



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Adar II/Nissan 5779 - April 2019

The Jewish Federation of the Desert Community Holocaust Remembrance

Yom HaShoah

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019 ~ 3:00-5:00 PM



Helene Galen Auditorium, Annenberg Health Services Center, Eisenhower Medical Center, Rancho Mirage

Our 2019 Community Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance – Observance is taking place on Sunday, April 14th from 3:00-5:00 pm. Once again chaired by Ellen Glass, Roberta Nyman and Stephanie S. Ross, it will again be held at the Helene Galen Auditorium of the Annenberg Health Services Center, on the grounds of Eisenhower Medical Center, 39,000 Bob Hope Drive, in Rancho Mirage.

As in the past, participation from Jewish and interfaith community leadership and our community's Holocaust survivors will highlight the special remembrance portion of the program.

An exceptional speaker, with a remarkable history of Jewish community involvement, will be the keynote speaker. Peggy Shapiro is the Midwest Director of StandWithUs, the international Israel education and advocacy organization. A child of teenage Holocaust survivors, Peggy Shapiro was born in a displaced

persons' camp in Lansberg, Germany. She immigrated to the United States as a young child and was raised in Chicago and its suburbs.

She was one of the founding members and past president of The Association of Children of Holocaust Survivors in Chicago as well a founder of the International Second-Generation Association, which was formed in 1982. In cooperation with Yad Vashem, Peggy collected and documented over 4,000 pages of testimony for Chicago-area residents who had lost families in the Holocaust. She was appointed as special advisor to the President of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council by Elie Wiesel and served as the annual chairperson for the Elie Wiesel lecture series in



Peggy Shapiro,
Keynote Speaker

Chicago for 26 years.

Peggy retired from the City Colleges of Chicago, where she was chairperson of the Foreign Language/ESL Department at Harold Washington College and professor for 31 years. She was awarded the City of Chicago's Kathy Osterman prize for excellence in teaching and honored as a "Distinguished Professor" of the City Colleges. In addition to numerous educational publications for corporations

including Kraft, Cingular, Discover Card, Chevron and McNeil Pharmaceutical, she has written extensively for *The American Thinker* and other publications.

She is the past coordinator of the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema and currently serves as co-chairman of To Protect Our Heritage, the Midwest's oldest and largest bi-partisan pro-Israel political action committee. In addition, she is on the leadership board of AIPAC.

Annual Meeting
2019

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NOMINATED TO THE BOARD:
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RSVP by April 29 to Gloria.Benavides@jfedps.org ~ 760-324-4737

Speaker Dazzled Audience at 'The Main Event'

All who attended 'The Main Event' luncheon expected to hear a young, bright, articulate speaker. The invitation and publicity had described Erin Schrode as an activist, social entrepreneur and writer, a leading voice on sustainability, social impact and millennials and a vocal advocate for environmental action, public health and equal justice.

Erin Schrode is definitely all that, but the story she shared with luncheon attendees was much more,

and all were spellbound by her message. She admitted to growing up in an environment of 'social action,' not 'synagogue.' After participating in Birthright Israel in 2010, her Judaism became significantly more important, but nothing prepared her for what happened when she ran for Congress in Marin County, California in 2016 and suddenly became targeted with a torrent of relentless vicious anti-Semitic online abuse.

While anti-Semitic rhetoric



Erin Schrode (center) with Event Co-chair Jackie Cohen (left) and Committee member Chickie Steinberger (right).

continues, she is focusing her energies on hands-on "tikkun olam." After

Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, Schrode went to San Juan where she was in charge of distributing more than three million meals to the people of Puerto Rico.

With her commitment and abilities, we are certain to hear about Erin Schrode in the years to come. All who attended The Main Event will be able to say they met and heard and were impressed by this remarkable young woman.

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Table of Contents

Vol. 45 • No. 9

Community Calendar	14-15
Federation	1, 3, 12-13
Womans Philanthropy	2
Have A Nosh	23
Jewish Family Service	19
Off the Pulpit	9
Schools/School Listing	18
Simchas & Classifieds	22
Temples Listing	14
Tributes	10
UCR Lecture	6

Auckland Synagogue Cancels Services Following Mosque Shootings

By Jewish News Syndicate

A message sent to Auckland Hebrew Congregation members said that law enforcement was "unable to guarantee us protection this evening as they mobilise (sic) to support Christchurch, as well as protect mosques throughout New Zealand. It is therefore with deep

regret that the AHC BOM takes this unprecedented step in cancelling organised service this Shabbat, as we are concerned about the security of our community."

The New Zealand Jewish community expressed solidarity with New Zealand victims after

shootings at the mosques, with Stephen Goodman, President of the New Zealand Jewish Council, stating, "The New Zealand Jewish Council has no adequate words to describe how sickened and devastated we are by the coordinated attacks on Christchurch mosques today."

80 Graves Vandalized at Jewish Cemetery in France

Around 80 graves have been daubed with swastikas at a Jewish cemetery in eastern France, local officials said, hours ahead of nationwide marches on against a rise in anti-Semitic attacks.

The damage was discovered at a cemetery in the village of Quatzenheim, close to the border with Germany in the Alsace region, a statement from the regional security office said.

Photos show the Nazi symbols in blue paint spray-painted on the damaged graves, one of which bears the words "Elsassisches Schwarzen Wolfe" ("Black Alsatian Wolves), a separatist group with links to neo-Nazis in the 1970s.



The top security official for the region, Jean-Luc Marx, condemned "in the strongest possible terms this awful anti-Semitic act and sends his complete support to the Jewish community which has been targeted again," the statement added.

Mass rallies are planned in Paris and other French cities to denounce a flare-up of anti-Semitic acts which culminated in a violent tirade against

a prominent writer during recent "yellow vest" anti-government protests. Political leaders called the rallies after a protester was caught on video calling the philosopher Alain Finkielkraut a "dirty Zionist" and telling him that "France belongs to us."

Last year, French police recorded a 74 percent surge in reported anti-Jewish offences, causing alarm in a country that is home to the biggest Jewish population in Europe. "It just doesn't stop, it's shock after shock," Maurice Dahan, the regional head of France's main Jewish institution, the Israelite Central Consistory of France, told AFP after the attack in Alsace. "I don't know how long we are going to carry on... It makes me feel sick."

Heneni

From the CEO



Bruce Landgarten

*Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer*

"Back in the day" I was active in a couple BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization) chapters. This part of my Jewish club involvement was not intentional and would not have happened if my friends didn't actively recruit and nudge me, and make it sound like fun. BBYO was the extent of my Jewish organization experience. My family, besides being members of a synagogue, were not involved in Jewish organizations in any other capacity.

For some people we knew, organizations exhausted human and financial capital in an effort to find Jews, like some of my friends and family, who were undiscovered or, even worse, hiding in an effort to avoid paying dues.

In the past several years, Jewish semantics has shifted from using the term "affiliated" to "engaged" to indicate participation in the community. Regardless of which

word is used, there remains a lingering problem with both: their definitions. We need to be very clear about how we define affiliated or engaged and avoid using them as one-word mission statements for an initiative or committee.

When engaged in cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals, our initiatives either don't match the definition or the population that we thought fit in the engaged/ affiliated category is not as large as we thought (or even exists at all).

To take this one step further, when we widen the scope of "engaged," organizations we may find that they are wasting capital to capture community members that they already have in their database.

PJ Library is a good example. To enroll in it, families must take the initiative to sign up to receive a Jewish book for their children from the Jewish community, in their home, every month. PJ Library registration may be the only connection that these families have to the community. It is one of the few times in which unknown members of our community raise their hands, often unsolicited, and say "Heneni – Here I am."

This begs the question of what engagement means. If a family signs up to receive at least one



Jewish storybook for the next eight years of their child's life, are they engaged? Are they participating in the community more or less than someone who pays synagogue dues but only goes to services two or three times per year or someone who joins their local Jewish Community Center (JCC) but only uses the gym? I would argue that PJ Library registration easily passes the bar to consider that family engaged. The extent to which they become further engaged is based on how the relationship is cultivated. In essence, it is on the Jewish organizations to present the value proposition (both communal and financial) for those

families to join.

As a community we need to spend more time defining what we really mean by engaged before we apply financial or human capital toward an initiative. In the end, if we only define engagement by the payment of dues or membership, then we will miss a broad spectrum of our community. This is why our Federation funds programs like PJ Library and other initiatives.

All of these require some action by the participant to identify as a member of the Jewish community. That awareness, that self-identification, that act of proactively wanting to be a part community, that call of "Heneni" is a more than sufficient definition of "engaged." Our challenge is to create "Jewish Community" that inspires and nurtures more of us to step forward and declare "Heneni."

Jewish Federation of the Desert condemns the devastating mosque shootings in New Zealand. Our hearts go out to the families of those murdered, to the injured, and to all of the Muslim community worldwide.

No person should ever have to fear attending a place of worship. A house of worship must be a sacred space. Just as Muslim leaders stood with us in the wake of the Pittsburgh shootings, we stand with our Muslim friends.

Anti-Semitism Remains 'Very Serious Problem,' Newly-Relaunched Bipartisan US House Task Force Says

By Algemeiner Staff

The US House of Representatives' Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism was relaunched the beginning of March, two months after the term of the 116th Congress began.

The task force's co-chairs — Representatives Nita Lowey (D-NY), Chris Smith (R-NJ), Eliot Engel (D-NY),

Kay Granger (R-TX), Ted Deutch (D-FL), Randy Weber (R-TX), Marc Veasey (D-TX), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) — said in a joint statement, "The age-old scourge of anti-Semitism remains a very serious problem today."

"It was just under four months ago that we witnessed the worst attack

on the American Jewish community in our nation's history, leaving 11 worshipers dead and seven injured in a Pittsburgh synagogue," they added. "Jewish communities across the United States and around the world fear for their physical safety and the security of their institutions."

"Congress has an important responsibility to raise awareness of this anti-Jewish bigotry and to condemn and combat it in all its forms," the lawmakers continued. "We look forward to working with our Congressional colleagues to do all we can to fight anti-Semitism."

Columbia Student Leaders Vote Down BDS Referendum,

Action Draws Applause from Jewish, Zionist Campus Groups

by Shiri Moshe, *The Algemeiner*

Student leaders at Columbia University on March 10 rejected a controversial effort to divest from eight companies over their ties to Israel, following concerns raised by Jewish and Zionist campus groups.

After a four-hour debate, 20 members of the Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) voted in a secret ballot against sending out a campus-wide referendum on divestment, while 17 others supported the proposal and the body's president abstained on procedural grounds. The measure, promoted by anti-Zionist students affiliated with Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Columbia/Barnard Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), needed a two-thirds majority to pass.

A previous attempt to pass a similar

referendum was rejected by CCSC in 2017 by a margin of 26-5 and one abstention.

Brian Cohen, executive director of Columbia/Barnard Hillel, applauded the "great work" of students who worked to defeat the referendum, led by the Hillel group Aryeh: Columbia Students Association for Israel and its independent counterpart, Students Supporting Israel (SSI).

Both clubs have aimed to raise awareness of the deleterious impact the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign can have on their communities, accusing it of presenting a reductive picture of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and denying Jewish people the right to self-determination.

They also warned of the campaign's

divisiveness, pointing to the tensions that ran high at Barnard College while SJP and JVP spearheaded a successful divestment referendum there last spring. The measure was later criticized and rejected by Barnard President Sian Leah Beilock.

"While I am relieved that the vote will be the end of BDS on campus for now, damage has been done: these votes polarize campus, and contribute to a difficult environment for Jewish students," Cohen told *The Algemeiner*. "I am proud of our students who spoke so eloquently and passionately about Israel, the danger BDS poses both to Israelis and Palestinians, and the negative ways it impacts the campus community."

SSI president Ofir Dayan said the vote was a big accomplishment for both "what is right and just," and for the Jewish and Zionist communities at Columbia. "The student council decided to reaffirm their commitment to make them feel safe on campus," she told *The Algemeiner*.

Orit Gugenheim, president of Aryeh, said the atmosphere "was one of high tension and anxiety," with students from the opposition "pleading that CCSC would follow their mission and protect them from a referendum they denounced as bigoted."

Aryeh and SSI representatives — who, like SJP and JVP, were given 10 minutes in total to present — also pointed out that as Columbia's investment portfolio is not public, students do not know whether the companies being targeted by BDS supporters even have ties with the university.

While proponents said the measure would pressure the university to disclose its investments, Columbia President Lee Bollinger — who has

continued on next page

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JCN STATEMENT

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

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repeatedly opposed academic boycotts of Israel — rejected the idea of divesting the university's endowment from companies targeted by the BDS campaign as recently as last week.

"This was a purely symbolic effort, meant to claim that BDS was successful at Columbia University," Dayan argued. "We asked council members whether it was worthwhile to target a whole community of people — Jews and non-Jews who support Israel — just so the BDS website can say they won at Columbia."

"I think council members understood that this is a divisive issue that people feel strongly about and can't be reduced to a yes or no question," she added.

Dayan said the whole episode reinforced her view that the campaign is not grounded in a concern over "responsible investment, as they have no idea what Columbia's investment policy is. It's just a way to target pro-Israel and Jewish students."

A third group that represents parts of the campus' pro-Israel contingent — a branch of the national lobbying group J Street, which confirmed to *The Algemeiner* in advance that it would not formally present at the CCSC meeting — likewise warned that divestment can create a difficult climate for the Jewish community.

"[We've] seen how BDS on our campus can create a hostile environment for Jewish students by politicizing their identities and obscuring any opinion that does not fall on the strict binary you will hear tonight," J Street CU wrote in a statement issued on Sunday afternoon. It also argued that the movement has been co-opted "as a boogeyman tactic meant to penalize ANY meaningful criticism of the Israeli government."

"While we would not oppose boycotting businesses that operate

inside the green line and directly contribute to the occupation, we believe that introducing BDS at an American university disproportionately target Israel as a singular bad actor and is not effective at combating occupation," the group affirmed.

The "green line" was demarcated by the 1949 armistice agreement between Israel and Arab powers, and includes internationally-recognized Israeli territory.

When the vote tally was ultimately announced, some students cried in

relief, while others began chanting, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," the student-run *Columbia Daily Spectator* reported. The slogan has been used by Islamist groups like Hamas and other Palestinian nationalists to refer to the establishment of an Arab state in the territory between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea, in place of Israel.

Gugenheim said that "a significant amount of Jewish students" approached her since the vote to thank Aryeh for taking a stand against the referendum.

"Their reaction further confirms our central preoccupation throughout the meeting: to ensure the Jewish community's complete safety and comfort, like that of all other students, at Columbia University," she added.

Despite the vote, the campus debate surrounding BDS is expected to continue, with SJP and JVP holding their annual "Israel Apartheid Week" campaign at the start of April. SSI plans to host its own concurrent "Hebrew Liberation Week" highlighting Jewish indigeneity and plurality.

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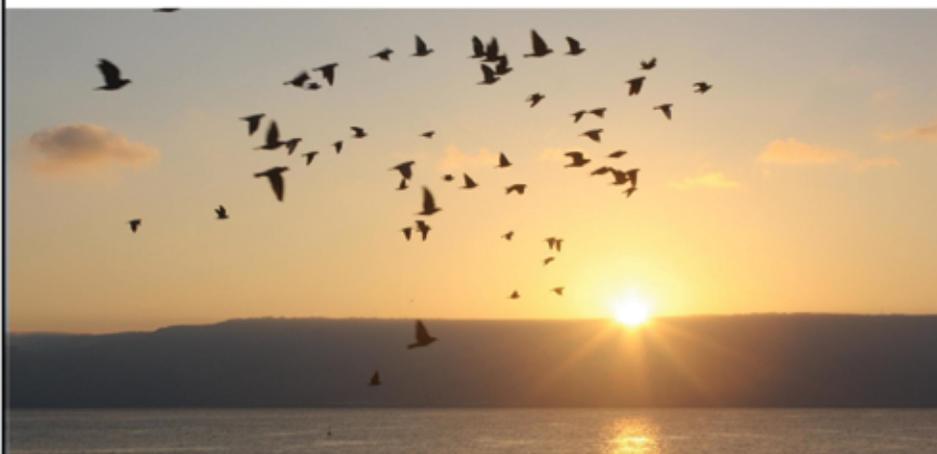
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Jewish Federation/UCR Series Lecture



Crowd attending the February 17 lecture by Dr. Edo Bar-Zeev of the Department of Environmental Hydrology and Microbiology at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Topic: "From Desert to Oasis: What Israel Can Teach the World About Water Renewal."

Airbnb Faces Sanctions in Texas Over Settlements Ban

By Adi Pick, CTech

On March 1, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Glenn Hegar placed Airbnb on the state's list of companies which it defines as boycotting Israel, following the company's November announcement that it will be removing "approximately 200 listings" in Jewish settlements in the West Bank from its website. Airbnb is one of only four companies on the current list.

The only other companies on the state's updated list are British supermarket and funeral company Co-operative Group Limited, Norwegian financial services group DNB Bank ASA, and Norwegian insurance company Kommunal Landspensjonskasse Gjensidig Forsikringsselskap, or KLP.

Listings in Israeli settlements in the West Bank "are at the core of the dispute between Israelis and Palestinians," and therefore, such listings will be removed, the company said in its November statement. Listings in Israeli settlements still appear on Airbnb's website.

Airbnb's announcement of the planned removal of settlement listings came one day before New York-based NGO Human Rights Watch was set to publish a report outlining the company's activities in the West Bank.

According to the Texas law, companies placed on the state's boycotting Israel list have 90 days to "cease boycotting Israel," and if they do not, "the state governmental entity shall sell, redeem, divest,

or withdraw all publicly traded securities of the company."

In November, US Vice President Mike Pence said that "in the wake of Airbnb's decision to ban listings of Jewish homes in eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank, we've made it clear: the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement is wrong, and it has no place in the free enterprise of the United States of America."

In contradiction to Pence's statement, Airbnb explicitly stated in its announcement that it would not be removing listings in Jerusalem. The company also noted it "does not support the BDS movement, any boycott of Israel, or any boycott of Israeli companies" and that the company's announcement "does not apply to more than 20,000 listings in Israel — including in Jerusalem and Golan Heights."

Secretary-General of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Saeb Erekat lauded Airbnb's decision in a press release published November 19 as an "initial positive step," but also said the company should have included East Jerusalem in its new policy.

In January, Florida's new Republican governor Ron DeSantis declared that Florida will be suspending the use of Airbnb for state-paid travel and that he is also considering preventing the state's pension fund from investing in the company.

More than 20 other states have laws regarding boycotting Israel.

Cornell University President Shares 'Strong Opposition to BDS' for 'Unfairly' Singling Out Israel

By Shiri Moshe, *The Algemeiner*

The head of Cornell University in New York has responded to demands by anti-Zionist student activists that she embrace the Palestinian-led boycott of Israel, saying the campaign was antithetical to academic freedom and unduly targeted Israel for sanction while ignoring other countries.

President Martha Pollack's comments came in response to a letter delivered to her on February 18 by members of the Cornell chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), which urged the university to divest its endowment from companies "complicit in the morally reprehensible human rights violations in Palestine." The letter also accused Israel of sharing a "common history" with the United States as a "settler-colonial project rooted in genocide," and claimed that the BDS campaign was working to isolate Israel "until it meets its obligations under international law."

Critics of the effort — including major Jewish groups in the US and globally — say it fails to recognize Arab and Palestinian culpability in the conflict with Israel, aims to undermine the Jewish state's very existence, and rejects the Jewish people's right to national self-determination.

SJP also plans to bring forward a Student Assembly resolution in support of BDS, which has already been endorsed by more than 20 student groups, including the Queer Political Action Committee, Black Students United, Climate Justice Cornell, South Asian Council, Islamic Alliance for Justice, and Cornell Young Democratic Socialists.



Cornell President Martha Pollack

In her response to SJP's letter, shared online by the Jewish campus group Cornell Hillel, Pollack expressed a "strong opposition to BDS," and rejected the idea of using the school's endowment as a tool of "political or social power."

"BDS unfairly singles out one country in the world for sanction when there are many countries around the world whose governments' policies may be viewed as controversial," Pollack wrote. "Moreover, it places all of the responsibility for an extraordinarily complex geopolitical situation on just one country and frequently conflates the policies of the Israeli government

with the very right of Israel to exist as a nation, which I find particularly troublesome."

She also pointed out that the BDS campaign calls for an academic boycott, "which is at odds with Cornell's core commitment to academic freedom and the open exchange of ideas."

The divestment campaign — which was last rejected in 2014 after SJP tried to schedule a vote during the Jewish holiday of Passover — has already sparked a debate on campus. In a Student Assembly meeting on Thursday, SJP expressed concern after 15 student government members attended an unofficial, closed-door gathering on BDS organized by an executive board member of Roitman Chabad Center at Cornell, the student-run Cornell Daily Sun reported.

"If they want to bring something to the Student Assembly, they come in front of all of us, we don't just reach out to 15 members and include

just those 15 members with those concerns," Colin Benedict, minority student liaison, told the Sun.

In a statement on social media on Friday, Cornell SJP said the reported meeting with the 15 Student Assembly members represented "shady politics."

"We sincerely hope that this entire process is kept civil and call on Chabad Center to do the same!"

Yet when contacted by *The Algemeiner*, Cornell Chabad director Rabbi Eli Silberstein said the reports surrounding the meeting were "bizarre."

"Chabad doesn't involve itself in politics. This was a mistake," he said. "Chabad had nothing to do with this. It's the first I hear about it."

SJP's campaign is expected to continue at the next Student Assembly meeting, when the group and members of Cornell Hillel will each hold teach-ins on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



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Is There a Common Theme in the Outbreak of Anti-Semitism in the West?

A sense that "democracies don't control" their own countries has contributed to the rise of anti-Semitism.

By Jeremy Sharon, *The Jerusalem Post*

The oldest hatred is in vogue again. Anti-Semitism in all its forms is back in fashion in the West – the rhetoric is truly frightening, and the audacity of those openly declaring their hatred of Jews is simply shocking.

Whether it is Swastikas daubed on Jewish gravestones in France, far-left activists in the UK accusing Jewish MPs of being "fifth columnists" or the massacre of Jewish men and women at prayer in Pittsburgh, there can be little doubt as to the seriousness of the anti-Semitic hate that has infected the West once again.

But is there any underlying cause or common denominator that can explain the outbreak of this scourge of Western civilization.

Dina Porat – the head of Kantor Center for the Study of European Jewry at Tel Aviv University and chief historian for Yad Vashem – said that the rise of anti-Semitism in different countries and regions often has its own specific background and setting, but that there are nevertheless some common denominators.

In particular, she notes that economic and social crises in the UK, France, Holland and other western European countries, and a sense that "democracies don't control" their own countries has contributed to the rise of anti-Semitism.



Prof. Dina Porat



Prof. Alvin Rosenfeld



ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt

Radicals and extremists from both sides of the political spectrum have latched on to the "yellow jacket" economic protest movement, which has morphed into a protest movement against the socioeconomic condition of the working and middle class with a populist strain of anti-"elite" rhetoric and beliefs.

And France witnessed two horrifying anti-Semitic attacks recently, in which prominent Jewish philosopher Alain Finkelkraut was assailed by "yellow jacket" protesters who called him a "dirty-Zionist" and told him to "go back to Tel Aviv," as well as the desecration of 96 Jewish gravestones with swastikas close to Strasbourg.

"The 'yellow jackets' is an expression of crisis with democracy, it started as nothing to do with Jews but as with many revolutions, it has developed antisemitic overtones," said Porat.

She also noted that amongst the economic and social tumult, Jews are

often erroneously perceived as being better-off financially than the average citizen and possessing an internal solidarity which others do not, both of which causes resentment.

In the UK, opposition to immigration as well as resentment from regions of social and economic deprivation led to the vote to leave the EU in 2016, a decision that has left the country in political and social turmoil.

Anti-Semitism in the UK has hit record levels for three straight years in a row, while social media is rife with sickening allegations of Jewish control of the media, politics and the economy.

The advent to leadership of the Labour Party of Jeremy Corbyn, who has long straddled the boundary between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, has exacerbated the problem and led Jewish critics of Corbyn to be labeled traitors and agents of foreign powers, feeding further into the anti-Semitic zeitgeist.

Alvin Rosenfeld, a professor of Jewish studies at Indiana University and director of the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism at Indiana University, said that the recent bout of antisemitism was "part of raw cultural moment" being experienced in the West.

"We see in many countries a rise of populism, of nativism, illiberal movements of many kinds like in Poland, Hungary, France, Germany and the UK, which brings with it grave intolerance against people who are seen as being adversarial," said Rosenfeld.

And once these various social ills set in, anti-Semitism is not long in following, he says. "Once these energies get momentum, we have a social pathology and the

return of anti-Semitism from the fringes that settles in that can turn very violent."

Director and CEO of the Anti-Defamation League Jonathan Greenblatt notes that a severe spike in antisemitism in the US since 2016 is "absolutely correlated" to the election campaign and election victory of US President Donald Trump, who has used concerns over national and cultural identity and immigration to garner support.

"There is no doubt that these things are tightly related, there is no doubt that extremists feel emboldened because the president and other elected officials are sharing stereotypes, conspiracy theories about [Jewish financier George] Soros and about 'globalists' lifted from the pages of white supremacists and making its way to the talking point of elected officials from the West Wing down," said Greenblatt.

"There's no doubt that the environment in which [anti-Semitism] is being sustained is certainly to some degree catalyzed by and cultivated by the political rhetoric."

Greenblatt notes specially, however, that the rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the US has not been confined to the far-right, and has also been a feature of the far-left, who he says "use the same tropes of conspiracy and influence.

This has certainly been witnessed of late in the comments of several new Democratic congresswomen, and other radical elements.

The causes, roots and origins of anti-Semitism are always difficult to pin down definitively, and the phenomenon is so ancient and varied as to make categorical assertions dangerous.

But the "cultural moment" of socio-economic change and disorder in the west seems a good place to start in the search for the origins of the present day outbreak of the anti-Semitism virus.

Advertisement for Carol Moses, Realtor. The ad features a portrait of Carol Moses, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. To the right of the portrait is the text: CAROL MOSES REALTOR, DIRECT 760-391-2560, EMAIL cmoses@BDHomes.com, CalBRE# 01985922. At the bottom, it says "THE CREATIVE SOLUTION TO REAL ESTATE" and "bennion & deville HOMES".

From Montenegro to Japan: New Network of Jewish Sunday Schools Opens

Intended for families not active in Jewish communal life, the project has been launched with the support of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress.

A new Jewish Sunday school has opened in the Bulgarian capital Sofia, representing the 17th school established as a part of an educational program called JFUTURE.

Intended for families not active in Jewish communal life, the relatively new project was launched with the support of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress. It includes more than 400 participants, spanning countries including Montenegro, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Bulgaria, Japan, India and Kazakhstan.

The STEAM approach (Science, Technologies, Engineering, Art and Math) underlies the educational



Students at Sunday school in Japan as part of the JFUTURE program

program. Students are grouped according to age: as part of J-fun (ages 5-6); J-lab (ages 7-9); and J-profi (ages 10-12), with each age group ranging from six to 15 members.

The program has been backed by Chief Rabbi of Russia Berel Lazar, who said, "We are glad to

take an active part in this education initiative intended to strengthen ties of hundreds of Jewish children learning our history and tradition. It is gratifying to see that such a project appeared just now, when Jews in various countries are facing an acute problem of preserving their national identity. Familiarization with our heritage from an early age will help these children keep their Jewishness alive."

Rabbi Israel Kozlovsky, co-director with his wife, Chaya, of Chabad-Lubavitch of Mumbai, spoke about the influence the program exerts on the local Jewish community in India.

"The project has allowed us to involve new families in the activities of the community that nowadays numbers about 2,000 people," he said. "We are witnessing our students pass the knowledge they gained on to their parents, thus acquainting them with Jewish tradition and strengthening ties between the generations. Our Jewish Sunday school helps support cooperation of the community with Jews all over the world."

Towards the end of 2019, the program is expected to double the number of students involved and bring new communities on board.

Lynda Carter

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Saturday April 6th, 7:30pm
Doors open at 6:30pm

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A portion of the proceeds benefit Temple Isaiah of Palm Springs.



Tribute Card Donations

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

All contributions received by the Jewish Federation for Tribute Cards are placed in our special Tzedakah Fund, which provides direct monetary intervention for needy Jews living in the Coachella Valley. Call 760-324-4737.

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Harriet Bernstein**, Thank you from Debra and Mickey Star.
- **Morris Beschloss**, In honor of your special birthday, from Frances Horwich.
- **Mrs. Steve Farber**, Happy birthday from Frances Horwich.
- **Diane and Hal Gershowitz**, Thank you from Debra and Mickey Star.
- **Loreen Jacobson**, Thank you from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Joanie Lehr**, Happy birthday from Phyllis Saltzstein.
- **Marnie Miller and Joe Noren**, Thank you from Chickie and Claude Steinberger.
- **Fefe Passer**, Happy birthday from Phyllis Saltzstein.
- **Leslie Pepper**, Mazel tov! From Geri and Don Schaevel.
- **Lana Polacheck**, Thank you from Suzanne Feder.

• **Gail Richards**, Happy birthday from Phyllis Saltzstein.

• **Anna Weiner**, Happy 75th birthday from Barbara Feldman.

• **Robbie Winnick**, Happy birthday from Phyllis Saltzstein.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

• **Linn Menne**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Cora Ginsberg, Frances Horwich, Marnie Miller, Harold and Mimi Paley, Barbara Platt, Debra and Mickey Star and Chickie Steinberger.

• **Howard Schor**, Hoping you are on the mend, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

• **Mrs. Warren Deutsch**, In memory of your beloved husband Warren, from Marsha and Dick Bernhard.

• **Ron and Muriel Goldberg**, In memory of your beloved sister, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Jerry and Eunice Meister, Gail and Bob Scadron.

• **Justice Robert and Marilyn Gordon**, In memory of your brother Barry, from Susan Cigelnik.

• **Adrian and Cass Graff-Radford**, In memory of your beloved father, from Leslie and Barry Usow.

• **Anita Gutof**, In loving memory of cousin Richard, from Susan Cigelnik.

• **Andrew Holden**, In memory of your beloved grandmother, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

• **Mrs. Sonny Levinthal**, In memory of your beloved husband Sy, from Naomi Berger, Harold and Mimi Paley, Sherry and Howard Schor, Chickie and Claude Steinberger.

• **Carole Levy and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband and father Joe, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

• **Marnie Miller**, In memory of your beloved brother, from Harold and Mimi Paley, Gail and Bob Scadron, Chickie and Claude Steinberger.

• **Carol Moses and Bruce Landgarten**, In memory of your beloved father Irving Moses, from Chickie and Claude Steinberger.

Record Number of Tourists Visited Israel in 2018

By Gilad Zwick, Jewish News Syndicate

Incoming tourism reached an all-time high in 2018, the Central Bureau of Statistics said in a new report on March 14th.

Some 4.1 million tourists visited Israel last year, marking a 14 percent increase compared to 2017, which was also a record year.

Likewise, the number of foreign



tourists who stayed overnight at a hotel increased by 10 percent compared to the previous year.

"We can say that 2018 was a record-breaking year, with an unprecedented level of incoming tourists," Tourism Minister Yariv Levin said in statement. "This accomplishment is a direct result

of the laborious effort undertaken by my ministry, as well as the revolutionary way in which we have presented Israel abroad, the inauguration of new flights to Israel and the collaboration with the biggest tourist agencies around the world."



"Off the Pulpit" is a monthly column featuring articles on community or Israel, written by our community's Rabbis.

Rescuers – Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust

This month, as our community prepares to observe Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance, we chose to feature a remarkable book written by Rabbi Malka Drucker, the spiritual leader of Temple Har-Shalom in Idyllwild. Ordained in 1998 from the Academy for Jewish Religion, Rabbi Drucker was the founding rabbi of HaMakom: The Place for Passionate and Progressive Judaism, in Santa Fe, New Mexico for 15 years. A prolific writer, she is the author of 21 books, many award-winning in their respective disciplines.

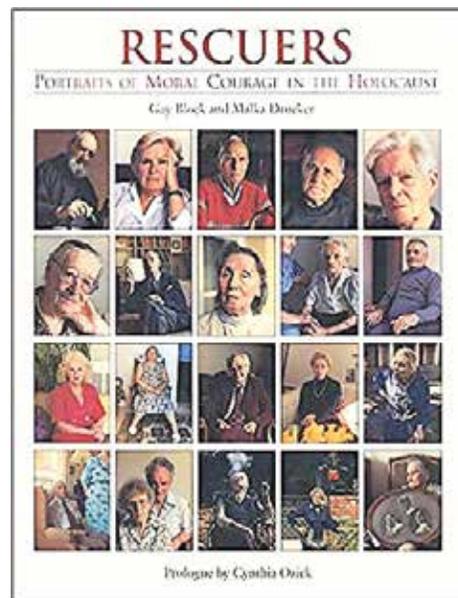


Rabbi Malka Drucker

It is impossible to truly comprehend what it means when we refer to "six million Jews" killed in the Holocaust. It is when we learn the story of an individual, and then another and another we can better understand the magnitude of the horror. It is similarly true that it is hard to imagine the courage of those who tried to save Jewish lives. As of 2017 (The latest available statistic)

Yad Vashem in Israel has documented and recognizes 26,513 Righteous Gentiles. But that number blurs as well.

Rabbi Malka Drucker and photographer Gay Block spent three years interviewing 105 rescuers from ten countries. From those interviews came the book "Rescuers – Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust," chronicling the stories of 49 rescuers. As the book explains, "these people present a vivid picture of their lives before, during, and after the war as they grapple with the question of why they acted with humanity in a time of barbarism – and whether



they would do it again. Most of those interviewed felt their actions were done out of friendship and for people caught in a web of hatred and anti-Semitism. They did not feel that they were acting heroically but that they were doing what was right. In her prologue, Cynthia Ozick observed that what is perhaps most striking about the rescuers is their modesty and simple humanness, yet "it is from these undeniably heroic

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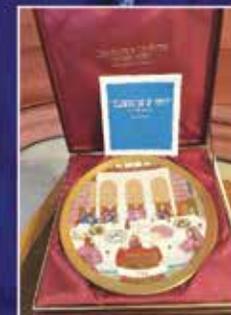


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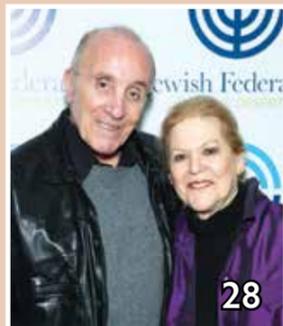
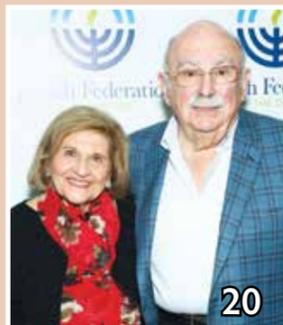
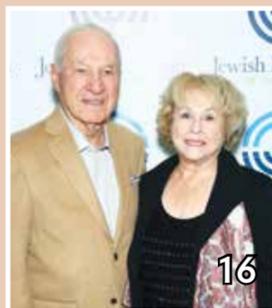
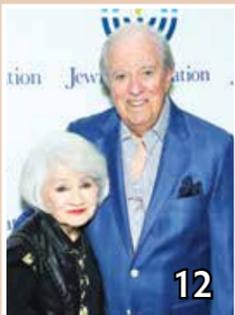
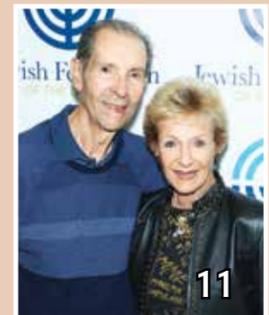
Inquiries: 760-346-7035

and principled few that we can learn the full resonance of civilization." "Rescuers" is available in both hard and soft cover. It is 256 pages and

includes hundreds of photographs, both from the lens of photographer Gay Block and many family photos of those interviewed.

Seen at Laugh Out Loud Night of Comedy

Photos from Major Gifts Reception before the Performance



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Punch Line |
| Phyllis & Gary Schahet
Punch Line | Libby & Burt Hoffman
Tickle My Funny Bone | Edmund Ayoub, Jr. M.D.
Crack Me Up |
| Stephen & Marjorie Kulp
Crack Me Up | Dr. Paul & Stephanie Ross
Crack Me Up | Lois Zoller & Jim Mills
Crack Me Up |



Special thanks to our community's always funny **Miles Berger**, who was terrific as the evening's MC!

1 Barbara Fremont, Jewish Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten, Helene Galen and Jamie Kabler
2 Campaign Chair Lori Fritz, Brad Fritz, Susie and Bob Diamond
3 Helene Galen, Jamie Kabler, Donna McMillan and Faye Sarkowsky
4 Mickey Greenspan, Barbara and Lisa Fremont
5 Bobby Greenbaum and Bruce Landgarten with comedians Elon Gold and Gary Gulman

6 Susan Walpert and Sandy Seplow
7 Susan and Ron Langus
8 Shelley Goodman and Bernard Plack
9 Sally and Miles Berger
10 Raymond and Jeannette Galante
11 Norm Lewis and Barbara Platt
12 Nora and Don Rado
13 JFS Desert Executive Director Maureen Forman and

Jewish Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten
14 Marjorie and Stephen Kulp
15 Marilyn Miller and Sherwin Turbow
16 Larry and Eileen Zoll
17 Barbara and Bernie Fromm
18 Buddy and Libby Hoffman
19 Barbara and Ken Lieberman
20 Ellen and Phil Glass
21 Paul and Stephanie Ross

22 Don and Mimi Gittelson
23 Dennis and Nancy Dittlove
24 Federation Board Co-chair Celia Norian and CEO Bruce Landgarten
25 Bobbie Stern
26 Herb Schneider, Maddie Redstone, Larry and Jane Sherman, Gary and Phyllis Schahet
27 Crowd at Laugh Out Loud performance
28 Bobby and Toni Garmisa

29 Bob and Wendy Goodfriend
30 Barbara Devinki and Jeff Lewis
31 Barbara and Sheldon Weisberg
32 Carol and Alan Parsow
33 Chickie and Claude Steinberger and Nora Kaufman
34 Becky Benaroya



Shabbat Schedule - April 2019

Check the websites or call the synagogues for a full schedule of services.

BETH SHALOM (Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)
Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
79-733 Country Club Drive,
Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203
www.congregationbethshalom.net
760-200-3636

9:30 am Saturday Shabbat morning services, followed by sit down Kiddush lunch.

Saturday, April 20 – 9:30 am First day Passover services; Friday, April 26 – 9:30 am 7th day services; Saturday, April 27 – 9:30 am Shabbat/8th day Passover/ Yizkor

CENTRO CULTURAL HEBREO DE MEXICALI (Conservative)
Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico
Contact: Ron Cohen
www.judiosdemexicali.com
760-960-3392 US (686) 216-7152 Mexico

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim
425 Ortega, Palm Springs, CA 92264
www.chabadpalmsprings.com
760-325-0774
Shabbat services Friday/Saturday; daily morning and evening minyan.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT

Rabbi Mendy Friedman
Services in a private home. Call for information: 760-651-2424.
www.chabadpd.com 760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE

Rabbi Shimon Posner
72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
www.chabadrm.com 760-770-7785

Shabbat services Friday: check website for service times. Saturday 10 am; children's program/service 11:15 am. Daily morning and evening minyan. M-F 7:00 am; Sundays 8:00 am/check website for mincha/maariv times.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
For information on services call 760-848-8250.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi Richard Zions; Cantor Joseph Gole www.harelurj.org / harelurj@gmail.com
760-779-1691.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 564, Palm Desert, CA 92261. For information about Shabbat services contact Har-El by email or phone. Friday evening Shabbat services 6:00 pm, preceded at 5:30 pm by a pre-service social. Music Shabbat first Friday of each month.

April 19: No Shabbat service; Congregational Seder (see classified ad page 22).

CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT (Reform)

Rabbi Kenneth Milhander, 1320 W. Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220.

Contact 951-392-5380.
Shabbat Service 3rd Friday/
Havdallah 1st Saturday evening.

DESERT HOT SPRINGS

Monthly Shabbat evening service with Rabbi Faith Tessler October-May at Mission Lakes Country Club at 7:00 pm.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Jules King. Note new location: Meet at UC Riverside/ Palm Desert Campus auditorium, 75080 Frank Sinatra (at Cook), Palm Desert the second Friday of each month at 7:00 pm. Musical Shabbat service, followed by wine/light nosh oneg. Complimentary valet parking in Lot B. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com. Saturday, April 20 – 7 pm: Seder.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES

Rabbi Kenneth Emert and Cantor Alan Scott.
Services held at Sun City Del Webb, Palm Desert/Sunset View Clubhouse/Speakers Hall, First and third Friday evenings at 7:15 pm.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

Rabbi Malka Drucker.
(951) 468-0004. www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org
Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com.

Friday night services once a

month and study with Rabbi the following Saturday morning. Services held at St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church, 25525 Taquitz Drive, Idyllwild, CA.

TEMPLE ISAIAH

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg.
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. www.templeisaiahps.com.
Shabbat evening: 6:30 pm wine and cheese reception. 7:30 pm Shabbat Services, followed by oneg;
Saturday morning: 9:00 am "Nosh and Drash" torah study followed by services at 10:00 am.
Pesach: Friday, April 19 – 7 pm: 59th annual Community Seder (see ad page 5). Saturday, April 27: Yizkor.

TEMPLE SINAI (Reform)

Rabbi Andrew Bentley
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260.
www.templesinaipd.org 760-568-9699.
Friday evening services: 5:30 pm.
Saturdays: 8:45 am Torah study; 10 am Shabbat services.
Saturday, April 20 – 5:30 pm Community Seder. See page 7

BIKUR CHOLIM

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



Community Calendar - April 2019

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

Sundays

Chabad Rancho Mirage Children's Programs

C Teen Global Teen network offering social, educational & humanitarian programming.

C Teen Jr. for 7-8 graders. Educational and social programming.

C Kids ages 4-11. Meets Sundays 10:30-noon. Trips. Art. Cooking. Teaching Life Skills.

Call 760-272-1923 or email Chaya@chabadrm.com for information about the groups and meeting dates.

Mondays

6:30 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Men's Talmud class**, given by Rabbi Benny Lew at Chabad of Rancho Mirage. RSVP 760-636-2897 or Rabbibenny@chabadrm.com.

7:30-8:30 pm Chabad Palm Springs Program: **'A Journey Through the Era of the Prophets'**: A class exploring the Prophets, beginning with Joshua. Held at home of Rabbi Arik and Chaya Denenbeim 410 Avenida Ortega, Palm Springs. Instructor: Rabbi Boz Werdiger, Email: bozwerdiger@googlegmail.com.

Tuesdays

10 am Temple Sinai **Yiddish Club**

Noon Temple Sinai **Introduction**

to Judaism. Facilitator: Arava Talve.

1:15 pm Temple Sinai **Ten Paths to God.** Presenter: Rabbi Andrew Bentley

5:00-7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Weekly BBQ.** Affordable, fun and kosher. Reservations not required but helpful: 760-770-7785.

7:00-8:00 pm Chabad of Sun City **Women's Torah Study.** Contact sussiedenebeim@gmail.com.

7:00-8:00 pm Chabad Palm Springs Program: Text-based Study on Maimonides's fundamentals of Judaism. Instructor: **Rabbi Moische Witkes.** For location, call or text 760-412-1005.

Wednesdays

4:00 pm Temple Sinai Mah Jongg

Thursdays

1:00 pm Temple Sinai Mah Jongg

Thursday, April 4
7:00 pm Sabra Hadassah meeting, Speaker: **Harriet Rossetto**, founder of Beit T'Shuvah, the non-profit residential addiction treatment center in LA. Sun City Palm Desert Sunset View Clubhouse, Oasis Room.



Dessert nosh. Couvert: \$18.
Questions? Call 760-360-8465

Saturday, April 6

7:30 pm Temple Isaiah **Lynda Carter – My Music, My Story.**
See ad page 9.

Monday, April 8

Har-El Interfaith Seder. See classified ad page 22

Tuesday, April 9

4-6 pm Jewish Federation/UCR Series Lecture: **"Jews of African Descent in America"** by Dr. Bruce Haynes. At UCR/Palm Desert auditorium.
See ad page 6.

Wednesday, April 10

11:00 am Tolerance Education Center. Book signing "Left to the Mercy of a Rude Stream" by Stanley A. Goldman.

Thursday, April 11

5:30 pm Temple Sinai Brotherhood **Dinner and a Movie.** Call 760-568-9699 for information and reservations.

2019 - 5779
First Seder: Friday, April 19
Second Seder: Saturday, April 20
Eighth day: Saturday, April 27 -
Pesach ends at 8:05 pm
Go online or call for service times.

Sunday, April 14, 2019

3:00 pm Community Yom HaShoah / Holocaust Remembrance Observance.
Galen Auditorium, Eisenhower Medical Center. Keynote speaker: **Peggy Shapiro.**
See page 1.

Wednesday, April 17

11:00 am Tolerance Education Center. "The Stories of Passover and Easter" with anthropologist **Rosa Weinstein.**

Sunday, April 28

2:00 pm Beth Shalom **Matinee Theatre Party:** "The Diary of Anne Frank" at Palm Canyon Theatre. \$30 pp. Reserved seats. Non-members welcome. Tickets: 760-200-3636.

Tuesday, April 30

11:00 am Tolerance Education Center "Adoption Roulette" Play by Elizabeth Fuller; Stage reading by Sharon DiHaworth and Joel Vig.



Have you registered the Jewish Federation of the Desert with Amazon Smile as your nonprofit?

It couldn't be easier to register: 1. Go to smile.amazon.com 2. Register Jewish Federation of the Desert as your favorite charity 3. Shop! 4. Bookmark the smile.amazon.com page and don't forget to only shop through this link! We earn .5% of each purchase.

Purchases made through regular amazon.com will NOT lead to charitable contributions.



With Nazi Salutes Around a Makeshift Swastika, Newport Beach Students Spark Outrage

By Christine Mai-Duc, Laura Newberry, Anh Do and Lilly Nguyen, LA Times

This image from Twitter shows Newport-Mesa students toasting over a swastika made from red plastic cups. The "ultimate rage" banner over the image was added by a social media user. (Twitter)

Newport Beach school officials on Sunday said they are investigating images posted on social media appearing to show a group of partying students — arms outstretched in a Nazi salute — gathered around red plastic cups arranged in the shape of a swastika.

Some of the people in the images are believed to be students or recent graduates of Newport Harbor High School, one official said. The other high schools in the district are Costa Mesa, Estancia, Early College and Corona del Mar.

The photos were allegedly taken the first weekend in March, at a party not affiliated with the school system.

Newport-Mesa Unified School District officials said they sent a letter to parents on Sunday.

"We were recently made aware of social media postings involving some students who created inappropriate anti-Semitic symbols, and possible underage drinking," the letter said. "While these actions did not occur on any school campus or school function, we condemn all acts of anti-Semitism and hate in all their forms."

Martha Fluor, vice president of the school board, said Supt. Fred Navarro first alerted district officials about the incident Sunday morning. Many of them received messages and emails from concerned parents and community members soon after, she said. "I find it just reprehensible that we still have pockets of our community that still think this is OK," Fluor said. "This is unacceptable behavior both from a health standpoint with



potential underage drinking as well as from a moral and ethical position."

She added that school and district officials met Sunday to discuss the incident and are working with law enforcement officials and others to determine appropriate disciplinary action. "We remain focused on educating students on all aspects of life's challenges and are committed to holding students accountable, educating them on the consequences of their choices, and the impact these actions have on our schools and community at large."

Students expressed outrage over the images. Bianca Lutz, a 16-year-old Newport Harbor student, said she was "extremely disturbed by the ignorance of those at the party" and said some of her Jewish friends felt threatened. Some students from Newport Harbor have asked their classmates to wear blue — the school's color — on Monday in a united stand against hate, according to a report from ABC 7.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said that the images shouldn't be taken lightly and that



all students involved should be suspended.

"This is an insult to the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust," Cooper said. "It's also an insult to the many thousands of families in Southern California whose loved ones in the Greatest Generation fought, bled and died to defeat the Nazis and defeat the swastika ... The incident is a reminder that educating younger generations about the historical oppression of marginalized communities is still of great importance." Cooper added that these types of incidents could signify a dangerous cultural shift in America. "If there was once upon a time a taboo associated with Nazi imagery and insignias," he said, "I think that era is, unfortunately, long past."

"The Anti-Defamation League runs several educational programs in Orange County schools, but not at Newport Harbor High School," said Rabbi Peter Levi, regional director of the organization's Orange County chapter. "The goal is not to be reactionary when a school has such a horrific incident, but to be constantly talking with young people

about hatred, about bias, so that the students themselves would've never let this happen," Levi said.

Nazi salutes are never jokes, Levi added, and treating them as such normalizes bigotry and helps lay the foundation for much bigger problems, like violence against Jewish people.

As jarring as the photos were, Jocelyn Navarro, a junior at Newport Harbor, said she wasn't surprised when they surfaced on Snapchat and Twitter Sunday morning. Not by the red cups arranged in a swastika. Not by the arms outstretched in Nazi salutes. Not even by the gleeful expressions worn by the high school students hoisting them. "Every one of them was laughing," said Jocelyn, 16. "They all had smiles on their faces."

At Newport Harbor, she said, students group themselves along racial lines: Hispanic students with other hispanics, whites with whites. It is less intentional than unconscious, she said: "White people stay together, Mexicans stay together. We naturally just do it because we know that's the way it is."

Josdel Hernandez, a junior at Newport Harbor, said she's seen incidents of more casual racism at school: A student doodling a swastika on a desk, for example, or cracking a joke about Nazism.

Josdel, 16, said ignorance is no excuse for the anti-Semitism displayed at the weekend party. The students depicted in the photos are juniors like herself, she said, and just last month they studied the Holocaust in history class. "They showed us graphic videos of the concentration camps," she said. "It's not like our teachers need to show us anymore about the Holocaust. They knew what it means."

Popular Evangelical Leader calls for Investigation of Ilhan Omar for Links to Muslim Brotherhood Charities

By Christine Douglass-Williams

On March 7th, Evangelical leader Laurie Cardoza-Moore called on the Justice Department to investigate Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) for possible connections to the radical Muslim Brotherhood.

Under 18 US Code § 2385, Advocating overthrow of Government, “whoever organizes or helps or attempts to organize any society, group, or assembly of persons who teach, advocate, or encourage the overthrow or destruction of any such government by force or violence; or becomes or is a member of, or affiliates with, any such society, group, or assembly of persons, knowing the purposes thereof—Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned...”

Cardoza-Moore, president of Proclaiming Justice to The Nations



(PJTN) and host of the Christian television program Focus On Israel, with a weekly audience of more than a billion viewers in 200 countries, has launched a nationwide campaign—and a petition—demanding Omar’s dismissal from Congress.

“While she has already established her credentials as a vehement anti-Semite, Ilhan Omar is far worse than that,” Cardoza-Moore said. “Omar may be in violation of a federal statute for fundraising for

two Muslim Brotherhood charities that seek to destroy America.”

“We the people demand that the Justice Department conduct a full and thorough investigation into her possible connections with the Muslim Brotherhood and its affiliates. Omar’s anti-Semitic comments do not reflect the values of Americans,” Cardoza-Moore declared, pointing to the recent revelation of Omar’s participation as a keynote speaker at events for the Muslim Brotherhood affiliated groups IRUSA and CAIR, which suggests her support for subversive factions aligned to destroy America and Western civilization itself.

Omar was a keynote speaker for Islamic Relief USA in Tampa, FL last month and will be keynote speaker at an upcoming Council on

American Islamic Relations (CAIR) fundraiser in Los Angeles.

CAIR is the American arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, in addition to having close ties to Hamas and Hezbollah. CAIR was listed as an unindicted co-conspirator in the largest terrorist fundraising operation in the history of the United States known as the Holy Land Foundation Trial in 2009.

IRUSA is an arm of the largest Muslim fundraising group globally whose leaders have ties to terrorist groups.

The evangelical leader added: “American patriots have signed our petition in the tens of thousands. We won’t stop our national campaign until Ilhan Omar is fully investigated and justice is served.”

Jewish Parents Furious Over Map of ‘Palestine’ Replacing Israel

By Shiryn Ghermezian The Algemeiner

Parents are fuming over a map display that was presented at a recent cultural event at a Georgia middle school which featured “Palestine” in place of present-day Israel.

The map was seen at a multicultural night hosted by Autrey Mill Middle School in Fulton County, Ga. Several Jewish and Israeli parents deemed the map highly offensive and complained to school authorities.

“Kids who saw this or anybody that was exposed to this last night that doesn’t even know what the story is behind all this, right now, thinks that this is the map of Palestine,” said one Jewish mother.

“Israel wasn’t mentioned on that map at all,” another Jewish student’s mother said. “They basically wrote



The map featuring “Palestine” that was on display at a Georgia middle school’s multicultural event

Palestine in the place of Israel. They [the Palestinians] talk about from the land to the sea, which means having all the Jews wiped away and the Palestinians on the land instead of the Jews.”

According to the report, the presence of the map was reported to the school’s principal, J.E. Trey Martin, but it was not removed. Another

image from the event shared by parents showed a table featuring Israel and Jewish-related cultural items such as a menorah, a Jewish skullcap, also known as a kippah, and a flag of Israel.

“Nobody in the school was going over the content of the materials that is being presented,” one of the parents said.

Martin sent a lengthy letter to parents on Friday saying he was “extremely disappointed and disgusted with the individuals who presented an insensitive political and geographic representation” adding that “this display does not represent our school culture, which is one that values inclusion and unity.”

A Fulton County Schools

spokesperson said the map is not displayed at the school on a regular basis and they are investigating who was responsible for it.

The school system said: “Fulton County Schools was made aware of an insensitive political and geographic display at Autrey Mill Middle School’s recent Multicultural Night. This event is hosted by families and staff with the intent of celebrating different cultures and nationalities. We condemn the negative and extreme political agendas these symbols represent. We are investigating this incident and will take all necessary actions to find the individual(s) responsible and hold them accountable.”

Israeli Director Guy Nattiv Wins Oscar for Best Live-Action Short Film

By ISRAEL21c Staff

Israeli director Guy Nattiv won an Academy Award for best live-action short for his film *Skin* at the 2019 Oscars.

"Oh my God. I moved here five years ago from Israel... Laila tov

[good night] Israel, hi!" he said upon receiving the award.

"My grandparents are Holocaust survivors, and, you know, the bigotry that they experienced in the Holocaust, we see that everywhere today, in America, in Europe. And this film is about education, it's about teaching your kids a better way," he added.

Nattiv accepted the award alongside his wife and the film's producer, Jaime Ray Newman, and its screenwriter Sharon Maymon.

The English-language film is set in America and follows the story of neo-Nazi racists.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin



Director Guy Nattiv, center, with two cast members from his Academy Award-winning short film "*Skin*."

congratulated Nattiv on his win. "Congratulations to Guy Nattiv for winning the Academy Award for best short film," the president tweeted. "Our dear Guy, the good words about *Skin* are all yours, Sharon's and Jaime Ray's, but the film is a gift for our children and grandchildren, and for the future we wish for them in which they can fulfill all dreams. Great Israeli pride. Mazal tov!"

The last time an Israeli director won an Oscar was in 1978, when Moshe Mizrahi received the Academy Award for best foreign-language film for his film *Madame Rosa*.

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Controversial Congresswoman Ilhan Omar Slammed for Latest Israel Remarks

By Algemeiner Staff

Democratic Congresswoman Ilhan Omar has drawn across-the-board condemnation for her latest controversial comments, in which she charged that pro-Israel Americans “push for allegiance to a foreign country.”

The Minnesota representative made the remark during an appearance with fellow freshman lawmaker Rashida Tlaib, a Democrat from Michigan, at a progressive event in Washington, DC.

Omar also invoked Apartheid-era South Africa as she talked about recent criticism, she and Tlaib have faced for their anti-Israel views.

“So I know many [members of Congress] were fighting for people to be free, for people to live in dignity in South Africa,” Omar said, according to Jewish Insider. “So I know that they care about these things. But now that you have two Muslims who are saying, here is a group of people [the Palestinians] that we want to make sure that they have the dignity that you want everybody else to have, we get to be called names and we get to be labeled as hateful. No we know what hate looks like!”

The Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA) stated on Thursday, “We reject the parallels Representative Omar has repeatedly drawn between Israel and Apartheid South Africa. We also want to make clear to both Reps. Omar and Tlaib that our denunciation of their recent tweets was completely unrelated to their religion. We celebrate the diversity of Democrats in 116th Congress, but unequivocally oppose the use of anti-Semitic tropes. We would

have condemned such tweets from any member of Congress, regardless of their party or background.”

The Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) tweeted on Friday, “Maybe it’s time for @TheDemocrats and its liberal base to stop making excuses for @IlhanOmar and @RashidaTlaib, and instead admit that you have been supporting anti-Semites.”

Also on Friday, Ann Lewis — a co-chair of a new pro-Israel Democratic group, the Democratic Majority for Israel — stated, “Just days after apologizing for using an anti-Semitic trope, in a statement that was broadly condemned by Democrats and Democratic leadership, Congresswoman Omar is at it again. Omar’s statement equating support for the U.S.-Israel relationship to ‘allegiance to a foreign country,’ an accusation of dual loyalty, is among the oldest



Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (D-Mn)

and most dangerous anti-Semitic charges. This reckless rhetoric should be beneath a member of the United States Congress. If Congresswoman

Omar is not attacking American supporters of the American-Israel alliance, she should say so.”

DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



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

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Tolerance Education Center Tile Quilt Made by Local Survivors

Eleven Inspiring Israeli Women

In honor of International Women's Day on March 8, Israel 21C put together a list of some of Israel's most inspiring, trailblazing and absolutely fabulous women.

By Naama Barak ISRAEL 21C

Golda Meir

Golda Meir was a woman of many talents. A Zionist activist, teacher, kibbutznik, politician and Israel's fourth prime minister, she certainly did it all.



Born in 1898 in Kiev, she immigrated as a child with her family to the United States, before moving again to Mandatory Palestine with her husband. Once in Israel, she quickly became involved in Israeli politics, rising to the top of the game to become Israel's first, and currently only, female prime minister.

Revered as Israel's very own "Iron Lady," Meir stood out for making it as a woman at a time when Israeli politics was heavily dominated by a male "old guard" and for her straight-talking, no-nonsense leadership style.

Inspirational quote: "Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement."

Dr. Ruth Westheimer

Not strictly Israeli, Dr. Ruth Westheimer is actually a fascinating pre-state figure. Born



in Germany in 1928, she arrived in Mandatory Palestine after losing

her parents in the Holocaust. Once here, she joined the Haganah paramilitary organization, where she was trained as a sniper.

Westheimer eventually made her way to the States, where she studied human sexuality and became a media hit with a decades-long TV and radio career. A trailblazer in all things sex-related, she brought to the fore honest, frank conversation about sex and sexuality. Her advice: "Get some."

Inspirational quote: "When it comes to sex, the most important six inches are the ones between the ears."

Dorit Beinisch

The first female president of Israel's Supreme Court, Dorit Beinisch is one impressive lady.



Born in Tel Aviv in 1942, Beinisch studied law in Jerusalem before embarking on a long career in public law, becoming the State Attorney (again, the first woman to do so), a Supreme Court Judge and finally its president.

Famous for not being afraid to stand up to the highest echelons, Beinisch fought for the law even when it proved unpopular with her government superiors and has ruled extensively on human rights. All while serving as a role model for women in the justice system and everywhere else.

Inspirational quote: "We are commanded to act with tolerance

and to promote the protection of human rights."

Naomi Shemer

A poet, composer, songwriter and singer, Naomi Shemer is the woman behind



all-Israeli musical masterpieces, the most famous being Jerusalem of Gold.

Born in Kibbutz Kinneret on the shores of the Lake of Galilee in 1930, Shemer studied music and joined the IDF as a pianist. During her career she wrote, composed and translated songs from all genres – epic national poems, love songs and even children's songs. Jerusalem of Gold, her best-known song, is greatly considered Israel's unofficial anthem. Shemer received the Israel Prize in 1983.

Inspirational quote: "All that we seek – may it be."

Ada Yonath

Biochemist Prof. Ada Yonath is the first Israeli woman to win the Nobel Prize for her groundbreaking



work on the structure of ribosome.

Born in pre-state Jerusalem in 1939, Yonath completed her doctoral studies at the Weizmann Institute of Science, where she is a leading faculty member to this day. Upon winning the Nobel Prize in 2009, Yonath became the first

woman in 45 years to receive the prestigious award in the field of chemistry.

Since winning the prize, Yonath has become a great model in Israel for higher education and has inspired great interest in science.

Inspirational quote: "Getting to the top is fantastic, but the climb is also an adventure."

Lucy Aharish

Lucy Aharish is an Israeli Arab journalist and news anchor. Born



in 1981, she grew up in a Muslim family in the Jewish town of Dimona, and is well-known in Israel for promoting coexistence and tolerance. In 2015, Aharish was chosen to light a torch at Israel's Independence Day ceremony for her work as a pioneering Muslim journalist and for her advocacy of tolerance and openness between different sectors in Israeli society.

More recently, Aharish brought to the headlines the plight of the people caught in the civil war in Syria.

Inspirational quote: "Our breaking of the silence is a cornerstone in the continuation of the struggle of every woman who has been oppressed."

Gal Gadot

Israel's very own Wonder Woman, Gal Gadot is perhaps the country's



most famous actress to date. Born in 1985, the former Miss Israel laureate and military combat instructor has played strong, feisty women in Hollywood blockbusters such as Fast & Furious and Wonder Woman.

With her films, interviews and social media presence, Gadot is busy inspiring and empowering young girls to kick ass, just like her.

Inspirational quote: "It's so important for girls and boys to have a female, strong superhero to look up to."

Ruth Dayan

Ruth Dayan is the ultimate Israeli matriarch, the founder of pioneering Israeli fashion house Maskit and a dedicated social activist. Dayan, who was born in 1917, recognized the uniqueness and beauty of the traditional handicrafts of immigrant women in early-state Israel. She used these designs in her fashion house, providing employment to hundreds of workers in the periphery, mostly new immigrants.



She is also a social activist who has campaigned for new immigrants and Jewish-Arab coexistence.

Inspirational quote: "I think that the struggle for women's equality needs to be waged not only by women but by men and women together."

Orna Berry

Orna Berry is a true pioneer of Startup Nation. Not only was she the company she founded, Ornet, the first Israeli startup to be acquired by a European conglomerate, but she also served as Israel's first (and so far, only) chief scientist.

Considered a leading business figure, Berry, born in 1949, has been greatly involved with many local high-tech companies. Alongside her business success, Berry is a social activist who has worked for the promotion of the employment of Arab academics in Israel and has advocated for women's roles in industrial research.

Inspirational quote: "Discomfort is the mother of invention."



Adina Bar-Shalom

Adina Bar-Shalom is a lot more than late Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's daughter. An educator and social activist, Bar-Shalom is the woman responsible for getting thousands of members of the ultra-Orthodox community, particularly women, a higher education.

Born in 1945, she founded the first college for ultra-Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem and has worked for years to overcome discrimination against women in her community. For those achievements, she received the Israel Prize in 2014.

Inspirational quote: "Women are the cause of change in ultra-Orthodox society."



Raya Strauss Ben-Dror

Businesswoman and philanthropist Raya Strauss Ben-Dror is the epitome of an Israeli success story. Born in northern Israel in 1940 to German parents who established what would become the Strauss



food cooperation, Raya Strauss Ben-Dror helped turn the family business into the mega-company it is today. One of the few women of her time to become a business leader, she was always cognizant of the social responsibilities her business entailed, and upon retiring took up social activism full-time.

A major contributor to the western Galilee, where she grew up and continues to live, Strauss Ben-Dror is a patron of local arts, culture and health. For these and other activities, she was among the torch lighters at the 2010 Israel Independence Day ceremony.

Inspirational quote: "I want people with values. Whoever isn't willing to dream, who isn't ready to fall – I wouldn't want to invest in them."

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Simchas

Mazel tov to **Mary Levine** and **Alan Goldstein** on the arrival of grandchild #7: **Eli Jerrold Simcha Vayner**, born to **Rosie** and **Roman Vayner** on January 30th in Tampa, Florida ... **Chaya** and **Rabbi Shimon Posner** shared the news that their son **Rabbi Dovid Posner** and his wife **Chaya**

Mushka and baby **Mendel** are on their way to Japan, where they will establish Chabad of Kyoto. Mazel tov! Mazel tov! ... Share your Simchas with us. Email or call **Miriam Bent** at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or 760-323-0255.



*Eli Jerrold
Simcha Vayner*

In Memory of Irving Moses

The Jewish Federation of the Desert extends heartfelt condolences to Carol Moses & Bruce Landgarten and all the Moses Family on the passing of Carol's father, Irving Moses. Irv was a hardworking, strong, loving, and exceptionally gentle man, who was deeply devoted to and loved his family. He was a man who kept promises, honored commitments, a man of integrity.



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, April 5	Shabbat Tazriah	6:26 pm
Friday, April 12	Shabbat Metzora	6:31 pm
Friday, April 19	Shabbat Pesach/First Seder	6:37 pm
Saturday, April 20	Second night Pesach/2 nd Seder	After 7:59 pm
Thursday, April 25	7 th night Pesach	6:41 pm
Friday, April 26	8 th night/Shabbat Pesach	6:42 pm



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HAPPIEST OF BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ELAINE KRAVITZ from her family and friends. Elaine celebrates her 92nd birthday on March 29th and will bless the Shabbat candles at Temple Sinai that evening and invites everyone to join her.

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A Snippet of Life in Israel

EMTs Babysit the Children So Parents Can Go to Hospital

By ISRAEL21c Staff

Israel is a famously child-centered society, and a recent incident involving a medical emergency illustrates just how deep that familial warmth extends.

On a Tuesday in February, United Hatzalah emergency medical technicians Chezi Rosenbaum and Tom Elnadiv from southern Israeli town of Kiryat Malachi each received an alert to an emergency in their area.

Both volunteer responders dropped what they were doing and rushed out to provide medical assistance to the patient, a young mother who had sliced her finger on a food-processor blade.

"The woman's finger was very badly cut," said Rosenbaum. "We bandaged the finger and prepared her for transport to the hospital. She decided to head to the hospital with her husband, but she had a problem. She told us that she was watching her own child as well as the child of a neighbor and that she couldn't go to the hospital until the child's mother came back to pick up the baby."

Without exchanging more than a quick glance at one another, the two men said they would stay behind to care for the kids, even offering to bottle-feed the baby until her mother returned.

"We are all parents and we know how to watch children and give a bottle," Rosenbaum said as he reassured the mother, who went off to the ER with her husband.

"This incident isn't so different from many other cases that I and

other United Hatzalah responders receive," said Rosenbaum, a United Hatzalah EMT for two years. "We rush to the scene to help people, and sometimes that includes going the extra mile beyond the medical treatment that we provide. It's part of the job."

He credits his helpful attitude to his Israeli upbringing. "My mother raised me and my siblings to give to others and share acts of loving kindness with everyone. I cannot help but recognize that a lot of what I do is inspired by her example."

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Have A Nosh With Miriam

Pesach is around the corner ... and my thoughts have been going to what I'll be serving at our Seders. A lot will be the same. We celebrate tradition in our home. Variation often comes in the form



of side dishes or desserts brought by our guests, although we all look forward to the fabulous macaroons from Shelley and killer pesach-dic chocolate cake from Julie. One constant: my matzah ball soup ... and since I haven't put it into my column for nine years, I will include it today. Another tradition at our Seders is beet-horseradish molds served with the gefilte fish. The photo is from our table. Finally, the fig balls recipe is the end result of my tweaking a recipe I saw on television some 8-10 years ago and I love with this final 'version.' The challenge: not eating all of them before the Seders! Hag samayach! Wishing you wonderful seders! MHB

MIRIAM'S MATZAH BALLS

Use a fresh box of matzah meal dated Pesach 2019. This is necessary for it to be "Kosher for Passover," but also remember for the rest of the year that, if a box sits around too long, the matzah meal absorbs water from the air and your matzah balls become more dense and heavy.

For every large egg, use ¼ cup matzah meal, 1 tablespoon salad oil and 1 tablespoon water or chicken broth, plus a pinch of salt. Mix together and refrigerate 1-2 hours, until firm enough to roll into balls. Moisten hands slightly and roll batter into 1¼" balls. Drop into boiling chicken soup*, keeping at a rolling boil until all matzah balls have been put into soup and have popped back up to the surface. Lower heat and cover. *Yes, I put them directly into the soup, to which I've added an extra cup or so of water, allowing for soup to boil down during the cooking process. And, yes, I make smaller matzah balls, allowing guests to have from 2 to 4 each, as per their appetite.

JELLIED BEET/HORSERADISH MOLDS

To serve with gefilte fish

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 16-oz. can shoestring beets,
including liquid from can | 2-3 tsp. horseradish, preferably red
not white |
| 1/3 c. sugar (can use sugar substitute) | 1 pkg. lemon jello (I use sugar free jello) |
| 1/4 c. vinegar | |

I use mini muffin tins to make individual servings. Works equally well made in a ring mold or shape of your choice. I like the look of individual molds on my gefilte fish plates. Spray molds with Pam and set aside.

Drain liquid from beets and add water to make 1½ cups. Pour into a saucepan and add the sugar, vinegar, horseradish and jello. Bring to boil. Add beets (note: after draining the liquid from the beets I use a knife to cut the beets in shorter lengths while still in the can, then fill the individual molds with the beets before pouring the boiled liquid/jello/sugar/vinegar/horseradish mixture over them. Refrigerate until set. Recipe makes 20 miniature molds.

CHOCOLATE COATED FIG-GINGER BALLS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 cups dried black mission figs* (about
8 oz) | 1 Tablespoon honey. |
| 1/4 cup crystallized ginger (about 2 oz) | Chocolate chips to melt for coating
balls |
| 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon | |

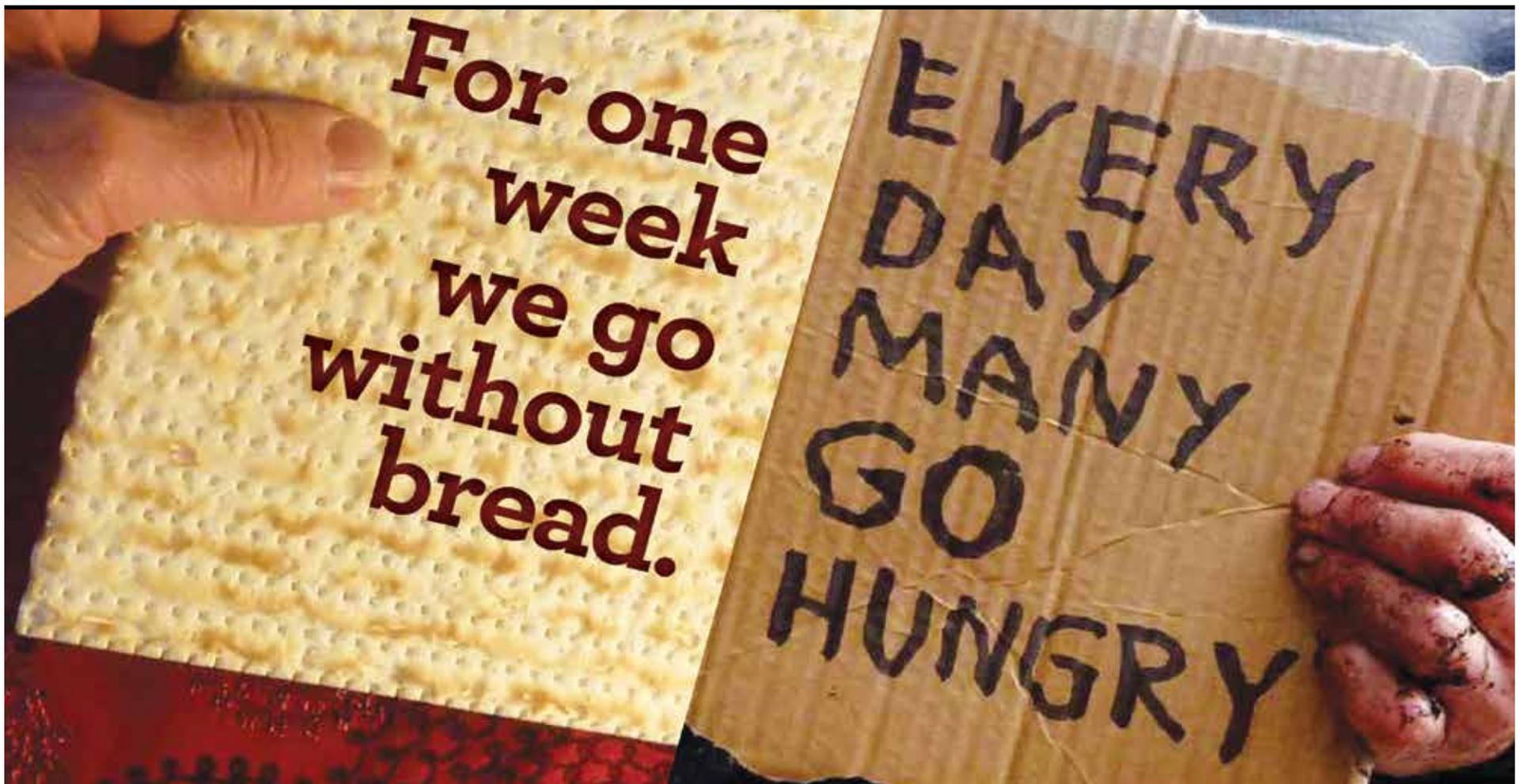
Remove the stems from the figs and discard. Coarsely chunk the figs and put in a food processor with the crystallized ginger, cinnamon and honey. Pulse until ingredients are finely chopped but not processed into a paste. Roll the fig mixture into heaping teaspoon sized balls. Dip balls in melted chocolate, then place on a parchment paper lined cookie sheet and refrigerate until the chocolate hardens! Makes about 18 balls.

*Mission figs result in a little softer texture, but other figs will work just as well.

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