewish community.

In several of these posts, she glorified Hitler, praised Hamas's Oct. 7, 2023, massacre across southern Israel, called for the execution of Israeli hostages and the killing of Jews, and expressed support for terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

"The content of these posts directly contradicts the core values of Sciences Po Lille, which actively opposes all forms of racism, antisemitism, and discrimination, as well as any incitement to hatred toward any group," the university said in a post on X.



Rabbi Richard Zions, Chair Beth Jacobs & the Har-El Board invite you ...

Har-El Galen Movies • September 2025

No-host lunch optional: 11:00 AM. Confirm with reservation.
Movie and popcorn at 12:30 PM. Discussion follows ... with ice cream.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025: "The Chosen"

FROM BOOKS TO MOVIES FILM: Based on the novel by Chaim Potok with the same name, "The Chosen" depicts the friendship between Reuven Malter, the son of a modern traditional Jewish college professor, and Danny Saunders, the son of an ultra-Orthodox Hasidic Rebbe. Set in Brooklyn in the 1940s, the film follows Reuven and Danny's friendship as they both question their faith and family, each ultimately finding their purpose in life." The Chosen" raises some pertinent questions and may serve as good preparation for the upcoming High Holy Days. LET'S DISCUSS!

The movie is free. Suggested contribution \$10.
No charge for the movie, popcorn and ice cream.
To register email: mtziontspd@aol.com.
Please include names of all attendees.
Location and gate code given when registered.

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Shabbat Schedule - September 2025

AHAVAT ACHIM/Sun City Jewish Services, Palm Desert

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert and Cantorial Soloist Ezra Yaron. 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. See High Holy Day ad page 5.

BEIT HAVERIM, Palm Springs

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg (rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com). Where friends old and new gather Friday evenings at 6:30 pm for Shabbat services and festive Oneg at Mizell Center or services and potluck dinners in members' homes. Shabbat mornings at 10:30 am: Nosh and drash/torah study online or in person. For schedule of services, potluck Shabbat dinners, Shabbat morning programs and activities email beithaverim@gmail.com or call 760-766-3212. See High Holy Day ad page 6.

Wednesday, September 24 - Second day Rosh Hashanah: Holiday brunch at a private home. Call or email for location and details.

BETH SHALOM, Palm Desert (Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)

Rabbi Dr. JB Sacks (rabbi@congregationbethshalom.net); Ken Hailpern, Madrikh Ruhani (ken@congregationbethshalom.net) 42600 Cook Street, Second Floor, Palm Desert, CA 92211. 760-200-3636. Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am, followed by light Kiddush lunch. Visitors welcome with valid identification. For information, email info@congregationbethshalom.net or call 760-200-3636. www.CongregationBethShalom.net. See High Holy Day ad page 4.

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim 250 East Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264 www.chabadpalmsprings.com 760-325-0774. Shacharit services Monday-Friday at 7:30 am; Sundays at 8:00 am and Shabbat at 10:00 am. Evening services 10 minutes before sunset. Check website or call to

confirm times.

NEW! First Fridays: Services at 7 pm, followed by Shabbat dinners at 7:30 pm. September dinner: Friday, September 5th. See ad page 8.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT

Rabbi Mendy Friedman. Located in south Palm Desert. Call for information and location: 760-969-2158; www.chabadpd.com. Shabbat morning services 10:00 am. Monthly Shabbat dinners.

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE:

Rabbi Shimon Posner & Rabbi Benny Lew. www.chabadrm.com. Weekly Shabbat Services start at 10 am, followed by a sit-down lunch/kiddush. Check online for weekday and Friday schedule of services Text 760-770-7785 or e-mail: info@chabadrm.com to be added to our mailing list. All programs and events are updated on our website.

Ckids Hebrew School 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM on designated Sundays throughout the school year. Check our schedule online Info: chabadrm.com/ckids or Chaya Posner: chaya@chabadrm.com or 760-272-1923.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim. Call 760-848-8250 or e-mail: info@chabadcity.com for information. Monthly Social Happy Hour. Holiday dinners and celebrations. Zoom Torah classes. Contact Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim to receive weekly "Chabad in Sun City Newsletter" with listing of all services and activities: sussiedenebeim@gmail.com.

CHABAD OF LA QUINTA

Rabbi Moshe Katz 50620 Eisenhower Drive, Ste. G103, La Quinta, CA 92253. 760-709-2431. Email: Info@ChabadLQ.com; website: www.ChabadLQ.com.

Chabad LQ offers weekly Torah studies, home visitations, Kosher meals, Shabbat Services, Women's Circle, Youth activities, Holiday programs and more. See High Holy Day ad page 10.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL,

a Contemporary Reform Congregation (Member, Union for Reform Judaism), offering year-round services, Torah

study, youth and adult classes and events. Membership open for residents and non-residents.

Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D.; Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus. harelurjpd@gmail.com 760-779-1691. Website: harelurjpd.org. Abbreviated Shabbat schedule for September. Weekly in person Shabbat Eve services resume after the High Holy Days. Email for location and schedule. Rabbi Zions holds Torah Study on Zoom every Saturday morning at 11 AM. For a Zoom link, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com. See High Holy Day ad page 14.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE, Rancho Mirage

Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Rabbi Chazzan Maseng and Sarah Lonsert, Cantorial Soloist. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. Shabbat services held at 7:00 pm on the second Fridays at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert in Rancho Mirage. On second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi Axelrad. Check the calendar for updates.

Adult Education: Adult B'nai Mitzvah, Hebrew—Beginning and advanced, Introduction to Judaism, Adult Confirmation, Adult Learning. Contacts: rabbi@my-dos.org; www.my-dos.org See High Holy Day ad page 11.

OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar rabbi@orhamidbar.org In-person services each first 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.

For more information of in-person services, upcoming classes and Zoom links, visit orhamidbar.org. See High Holy Day ad page 12.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com. Shabbat Candle Lighting on Fridays at 6:00 pm on Zoom. First 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

332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281 (Tuesday-Thursday). Email: temple@templeisaiahps.com; Website: templeisaiahps.com. Shabbat services Friday evenings in the Liberman Chapel at 6:30 pm followed by Oneg. Torah services are on Shabbat mornings at 10:30 during season; on hiatus during summer. Check website to confirm services and programming. Services also streamed online. To access any activity, go to Temple Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program. Interim Associate Rabbis: Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Rabbi Suzanne Singer. Cantorial Soloists: Ezra Yaron, Elliot Levine. Check website for schedule. Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service is broadcast on Facebook: www.facebook.com/templeisaiahpalmsprings. See High Holy Day ad page 9.

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

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

Temple Sinai's Avi Levine Religious School open to children irrespective of parents' membership at Temple Sinai.

Contact Talia Lizemer-Hawley, Educator, for more information: educator@templesinaipd.org See High Holy Day ad page 7.

BIKUR CHOLIM

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



Community Calendar of Programs - September 2025

Tuesdays

7:00 pm "Living With the Times": Exploring the weekly torah portion on Zoom. Instructor: Sussie Denebeim, Chabad of Palm Springs. Chabadps.com.

Wednesdays

7:00 pm Tanya Class with Rabbi Shimon Posner, Chabad of Rancho Mirage. In person and available online. Email: info@chabadrm.com, Phone: 760-770-7785; www.ChabadRM.com.

Thursday, September 4

6:15 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert: Light supper: Pizza, salad and dessert.
Special Program featuring **Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks**, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom:
"More than Honey Cake: High Holy Day Customs around the World"
Sun City Shadow Hills Montecito Clubhouse. \$20. Mail check payable to "Hadassah" to: Hadassah, 38180 Del

Webb Blvd, PMB# 315, Palm Desert, CA 92211. Questions: 760-289-7987.

Wednesday, September 17

12:30 pm Har-El Galen Movie: **"The Chosen."** (Optional no-host lunch available at 11 am). Film screening, followed by discussion. Program free; \$10 contribution suggested. RSVP to mtziontspd@aol.com for location and gate code. See ad page 16.

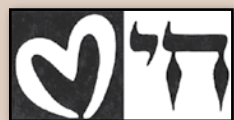
Email (preferred)

Miriam Bent at
mhbentjcn@earthlink.net

or call

760-835-1022

to have your events
included in the
community calendar.



Tribute Card Donations

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

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Miriam Bent**, Happy birthday wishes from Carol Woodward.
- **Robin Berman**, Happy birthday wishes from Leslie Usow. *
- **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fraiman**, Much love to you for great happiness in your new home, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Lois Johnson**, Belated happy birthday, with love from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Mickey Star**, Belated birthday wishes from Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak.
- **Carolyn Weiss**, Another happy and healthy birthday wish from your adoring husband Zeke.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Nancy and Dennis Ditlove**, Fond wishes for good health and happiness from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Jeanne Levitt**, My love for a future of good health from Loreen Jacobson.

- **Robbie Winnick**, My love for a future of good balance and good health from Loreen Jacobson.

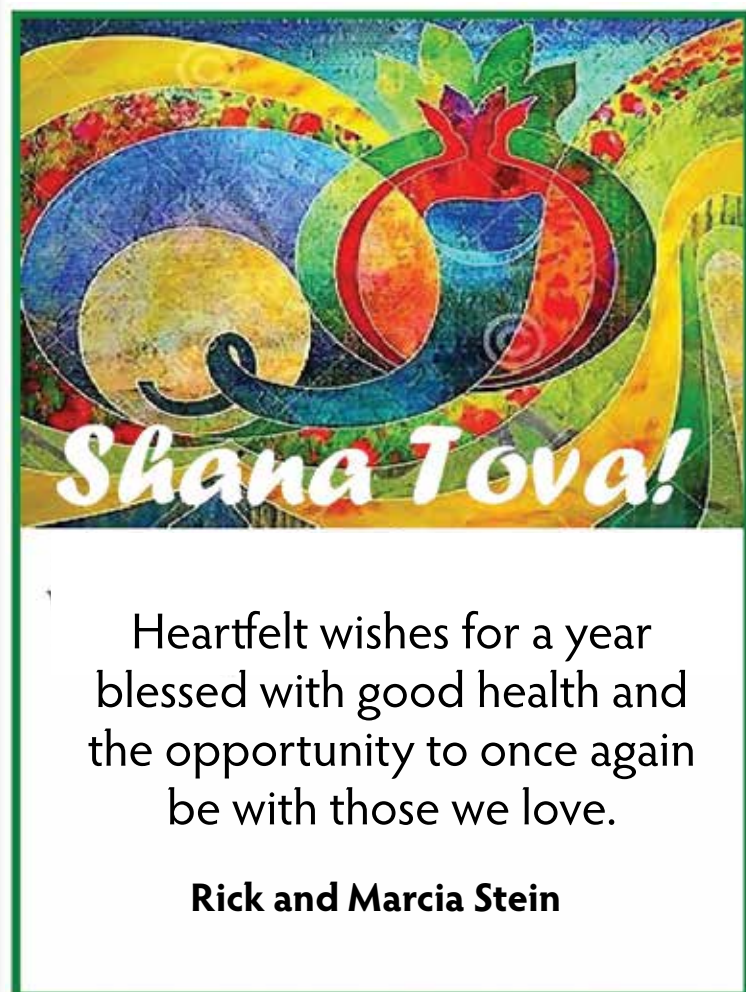
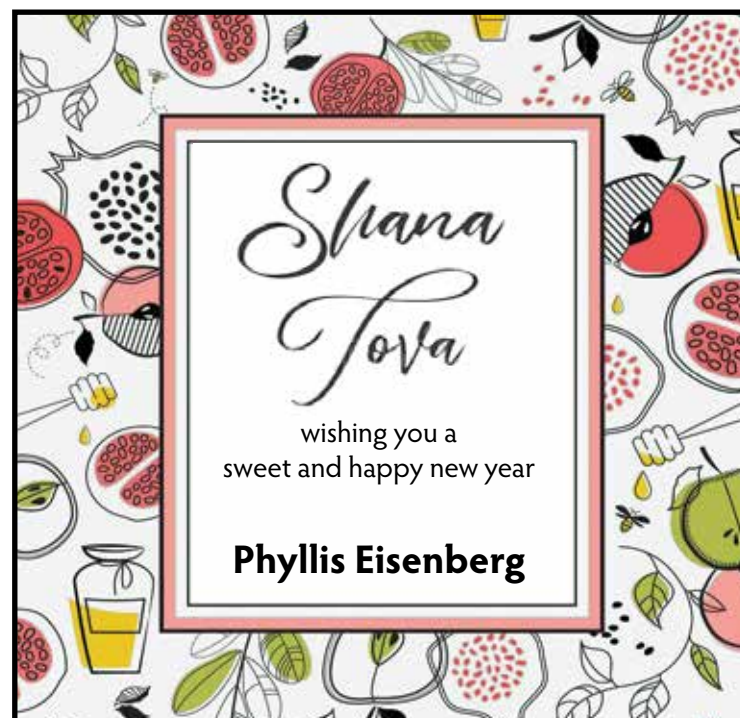
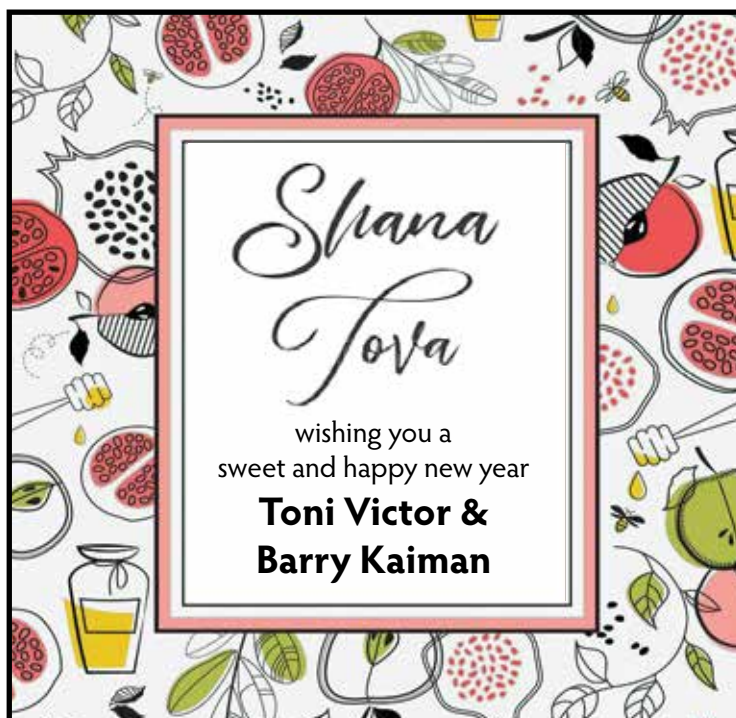
Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

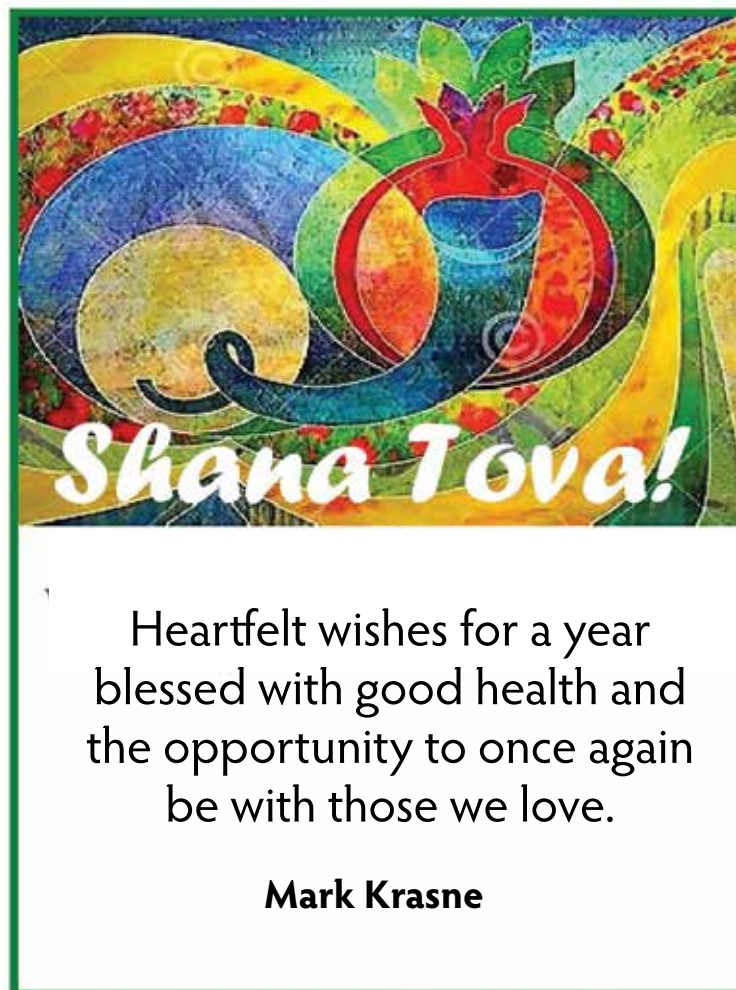
- **Paul Berman and Linda Shayne**, In memory of your beloved mother, Rose Berman, from Milton and Nina Zale.
- **Jim Borax**, In memory of your beloved Sheri, from Jim Borax, Joanne and Jim Cohen, Suzanne and Jeff Feder, Barbara and Bernie Fromm, Arnie and Sue Gillman, Cora Ginsberg, Ron and Muriel Goldberg, Wynne and Peter Good, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Cydney Osterman, Barbara Platt and Ken Schoenfeld, Carol and Alan Parsow, Sue Rappaport and David Suss, Katie and Scott Small, Debra and Mickey Star, Marcia and Rick Stein.
- **Vicky Brodsky and Family**, In memory of your dear mother, Cass, from Leslie and Barry Usow. *
- **Stuart Edelstein**, In memory of Rosalie Edelstein, from Marilyn Levy.
- **Mary Freeman**, In memory of Richard Freeman, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa.

- **Libby Hoffman**, In memory of your beloved husband Buddy Hoffman, from Joanne and Bill Chunowitz, Sande and Ed Fineman, Barbara and Bernie Fromm, Toni and Bobby Garmisa, Cora Ginsberg, Ron and Muriel Goldberg, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Loreen Jacobson, Sheila Keeshin, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Marilyn Levy, Cydney Osterman and Ken Schoenfeld, Barbara Platt, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry Schor, Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak, Leslie and Barry Usow, Milton and Nina Zale.
- **Alison Hyman**, In memory of your dear mother, from Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak.
- **Amy Nachman and Family**, In memory of Alan Potash, from Joe and Lisa Klosner.
- **Arthur and Jane Rosenbloom**, In memory of your son Jeffrey, from Pat Hubbard.
- In memory of **Jerome D. Schneider** at his yahrzeit, from Justin and Robert Schneider.
- **Geri Sherman and Family**, In memory of Jim's passing, from Leslie and Barry Usow.
- **Amy Siegel and Family**, In memory of Roberta Selick, from Carol and Alan Parsow.
- **Shirley Zipkin and Family**, our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved husband Larry, from Gail and Bob Scadron, Leslie and Barry Usow.

* Donation sent to Israel


L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivnu Happy New Year





L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivnu
Happy New Year






Shana Tova!

Wishing all our friends a Happy New Year,
a year of happiness, good health, peace and joy.

Warm wishes from the
Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert.

www.JMOGD.org





Happy New Year!

לשנה טובה

Judy and Elliott
Bernstein



Happy New Year!

לשנה טובה

Dr. Robert S. Rosen
& Vance Viverito



Happy New Year!

לשנה טובה

Jackie and Eddie
Cohen



Wishing all a
Sweet New Year!

לשנה טובה

Lynda and Trevor
Bailey



shana
tova

Laurel & Ken Warner



shana
tova

Barbara & Maury Mortensen



shana
tova

Bob and Marilyn Yassin

Israel Praises UN for "Doing One Thing Right"

Israel Welcomes UN Blacklisting of Hamas for Sexual Crimes in Conflict

By Pesach Benson, TPS, World Israel News

On August 14 Israel's Foreign Ministry welcomed the UN's decision to add Hamas to its "blacklist" of groups committing sexual crimes in armed conflicts, calling it an overdue recognition of atrocities committed since October 7.

"Hamas terrorists have committed – and continue to commit – some of the most horrific sexual crimes known

to humanity: rape, gang rape, genital mutilation, sexual abuse in captivity. Now, the UN officially recognizes this fact," the ministry said.

The ministry said the inclusion came after "hard work" by Israeli diplomats, noting that UN Secretary-General António Guterres had initially opposed the move last year.

"Today, the UN is expected to send all members of the General Assembly the Secretary-General's report... and the report includes the terrorist organization Hamas for the first time."

The Foreign Ministry stressed that Hamas's listing follows earlier findings by UN Special Envoy on Sexual Violence in Conflict Pramila Patten in early 2024.

"The inclusion of Hamas in the blacklist constitutes an international seal of guilt for a particularly serious offense under international law, on the same level as war crimes and crimes

against humanity," it said.

"These sexual crimes have not stopped, and we know that Hamas terrorists are sexually abusing hostages. Therefore, we continue to demand... the immediate release of all hostages and the disarming of Hamas," the ministry added. It also vowed to counter "false slander" and "blood libels" alleging Israeli culpability.

The statement came after Guterres announced that Hamas would join the blacklist of countries and groups credibly suspected of systematic sexual violence in armed conflict.

He also warned that Israel itself was "on notice" for possible inclusion next year.

In a letter to Israel's UN envoy Danny Danon, Guterres cited "significant concern" over documented patterns of abuse and said Israel's refusal to grant inspectors access had hindered verification.

Freed hostages have told stories of sexual assault, including captors touching their private parts, threatening them with rape and forced marriage, and asking detailed questions about their menstrual cycle.

Survivors of the October 7 attack have recounted sexual violence committed by Hamas terrorists at murder scenes, including gang rape, public humiliation, forced nudity, genital abuse, and direct shooting of intimate body parts.

Terrorists caught by Israeli forces have admitted to interrogators that they raped and abused Israeli women and men.

Legal scholars in July presented the first comprehensive legal framework for prosecuting Hamas terrorists for the systematic use of sexual violence as a weapon of war during the October 7 attack.

everyone
counts

can we count on you?

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Jewish Federation of the Desert
Annual Campaign

2026



Reading PJ library books with our children and grandchildren

and teaching them to be “balabusts” in the kitchen have filled many of our homes. If you or your friends raising the next generation of Jewish children are interested in this free Jewish book and music program, please contact Leslie Pepper at Leslie.pepperjfedps.org or call 760-324-4737.



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A GIFT from Jewish Federation of the Desert & The Harold Grinspoon Foundation



The PJ Library program offers the gift of free high-quality Jewish books and music each month to children ages 6 months through 8 years. PJ Library books celebrate important aspects of Jewish culture, values and tradition, and become cherished bedtime stories. Sign up online at www.pjlibrary.org today. For more information about PJ Library programs in our community contact Leslie Pepper at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or call 760-324-4737.



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PJ Library Grandparents.

Someone you love wants you to receive books and resources from PJ Library, so what happens now? Enroll and you should be receiving your first two PJ Library books in a few weeks, but you can access a ton of great resources on the PJ Library grandparent hub right now.

You can also browse the blog for activities, recipes, and more. Sign up as a PJ Library grandparent and you'll receive monthly emails with the latest and greatest resources and updates from PJ Library. Don't forget to fill out the grandparent welcome survey so we can learn more about you, and how you spend time with your grandkids to better inform the resources we share.



HAVE A NOSH: Apples and Honey ... and Cut the Sugar

I was recently asked if I had any “lower in sugar” apple and/or honey cake recipes for Rosh Hashanah. To my



delight I found my column from ten years ago (September 2015!) where two of the three recipes absolutely fits the bill (and the Double Apple recipe is so special that I am including it anyway). My best wishes for a good and sweet year. Shana tovah. MHB

Light Honey Cake

1½ teaspoon instant coffee granules	Pinch ground cloves
6 Tablespoons hot water	2 large eggs
1½ cups all-purpose flour	½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder	½ cup honey
½ teaspoon baking soda	⅓ cup vegetable oil
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon	½ cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
¼ teaspoon ground ginger	

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Lightly grease a 8 X 4 inch loaf pan, line with parchment or wax paper and grease the paper. In a cup, dissolve the coffee granules in the hot water. Let cool. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and cloves. Beat eggs lightly. Add sugar and honey and beat until mixture is smooth and very light in color. Gradually add the oil, beating until blended. Stir in the flour mixture alternately with the cooled coffee. Stir in walnuts.

Pour batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes or until cake tester inserted in cake comes out clean. Cool in pan for about 15 minutes. Turn out onto a rack and carefully peel off paper. Cool completely. Cut into thin slices. Makes 8 to 10 servings. (Can be tightly wrapped in foil and will keep one week at room temperature).

Double Apple Cake with Cinnamon & Pecans

2½ pounds tart apples, divided	2 large eggs
4 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided	2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup + 7 tablespoons sugar, divided	1½ baking powder
1 cup pareve margarine, divided	1 cup pecans, coarsely chopped

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Peel, core and dice 1½ pounds of the apples. Combine a half cup sugar and two teaspoons cinnamon in a large bowl and stir the diced apples into the mixture. Set aside two tablespoons of the margarine. Beat the remaining margarine in a bowl until smooth, then add a half cup of sugar, beating together until fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift the flour and baking powder together and stir into the egg mixture. Stir in the diced apple mixture and pecans. Spread in a greased 9" X 13" baking dish. Smooth the top.

Peel, halve and core the remaining 1 pound of apples and cut into thin slices. Lay the slices in overlapping rows to cover the batter completely. Melt the reserved two tablespoons of margarine and brush the apple slices. Combine the remaining 7 tablespoons sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon and sprinkle evenly over top. Bake for 1 hour until the apples are very tender. Cool in pan on a rack. To serve, cut into squares. Makes 16 to 20 servings.

Apple “Lite” Cake

1 cup all-purpose flour	¼ cup molasses
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 egg
½ teaspoon baking soda	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon	½ cup granulated Splenda
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg	1 cup apple butter
½ teaspoon ground cardamom	1 Granny Smith apple, cored and grated
¼ cup canola oil	

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray an 8" springform pan with vegetable cooking spray. In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg and cardamom. Set aside. In a large mixing bowl, beat oil and molasses with an electric mixer on high speed for one minute. Add egg and vanilla and blend on high speed 30 seconds. Add Splenda and beat until smooth. Add flour mixture, grated apple, and apple butter. Mix until blended. Spread batter evenly in pan and bake for 30 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Remove springform sides from bottom. Serve warm.



Simchas

The Maccabiah Games (often called the Jewish Olympics) are held in Israel every four years. The event was scheduled for the Summer of 2025 but, with the current turmoil,

officials opted to postpone the event until 2026. Instead, 2000 Jewish teens from around the world came to compete at the University



Leah Abrams

of Pittsburgh in August ... where one of the outstanding athletes was **Leah Abrams**, daughter of **Angela and Dr. Jody Abrams**, and family of **Rabbi Richard and Lynda Zionts**. Leah earned top female points for swimming at the meet, pictured here with her many medals! ...

Share your simchas with us. Email or call Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call her at 760-835-1022.



Classifieds

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... I have a 'whey' 'weigh' 'way' with words. Contact Tina Levine at prunehaven@protonmail.com or call or text 310-993-1668.

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SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 5	Shabbat Ki Tetzei	6:22 pm
Friday, September 12	Shabbat Ki Tavo	6:13 pm
Friday, September 19	Shabbat Nitzavim	6:03 pm
Monday, September 22	Erev Rosh Hashanah	5:59 pm
Tuesday, September 23	2 nd day Rosh Hashanah	After 7:17 pm
Friday, September 26	Shabbat Vayelech	5:53 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Alexander Bercovitz, Sherry Borax, Marilyn Eager (April 18th), Ted Gertz, Buddy Hoffman, Joan Schultz, and Harris Weinstein.
Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.



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