



# Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

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

Tishrei - Cheshvan 5786 - October 2025

## Remembering October 7th

See  
Page 3  
For Event  
Details



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When Our Jewish Mobilizing Goes 3D



Danny Labin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Jewish Federation  
of the Desert

Immediately after the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre, the Jewish Federation system across North America sprung into action. Two years and a billion dollars later, Federations have proven once again to be the most efficient and effective way of mobilizing vast resources to help meet the needs of the Jewish people in real time. The alacrity that Federations exhibit time and again in crisis situations is actually a testament to our organization’s critical infrastructure that is built and nurtured throughout the rest of the year.

The Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign serves as the primary vehicle to ensure that our underlying foundation is secure and nimble. Today, just before we move into Campaign Season, I’d like to reflect on how our own Jewish Federation of the Desert was able to mobilize quickly this summer to respond to the needs of Israelis impacted by the 12-Day War with Iran, “Operation Rising Lion,” where in addition to the 31 fatalities and thousands of people injured, Iranian missiles wreaked havoc to the tune of billions of dollars in physical damage.

To help meet the needs of this war within the larger war of the past two years, the Jewish Federation of the Desert immediately mobilized. As dozens of population centers in Israel were under direct and precise missile

attacks as never experienced before, our local emergency fundraising campaign raised approximately \$100,000. And, with \$100,000 to contribute in the wake of so much sorrow and devastation, the Jewish Federation of the Desert needed to mobilize not only resources but also strategy.

“How could our Federation’s funds contribute to addressing the needs in ways that will truly deliver meaningful impact?” was the most critical question our Federation grappled with as we developed a strategic impact framework which included focusing on the mental health needs of especially vulnerable populations who had directly suffered. The results of this process have the power to effect change in meaningful and innovative ways at scale. Our community’s contributions will be going to create new mental health programs for hospital staff at Soroka Medical Center, the largest hospital south of Tel Aviv, whose buildings were hit by Iranian missiles. As another way of addressing the needs of overlooked populations, we will be extending this emphasis on “caring for the caregiver” by directly supporting the mental health of caregivers for the elderly as many of the caregivers in Israel today are guest workers from other countries who do not qualify for psychological services. We will be supporting the therapeutic and emotional needs of reservist IDF soldiers who have been away from home in combat for many months, as well as supporting the mental health of their spouses and children left at home to wait and cope. To do that, we will be creating a new therapeutic program in our Federation’s partner community of Ramat HaNegev in the south of Israel. We

will be enabling wounded IDF soldiers to participate in a restorative program using skiing as a modality for healing. We will be supporting food security for Israel’s Holocaust survivors whose cities and towns in Israel were struck by Iran’s missiles. Each of these initiatives helps to plant a seed for more resources that our strategy will help to mobilize in the future.

But funds and strategy are not the only things Federation mobilizes. We also mobilize people. This year our Federation will once again convene our community to mourn the lives lost on October 7<sup>th</sup> and in the ongoing aftermath. In coming together as a community on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> we will commemorate the victims, honor the heroes who emerged from the tragedy, and pay tribute to the strength and resilience of the Israeli people. Our community’s mobilization for this event will also send a clear and resounding message of solidarity to the hostage families as we mobilize attention on the remaining 48 hostages still held in captivity in Gaza.

We are a community that knows how to mobilize our resources. And we have the intellectual capacity to mobilize strategic thinking that allows us to maximize those resources. But it is this third dimension, *the mobilizing of people*, that remains the most unique, influential and vibrant resource we have ever had. And when we are able to collectively mobilize this trifecta of resources, strategy and people, our community truly comes alive and goes 3D. May we continue to mobilize in this new year and beyond as the Jewish community of the Desert goes from strength to strength.

The Jewish Federation of the Desert mourns the passing of Harold Matzner, philanthropist and community leader, on September 4, 2025, at the age of 88. Nicknamed “Mr. Palm Springs,” his generosity elevated Palm Springs onto the international stage, while his tireless philanthropy strengthened every corner of our community — raising funds, creating jobs and improving the wellbeing of countless lives across the Coachella Valley. He was truly one of a kind, and will be greatly missed. We wish his family and loved ones comfort and strength. May his memory be a blessing. Baruch Dayan HaEmet. **ברוך דיין האמת**



**JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US**

**S Sunday, October 5, 2025 - 3:00 pm at Temple Sinai**

**Save the Date**

**Marking  
October 7<sup>th</sup>**



**Jewish Federation  
OF THE DESERT**

**"A New Day Will Rise" Marking October 7th**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, October 5, 2025 - 3:00 pm**

**Hosted by Temple Sinai - 73251 Hovley Lane, Palm Desert**

As we mark the two-year anniversary of the horrific attacks, Jewish Federation invites you to a community gathering to commemorate the victims, honor the heroes who emerged from the tragedy, and pay tribute to the strength and resilience of the Israeli people.

**For additional information, please contact**

**Leslie Pepper at Jewish Federation: (760) 324-4737**

**Armed security will be present**

## IMMIGRANTS AND ARTISTS: THE JEWS OF WYOMING MEET THE DESCENDANTS OF LIGHT

Havurah of the Desert and  
The Jewish Federation of the Desert  
invite the community to a fascinating afternoon  
with nationally renowned photographer  
**PENNY WOLIN**  
presenting a unique portrait of the Jews  
of her native Wyoming and of 72  
photographers of Jewish ancestry.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 2:00 PM**  
at the Jewish Federation of the Desert  
69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage.

Admission Free. RSVP: 760-324-4737.



## Immigrants and Artists: The Jews of Wyoming Meet the Descendants of Light" with Penny Wolin

**Sunday, October 19, 2025 - 2:00 pm at the Jewish Federation of the Desert**

Few people have chronicled the American West as thoroughly as nationally renowned photographer Penny Wolin. Trained in visual anthropology, Wolin brings to us a unique portrait of the Jews in her native Wyoming. Her seminal book *THE JEWS OF WYOMING: FRINGE OF THE DIASPORA* has been widely acclaimed. Library Journal called the book "a unique and important contribution to our understanding of Jewish life in the United States." A solo exhibition of this work was shown at the Smithsonian Museum of

American History.

Wolin's second odyssey into American Jewish life was her book *DESCENDANTS OF LIGHT: AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHERS OF JEWISH ANCESTRY*. Over an eight-year period, Wolin photographed and interviewed 72 American photographers of Jewish ancestry, determined to find out why they chose to use the camera as their medium of expression. What emerged was a portrait of notable photographers who built the visual lexicon of American culture. Kirkus Review gave this book

their coveted Starred Review and voted it Best Independent Non-fiction Book of the Year.

Penny Wolin will present a lively and interactive discussion of the photographs and texts taken from these two bodies of work. Both books will be available for signing.

This event is cosponsored by the Havurah of the Desert and the Jewish Federation of the Desert. Admission is free. RSVP to the Jewish Federation Office, 760-324-4737.

## Canadian Government Report Says Hezbollah, Hamas Selling Drugs, Stolen Cars in the Country

*Mike Wagenheim, Jewish News Syndicate*

A recent Canadian government report details ways that Hamas and Hezbollah are involved in a wide range of criminal activities in the country which they use to fund their terror operations.

Ottawa's 2025 Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risks in Canada, which the federal government's finance department published, states that "several terrorist entities listed under the criminal code

in Canada," including Hamas and Hezbollah, "have been observed by law enforcement and intelligence agencies to receive financial support originating from Canada."

Largely destroyed by Israeli retaliatory strikes last year, Lebanese-based Hezbollah was the second most frequently cited international terror group to benefit from outgoing Canadian funds, per the report."

Hezbollah remains a highly active global player in the cocaine, heroin, fentanyl and captagon trades, with trafficking networks spanning Latin America, Canada and the United States," the report says.

Hezbollah also uses the Port of Montreal to ship stolen luxury vehicles and legally purchased, used cars for resale and send the proceeds to Lebanon, according to the report.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the  
Jewish Federation of the Desert  
VOL. 53, No.3

### 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.

### ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

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# World Zionist Congress Election Results are Finalized, with Orthodox and Right-Wing Slates Securing Majority of US Seats

After months of fraud probes and legal appeals, tribunals cleared contested ballots and certified final seat allocations.

By Asaf Elia-Shalev, JTA

The results of the 2025 World Zionist Congress election were certified the first week of September after election tribunals and the Zionist Supreme Court settled disputes over fraudulent ballots and other irregularities.

The certification confirmed significant gains for slates led by haredi Orthodox Jews and that right-wing and religious parties together hold a majority in the American delegation for the first time.

The American Zionist Movement, which oversees the U.S. contest, announced on September 3 that 224,969 valid votes were counted, nearly double the 2020 turnout and the highest level ever. Twenty-two slates competed for 155 American seats, which is almost one-third of the body's elected membership, with the rest going to delegates from the rest of the Diaspora and Israel.

Delegates will convene for the World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem from October 28 to 30 and deliberate on how to spend more than \$1 billion in annual funding directed through the World Zionist Organization, Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish National Fund-KKL, and Keren Hayesod.

First convened by Theodor Herzl in 1897, the congress is expected to be marked by battles that center not only on financial allocations but also on competing visions of Jewish identity, religious authority, and the future of Israel itself.

The final certification came after months of challenges that delayed the tally beyond the spring voting period, as disputes were reviewed by the AZM Tribunal and ultimately the Zionist Supreme Court in Israel. With those cases resolved, the results reflect both the unprecedented engagement of voters and the increasingly contested ideological spectrum of American Jewry.

"Based on the final election results that have been certified today, we can say without question that the Zionist movement in the United States is stronger than ever," Herbert Block, AZM's executive director, said in a statement. "American Jews' record-

breaking turnout means that the overall U.S. delegation to the 39th World Zionist Congress is positioned to have a greater backing and prominence than ever in advancing a multitude of high-priority Jewish and Zionist causes."

The Reform movement's Vote Reform slate remained the largest single faction, winning 47,648 votes and 33 delegates, a sharp increase in votes but still a modest decline from the 39 seats five years ago.

This election also saw the continued rise of Orthodox participation, a striking trend given that haredi Jews only recently entered the Zionist political arena in large numbers. Am Yisrael Chai won 21 seats and Eretz HaKodesh secured 19, giving the ultra-Orthodox community an unprecedented share of influence in a body it once shunned. Combined with the

Orthodox Israel Coalition-Mizrachi, which won 18 seats, the religious right-wing bloc wields an outsized weight compared to its proportion among American Jews at large.

Centrist and progressive groups, which had formed the plurality in 2020, saw their position weaken. The Conservative movement's Mercaz USA was an exception, increasing its tally to 19 delegates. The progressive Hatikvah slate dropped to eight, while the America-Israel Democracy Coalition, a new slate aligned with Israel's anti-judicial overhaul protests, picked up three.

The election season was also marked by controversies and penalties. Shas, the Sephardi Orthodox party, was initially disqualified over fraudulent ballots before being reinstated and awarded two seats. The Zionist Organization of America's slate

lost a large share of its support after nearly 20% of its votes were invalidated, ending up with six seats compared to its far stronger showing in 2020. (A member of the slate also had a ban on his participation lifted.) Achdut Israel was disqualified altogether after investigators found false registration signatures and a pattern of fraudulent votes.

Other newcomers carved out smaller footholds. Aish Ha'am, affiliated with the Aish HaTorah movement, gained five delegates. Kol Israel and Vision, both of which had barely registered in 2020, each won four seats. The Israeli American Council, running for the first time, also captured four. Smaller lists such as Beyachad, Dorshei Torah V'Tzion, Jewish Future, ANU, and Herut North America each earned one or two delegates.

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF THE DESERT SUPPORTS

**Reservations for our 2025-26 event season available now!**

**JFS Auxiliary Presents**  
**SONJA LYUBOMIRSKY PhD**  
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**Sunday, November 16, 2025**  
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Join us at the  
Agua Caliente  
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*Patron Party*

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**  
6-8 pm

Join us at a fabulous home on the  
historic Clancy Lane.  
Mix, mingle, and enjoy music.  
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# Argentine Police Recover Looted Painting Spotted in Nazi's Daughter's Real Estate Ad

The daughter's attorney handed over the painting after failed searches of the property.

By Philissa Cramer, JTA

After multiple failed attempts, Argentine police have recovered a painting that the Nazis looted from a Dutch Jewish art dealer during the Holocaust.

Dutch journalists first spotted the painting, "Portrait of a Lady" by Giuseppe Ghislandi, in August 2025 in an ad for a property being sold by a daughter of Friedrich Kadgien, a Nazi finance official who fled to Argentina after World War II. But when police entered the home to locate the work, one of more than 1,000 looted from the holdings of Jacques Goodstikker, it had been removed from the wall.

The police placed Patricia Kadgien on house arrest while searching for the painting. And on September 3, they announced that the family's lawyer had handed over the painting to authorities.

"It's in good condition for its age, since



Stolen "Portrait of a Lady" painting seen in a real estate ad

it dates from 1710," an art historian, Ariel Bassano, said at a press conference where the painting was displayed, according to the newspaper La Capital Mar del Plata. "Its value could be around \$50,000."

The newspaper reported that authorities had found other paintings in the process of looking for "Portrait of a Lady" and are evaluating whether any others were looted during the Holocaust. Friedrich Kadgien was instrumental in funding the Nazi regime's operations by stealing Jewish property, including by forcing owners to sell at depressed prices.

The forced sale of Goudstikker's collection took place months after the prominent art dealer died while fleeing the Netherlands. Hundreds of the works he owned were recovered decades ago, but far more remain missing.

## Michigan City Rolls Out First Police Patch in Arabic — Critics Warn of 'Sharia Law'

"This is America, and English is the language we use here," one commenter wrote. Another said bluntly: "The terrorists have won."

By World Israel News Staff

The Dearborn Heights Police Department in Michigan has unveiled a new patch that — for the first time in the nation — features Arabic writing on police uniforms.

The patch, designed by Officer Emily Murdoch, places the Michigan state seal in the center with "Dearborn Heights Police" written in both English and Arabic.

Officials insist the goal is to "reflect and honor the diversity" of the city, where more than one-third of residents are of

Arab descent. The patch is optional for officers to wear.

The department praised the patch as a gesture of inclusivity, with officials calling it a "symbol of unity, respect, and shared commitment to service."

Nearby Dearborn has already made headlines for becoming the first U.S. city with a Muslim police chief and for allowing



hijabs as part of its official uniform.

But critics say the new patch crosses a troubling line. Hundreds of angry comments flooded the department's Facebook post — many of which the department quickly shut down by disabling the comment section.

Detractors blasted the Arabic lettering as "terrorist symbols," warned it was "bringing Sharia law to our police," and accused city officials of bowing to political correctness at the expense of American identity.

"This is America, and English is the language we use here," one commenter wrote. Another said bluntly: "The terrorists have won."

The controversy quickly spread beyond Michigan. Rep. Randy Fine (R-Fla.), who recently won a special election to Congress, slammed the move in a post on X: "They said their goal was to bring sharia law to America. You should've believed them. Pray for Michigan."

Fine's warning echoed the concern of many Americans who see the Arabic patch not as harmless "diversity," but as the steady erosion of national unity and the normalization of foreign ideologies in American institutions.

Supporters argue the optional patch is simply a nod to the city's demographics. But for many, the symbolism is clear: placing Arabic script on U.S. police uniforms represents yet another step in undermining America's traditions, values, and language.

While Dearborn Heights officials celebrate the patch as progress, conservatives see it as a dangerous concession — one that raises serious questions about where the line will be drawn in the future.

*The Women's Retreat is now "The Retreat" ~ celebrating Har-El's 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

**Couvert: \$36 • Sponsor: \$72 • Patron: \$144**

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recommended.**

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

# Hundreds of Scholars Call on Genocide Scholars Group to Retract Declaration of Genocide in Gaza

The International Association of Genocide Scholars, meanwhile, stood its ground amid sharp criticism.

By Grace Gilson, JTA

Nearly 200 genocide, Holocaust and legal scholars are calling on the International Association of Genocide Scholars to retract its resolution finding that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

In a letter finalized on September 5, the scholars charge the association with “critical errors” in its resolution, including failing to consider Hamas’ role in the deaths in Gaza and whether any explanation other than an intent to harm an entire group can explain the crisis there.

“It is critical that we not water down the legal elements of genocide for the purpose of advancing ideological positions and bias,” the letter says. “Holocaust and genocide scholars can have legitimate concerns about Israeli conduct in Gaza without working to disparage the very legal standards that exist to protect people from these crimes.”

The letter’s signatories include former U.S. Department of Justice war crime prosecutor Eli M. Rosenbaum, former Hague legal fellow Isaac Amon; the Holocaust Museum of South Florida; and the pro-Israel attorney Alan Dershowitz, as well as several Holocaust educators and survivors’ children.

The letter represents an escalation of criticism of IAGS since its widely publicized resolution announced on Monday. In a volley of op-eds and elsewhere, the

critics lambasted the group’s membership and low voter turnout as suggesting a scholarly consensus that did not exist.

On September 4, IAGS responded to the criticism, writing in a lengthy statement that its membership inbox had been spammed with messages employing fake names including “Adolf Hitler” and email addresses such as “f—kiags@retards.”

“The IAGS general email and members of the Executive Board have received a great deal of abusive hate mail and social media posts this week,” the statement read. “Such responses are clearly unacceptable, and create an environment of harassment, bullying, and abuse.”

Accusations that Israel is committing a genocide in Gaza have long been launched against the country over its nearly two-year war in the enclave, and have gained traction even among some of Israel’s staunchest supporters in recent months as Israel has continued its offensive following the end of a ceasefire earlier this year. Israel rejects the allegation and condemned the IAGS resolution as an “embarrassment to the legal profession and to any academic standard.”

The group defended itself against criticism that the resolution had only been passed by a voter turnout of 28% of its membership, writing that members had been given 30 days to vote, and that the figure was within its typical

range of votes for a resolution.

IAGS also responded to critics who had scrutinized the group’s members, writing that the inclusion of “artists, community scholars, NGOs, survivors, and others” was intended to “build a community of different populations.”

Members of IAGS who have received backlash include Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, whom Israel and the Trump administration have accused of “virulent antisemitism and support for terrorism.”

“If we err, it’s on the side of inclusivity,” the statement read. “No system is perfect, but ours reflects our value of inclusion. The fact that this very democratic, inclusive policy is being exploited and

criticized by trolls demonstrates their ignorance at the structures of scholarly organizations, and flies in the face of IAGS’ values (which attempts to include and champion minority voices/global majority voices that may not “look like” what we expect “expertise” to be).”

The letter calling on IAGS to retract its resolution said the association had fundamentally distorted a definition firmly established in international law in order to reach an ideological conclusion

“To persist in such distortion is to forsake the most elementary standards of law and scholarship,” the letter says. “It reduces the Association to farce, erodes the integrity of genocide studies, and undermines the very meaning of the crime itself.”



## REDEFINING THE ART OF REAL ESTATE

Before launching a real estate career, I spent two decades as the owner and director of the leading art gallery in Vermont; curating, guiding, and closing deals that aligned aesthetic vision with long-term value. That background sharpened my eye for design and deepened my understanding of how people connect with space, skills I now use to match clients with homes that fit not only their lifestyle, but their future.

### Buyers

The hyper-competitive nature of today's real estate market requires creative strategy, powerful negotiation, and knowledge of opportunities that others miss. I'm a tenacious researcher with access to off-market properties, pocket listings, and expired opportunities that expand your choices beyond what you'll find on public platforms.

### Sellers

My background in the visual arts equips me with the expertise to elevate presentation and storytelling in ways that drive results. I personally direct every photo shoot, and utilize the finest real estate photographers and drone operators in Riverside County. Whether it's designing a tailored staging plan or consulting with my marketing team on your property's social media campaign, I'm hands-on, full-service, and focused on achieving superlative results.

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*Curating extraordinary homes throughout the Coachella Valley*

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## Holiday Services in the Desert



In the September issue of the Jewish Community News many of the temples in our desert community purchased ads for their High Holiday services. For those whose holiday attendance is primarily Yom Kippur (Yizkor), we are reminding you that our monthly listing of synagogues/shuls on our calendar pages (page 12 in this issue) includes their phone numbers and websites for you to obtain their service schedule and make arrangements to participate in the services of your choice.

# European Low-Cost Carrier Wizz Air Plans Israel Hub in 2026

The initiative follows nearly two years of high fares during the Gaza war, when Israeli airlines made record profits and were accused of price gouging as international competitors repeatedly suspended service to the Jewish state.

By Etgar Lefkovits, Jewish News Syndicate

Hungarian low-cost airline Wizz Air is set to open a hub in Israel next year in a move that will shake up the aviation market and dramatically bring down airfares, according to Israeli transportation officials.

The initiative, which has been met with fierce resistance from Israeli carriers fearful of losing customers, highlights the resurgence of the Israeli aviation sector. It also underlines the re-emergence of Tel Aviv as an international travel hub as an ever-increasing number of foreign carriers resume flights to Israel following the 12-day war with Iran in June.

The planned hub would enable the Hungarian company to operate as many as 30 daily flights from Tel Aviv to destinations across Europe by April. "The Ministry of Transport is leading a strategic move to establish a base of operations for the low-cost airline Wizz in Israel," an Israeli Transport Ministry spokeswoman said in a statement sent to JNS. "The move is intended to increase competition in the aviation industry, expand the range of destinations, reduce prices and improve service to Israeli citizens.



"This is significant news for the country's citizens, which will also increase incoming tourism and contribute to the Israeli economy. "International experience shows that wherever ultra-low-cost companies have expanded their operations, there has been a dramatic positive impact on prices, the volume of flights and the local economy, and this is precisely our goal in Israel as well," the statement said.

Israeli travel experts welcomed the move, which has the critical backing of Transport Minister Miri Regev. The initiative follows nearly two years of high fares during the Gaza war, when Israeli airlines made record profits and were accused of price gouging as international competitors repeatedly

suspended service to the Jewish state.

"Just the idea that Wizz Air has decided to open up a hub in Israel next year when we've been at war for almost 23 months reinforces how strongly they and the Ministry of Transport should be applauded," Mark Feldman, CEO of Jerusalem's Ziontours, told JNS. "Too often, the aviation industry has difficulty planning in the mid-range, but Wizz Air's confidence that the war will end, and tourists will return to Israel, puts them in the driver's seat." He added that it was "no surprise" that the Israeli airlines, led by flagship carrier El Al as well as Israir and Arkia, have been opposing such a move as they realize that this competition will drive prices down dramatically. "When it comes to fruition next year, it

will be a major boon for both the Israeli public as well as hundreds of thousands of tourists," Feldman said.

Shirley Cohen Orkaby, vice president for marketing at Israel's Eshet Tours, told JNS, "There is no doubt that if Wizz opens a hub here, there will be a significant impact on the Israeli aviation market. The addition of flights will necessarily bring down the price of flights."

She said that the "right balance" should be found to bring down the cost of airfares for consumers and still safeguard Israeli carriers who kept flying throughout the nearly two-year-long war.

A local hub would also allow Wizz to park some of its planes in Israel overnight, allowing them to take advantage of the first and last airport slots of the day, which are preferred by passengers and had generally been reserved for Israeli airlines, giving the Hungarian company an advantage over rival foreign low-cost carriers.

Hungary is one of Israel's strongest allies in Europe; the move also highlights the burgeoning bilateral relations between the countries.

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



**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.



RSVP to [mtziontspd@aol.com](mailto:mtziontspd@aol.com). Location and gate code will be sent confirming your reservation.



Jewish Federation OF THE DESERT Program sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation.

## New Mexico Teen Charged with Mass Murder Threats Against Jews, Minorities, Wanted to Cause Civil War

Jewish News Syndicate

The Justice Department said that Jace Allen told the FBI that he is "a Neo-Nazi who hates Jews and minorities" and wants "to help spark a civil war by terrorizing people online."

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico charged Jace Allen, 19, with making online threats to murder Jews and minorities after the assassination of Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA.

The New Mexico teen is accused of posting "a series of violent and racist threats" on a social media account on Sept. 11, the day after Kirk was killed on a Utah campus. "Among the threats, Allen wrote that he planned to commit mass murder, target minorities and Jews and shoot up unspecified locations," the Justice Department said.

He faces up to five years in prison.

Allen also allegedly threatened an Ohio city council member, whom he is accused of telling, "You're gonna be one of the first to die."

The FBI traced the social media account, which was under an alias, to Allen's phone and home in Jamestown, N.M. The Justice Department said that when FBI agents interviewed him at his home, the suspect "admitted to making the posts, acknowledged being a Neo-Nazi who hates Jews and minorities and said he wanted to help spark a civil war by terrorizing people online."

Allen told agents that he didn't own a gun, but "a search of his phone revealed videos of him firing a rifle and handgun in August 2025," the Justice Department said.

# Israel Moves to Bolster Self-sufficiency Amid Wave of Arms Embargoes

**"In the whole area of munitions and spare parts, we can be much more independent," IDF Maj. Gen. (res.) Yaakov Amidror told JNS.**

By David Isaac, Jewish News Syndicate

The rise in arms embargoes due to the ongoing war in Gaza has prompted Israel's government to establish a new "Munitions Directorate" to develop recommendations to reduce Israel's dependency on foreign countries for military supplies.

"We decided, and it was part of the recommendation of a special committee which was nominated to deal with the defense budget, that Israel will minimize its dependence on others," IDF Maj. Gen. (res.) Yaakov Amidror, senior fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security (JISS), told JNS.

A former national security adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Amidror noted, "We will never produce something like F-35 fighters or submarines. But in the whole area of munitions and spare parts, we can be much more independent."

IDF Brig. Gen. (res.) Amir Avivi, founder of the Israel Defense and Security Forum (IDSF), told JNS: "There is a very clear understanding now that we need to be as self-sufficient and independent as possible, as much as we can and in every single respect, from advanced munitions to parts and, of course, energy."

The creation of the new directorate was ordered by Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz, spurred by embargo actions undertaken by countries traditionally considered its closest allies, including the United Kingdom, Canada and Italy.

Slovenia went further than most. In July, it became the first European Union country to implement a full embargo, banning the import and export of arms to Israel, including their transit across its territory. Spain, whose socialist government has staked out a hardline position against Israel, is deliberating a sweeping ban of its own, according to El País.

More serious is that Germany, which accounted for 30% of Israel's arms imports from 2019–2023, halted any

exports that "may be utilized in the Gaza Strip," Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in August.

Arms embargoes are not new in Israel's history. At its birth in 1948, Israel faced an arms embargo from the United States. Two decades later, on the eve of the Six-Day War, France—then Israel's principal arms supplier—imposed its own embargo.

In 2014, during "Operation Protective Edge," the Obama administration refused Israel arms. "Ten years ago, we had terrorists popping up from tunnels inside Israel. The U.S. wouldn't give us weapons. And I remember the shock in the defense establishment," said Avivi, noting that war wasn't a matter of conquering Gaza, but of destroying terror tunnels, "and they still didn't give us weapons."

At the time, Avivi served as the chief auditor of the Israeli defense establishment. "I audited the ability of our industries to produce what we need," he recalled, noting his audit painted a "terrible" situation.

Amidror conceded that Israel's vulnerabilities were, in part, self-inflicted: "There were some production lines that we shut down because, economically, it was not wise to continue. But now we understand that it creates a weak point that might be exploited by other countries. So we will resume our ability to produce those in Israel."

Another reason Israel's dependency grew deeper over time was a decision by then-U.S. President Barack Obama to forbid Israel from converting U.S. aid dollars into shekels. That rule change forced Israel to move more production lines to American soil. "Our dependency grew dramatically," said Avivi.

The consequences became stark in the opening days of the current war. "We were in very grave danger at the beginning with lack of munitions and parts," said Avivi. "The industry and the minister of defense were forced to become creative in finding solutions.

It affected the pace of war and our capabilities. It cost lives."

For Avivi, the failure to prepare adequate supplies is as grave as the intelligence lapses that enabled Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack. "We have to ask: why didn't we learn the lesson already in 2014? Why didn't we invest in our industry? Why didn't we buy more munitions?"

To rectify the situation is straightforward, according to Amidror. "Identify the most important elements that we needed but didn't have enough of, or we didn't produce, and make sure that we have enough of it," he said. "If we can produce it in Israel, make sure that we will produce it. If we don't produce it by ourselves, put enough of it in storage."

Avivi agreed that those were the two options. Either build domestic production lines or ensure sufficient stockpiles. While he said that there was no right answer, domestic production offers advantages in terms of revenues and jobs. "Eighty percent of our industries' military production is for export," he noted.

For Avivi, the challenge is not just weapons but also energy. He pointed to the Bazan Oil Refineries in Haifa Bay, which were critical to producing

numerous fuels, everything from diesel to a special formula used by drones. Bazan was continually a target of Iran during the 12-day war in June, proving its strategic importance, he said.

Despite this, there are still people in Israel's government who want to close it. They want to put up houses in its place, he said. An Israel Hayom story on Monday featured residents living near the refinery calling for Bazan's closure precisely because it is a target for missiles, as well as pollutes the area.

Asked whether Israel could retaliate against embargoing countries, Avivi said Israel supplies vital intelligence to these countries, which has saved them time and again from terrorist attacks. It could threaten to withhold that intelligence, he said.

Amidror emphasized that the new directorate's mandate is narrowly focused: "This committee addresses the decision of Israel to be less dependent on others in the area of munitions and spare parts. Energy and diplomacy are something else. It's not connected to this committee."

"We have learned a lot," he added. "Israel is already producing many things it didn't produce before the embargoes."

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Saturday, October 11 - 10:30 AM  
With Rabbi Rachel Axelrod & Cantor Ezra Yaron

Tuesday, October 14  
SHEMINI ATZERET Yizkor 6:30 PM  
SIMCHAT TORAH 7:00 PM  
Rabbi Suzanne Singer & Cantor Ezra Yaron



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# Women's Philanthropy: Lion of Judah

By Katie Small, Co-chair, 2026 Lion of Judah Brunch

I wanted to share with you some interesting facts about Lion of Judah and Women's Philanthropy that came from National Women's Philanthropy.

Today women hold 40% of global wealth across nearly every income level. The Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University research shows that women are more likely to give—and, on average, give more—than men, and by 2030, women will control as much as two-thirds of wealth in the U.S. Women are extraordinarily generous and philanthropic. They care about issues and



Katie Small

want to help their communities. They are the higher percentage of college graduates, earning more and investing more which leads to increased philanthropy. Women are now making or influencing over

75% of household charitable decisions, which is even higher for high-net-worth households. (Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy)

### Annual Campaign

Women's Philanthropy Campaigns in the Federation system are the fastest growing components of the Annual Campaign, now representing more than 25% of the total campaign. In the Federation system, women represent well over \$250 million (does not include updates due to household giving) in annual giving.

### What We Do

Lions of Judah play a vital role in creating social justice, aiding the vulnerable, preserving human dignity and building Jewish identity. The Lions of Judah set an exemplary standard of leadership and giving. We demonstrate our dedication to the Jewish community by contributing our time and resources. Each woman makes a minimum annual commitment of \$5,000.

Our Lion of Judah Brunch will be held on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at Tamarisk Country Club at 9:30 am. Stay tuned for more details!

JEWISH FEDERATION 2025-2026 SEASON ~ COMMUNITY EVENTS

|                   |           |                                                                                |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 5, 2025   | Sunday    | Community Commemoration of October 7, 2023 Massacre "A New Day Will Rise"      |
| October 19, 2025  | Sunday    | "Immigrants and Artists" Lecture<br>A Joint Program with Havurah of the Desert |
| December 14, 2025 | Sunday    | Hanukkah Program at Federation Office                                          |
| January 12, 2026  | Monday    | Lion of Judah Brunch                                                           |
| January 25, 2026  | Sunday    | An Evening of Jewish Theater:<br>"Simon Wiesenthal Presents"                   |
| February 11, 2026 | Wednesday | Federation Day at Tamarisk Country Club                                        |
| February 18, 2026 | Wednesday | "Comedy for a Cause"<br>Starring Modi Rosenfeld                                |
| March 22, 2026    | Sunday    | Feast of Jewish Learning                                                       |
| April 14, 2026    | Tuesday   | Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah<br>Observance                                |

SAVE THE DATE

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**M**



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**COMEDY FOR A CAUSE**

## New York City Mayoral Frontrunner Zohran Mamdani Pledges to Cut NYC's Financial Ties to Israel

*The anti-Israel frontrunner in the upcoming election would also bar police from intervening in pro-Palestinian campus protests.*

*By Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News*

On September 7, New York City mayoral frontrunner Zohran Mamdani said that he would end the city's financial ties to Israel, citing "international law." In an interview on CBS' The Point, political correspondent Marcia Kramer asked him if he would direct the city's pension funds to divest from companies tied to Israel and sell off their "large" holdings of Israeli bonds.

"I believe that wherever we have been put in violation of international law through the policies of this current administration, that we should come back to compliance," he answered. "For example, this current mayor not only met with Israeli settler leaders but even promised greater cooperation between this city and that movement,"

he continued.

Many countries consider Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria illegal, though the United Nations recognized Jewish rights to the area in its founding charter. Specifically on Israeli bonds, Mamdani said, "That to me is something that is a clear indication of our values, and we know that our values are actually with international law."

He praised the current comptroller for taking "the right approach."

In July, Mayor Eric Adams accused Comptroller Brad Lander of "effectively withdraw[ing]" New York's pension funds from Israeli bonds by letting them mature without reinvestment.

The city held tens of millions of dollars of Israeli bonds in its portfolio

for decades, as they have been a safe investment with good returns, the mayor's office wrote to Lander. Now, however, only about \$1 million was left in a single pension fund.

Adams said the pullback hurt the city financially and advanced the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel.

While supporting BDS is not illegal in the city, New York State law bars state agencies from investing in or working with entities that boycott Israel.

Lander responded that buying Israeli bonds was a "political decision, not a fiduciary one," and past comptrollers "chose to depart from standard cash management best practices" by purchasing them.

Mamdani has long backed BDS as part of his anti-Israel platform. At a rally September 6, hosted by Sen. Bernie Sanders at Brooklyn College, Mamdani said he would not allow police to break up pro-Hamas demonstrations on campuses.

Despite university administrations calling in police over the past year and a half of anti-Israel rallies only when they turned violent or rioters caused heavy damage to college property, Mamdani said the authorities were "turning solidarity with the Palestinians into a crime."

"I am committed to ensuring that students can demonstrate and voice their opinions without fear of police" arresting them, he said.



# Shabbat Schedule - October 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.

## 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.

Wednesday, September 24 - Second day Rosh Hashanah: Holiday brunch at a private home. Break-fast October 2 in 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.

## 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. Check website for details.

## 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@chabadsuncity.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.

## 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. 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.

## 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

## 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.

## 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 ad for Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah on 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.

**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

## 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 - October 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.

## Sunday, October 5

**3:00 pm** "A New Day Will Rise," the

Jewish Federation of the Desert's Community Observance of the second anniversary of the Hamas' October 7, 2023 massacre, hosted by Temple Sinai. See front cover and page 3.

## Saturday, October 11

**11:00 am** Har-El presents the movie **"Keeping Up With the Steins,"** followed by discussion led by Scott Marshall, son of the late Gary Marshall, who appeared in the film. See ad page 8.

## Thursday, October 16

**9:30 am** Sabra Hadassah of the

Desert October meeting at the Jewish Federation in Rancho Mirage. Doors open 9:30 am; program begins at 10 am. **"Not Just Another Book Talk,"** led by Kathy Levy. Two unforgettable novels spark conversation, challenge assumptions and maybe even shift perspectives. Come curious. Leave inspired. Participants are asked to read both books before event: "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin, and "The Book Club for Troublesome Women" by Heather Woodhaven. Coffee and nosh served. Members \$20; nonmembers \$25. Mail check payable

to "Hadassah" to: Hadassah, 38180 Del Webb Blvd, PMB #315, Palm Desert, CA 92211. Information: call 760-289-7987.

## Sunday, October 19

**2:00 pm** Havurah of the Desert and the Jewish Federation joint presentation of **Immigrants and Artists: The Jews of Wyoming Meet the Descendants of Light** with Penny Wolin. Program held at the Jewish Federation building. RSVP to the Federation: 760-324-4737. No fee to attend. See ad and article page 4.



## Tribute Card Donations

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

### Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Robert Cowin**, Happy 90<sup>th</sup> and the best to you from Lou Silberman and Gerrie Gussman.
- **Phyllis Eisenberg**, Sending best wishes for a happy 85<sup>th</sup> from Jane Effress and Gail Scadron.
- **Carol Fragen**, Love and best wishes on your special birthday, from Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak.
- **Audrey LeRoy and Peter Knitch**, Happy birthday from Greg Schedler and Patrick.
- **Carol Warsaw**, Another happy and healthy birthday wish from your adoring husband Zeke.

### Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Julian Levy**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak.
- **Marnie Miller**, Sending you get well wishes with love, from Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak.

### Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:



The Jewish Federation of the Desert remembers Alan Potash on the anniversary of his death September 22, 2024.

His remarkable career spanning over 30 years as a dedicated Jewish professional and passion for Israel enriched our community and touched all who knew him. May his memory endure as a blessing.

- **Jim Borax**, Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved Sheri, from Joanne and Bill Chunowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ehrlichman, Joanie and Pat Kerns, Arnie and Janet Kieban, Dolly and Julian Levy, Terry and Paul Lubar, Carol Luer, Cathy and Larry Pitts, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry Schor, Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak.
- **Vicki and Michael Diamond**, In memory of your beloved mother Eleanor "Cookie" Goldberg, from Justin and Rob Schneider.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Ditlove**, Heartfelt condolences, from Sherry Schor.
- **Jennifer Dolin and Family**, Our deepest

sympathy on the loss of your beloved Ben, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

- **Libby Hoffman**, In memory of Buddy Hoffman of blessed memory, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Family of Pearle Rae Levey**, with sincere condolences from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Amy Nachman, Adeev and Ezra Potash**, In the one-year anniversary of Alan's passing, we remember him in Omaha for his great years of service to ADL and the Jewish Federation. He was the epitome of a mensch, a Jewish Scholar, and a terrific leader, from Marty and Iris Ricks.
- **Dr. Shari Snow**, In memory of Howard Snow, from Eunice Meister.
- **Marcia Stein**, Condolences on the loss of your beloved sister, from Sandra Borns.
- **Julie Strater-Hughes**, In memory of Robert Hughes, from Sherry Schor.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Erik Tivin**, Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved father Fred Tivin, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Inez Tivin**, Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved husband Fred, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

# Senior NY Police Executives on Government Program Struck by Israeli Resilience

By Etgar Lefkowitz, Jewish News Syndicate

A delegation of 13 New York-area law-enforcement officials visited Israel in mid-September to get a hands-on view of the security issues facing the Jewish state and to learn about fighting antisemitism and study counter-terrorism initiatives for possible use in protecting their Jewish communities.

The Israeli government program for international law-enforcement officials, which was initiated six years ago by the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs, comes at a time of surging antisemitism around the world, including in the United States, following the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, that triggered the nearly two-year-old war in Gaza.

Since its inception, there have been 15 such delegations of law enforcement officials from around the world, about one-third of them from the U.S., said Moshe Elert, CEO of Israel Military Industries, which is subcontracted to run the event.

The program for the U.S. law-enforcement officials, which has worked in tandem with American Jewish security officials in their communities over the last seven years, has been dubbed "Birthright for American police chiefs," referring to the free 10-day trips to Israel offered to young Jewish Diaspora adults.

The delegation in Israel this week—the second since the war began—was made up of police commissioners and chiefs who had been in Israel on a curtailed mission that began a day before the Oct. 7 attack that ended abruptly with an evacuation the next day.

## 'Have to live without fear'

"The resilience of the Israeli people just stands out," Michel Kopy, commissioner of public safety for Rye, a city in Westchester County outside New York City, and a member of the delegation, told JNS. "We are dealing with an enemy that wants to wipe us out," he said.

Kopy added that he was grateful for "the eye-opening opportunity" to see people living under the constant threat of danger, citing the air raid siren they experienced on Tuesday following a missile attack from Yemen, which is something he intends to bring back to his community.

"We can't cower and be afraid; we have to live our lives with this, as unfortunate as it is," he said.

Daniel Hyman, chief of police in Ramapo in the heavily Jewish Rockland



Visiting New York law-enforcement officials study Israeli counter-terror initiatives

County, in Upstate New York, agreed, saying: "Seeing how resilient people are is a very important message to bring back to the U.S."

He said the moving visit to the site of the Supernova music festival, which was attacked on Oct. 7, especially hit home since it brought to mind a similar festival his daughter went to in Pennsylvania. "We have to live our lives without fear."

Kevin Catalina, commissioner of the Suffolk County Police Department on New York's Long Island, said, "Learning about Jewish culture and the unique challenges facing the Israel Police and military better helps us keep our communities safe."

During their week-long visit, which saw them crisscross the country and meet with government and security officials, they also learned about the latest in Israeli law enforcement technology.

"We view these delegations of police and security forces as an important element protecting Jewish communities abroad," said Hodaya Shtiglitz, head of Combating Antisemitism and Community Resilience at the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs. "The meetings and joint learning strengthen community resilience, increase awareness of threats, and enable Jewish communities to be better prepared to face the challenges of antisemitism and terrorism."

The delegation did not include members of the NYPD due to scheduling issues with the UN General Assembly currently underway in Manhattan.

"This is a phenomenal program on multiple levels," said Mitch Silber, executive director of the Community

Security Initiative, a partnership between the UJA-Federation of New York and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York that works with local law enforcement.

"Most importantly, it sensitizes senior police executives to the nature of the threat that is visiting their own Jewish communities, and they can learn this best by coming to Israel and seeing the origins of antisemitism and the nature of the terrorist threat that these communities face," Silber said.

## 'We have a problem'

Silber said this was "the most dangerous"

moment that New York Jews have faced since they first came to the city in 1654.

He noted that the 2018 attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh was a "9/11 moment for the Jewish community in the United States," which caused a change in security mindset for with more than 100 American Jewish communities now employing their own local security program.

Silber expressed grave concern about the Nov. 4 mayoral election, which is looking to be a watershed moment for the community.

"I'm planning for a day when we call the police and they don't respond in the way they historically used to, because the mayor is in control of the police and the police commissioner," he said.

"If the leading mayoral candidate doesn't think that 'Globalize the Intifada' is a problem, then we have a problem."

As the delegation headed back home they took with them a slice of Israeli resilience in wartime.

"What we see on the news in the U.S. is not what is happening here," said Chuck Berkowitz, vice president of security at the Community Security Service, a New York-based nonprofit that offers free training for Jewish communities nationwide. "The resilience in Israel is a whole different ball game."



# Ahead of Mayoral Election, Brooklyn Synagogue Demands Voter Registration to Attend High Holiday Services

Leaders of the Syrian Jewish community have framed the rise of Zohran Mamdani's rise as an existential threat.

By Asaf Elia-Shalev, JTA

Congregation Shaare Zion, a large Orthodox synagogue serving the Syrian-Jewish community in Brooklyn, is taking an unprecedented step in the run-up to New York City's mayoral election: Members and their spouses must show proof of voter registration before they can secure seats for the High Holidays.

One of the largest Sephardic synagogues in the country, Shaare Zion announced the requirement in a letter to congregants last week that framed the election as a moment of acute risk for Jews in New York.

"In approximately two months, New York City will be electing its next Mayor," the synagogue's executive committee wrote, according to a copy obtained by Yeshiva World News. "The outcome of this election could result in very serious problems throughout the city and, in particular, the Jewish communities across the city including our own. The safety and quality of life for our community and our institutions may be at serious risk."

The letter continued: "As a result,



Congregation Shaarey Zion

we have no choice but to require that all of our members and their spouses provide proof of voter registration prior to securing their High Holiday seats."

The election is on November 4.

The new policy comes just two weeks after Magen David Yeshivah, a flagship Sephardic day school nearby, also in the Gravesend neighborhood, issued

a similar directive for parents, sparking debate about whether religious institutions should pressure members to register to vote.

Both moves are seen as responses to the frontrunner status of Zohran Mamdani, the Muslim democratic socialist lawmaker whose criticism of Israel and support for the boycott

movement have unsettled many Jewish leaders.

The congregation did not immediately respond to a request comment.

Shaare Zion, located on Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn, draws thousands of worshippers for the High Holidays and serves as the hub of the city's Syrian Jewish community. By tying holiday seating to voter registration, it is in effect launching one of the more sweeping Jewish voter-registration campaigns ever attempted by any religious institution in New York.

The synagogue's announcement follows a sweeping new declaration signed by more than 50 Syrian-Jewish rabbis from New York and New Jersey, which described registering to vote as a mitzvah — a religious obligation on par with prayer, charity and Jewish education. Together, the initiatives reflect a community treating the upcoming election as a turning point.

## US Christians Sue UN Rapporteur Francesca Albanese for Defamation

American Christian groups filed federal lawsuit against controversial anti-Israel UN rapporteur after she accused charity groups of engaging in "gross human rights violations" and war crimes over their work in Israel.

By World Israel News Staff

Two US-based pro-Israel Christian charity groups have filed a joint lawsuit against a controversial United Nations official accused of antisemitism after she claimed the charities were guilty of "gross human rights violations" over their work in Israel.

On Monday, the National Jewish Advocacy Center (NJAC) filed a federal lawsuit against Francesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian territories, for defamation, trade libel, and tortious interference.

The suit filed with the Federal District Court in Colorado accuses Albanese of conducting a smear campaign against the Christian Friends of Israeli Communities and Christians for Israel USA, falsely accusing them of war crimes, human rights abuses, and even enabling genocide.

"If a racist antisemite gains a position of power and proceeds to abuse the public platform she enjoys in order to perpetuate lies about American religious

organizations for their compassion toward and allyship with the Jewish people and the Jewish State of Israel by smearing them and calling for them to be blacklisted and sanctioned, she can and should be held liable for defamation," said NJAC attorney Rachel Sebbag.

In June, Albanese published a report accusing foreign businesses and NGOs that work with Israel of facilitating "genocide."

The lawsuit notes that Albanese also made specific claims regarding Christian charities operating in Israel, writing this past April that they are guilty of war crimes, apartheid, and other crimes against humanity.

"Persecution of Israel, the Jewish people, and their supporters is not new," said Willem Griffioen, chairman of Christians



Francesca Albanese

for Israel International and Christians for Israel USA.

"Albanese's goal is to cut off our love and support for Israel, and she tramples our freedoms in the process. We share a faith in the God of Israel, and we will be that voice standing for the truth even if we ourselves are being attacked. We will not be silent."

The briefs filed in the case accuse Albanese of working "to destroy plaintiffs' reputations and economic wellbeing," adding that she "spread malicious lies... with cavalier disregard for truth," and

"launched a smear campaign against them due to their support for Jews and Israel."

After Albanese's comments, leaders of multiple Christian groups received death threats, the NJAC said.

"Some of the vilest antisemites and terror supporters have sought to shield themselves from accountability for their actions by hiding behind the UN flag," said Eugene Kontorovich, a professor at George Mason University's Scalia Law School and a senior research fellow at Heritage Foundation.

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# Computers Taught to Read Dead Sea Scrolls in Hunt for Clues Hidden from Human Eyes

By combining multispectral imaging with computer vision methods, Tel Aviv University researchers give scholars new tools to read, match, and study the 2,000-year-old artifacts

By Rossella Tercatin, *The Times of Israel*

Two researchers from Tel Aviv University's School of Computer Science have unveiled a new computational method that could transform the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The tool is designed to enable more precise analysis of ancient texts and handwriting, which, among other benefits, could help scholars see if fragments once belonged to the same scroll or were written by the same scribes. The technology is still in its infancy, but researchers hope extracting such information can unlock new insights into the people and communities behind the Dead Sea Scrolls, their level of literacy, and ultimately Jewish life in the Second Temple period.

"Scholars have been studying the Dead Sea Scrolls for 70 years," Prof. Nachum Dershowitz, who developed the method along with Berat Kurar-Barakat, told *The Times of Israel*. "One of the great unsolved challenges has been comparing and matching handwriting across different fragments or scrolls. This remains one of the field's giant questions."

The research, now under review for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, was presented last month at the 19th World Congress of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dershowitz spoke to *The Times of Israel* on the sidelines of a presentation by Kurar-Barakat, a postdoctoral researcher in his lab.

Their project seeks to bridge the gap between the physical scrolls and the writings they preserve, offering scholars a technological tool to access and analyze the texts with far greater ease.

The Dead Sea Scrolls comprise thousands of fragments from approximately 950



A fragment from the 4Q393 scroll, featuring a liturgical text known as the "communal confessions" from the Herodian period (1st century BCE–1st century CE), as seen in an Israel Antiquities Authority picture (right) and as analyzed by Tel Aviv University's new computational tool (left). (Shai Halevi/Israel Antiquities Authority; Berat Kurar-Barakat/Tel Aviv University)

manuscripts. To protect them from further deterioration, the Israel Antiquities Authority stores the ancient texts under strictly controlled conditions.

As a result, scholars have only limited access to the originals and must rely on high-resolution photographs. But even these present their own challenges for research.

For technology to help analyze the scrolls' handwriting, computers must first learn to do what the human eye does instantly: recognize where the letters are, where the parchment begins and ends, and separate both from the black background and other visual noise.

"In the 1950s, a skilled photographer at the Rockefeller Museum, where the scrolls were then kept, documented them extensively," Dershowitz said. "In recent years, the Israel Antiquities Authority has also been photographing the scrolls."

The IAA now uses multispectral imaging, which captures details at different wavelengths of light, revealing features invisible to the naked eye.

"Conservators place each fragment on a black stone platter and photograph it," Dershowitz explained. "The image shows not only the fragment, but also the background, a measuring ruler, a label, and—if the scroll is in poor condition—strips of Japanese rice paper holding it together."

The project's goal was to teach the computer

to distinguish between ink, parchment, and other elements in each image of the scrolls. Computers define images using a horizontal X-axis and a vertical Y-axis, assigning coordinates to every pixel, and the challenge is to classify each pixel correctly.

"We need to know what is ink and what is parchment," Dershowitz said. These processes are known as ink segmentation and parchment segmentation.

While computers can identify colors, that alone isn't enough—different elements can look identical. For example, letters and the background are often the same shade of black.

In the past, scholars had to carry out segmentation manually, using editing tools like Photoshop to annotate each individual pixel—a painstakingly slow task.

Recently, a team of European scholars introduced a deep-learning method for ink segmentation. However, they did not publish their trained algorithm, so other researchers cannot access it independently.

Kurar-Barakat and Dershowitz went a different route, developing an open-source approach that highlights both the writing and the parchment in each fragment. By offering open access to the tool, the two are giving a wide range of scholars new ways to explore the scrolls, with the hope that the method will allow the research community to tackle some of the longstanding puzzles contained in the

ancient texts.

The method leverages the multispectral images recently captured by the IAA, which appear to offer advantages over standard photographs.

"Multispectral images reveal more than just color," Dershowitz explained. "Light reflects differently depending on the material—ink, parchment, background—and the computer can use those reflections, rather than color alone, to identify each element."

The researchers tested their method on a dataset of twenty fragments, including pieces from several notable scrolls. These included 4Q393, containing a liturgical text known as the "communal confessions" from the Herodian period (1st century BCE–1st century CE); 4Q26, featuring sections of Leviticus from the Hellenistic–Roman period (4th century BCE–2nd century CE); and 4Q270, also called the Damascus Document, a key text of the Qumran sect from the Herodian period.

Kurar-Barakat and Dershowitz found that while the computer could tease out all sorts of data, it had trouble distinguishing between written letters and holes in the parchment, due to similarities between the black ink and the black stone background as seen through the tears.

They overcame this challenge by leveraging another observation: the contours of the ink in the multispectral images were distinct from both the surrounding ink regions and the holes.

After carefully separating the parchment from the ink and roughly tracing the edges of the letters, the researchers used a standard computer technique called "energy minimization" to produce a "reverse image" of each fragment. This process removed the blank parchment and background, leaving only the letters clearly visible.

They also manually annotated each pixel in the selected fragments to compare with their model's results, achieving 98% accuracy for identifying parchment and 75% for the ink.

Dershowitz said the project has shown promising results with the 20 fragments tested, but the method will need to be applied to many more scrolls to fully assess its impact.

"It will take time," Dershowitz said. "With the Dead Sea Scrolls, even reading just one more letter is good."

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# Science, Tech Innovation Park Inaugurated in Northern Israel

Jewish News Syndicate

Spanning more than 7,000 square meters of advanced laboratories, the Kinneret Science and Innovation Park is home to the new Kinneret Innovation Center, which is expected to generate thousands of high-quality jobs in northern Israel, according to the partners behind the park's development. It represents a step to rehabilitate and strengthen Israel's periphery against Iranian-backed terror proxies, including Hezbollah.

The park, which was inaugurated at Zemach Junction near the shore of the Sea of Galilee on September 4, was established through a partnership between Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael-Jewish National Fund, Kinneret Academic College and Zemach Industries. It was designed to connect academia, industry, entrepreneurship and technological innovation, particularly within the advanced agricultural industry.

"This is an opportunity to advance Israeli agriculture, nurture a new generation of entrepreneurs and establish advanced technology companies here in the Jordan Valley—for the development of the region as a whole, for advanced



Ribbon cutting for Science/Innovation Park

agricultural industry and for the benefit of future generations in northeastern Israel," said Danny Taragan, chairman of Zemach Industries.

The interior of the Kinneret Science and Innovation Park, which houses the Kinneret Innovation Center, at Zemach Junction in northern Israel, on Sept. 4, 2025. Credit: Michael Huri/KKL-JNF Photo Archive.

The center is anticipated to inject more than \$600 million (NIS 2 billion)

annually into the regional economy, according to KKL-JNF.

It also represents a step to rehabilitate and strengthen Israel's northern periphery against Iranian terror proxies,

including Hezbollah, it said.

The park's campus, which covers 20 dunams (20,000 square meters), offers workspaces for hundreds of researchers, entrepreneurs and students, alongside dozens of companies already renting offices and operating in state-of-the-art laboratories.

"The Science and Innovation Park is a remarkable example of vision realized, of bold leadership and of committed partners who take initiative and drive forward," said Elad Shamir, CEO of the Kinneret Innovation Center. "For seven years, we have been working to shape the future of the north—accelerating hundreds of entrepreneurs and technology companies, training thousands of youth and students and strengthening advanced agriculture and northern industry."

## Israel Achieves First-Ever Skull Base Tumor Removal Through Eye Socket

**Officials hailed the achievement as "a milestone in patient-centered neurosurgery" and described it as a "medical breakthrough."**

By Shula Rosen

Israeli surgeons completed the pioneering procedure by removing a skull base tumor through a patient's eye socket, marking the country's first minimally invasive brain surgery of its kind. The operation was carried out on July 21 at Ichilov Medical Center in Tel Aviv by a team of neurosurgery, oculoplastic, and ear, nose, and throat specialists.

The young patient, according to the hospital, recovered quickly with little impact on vision or facial appearance. Officials hailed the achievement as "a milestone in patient-centered neurosurgery" and described it as a "medical breakthrough."

Similar advancements have been reported abroad. In May, physicians at the University of Maryland Medical Centre removed a spinal tumor through the eye socket of a 19-year-old patient, who went on to make a full recovery. Earlier this year, Leeds Teaching Hospitals in the UK performed its first eye-socket keyhole brain surgery using advanced 3D modeling, which shortened recovery time

to three months.

Skull base tumors grow at the bottom of the skull, a critical region that contains the brainstem, cranial nerves, and major blood vessels. They may be benign or malignant and can interfere with essential functions such as balance, vision, hearing, and facial sensation. Treatment often requires surgical removal, with two main approaches available. Minimally invasive surgery accesses the tumor through natural openings like the nostrils or eyelid, significantly reducing recovery time, scarring, and postoperative pain.

Traditional open surgery, by contrast, uses larger incisions such as an eyebrow craniotomy. While more invasive, it remains necessary for tumors in difficult-to-reach areas not safely accessible by endoscopy.

Israel's entry into this field of advanced neurosurgery positions its medical teams alongside leading international centers adopting innovative approaches to treating complex brain conditions.

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# UN Adopts 'One-Sided' Anti-Israel Declaration, Nine Countries Side with Israel

The declaration states that the war must end and Hamas must disarm and submit to the Palestinian Authority, which will run the Palestinian state.

By Mike Wagenheim, JNS

The U.N. General Assembly voted on September 12 to adopt the so-called New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine, which outlines the implementation of a two-state solution and the path towards recognition of a Palestinian state.

The margin of the vote was 142-10, with 12 abstentions. Israel and the United States opposed the measure, as did Argentina, Hungary, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay and Tonga.

"This one-sided declaration will not be remembered as a step toward peace, only as another hollow gesture that weakens this assembly's credibility," stated Danny Danon, the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations.

"This is not diplomacy," he said. "It is theater."

Danon accused the General Assembly of "trying to force through the back door what cannot stand at the negotiating table."

The declaration was first published in late July during a conference led by France and Saudi Arabia intended to expand recognition of a Palestinian state.

While the document marks the first time the Arab League and its member states condemned Hamas and expressed that the terror group must no longer govern the Gaza Strip, it also condemns "the attacks by Israel against civilians in Gaza and civilian infrastructure" that have "resulted in a devastating humanitarian catastrophe and protection crisis."

The declaration states that the war must end and Hamas must disarm and submit to the Palestinian Authority, which will run the Palestinian state.

France and Saudi Arabia, the co-chairs of the U.N. event in July, signed the declaration, as did Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Norway, Qatar, Senegal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the

European Union and the League of Arab States.

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority leader who is in the 20th year of his four-year term, penned a letter to French President Emmanuel Macron on June 9 in which he said that a Palestinian state would be demilitarized—a long-standing demand of Israel's.

The 17 signatories of the declaration also welcomed the Palestinian leader's "commitment to holding democratic and transparent general and presidential elections" within a year. Abbas has pledged several times during his tenure to hold elections but canceled them repeatedly, often blaming Israel.

Under the declaration, Palestinian political parties engaging in the elections would be required to respect the political platform of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which Washington designated as a terrorist organization in 1987.

While subsequent presidential waivers allowed contact between the PLO and the United States, the Trump administration shuttered the PLO mission in the U.S. capital in 2018.

The declaration also states that "Palestine" is to be lauded for its "efforts to modernize" its school curricula to fight "radicalization, incitement, dehumanization, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, discrimination and hate speech." It "called on Israel to undertake a similar effort," it said.

Danon said the only beneficiary of the declaration is Hamas, which praised France and other countries upon their announcements this summer that recognition of a Palestinian state would be forthcoming and viewed the recognition as the fruits of their massacre in Israel.

"When terrorists are the ones cheering, you are not advancing peace," Danon said. "You are advancing terror."

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Wishing all a  
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Gary M. Levin

# LA Holocaust Museum Retracts Social Media Post That Said, 'Never Again Can't Only Mean Never Again for Jews'

The museum rejected criticism that the post had been meant as a condemnation of Israel in Gaza

By Philissa Cramer, JTA

Amid sharp criticism, Los Angeles' Holocaust Museum deleted an Instagram post in early September that proclaimed, "'Never again' can't only mean never again for Jews."

The museum apologized for the post and shot down speculation that it had been intended to suggest that Israel was committing genocide in Gaza.

The post showed six interlocking arms, in varying skin tones and one with numbers tattooed on it, forming a Jewish star. On subsequent slides, the post elaborated on the message, saying, "Jews were raised to say 'Never Again.' That means never again. For anyone," followed by "Jews must not let the trauma of our past silence our conscience," and "Standing with humanity does not betray our people. It honors them."

For some who saw it, the implication was clear: While the post did not mention Gaza or any other specific conflict, Holocaust Museum LA was taking a stance against Israel's war there, which an increasing number of people

have termed a "genocide." The post went up as the war reached its 700th day.

In the comments, some praised the museum for issuing what they saw as an overdue condemnation of the war in Gaza. But many others condemned the museum for what they said was diluting the specific catastrophe of the Holocaust.

"Genocide against ANY group is wrong and we should all stand against it, but we can easily make this statement without All Lives Mattering of the phrase 'never again,'" the social media activist Debbie Lechtman, who posts as Rootsmetals, wrote on Instagram. She noted the history of the phrase, which some cite trace to a 1926 Hebrew poem about the fall of Masada but gained wide purchase in English after the Holocaust, particularly after being adopted by the militant rabbi Meir Kahane.

Late Saturday night, the museum removed the post, issuing a statement in which it pledged to "do better" including by vetting social media posts more thoroughly in the future. "We

recently posted an item on social media that was part of a pre-planned social media campaign intended to promote inclusivity and community that was easily open to misinterpretation by some to be a political statement reflecting the ongoing situation in the Middle East," the statement said. "That was not our intent. It has been removed to avoid any further confusion. In deleting the post, the museum had also removed comments from her and others meant to educate others about the term "Never again" and why its use in contexts unrelated to the Holocaust can be offensive.

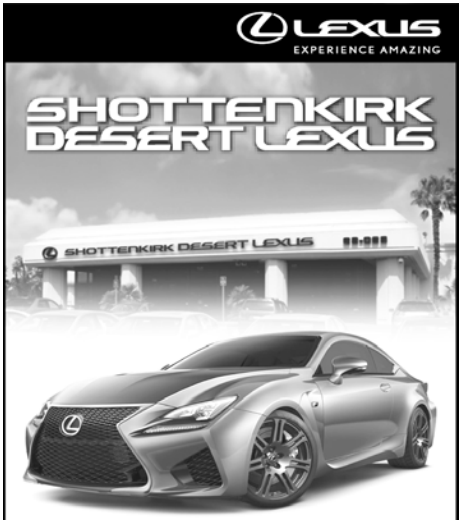
Lechtman lamented that in deleting the post, the museum had also removed comments from her and others meant to educate others about the term "Never again" and why its use in contexts unrelated to the Holocaust can be offensive.

The dustup reflects a broad debate over the extent to which Holocaust

remembrance should be widened to include other groups and genocides. Many Holocaust museums have held exhibitions about other genocides in an effort to demonstrate how the lessons of the Nazi genocide of the Jews resonate today, sometimes generating controversy in the process. The war in Gaza has placed new pressure on Holocaust museums.

"Never again," too, has faced debate over whether it should ever be widened beyond the Holocaust. It has been used by Jewish activists to oppose gun violence as well as other campaigns of discrimination and violence, including against the Uyghur minority in China. During the war in Gaza, it has become a rallying cry for progressive Jews who oppose Israel's military campaign there.

Holocaust Museum LA, which was founded by survivors, is currently closed while it is being overhauled in advance of a planned 2026 reopening.



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## OpEd: Stop Funding the Fight Against Antisemitism and Build Israel Instead

By David Magerman

In many ways, Israel has never been stronger, winning military victories over enemies and creating new friends through economic partnerships. Internally, while there are still societal divisions, the Israeli public is largely united around the mission of eradicating the threat of Hamas and other terrorists from inside and outside Israel's borders.

At the same time, Jewish communities around the world have been convinced by mainstream media that Israel and world Jewry are weak and are facing an existential threat from worldwide antisemitism.

As a result of this disconnect, Jewish philanthropists have been lured into a pointless, expensive, and unwinnable fight against antisemitism, when they could be using their resources to capitalize on Israel's successes and help Israel grow stronger through investment.

Over the past decade, some of the most prominent American philanthropists have invested billions of dollars in combating antisemitism. Robert Kraft's Foundation

to Combat Antisemitism alone has poured tens of millions into public campaigns, including a \$25 million "Stand Up to Jewish Hate" initiative launched in 2023, according to The Boston Globe.

Other Jewish giving circles have directed resources to interfaith bridge-building and antisemitism programs, raising significant pooled funds, as eJewish Philanthropy has reported. And research from Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy shows that American Jews who have experienced antisemitism give nearly ten times more to charity than those who have not.

The instinct is understandable: antisemitism has risen in the United States and Europe, with the Anti-Defamation League and Pew Research Center documenting consistent increases in incidents. But an uncomfortable question deserves asking: Is this philanthropic strategy effective, or is it ultimately counterproductive?

Antisemitism is not simply a matter

of bad ideas that can be defeated with better arguments. It is often fueled by vast state-backed propaganda efforts, well-funded international organizations and the decentralized echo chambers of social media.

Against such forces, the philanthropic resources of Jewish and pro-Israel organizations, though significant, pale in comparison.

Major campaigns may briefly capture attention, but they also risk creating an arms race of messaging in which opponents can always outspend or outmaneuver. The asymmetry is striking: the infrastructure of global online hostility dwarfs what even the most generous donors can sustain.

The modern information environment makes this imbalance even starker. A leaked Facebook memo revealed that its algorithms favored incendiary content because it drove more engagement, a point widely reported by The Wall Street Journal. Independent research has confirmed that

*continued on next page*

# Paramount Condemns Israeli Film Boycott Amid Palestine Conflict: "We Do Not Agree"

by Chris Gardner, MSN

Paramount has become the first major Hollywood studio to weigh in with an official statement amid a growing boycott of Israeli film companies backed by a host of A-list stars and filmmakers. The studio condemned the pledge.

"At Paramount, we believe in the power of storytelling to connect and inspire people, promote mutual understanding, and preserve the moments, ideas, and events that shape the world we share. This is our creative mission," reads the statement. "We do not agree with recent efforts to boycott Israeli filmmakers. Silencing individual creative artists based on their nationality does not promote better understanding or advance the cause of peace. The global entertainment industry should be encouraging artists to tell their stories and share their ideas with audiences throughout the world. We need more engagement and communication - not less."

Film Workers for Palestine announced the pledge Monday, citing the signatures at the time of more than 1,300 filmmakers, actors, creatives and other industry professionals including Olivia Colman, Ayo Edebiri, Mark Ruffalo, Riz Ahmed, Tilda Swinton, Javier Bardem, Yorgos Lanthimos, Josh O'Connor, Emma



Paramount Studios

Stone, Ava DuVernay, Asif Kapadia, Emma Seligman, Boots Riley, Hannah Einbinder, Cynthia Nixon, Adam McKay, Joshua Oppenheimer and others. Since then, it has only grown with additional signatures from more Hollywood professionals.

"As filmmakers, actors, film industry workers and institutions, we recognize the power of cinema to shape perceptions," reads the pledge. "In this urgent moment of crisis, where many of our governments are enabling the carnage in Gaza, we must do everything

we can to address complicity in that unrelenting horror. The world's highest court, the International Court of Justice, has ruled that there is a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza, and that Israel's occupation and apartheid against Palestinians are unlawful. Standing for equality, justice and freedom for all is a profound moral duty that none of us can ignore."

According to Film Workers for Palestine, the pledge was inspired by Filmmakers United Against Apartheid, a group founded by high-profile directors

such as Jonathan Demme and Martin Scorsese, which demanded that the film industry refuse to distribute work in South Africa.

In a statement to the Guardian, the Israeli Producers Association responded to the boycott pledge, also condemning its mission. "The signatories of this petition are targeting the wrong people. For decades, we Israeli artists, storytellers, and creators have been the primary voices allowing audiences to hear and witness the complexity of the conflict, including Palestinian narratives and criticism of Israeli state policies. We work with Palestinian creators, telling our shared stories and promoting peace and an end to violence through thousands of films, TV series, and documentaries."

The statement continued, "This call for a boycott is profoundly misguided. By targeting us - the creators who give voice to diverse narratives and foster dialogue - these signatories are undermining their own cause and attempting to silence us. This shortsighted act seeks to eliminate precisely the collaborative efforts working toward ending violence and achieving peace. We will not allow this and will push back in our efforts to end violence and bring just peace to our region for the benefit of all."

falsehoods spread faster and further online than truths, often reaching audiences six times quicker, as MIT Technology Review has noted.

These dynamics have had tragic real-world consequences. Amnesty International documented how Meta's algorithms amplified anti-Rohingya content in Myanmar, fueling violence and contributing to genocide—a case covered extensively by Time magazine.

In the United Kingdom, regulators concluded that engagement-driven amplification of false and hateful posts played a significant role in fueling riots in 2024, according to The Guardian.

If social media platforms are structurally inclined to reward outrage, then fighting antisemitism with facts and rebuttals may be strategically unwinnable. The very act of responding can boost the reach of the hate one is trying to counter.

There is also a symbolic dimension. Campaigning against antisemitism can inadvertently reinforce an image of Jews and Israel as perpetually embattled, defined by their enemies rather than their achievements. This defensive

posture echoes post-Holocaust narratives of victimhood, which critics argue can undermine confidence and agency.

By contrast, Israel's story is one of extraordinary strength. The global military analysis site Global Firepower ranks Israel as the 15th most powerful military in the world, backed by a \$30.5 billion defense budget. Beyond raw strength, Israel has become a global hub of innovation.

European Security & Defence notes it is among the world's top ten defense exporters, while the OECD records Israel as the leading nation in research and development spending as a share of GDP. Its startup ecosystem is valued at more than \$250 billion, ranking it fourth globally, according to Strategy International.

This narrative of resilience and ingenuity is often overshadowed by reactive battles against hostile rhetoric.

If boycotts and international criticism pose real challenges, they also highlight a different strategic choice: to invest inward rather than outward. By channeling resources into infrastructure, research, and education, Israel can strengthen its

long-term position regardless of external hostility.

Israel is already a world leader in science, medicine, military technology, cybersecurity and many other areas. Investing in growing Israel's strength can convince the world that boycotts are self-destructive and alliances are mutually beneficial. Success on the ground—economic, cultural, and technological—may ultimately do more to shape global perceptions than any anti-hate campaign.

In the short run, ignoring antisemitism will not be easy. Hostile rhetoric may continue, and some communities may feel abandoned without dedicated advocacy. Yet over time, resilience may be better demonstrated by thriving despite hostility, rather than by fighting to silence it.

Perhaps the most powerful response to hatred is not defense but success. By focusing on building a future of strength, innovation and resilience, Israel and its supporters can tell a story not of victimhood but of vitality. In the long run, that may prove to be the most convincing rebuttal of all.

David Magerman is an American

computer scientist, entrepreneur and philanthropist who is the co-founder and managing partner at Differential Ventures, a NYC-based venture capital company investing in the next generation of enterprise technology. He is the founder and president of The Tzemach David Foundation, dedicated to transforming the Israeli education system by providing support and fostering innovation.

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# Texas Senator Ted Cruz's Efforts to have the Muslim Brotherhood Recognized as a Foreign Terror Organization

By Jonathan D. Salant, Jewish News Syndicate

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) thinks that right-wing firebrand Tucker Carlson is "turning into Ilhan Omar," as the senator expressed concern that the broadcaster is influencing a generation of young conservatives with his anti-Israel rhetoric.

"I will say I am concerned about rising antisemitism on the right," Cruz said on Wednesday at a program at the Heritage Foundation in Washington. "In the last six months, what we've seen on the right has been deeply disturbing."

A member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Cruz had gone to Heritage to talk about his legislation to designate the Muslim Brotherhood and its branches as terrorist organizations, which would trigger a series of U.S. government sanctions.

During the question-and-answer period at the end of the hour-long program, the topic turned to Jew-hatred and anti-Israel rhetoric on the right.

Cruz singled out Carlson, a former Fox News Channel host, as a leading source of such comments.

"Tucker Carlson is turning into Ilhan Omar. This is bizarre. This is ridiculous," Cruz said.

The senator has engaged in several public debates with Carlson, who has interviewed two professors on his program who claimed that Adolf Hitler was not the genocidal murderer

who began World War II and who was responsible for the Holocaust.

"There are very few ironclad rules of politics, but here's one. Hitler was always, always bad," Cruz said to cheers and applause.

Carlson also questioned on his program whether Hamas, which attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, was composed of Islamic extremists. "I don't know if that's true, by the way," he said. "Seems more like a political organization."

Cruz said his fellow elected Republicans have shied away from condemning such rhetoric.

"We need to speak out and oppose it," Cruz said. "At the end of the day, the folks who are saying this are probably not persuadable, but I'm worried about the young people. I'm worried about the 19- and 20-year-old college kids, who are listening to this and cheering on this anti-Israel sentiment, this antisemitic sentiment."

Cruz said that Democrats refused to speak out against Jew-hatred and anti-Israel rhetoric on their side, which has allowed it to spread.

Carlson has embraced the "great



Texas Senator  
Ted Cruz

replacement theory," which claims that Jews are bringing unauthorized immigrants of color into the country to vote illegally and replace white Christians at the ballot box. The Anti-Defamation League [calls Carlson](#) a "key promoter" of "the racist, antisemitic and xenophobic conspiracy."

Similar rhetoric was cited by Robert Bowers when he carried out the worst antisemitic attack in U.S. history, killing 11 worshippers at a Pittsburgh synagogue in 2018. And it's reportedly what the neo-Nazis and white supremacists marching in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017 meant when they chanted, "Jews will not replace us."

Carlson received some of the loudest applause of any speaker during his prime-time appearance at the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. During the fall campaign, then-GOP vice-presidential nominee JD Vance joined him at an event in Pennsylvania.

A member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Cruz has introduced similar legislation about the Muslim Brotherhood in previous Congresses. He said that he ran into opposition because some branches of the brotherhood are not "demonstrably violent."

This time, the bill would single out those branches that have engaged

in terrorism, such as Hamas, and then sanction the whole brotherhood for supporting them, he said.

"We are taking a bottom-up approach," Cruz said. "We start by identifying all the branches that the Muslim Brotherhood supports that are terrorist organizations right now and that commit terrorism right now, and then we designate the whole brotherhood for supporting those indisputably terrorist organizations."

The bill has nine co-sponsors, all Republicans, but Cruz said he is talking with some of his Democratic colleagues and looking for ways to get the bill up for a vote.

"I am going looking for avenues to force a vote and put them on record," he said.

He said he also plans to work with the White House to get the measure passed. "We are going to be actively making the case to the administration that we will be moving in the Senate," he said.

The House version, sponsored by Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.), has attracted 15 co-sponsors from both parties, including pro-Israel stalwarts like Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.), Jared Moskowitz (D-Fla.), Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.) and Don Bacon (R-Neb.).

## UMass Amherst: Anti-Israel Boycott Related to Conference Dropped, Nonmembers Can Attend

By Aaron Bandler, Jewish News Syndicate

The University of Massachusetts Amherst has barred an academic group that plans to hold a conference later this fall on its campus from excluding scholars who receive funding from Israeli institutions.

The Coalition of Women in German, an organization based at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, is scheduled to hold the conference at UMass Amherst from November 6-9. One of its conditions was to boycott Israel. Another was that only members of the organization were allowed to attend.

The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law asked the university via a letter on September 3

to suspend the group's boycott policy for the conference.

Emily Gest, associate vice chancellor for news and media relations at UMass Amherst, told JNS that upon learning about the organization's boycott policy, "the university initiated a comprehensive legal and policy review" and found that it was "exclusionary."

"No academic event should, by design or effect, be exclusionary in nature, and the university will not sponsor an event that violates its policies," she said.

Gest disclosed that the Coalition of Women in German told the university, in writing, that the boycott policy will be suspended for the upcoming

conference, as well as for another one in the works for 2026. Membership will also not be required to attend, she said.

"The university continues to welcome all who endeavor to freely participate in the open marketplace of ideas," said the university spokesperson. "Consistent adherence to our principles means oftentimes hosting conferences and speakers with whose views some in our community may disagree."

The website for the conference states that "there are no restrictions on sources of funding for participation in the conference."

Kenneth L. Marcus, founder and chairman of the Brandeis Center and

a former U.S. assistant secretary of education for civil rights, stated that "UMass affirming that BDS violates its anti-discrimination policies is an important precedent that other universities must follow."

"Other universities should follow suit and ensure that organizations with BDS policies disavow that policy's application prior to any activity on or with that university," he said. "University anti-discrimination policies were created for a reason, and outside conferences or events cannot circumvent these protections."



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## HAVE A NOSH:

The family of my younger brother Rabbi Dani Zucker's wife is originally from Aleppo, Syria, and Elena introduced Dani to some fabulously exotic dishes, one of which I'm giving you today. For all who celebrate



Sukkot eating in a sukkah, you know that it is helpful to serve dishes that are easily transportable from the kitchen to the sukkah, and Elena's **Kibbeh ib Geraz** meets that criteria well. I'm including a couple colorful carrot dishes that would complement the kibbe ... and I suggest fresh fruit as a welcome finish to this exotic meal! Wishing you a wonderful Sukkot, hopefully with the opportunity to dine in a sukkah with family and friends. MHB

### KIBBE IB GERAZ

#### Meatballs:

1 3/4 lb. ground beef chuck  
2 Tablespoons matzah meal  
1 large egg, lightly beaten  
1 Tablespoons cold water  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon fresh ground pepper  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon ground allspice  
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin  
1/4 cup finely chopped yellow onion

#### Sauce:

24 oz. jar pitted sour cherries  
1/2 cup finely chopped yellow onion  
1/4 cup unsalted tomato paste  
1 teaspoon vegetable oil  
1/4 cup cold water  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 to 2 Tablespoons dark brown sugar (to taste)  
1 tablespoon oil for frying meatballs  
Rice; ideally basmati rice

MEATBALLS: Have a small bowl with ice water to dip your hands in between rolling meatballs to keep your palms wet, not sticky. Combine ingredients in a medium bowl and squeeze together until well blended and very soft. Shape into individual balls by rolling between palms of your hands. Place each ball on a plate and set aside.

SAUCE: Drain the liquid from the cherries and combine it in a medium saucepan with the onions, tomato paste, vegetable oil & water. Cook over medium flame for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add salt and pepper and the brown sugar (start with 1 tablespoon and see if it is sweet-tart in flavor; adding more brown sugar as needed) Bring to boil, reduce to medium-low and simmer uncovered for 5 minutes. Add the cherries and combine gently with a spoon.

Meanwhile, gently brown the meatballs in 1 tablespoon oil. Then add the meatballs to the sauce, mixing very gently so as not to break up the meat. Cover, simmer gently over low heat until sauce thickens and meatballs are cooked through, 20-30 minutes. Serve over rice.

(Note: After meatballs are cooked through they can be allowed to cool and then frozen for up to a month before thawing and reheating.

### BALSAMIC-HONEY CARROTS

2 pounds carrots, peeled and sliced lengthwise  
1 tablespoon oil  
salt, to taste  
black pepper, to taste

2 tablespoons honey  
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar  
1 clove garlic, grated  
1/2 teaspoon parsley, chopped.

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. On a baking sheet, add the carrots, the oil, the salt, and the black pepper and toss to combine. Roast the carrots, turning them once halfway through, until they are tender, about 18-20 minutes.

In a small saucepan over medium heat, add the honey and the balsamic vinegar and cook, while stirring, until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Turn off the stovetop heat.

Add the garlic and the parsley to the honey mixture and stir to combine.

Drizzle the honey mixture over the carrots and toss to coat and combine. Serve.

### POMEGRANATE CARROTS

2 pounds carrots, peeled and halved  
olive oil  
Pinch salt

Pinch cayenne  
2 tablespoons pomegranate molasses

Lay cut carrots on a flat tray with parchment paper. Sprinkle/drizzle ingredients. Be generous with your flavors. Roast at 400F. Add fresh parsley for presentation when serving.



## Simchas

Have you ever watched Patrick Evans and Randy Florence's "Big Conversations / Little Bar" on Facebook or their Podcast? I didn't know if it until they had our new Federation CEO



Danny Labin as their guest and I was given a link to the program ... What a delightful interview and great way to introduce Danny to our desert community. It's worth you time to track it down and see for yourself! ... Trust you couldn't miss the colorful listing of major

Federation events on page XX. Can we suggest you cut it out and put it on your refrigerator or in your home office so that you will have these important dates handy all season! ... Share your simchas with us. Email [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net) or call Miriam Bent at 760-835-1022.



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### OCTOBER

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|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Wednesday, October 1 | Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre)     | 5:47 pm       |
| Monday, October 6    | Sukkot                     | 5:48 pm       |
| Tuesday, October 7   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> day Sukkot | After 6:59 pm |
| Friday, October 10   | Shabbat Sukkot             | 5:35 pm       |
| Monday, October 13   | Shemini Atzeret            | 5:31 pm       |
| Tuesday, October 14  | Simchat Torah              | After 6:50 pm |
| Friday, October 17   | Shabbat B'reishit          | 5:26 pm       |
| Friday, October 24   | Shabbat Noach              | 5:18 pm       |
| Friday, October 31   | Shabbat Lech Lecha         | 5:11 pm       |



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