



# Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Adar I/Adar II 5779 - March 2019

## Yom HaShoah Observance April 14, 2019

An exceptional speaker with a remarkable history of Jewish communal involvement will be the keynote speaker at the Jewish Federation of the Desert's 2019 Yom HaShoah observance. Peggy Shapiro is the Midwest Director of StandWithUs, the international Israel education and advocacy organization. A child of teenage Holocaust survivors, she 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, formed in 1982. Included among the many positions she has held was her appointment as special advisor to the President of the United States' Holocaust Memorial Council by Elie Wiesel.

The communal observance of Yom HaShoah will be held on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm in the Helene Galen Auditorium at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage.

## "Dimensions in Testimony" at Jewish Federation Building on March 25

Dimensions in Testimony (DiT) is a collection of interactive biographies from USC Shoah Foundation that enable people to have conversations with pre-recorded video images of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses to genocide.

So far, 16 survivors – 15 from the Holocaust and one from the 1937 Nanjing Massacre – have been interviewed for the project. Each survivor selected to participate has also given his or her testimony to the Institute's Visual History Archive, which contains 55,000 video testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides. But DiT is a new kind of initiative. The survivors were interviewed surrounded by cameras arranged in a ring to capture a three-dimensional recording of them telling their story in a new way, by answering questions that people are most likely to ask.

The value of the project is to provide an intimate experience with eyewitnesses to history who are uniquely qualified to reflect on life.

For more than 70 years, Holocaust survivors have recounted their stories to people all over the world, providing invaluable insights that shape and inform perspectives. As a part of those encounters, people have asked questions in their own words about issues that are important to them.

Dimensions in Testimony is currently on permanent display at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and



Education Center and will eventually be available at selected museums and learning institutions around the world to enhance USC Shoah Foundation's mission of keeping voices of the Holocaust and other genocides alive for education and action.

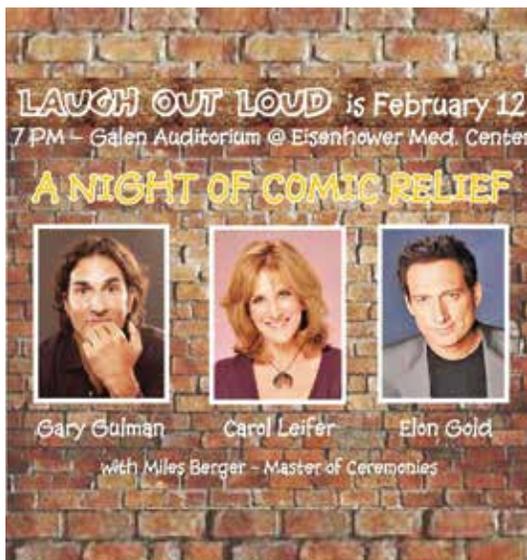
USC Shoah Foundation and USC Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT) compiled the questions posed for Dimensions in Testimony from a variety of sources, including hundreds of students and members of the public. In all, more than 2,000 questions have been compiled for each interviewee, covering a vast range of subjects.

Whether people ask, "Where were you born?" "Do you believe in God?" "How did you survive?" Data is captured and processed into video segments that can be played back verbatim, precisely as the survivors delivered them. The playback technology enables the survivor to seamlessly answer the question posed and is able to recognize similarities between word patterns in questions and answers.

Years from now, long after the last survivor has left us, Dimensions in Testimony will be able to provide a valuable opportunity to engage with

a survivor and ask them questions directly, encouraging them, each in their own way, to reflect on the deep and meaningful consequences of their experiences. Being able to ask a survivor questions will allow students to be active participants in their learning and develop important communication and critical-thinking skills. Being able to ask their own questions will teach students things about historical atrocities they never could learn from just reading a history book. By providing valuable points of view from someone who was there, students can better understand the human story behind the acts of human cruelty and understand the impact it had on real people in a manner that is responsive and engaging, making history more relevant to their lives.

This program will be held at the Jewish Federation Offices. Space is limited so early registration is essential. If registration requests seriously exceed our capacity to accommodate participants we will attempt to offer it twice on March 25<sup>th</sup>, in the morning and afternoon, depending on the availability of the program facilitators. Call 760-324-4737 or email Gloria.Benavides@jfedps.org.



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Dear friends,

A very warm thank you to everyone who joined us for our Laugh Out Loud: A Night of Comic Relief. Months of hard work and preparation went into making it a success and, special thanks to the attendees and generous sponsors, it was exactly that. Your participation meant a lot to the success of this event and our Federation's mission. Because of your generosity, Federation can continue to help the most vulnerable in our community, Israel and in 70 countries around the world.

If we do not have your contact info, please call us at 760-324-4737 so that you can receive our monthly Jewish Community News, which will keep you apprised of community programs and events. In the meantime, check our website at [www.jfedps.org](http://www.jfedps.org).

On behalf of all those who benefit from your giving, we thank you for your support!

We hope to see you all again next year!

With appreciation,

**Celia Norian & Allan Lehmann,**  
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**Lori Fritz,** 2019 Campaign Chair  
**Bruce Landgarten,** CEO

P.S. Look for many more photos from the evening in next month's JCN

# Thank You!



Performers Gary Gulman,  
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Barbara Fremont,  
CEO Bruce Landgarten,  
Helene Galen and Jamie Kabler



Sellout crowd

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 Laugh Out Loud

**Peggy & Jim Greenbaum**  
 Punch Line

**Libby & Burt Hoffman**  
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**Dr. Paul & Stephanie Ross**  
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**The Malkin Family**  
 Punch Line

**Edmund Ayoub, Jr. M.D.**  
 Crack Me Up

**Lois Zoller & Jim Mills**  
 Crack Me Up

# Without Apology and Without Fear

From the CEO



**Bruce Landgarten**

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

The following remarks opened the "We Are One" program on February 7, 2019.

Twenty months ago, in August 2017, white supremacists marched and spewed their hatred in Charlottesville, Virginia. Jews were vilified by name. A woman was killed. We were disheartened with the upswing of anti-Semitism around our country but not ready to seriously commit to action. Then, less than four months ago, the tragic attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh took place, and we are still reeling from having witnessed the deadliest act of anti-Semitism against a Jewish community in North American history. We are seeing vile acts unleashed in our nation; hate motivated violence targeted to African Americans, toward Jews praying in synagogues, attacks on transgender America, and widespread demonization of people fleeing violence and seeking refuge in this country.

We realize we are living in very dangerous times. Our history is very clear: where the social fabric frays, minority groups are not safe.

Times like these bring the challenges of security to the forefront. Our Federation makes it a daily priority through our Security Initiative for safety and security training with the help of Law Enforcement and the Secure Community Network.

It's natural to be fearful. But rather than become paralyzed, our fear

should be channeled into work. This is true whether the target is a black church, an LGBTQ nightclub, a church or synagogue. No matter who wants us to disappear and no matter who is targeted, we defy them best by showing up for each other, gathering allies together, being in solidarity with all people of good faith, advancing decency and building bridges to reinforce our social fabric. Your presence here demonstrates that people will stand by each other in tough times. That should not only comfort us, it should empower us.

We've experienced gun violence in

*Bruce Landgarten began his remarks by expressing our community's gratitude to local law enforcement for their service to our community and the courageous and caring approach the officers demonstrate, risking their lives for ours and keeping us safe.*

communal spaces before; but THIS?

On the Sabbath, in a sanctuary a place of worship... THIS MUST STOP!

Tree of Life Synagogue was the safest of spaces, where children ran fiercely and without fear, where they sung and where people mourned, where they are vulnerable before God and with each other.

We cannot let this space be taken

from us:

We cannot let hate win....

We cannot let fear win...

We cannot let anti-Semitism win...

We must stand together, unafraid.

Ralph Waldo Emerson's words resonate still today: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny compared to what lies within us."

What lies within this community—is great strength, vision, compassion, and unity. That should give us all great hope. It should not only comfort us, it should empower us. We will not be silenced. We'll continue speaking out and acting according to our values and interests, without apology and without fear!

## "We Are One" Program February 7, 2019



Crowd in attendance.



(Left to right) Francine Lis, ADL Planned Giving Director; Matt Friedman, ADL Associate Regional Director/Los Angeles; Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation of the Desert CEO; Rabbi Andrew Bentley of Temple Sinai; Rabbi Jules King, Desert Outreach Synagogue; and keynote speaker Joann Mendelson, Senior Investigative Researcher, ADL Center on Extremism.



(Center) Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott of Sun City Jewish Services leads singing of Leonard Cohen's "Halleluyah." Joining him (l-r) Rabbi Richard Zions, Congregation Har-El; Pastor Efrén Benavides of The Fountain, Father Andrew Green, St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Rabbi Ken Emert, Sun City Jewish Services; The Reverend Barbara Fast, Unitarian Church; Rabbi Andrew Bentley, Temple Sinai; Monsignor Howard Lincoln, Sacred Heart Catholic Church; Kenneth Halperin, Beth Shalom; and Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation CEO.



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*Wednesday, March 20, 2019*

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## JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the  
Jewish Federation of the Desert  
VOL. 45, No. 8

### EDITORIAL

**Bruce Landgarten**,  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Miriam H. Bent**, Editor  
**Bailey Communications**,  
Layout & Design

### JCN STATEMENT

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

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

### ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

**Miriam H. Bent**, Editor  
760-323-0255  
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# Malaysia Stripped of Paralympic Event Over Ban on Israelis

Malaysia has been stripped of the hosting rights for the World Para Swimming Championships after refusing to let Israelis compete in the event that serves as a qualifying event for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.

International Paralympic Committee says event taken from country after it "failed to provide the necessary guarantees that Israeli Para swimmers could participate, free from discrimination, and safely in the championships."

The Malaysian government said earlier this month that no Israeli delegates can enter Malaysia for sporting or other events in solidarity with the Palestinians. Malaysia does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

The swimming championships were due to be staged July 29-Aug. 4 in Kuching.

The International Paralympic Committee on January 27 said its governing board meeting in London decided to take the event from Malaysia after it "failed to provide the necessary guarantees that Israeli Para swimmers could participate, free from discrimination, and safely in the championships. This includes full compliance with the IPC protocols related to anthems and flags, and where required the provision of relevant visas."

With the IPC looking for a new host, the deadline for expressions of interest is Feb. 11.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah said that the government would not budge over the ban on Israeli athletes, adding

that the country decided that it would not host any future events involving Israel.

"The Cabinet has also decided that Malaysia will not host any more events involving Israel or its representatives. This is to me, a decision to reflect the government's firm stance over the Israeli issue," Abdullah said after meeting a coalition of Muslim groups. The groups submitted a memorandum urging the government to stick to the ban and not to repeat mistakes in the past of allowing Israel delegates into the country.

A strong supporter of the Palestinian cause, Malaysia is among the predominantly Muslim countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

This isn't the first time Malaysia

has stopped Israeli athletes from competing in a sports event. In 2015, two Israeli windsurfers had to withdraw from a competition on the resort island of Langkawi after they were refused visas to enter. The following year, Malaysia decided not to host a 2017 conference of the world football governing body FIFA because an Israeli delegation was scheduled to participate.

But earlier this year, the government allowed a high-level Israeli delegation to attend a UN conference in Kuala Lumpur, sparking widespread anger among Muslim groups.

Some 60 percent of Malaysia's 32 million people are ethnic Malay Muslims. Many have taken to the streets in the past to support the Palestinian cause.

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Meet Elizabeth Rynecki [Chasing Portraits] and learn of her quest to find the art of her Polish-Jewish great grandfather who died in the Holocaust.

Florian Frerichs will be here from Germany to talk about his moving "Last Supper," set in 1933, a film of imagining or ignoring the inevitable.

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Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> - 4 pm



**LAST SUPPER**  
Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm

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# Israel Hosts, and Wins, International Judo Grand Prix

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Judo dominated the news and the streets in Israel as local judokas won 4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze in the season opener for the IJF World Judo Tour held in Tel Aviv January 24-26. Almost 400 competitors from 53 countries came to Tel Aviv to compete in Israel's first-ever International Judo Federation (IJF) Grand Prix event.

The two-day event was the season opener for the World Judo Tour consisting of five Grand Prix, part of the two-year qualification campaign for Tokyo 2020. The event attracted 214 male and 159 female competitors from five continents.

And as icing on the cake, Israel's



**Israeli judoka Shira Rishony, left, bested a Ukrainian opponent for the gold medal in the under-48 kilo women's category**

judokas came out on top with four gold medals, two silver medals and one bronze medal. Italy came in second with two golds, three silvers and one bronze.

Rio 2016 Olympic bronze

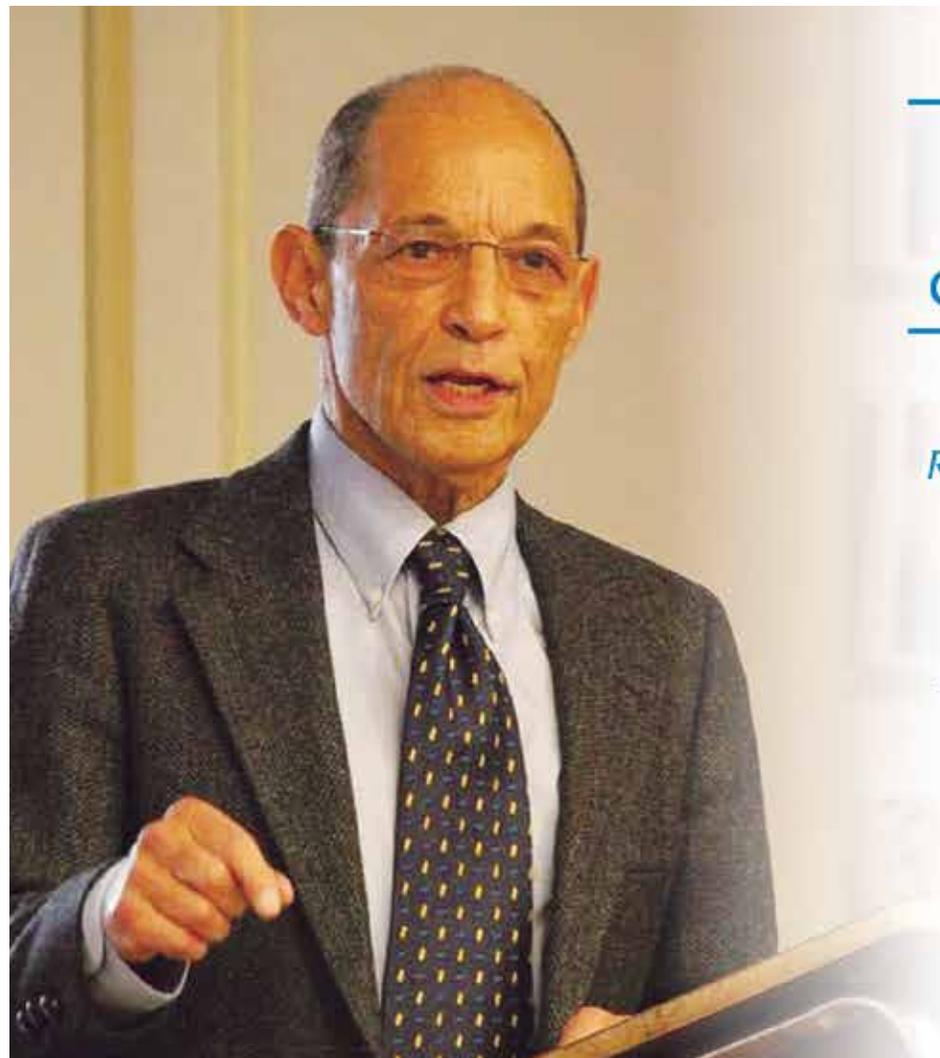


**Israel's Or Sasson won the gold medal in the heavyweight men's category at the IJF Tel Aviv Grand Prix 2019, beating his opponent from Ukraine.**

medalist Or Sasson won a gold medal in the 100-plus kilo category. The other gold medalists for Israel

were Shira Rishony (-48 kg. women), Timna Nelson Levy (-57 kg. women) and Sagi Muki (-81 kg. men). The silver medalists were Gili Cohen and Inbal Shemesh. Tohar Butbul won a bronze.

According to the IJF, "Judo has dominated the discussion on the news and on the streets in Israel this week as the country has been gripped with judo fever." The contract to stage the competition was only signed 88 days ago in Abu Dhabi but the IJF's first event in Israel has been long anticipated and filled the Shlomo Arena to capacity on all three days.



## THIRD ANNUAL RABBI HILLEL COHN ENDOWED LECTURE ON THE CONTEMPORARY JEWISH EXPERIENCE

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EUROPE: A PERSONAL JOURNEY*

Monday, March 4 at Riverside Art Museum  
5-6 p.m. reception – 6-7 p.m. lecture

Tuesday, March 5 at the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus Indian  
Wells Theater  
5-6 p.m. reception – 6-7 p.m. lecture

*Free to attend, space is limited.*  
RSVP to 909.537.5004 or email [invitereply@csusb.edu](mailto:invitereply@csusb.edu)

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## Leslie Pepper Joins Federation Staff

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is pleased to announce the hiring of Leslie Pepper as a part time Jewish Communal professional, with an emphasis on working with Women's Philanthropy. Leslie will help coordinate and oversee day-to-day operations including implementation and execution of the Women's annual

campaign and related programs. She will take part in 'friendraising', fundraising and community wide events, as Yom HaShoah and Social Action, throughout the year, She will



coordinate our PJ Library program and cultivate and manage a portfolio of donor relationships, serving as a key "lead" for selected community audiences; providing the necessary bridge between Women's Philanthropy, and Federation's campaign.

Leslie has been active in our desert Jewish community for more

than a quarter of a century, including serving as a president of Adina Hadassah, working for Hemdat - the organization for religious pluralism in Israel, and teaching in Temple Isaiah's religious school, before joining Temple Sinai's staff as their Director of Education.

## "Jerusalem 2020" Brings Fascinating Insights

Despite major community events three days before and two days after, there was capacity attendance at the Jewish Federation offices' community room on Sunday, February 10 when the San Diego based Leichtag Foundation brought three bright, informative and inspiring speakers to discuss "Jerusalem 2020 ... Beneath the Headlines." The interactive educational program featured Leichtag Foundation Executive Vice President Charlene Seidle, social activist Chaya Gilboa and urban geographer Dr. Marik Shtern, a researcher at the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research. Participants experienced Jerusalem through the lens of these creative speakers, who discussed the profound challenges to Jerusalemites who are balancing the normalcy of everyday living with social activists working to make a difference in one of the most important cities in the world.

Our thanks to Bernard Reiter for his sponsorship of this program and helping to bring this program to our community.



Capacity crowd

Dr. Marik Shtern, Leichtag Executive VP Charlene Seidle and Chaya Gilboa.



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**Friday Evening, March 15, 2019: Shabbat Zachor**

The Shabbat of Remembrance Preceding Purim and Pre-Purim Service

PRE-SERVICE HAMANTASHEN ONEG: 5:30 PM

SERVICES & SPEAKER: 6:00 PM

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Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus.

# Julian Edelman makes history as first Jewish Super Bowl MVP

By Zachary Keyser and Gabe Friedman, *The Jerusalem Post*

Julian Edelman of the New England Patriots was named most valuable player of Super Bowl LIII when the Patriots won over the Los Angeles Rams. Edelman, one of only a few Jewish players in the league, provided some of the rare offensive highlights in a torpid defensive game with a game-high 10 catches for 141 yards.

Edelman's father is of Jewish descent



Julian Edelman

and Edelman is openly Jewish. During a holiday season NFL Network interview in 2014, when the broadcaster asked

Edelman if he was ready to give some good "Christmas answers," Edelman responded, "Well, I'm Jewish, but I'll try to keep it to Hanukkah presents, even though Hanukkah's over."

Edelman has been signal-caller Tom Brady's favorite target since joining the Patriots in 2009 – earning two Super Bowls with the team during that time.

There are three members of the

Patriots who identify as Jewish: Patriot's owner Robert Kraft, Edelman, and Nate Ebner. Nathan "Nate" Ebner was a world class rugby star before he played football, which he only took on in his junior year at Ohio State University. He serves as a Patriots defender and also a two-time Super-Bowl champion.

## Jewish Members of the NFL – Past and Present

Notable Jewish members of the NFL – past and present – includes a significant lineup, particularly when referring to team owners. The once famous Art Modell used to say of the Jews, "We don't play, we own." Modell was the owner of the Baltimore Ravens. Other iconic Jewish football team owners include Oakland Raider's outspoken owner Al Davis and Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank. The Patriots' owner Robert Kraft is a notable philanthropist. He is the recipient of the 2019 Genesis Prize, known as "Israel's Nobel Prize," and just returned from Israel where the Kraft Family Sports Campus in Jerusalem was inaugurated.

But Jews are on the field as well. Just last year, the Arizona Cardinals selected quarterback Josh Rosen to



Robert Kraft poses on the 30-yard-line of the regulation-size football field at the newly inaugurated Kraft Family Sports Campus in Jerusalem.

lead the team as their next hopeful franchise quarterback. Donned the "Chosen Rosen" or the "Chosen One" in college, Rosen was an All-American top-rated recruit out of high school and went on to be the UCLA Bruins first true freshman to start for team in a season opener.

Mitchell Schwartz, an offensive tackle for the Kansas City Chiefs who played college ball at UC Berkeley, was just one game away from making it to the big dance this season, losing in the AFC Championship. In 2017, Schwartz signed a five-year, \$30-million contract with the Chiefs, making him one of the highest paid right tackles in the league. He has started in all 96 games in his six-year career. Schwartz is also notable for playing on the same team as his older brother, Geoff Schwartz, playing on the same offensive line at the same time for the Cleveland Browns. "We played a lot of sports [together]," the younger brother said in a Baltimore Jewish Times interview in 2012, "Obviously we have a three-year age gap so he beat up on me quite a bit, but I tried to take some victories as they came."

In football history, some notable Jewish NFL players included quarterback Sid Luckman, who led the Chicago Bears to multiple championships, won eight All-Pro honors and is popularly known in Chicago as the greatest player to ever play for the Bears.

There was Doc Alexander, an offensive lineman during the 1920s, who assisted the New York Giants to an NFL Championship in 1925 and was awarded two All-Pro selections with the Rochester Jeffersons.

Also a former All-Pro offensive lineman, Harrison Barton, was selected in the first round of the 1987 NFL draft by the San Francisco 49ers and won three Super Bowls with the team under the methodical guidance of Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterbacks Joe Montana and Steve Young, in what many deem the 49ers' golden age.

Benny Friedman, player and coach in the 1920s and 1930s, was a Pro Football Hall of Fame dual-threat quarterback and running back. He was awarded with All-Pro honors four years in a row. Lyle Alzado played with the Denver Broncos, the Cleveland Browns and the Los Angeles Raiders, earning a Super Bowl victory with the latter, as well as two previous Pro Bowl nominations in years before. Alzado later admitted to steroid-use and became an advocate against players using the banned substance for personal gains. Alzado died at 43 of brain cancer.

Ron Mix, who notably played for the San Diego Chargers, was an eight-time all-star and won a championship with the team in 1963. Mix was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1979, only the second player from the AFL to earn the honors. Other notable members include safety Taylor Mays, quarterbacks Jay Fiedler and Sage Rosenfels, offensive lineman Gabe Carimi and linebacker Andre Tippett.



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# PA Chooses Terror Promotion and Rewards Over US Aid

By Maurice Hirsch, Adv. Palestinian Media Watch

As of January 31st, the US administration ceased all its aid to the Palestinian Authority. In response, Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian Chief Negotiator, said:

"Hundreds of Palestinians will be losing their jobs as a result of the U.S. decision to terminate all USAID projects in Palestine. An additional step in a series of punitive and unethical measures, carried out by the Trump Administration, against the people of Palestine to pressure its leadership to compromise on our inalienable right to self-determination." Upon closer examination, it becomes clear that Erekat, on behalf of the PA, is once again distorting a very simple fact.

In reality, it is not the US that has made any such decision. Rather, it is the Palestinian Authority, headed by Mahmoud Abbas, which has positively decided to reject all of the considerable US aid to the Palestinians. It has done so by actively choosing to continue its "Pay for Slay" policy, whereby the PA squanders hundreds of millions of dollars annually to incentivize and reward terrorism and terrorists including convicted murderers and the families of dead terrorists (so-called "Martyrs.")



American veteran Taylor Force was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist while touring Israel. When the US understood that the PA pays the family of the murderer of Taylor a monthly allowance, it passed the Taylor Force Act (TFA, passed March 2018). According to the provisions of TFA, most of the US aid to the PA became contingent on the PA abolishing its "Pay for Slay" policy.

Instead of heeding the call of the US administration, the PA made a positive decision to waive the US aid and continue its "Pay for Slay" policy, with Abbas declaring that the PA prioritizes rewarding terrorist prisoners rather than taking care of the rest of the Palestinian population:

"By Allah, even if we have only a penny left it will only be spent on the families of the Martyrs and the prisoners, and only afterwards will it be spent on the rest of the people."

[Official PA TV, July 24, 2018]

In parallel to the passage of TFA, the PA managed to escape being held legally and financially responsible for its promotion of terrorism. At the end

of lengthy litigation, in which the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York found the PA responsible for terrorism that caused the death of American citizens and ordered it to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation, the US Supreme Court, accepting the argument of the PA, decided that the US Courts did not have jurisdiction to adjudicate the cases. [*Sokolow v. PLO and PA* US Supreme Court No. 16-1071 April 2, 2018]

In response to that decision, in October 2018, the US passed the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act (ATCA). The new legislation was very simple - any recipient of US aid inherently agrees to the jurisdiction of the US court system.

In other words, the PA could no longer be a recipient of US aid and then claim that the US courts have no jurisdiction to penalize it for its responsibility for terrorism against US citizens. Understanding that if it continued to receive US aid, the PA would finally be held financially liable for its promotion and involvement in terrorism, PA Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah wrote to US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, saying that "In light of these developments, the Government of Palestine respectfully informs the United States Government that, as of January 31st, 2019, it fully disclaims and no longer wishes to accept any form of

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Proceeds from the sale of the tribute cards benefit the TZEDAKAH FUND, which enables our Jewish Federation to respond to the emergency needs of Jews in our community. Call 760-324-4737 to order your cards, or go online to [jfedps.org](http://jfedps.org). Thank you.

# 'Red Sea Diving Resort' to Tell of Secret Rescue Operation

In the early 1980s, the Mossad spy agency ran a diving resort in Sudan for the sole purpose of spiriting Ethiopian Jews to safety in Israel. Sounds like a script from a movie? Now it is.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Two decades ago, Israeli secret agents opened a fake diving resort on the Sudanese shores of the Red Sea, with the sole purpose of clandestinely rescuing Ethiopian Jews from Sudan and bringing them to safety in Israel.

Over several years the resort was in operation, about 6,000 Jewish refugees who had fled persecution,



Image from "The Red Sea Diving Resort"

war and famine in Ethiopia were spirited by boat and plane to a new



Chris Evans in "The Red Sea Diving Resort" movie

life in Israel.

Later this year, a feature film titled "The Red Sea Diving Resort" will bring this fabulous act of derring-do to the silver screen. The dramatized story was written and directed by Emmy Award-winning Israeli director Gideon Raff, the man behind TV hits such as "Homeland" and "Tyrant."

"The Red Sea Diving Resort" stars Chris Evans, Haley Bennett, Michael K. Williams, Michiel Huisman, Alessandro Nivola, Greg Kinnear and Ben Kingsley.

The real-life mission began around 1978 and was codenamed "Operation Brothers." Undercover Mossad agents posing as a European tourist company rented an abandoned resort village in Sudan, an enemy country to Israel.

Even though it was a front for the rescue, it did accept actual tourists through a shell company in Switzerland so that the Sudanese authorities wouldn't get suspicious. Among those guests were Saudi Arabian hawk-hunters, diplomats stationed in Khartoum, and British commandos.

To lend an air of authenticity, the agents brought in Israeli diving experts including Yola Reitman, an El Al flight attendant and deep-sea diver who spoke fluent German.

"It's one of those stories that are hard to believe," Gad Shimron, one of the Mossad agents who operated the resort, told *TheWrap*. "It was the only time when Europeans had extracted Africans from the continent, not to be enslaved but to be freed."

Shimron wrote about his experience in a 2007 book, *Mossad Exodus*. In 1984, not long after Operation Brothers ended, the Israeli government began the months-long Operation Moses, another secretive mission to evacuate some 8,000 Ethiopian Jews stuck in Sudan. Another mission, Operation Solomon, rescued more than 14,000 more Ethiopian Jews in May 1991.

Both of these operations are much better known than Operation Brothers – at least for now.



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Jack Pimm was part of Gen. George Patton's 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and an eyewitness to the liberation of Buchenwald. Mr. Pimm shall be receiving the Mensch Award and our gratitude.

**March 19, 1944 is a date that shall live in Infamy for Hungarian Jews.**

Then, in May 1944, the deportation of Hungary's Jews to Auschwitz began. In just eight weeks, some 424,000 Jews were deported. By the end of the Holocaust, some 565,000 Hungarian Jews had been murdered. The past, present and future of 80,000 Hungarian Jews still living in Hungary today will be discussed by Steven Geiger. Please view <https://www.shutterstock.com/video/clip-4296140-1940s---nazis-march-into-budapest-hungary>



Temple Isaiah's cantorial soloist Ezra Yaron will inspire us with his beautiful voice & the art work of local artist Mario Pikus will be on display.



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

## Cultivating Compassion Rabbi Jules King

*Rabbi Jules King is the founder and spiritual leader of Desert Outreach Synagogue, a congregation he established in October 2016, while completing his studies for the rabbinate. He received ordination in May 2018. Desert Outreach Synagogue holds services the second Friday of the month, meeting in the auditorium of UC Riverside's Palm Desert campus.*



**Rabbi Jules King**

I am currently studying for my doctorate - D.Min., Spiritual Renewal, Contemplative Practice and Strategic Leadership at Claremont School of Theology. One of a few motivating reasons for my choosing this program was because of my career in the business world working closely with mortuaries and families dealing with major loss and grief, and also since founding Desert Outreach Synagogue in October 2016, my passion and desire to understand and build community here in the Coachella Valley has only intensified as I continually meet so many who

are looking for and longing for connection, conversation, and a place to call a spiritual home.

I have spent my career in and of serving others in the funeral service sector. I learned early on that showing compassion was paramount and critically important to those I served. I had honestly believed that I understood and practiced living a life of compassion toward others. When I signed up for this semester of classes, one of the classes offered happened to be a required course taught by Dr. Frank Rogers, Jr. – "Spiritual Renewal For Engaged

Compassion." I have to admit that as I walked into the classroom and began to listen to the overview of the syllabus and eventually the lecture, I thought to myself... what is it that this great Professor can teach a mortician and now a rabbi about practicing compassion. As I sat listening and my mind wandering, Professor Rogers then spoke about the various areas and aspects of practicing compassion. It was when he delved into the topic and area of "Cultivating Compassion For Yourself" that it struck me to my core. I have spent a lifetime of practicing compassion toward others and spent little time cultivating compassion within or for myself.

As I continued to listen and soak up his teaching that day and in fact that week, I quickly realized a couple things. It seems to me that possibly many of us look after and care for the needs of others and do little to take care of our own needs. We live in a world and are taught early that "it is not all about me" or us, and that we should not focus on the "I," however, I believe that it is extremely important that for us to be present and available to ourselves first and then to others, we must learn and practice cultivating

engaged compassion for ourselves. Take a deep breath...reflect... allow ourselves to cultivate and feel compassion within ourselves were the words that I heard... and the words that I hope you will embrace and open yourself to also.

Rogers states in his book that the invitation is to know that in the depths of our souls there is a compassion that holds and heals us. Second, that this path is one that can liberate us from the turmoil and turbulence in our lives that can and will disconnect us from our compassionate core. And third, it is then that this path of compassion will allow us to extend and feel genuine compassionate care toward others.

I spent the entire week on campus being intentional that I would do the hard work of cultivating compassion within and for myself. It is likely some of the most difficult work that I have done and you may likely find the same. My challenge to you is to explore for yourself the practice of cultivating compassion within yourself so that we may truly know that the practice of compassion starts with ourselves to make us a better person, and then extends to others.

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- ▶ On any given day, 40% of the people of the U.S. cannot meet a \$400 emergency.
- ▶ Because of the recent government shutdown, working families right here in our valley are at risk.
- ▶ Families are struggling to pay rent and utilities.
- ▶ JFS case management is getting over 130 calls a month for financial assistance.

If we can't SEE *America's Better Angels* on the stage,  
let's BE *America's Better Angels* right here in our Coachella Valley!



# Lion of Judah Brunch



*Welcome  
2019 New &  
Returning Lions*

Joann Bianco  
Judy Ehrlichman  
Cindy Farber  
Carol Fragen  
Linda Noddle  
Cynthia Shapiro  
Jane Woldenberg



1 Marnie Miller, LOJ Chair, Keynote speaker Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, Roz Rothstein (Stand With Us), Kevin Giser, Director of Community Impact; Marjorie Kulp, WP Fundraising VP.

2 Sheri Borax\*, Joann Chunowitz, Helene Galen & Judith Cohen\*

3 Barbara Platt\* & Barbara Fromm

4 Marnie Miller & Stephanie S. Ross

5 Lee Sacks & Phyllis Eisenberg

6 Maddie Redstone & her daughter-in-law Michelle Sweetwood

7 Lana Landa & Joann Bianco

8 Linda Noddle, Lori Fritz and Stephanie N. Ross

9 Fran Kaufman\*, Nancy Ditlove & Lois Johnson

10 Fern Weiss & Helen Varon

11 Diane Gershowitz, Joyce Freund & Renee Mayer

12 Jane Sherman, Margot Halperin & Phyllis Schahet

13 Alice Abt, Frances Horwich & Fran Belzberg

14 Nora Spak, Cora Ginsberg & Audrey Bernstein

15 Adrienne Garland & Michelle Carafiol

16 WP Chair Carol Horwich Lubert & WP Fundraising Chair Marjorie Kulp

17 Gail Richards

18 Nora Rado & Susan Karsen

19 Gail Scadron, Ellen Glass, Helen Green & Pat Levy

20 Nora Kaufman, Susan Langus & Lilli Ann Zasook

21 Rochelle Gluckstein, Annette Shapiro & Bobbie Holland

22 Peggy Greenbaum\* & Sheila Sloan.

23 Sheri Borax\*, Lainie Weil\* & Annette Novack\*

24 Harriet Bernstein, Lois Zoller & Carolyn Ausman

25 Nancy Noddle, Jane Effress & Joan Lehr

\* Past Women's Philanthropy Chairs/Women's Division Presidents



## 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 760-324-4734.

### Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Jackie and Ed Cohen**, In your honor, from Diane Abelman Wattenberg.
- **Jeffrey Feder**, Congratulations on becoming an octogenarian, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Barbara and Bernie Fromm**, Contribution to Fromm Youth Enrichment Fund in honor of your 80<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> birthdays, from Michael, Davida and Louis Fromm and grandchildren.
- **Gail Richards**, Happy birthday from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Jane Sherman**, Thank you from Gloria and Michael Scoby.
- **Bobbie Stern**, Thank you from Gloria and Michael Scoby.
- **Carole and Richard Sukman**, Happy 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, from Rhoda Brickell, and Margot and Jerry Halperin.

### Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Saul Jacob**, Wishing you a speedy recovery from Marcia and Rick Stein.
- **Mark Levey**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Barbara Platt.
- **Carl Levine**, Glad you are on the mend, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Linn Menne**, Wishing a speedy and easy recovery, from Sheri and Jim Borax, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Roberta Nyman, Marcia and Rick Stein.

### Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Judy Appelbaum**, In memory of your beloved husband Bob, from Gloria and Michael Scoby.
- **Audrey Bernstein**, In memory of your beloved husband Joe, from Sandra Borns, Sondi and Bruce Green, Gloria and Michael Scoby.

- **Mrs. Warren Bernhard**, In memory of your beloved husband Warren, from Marsha and Dick Bernhard.
- **Joyce Freund**, In memory of your dear sister Vi Werner, from Dennis and Nancy Ditlove.
- **Joyce Gruenberg**, Condolences on the passing of your beloved son, from Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Bobbe Horvitz**, In memory of your beloved husband Jim, from Cora Ginsberg, Ellen and Philip Glass, Roberta and Allan Nyman, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Joan Horwitt**, In memory of your beloved husband Neil, from Lana and Mendy Landa.
- **Beatrice Keats**, In memory of your beloved husband Dr. Neil Keats, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm (Fromm Fund), and Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Muriel Pattis**, In memory of your beloved son, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Isabel Smith and Family**, In memory of Leonard Smith, from Jerry and Lita Widran.

## Israeli Drone Dome Rescues London Airport from Shutdown

Rafael's Drone Dome pinpoints a suspicious drone and jams the radio frequencies used by its operator to control it, rendering the UAV unable to move.

By ISRAEL21c Staff

After mysterious unmanned aerial vehicles caused 36 hours of paralysis at London's Gatwick Airport in late December, stranding more than 100,000 travelers, the British military saved the day with one of six Drone Domes it had purchased a few months earlier from Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

Rafael's Drone Dome pinpoints the suspicious drone and jams



Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Drone Dome battery

the radio frequencies used by its operator to control it. The UAV then either flies out of control or crashes to the ground. The system incorporates cutting-edge technologies including electro-optics, radar and signal intelligence.

The Drone Dome system reportedly has been used to protect against hostile drones during battles against ISIS in Mosul and eastern Syria. Drone Dome can

be operated from a stationary or mobile position. The UK Ministry of Defence was its first foreign customer.

Friday night, two people were arrested in connection with the UAV incident, and by Saturday Gatwick began functioning again following the cancellation of 1,400 flights due to the drone disruption.



# Shabbat Schedule - March 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.

Wednesday, March 20: 7:00 pm: Megillah Reading & Purim Celebration, followed by hamantashen and desserts. Non-members and guests welcome

**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.

Friday, March 1: 6:00 pm services followed by Linstone Lecture; Stephanie Ross: Update Israel.  
Friday, March 15: 5:30 pre-service hamantashen oneg reception. 6 pm Services with special visit scholar: Dr. Joshua Holo, Dean Hebrew Union College/JIR LA. See ad page 7.

**CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT** (Reform)  
Rabbi Kenneth Milhander, 1320 W. Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220.  
Contact 951-769-3678/769-7514  
Shabbat Service 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday/ Havdallah 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday evening.

**DESERT HOT SPRINGS**  
Monthly Shabbat evening service with Rabbi Faith Tessler October-May at Mission Lakes Country Club at 7:00 pm. Confirm March date by calling Jewish Federation, 760-324-4737.

**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.

**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. Shabbat Kiddush then a Festive Purim Party  
Friday night March 22nd 6PM  
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.  
Purim: Megillah reading on Thursday, March 21 at 7 pm, followed by a costume jamboree with prizes for best costumes. Hamantashen, desserts, champagne punch, music. Call 760-325-2281 or more information and to RSVP.

**TEMPLE SINAI** (Reform)  
Rabbi Andrew Bentley  
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260.  
www.templeisinaipd.org 760-568-9699.  
Friday evening services: 5:30 pm.  
Saturdays: 8:45 am Torah study; 10 am Shabbat services.  
Saturday, March 23: Purim Party. Time to be announced.

**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 - March 2019

Email (preferred) Miriam Bent at [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto: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@chabardm.com](mailto:Chaya@chabardm.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@chabardm.com](mailto:Rabbibenny@chabardm.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@googlemail.com](mailto:bozwerdiger@googlemail.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](mailto:sussiedenebeim@gmail.com).

**7:00-8:00 pm** Chabad Palm Springs Program: Text-based Study on Maimonides's fundamentals of Judaism. Instructor: **Rabbi Moishe 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

## Monday, March 4

**5:00 pm** Third Annual **Rabbi Hillel Cohn Endowed Lecture** on the Contemporary Jewish Experience with Dr. Gerald Sorin. 5:00 pm Reception 6:00 pm Lecture, Riverside Art Museum, Riverside See ad page 6.

## Tuesday, March 5

**5:00 pm** Hillel Cohn Lecture (See March 4 entry) at CSUSB Palm Desert Campus Indian Wells Theatre. See ad page 6.

## Wednesday, March 6

**3:30-5:00 PM** Har-El Stepping Out Course. Presenter: Rabbi Richard Zions: **Simon Wiesenthal - A Life of Courage and Determination.** (Participants attending "Wiesenthal" play on March 9).

## Thursday, March 7

**9:30 am** Sabra Hadassah meeting, Speaker: **Lisa Stern** shares the story of her "incomparable legal odyssey" on behalf of Holocaust survivors. Sun City Palm Shadow Hills Montecito Clubhouse. Continental breakfast served. Couvert: \$18. Questions? Call 805-630-2839.

## Thursday, March 7

**4:00 pm** Beth Shalom **Book Club Discussion** "Indignation" by Philip Roth. Discussion led by Karen Techner. New members and guests welcome. Information: 760-200-3636.

## Sunday, March 10

**3:00 pm** Beth Shalom **Sunday at the Movies**: "Indignation." Members: Free; Non-members: \$5 per person. Lite refreshments served. Information: 760-200-3636.

## Monday, March 11

**10:30 AM**, Har-El Galen Book Course: Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harai. Reviewed by Rosa Weinstein.

## Thursday, March 13

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

## Saturday, March 23

**3-5 pm** The Shalom Group (LGBT Social Organization) Wine and cheese Shabbat Social at Palm Springs home of Arthur Cohen. RSVP to [TheShalomGroup.com](http://TheShalomGroup.com).

## Sunday, March 24 to Wednesday, March 27

(throughout day) **Jewish Film Festival**, screened at Camelot Theatres, Palm Springs. See ad page 5.

## Monday, March 25, 2019

Time TBA Jewish Federation presents **Dimensions in Time**. See page 1.

## Sunday, March 31

**12:30 pm** Beth Shalom **Lunch with Michael Vinitzky: "Future Life Planning"** Members: \$18; Non-members: \$22. Reservation deadline: March 21. Information: 760-200-3636.



## 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](http://smile.amazon.com) 2. Register Jewish Federation of the Desert as your favorite charity 3. Shop! 4. Bookmark the [smile.amazon.com](http://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](http://amazon.com) will NOT lead to charitable contributions.



# Mossad Pulled its Agent Out of Iran, MI6 Smuggled Him to UK on Dinghy

By Stuart Winer

Israel's Mossad spy agency pulled a nuclear scientist out of Iran and helped get him to Britain in a joint operation with the UK's MI6 and the American CIA, the British Sunday Express newspaper reported.

The technician was a long-time Israeli agent who was said to have played a part in the 2012 assassination of Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, an Iranian nuclear scientist and director of Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment facility, who was blown up by a bomb attached to his car in Tehran, sources told the weekly.

In October, the technician, 47, began worrying he was going to be found out, so a plan was put together to extract him from Iran, the report said. British and US agents were reportedly keen to speak with the technician to find out everything he knows about what Iran has been up to since signing a 2015 nuclear agreement to limit its nuclear development program.

Known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the deal between Iran and the US, Britain, France, China, Russia, and Germany lifted sanctions on Iran in return for it dismantling the weapons-capable aspects of its nuclear development program.

After the Mossad successfully extracted the technician in December, and he was debriefed in Israel, he began a 3,000-kilometer (1,865-mile) journey across Europe to reach the UK, the report said.

MI6 was reportedly tasked with getting him through Europe and into the British Isles, after which he was to be transferred to the US.

Iranian authorities quickly noticed he was missing and apparently sent a



**The rubber dinghy used by Iranian migrants to cross the English Channel from France, December 31, 2018.**

force to track him down, the report said.

"This wasn't without its challenges," a source told the Sunday Express. "His absence was noted quickly, and we were informed that a special unit of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was sent after him."

The scientist, who was not named in the report, made it as far as France, but then MI6 was faced with a problem: although the US had pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal, the UK was still upholding the agreement and therefore did not want to transport the Iranian technician into England, the report said.

Instead, agents reportedly decided to smuggle the man into the country by hiding him among Iranian migrants aiming to reach Britain's shores.

"We couldn't simply fly him in," a source was quoted as saying. "Though unusual, it was determined infiltrating him into a group of fellow migrants preparing to cross the Channel by boat offered one solution."

The technician was helped to join 11 other Iranians who set off from France in a rubber dinghy to cross the English Channel and land in Dover on New Year's Eve, the report said.

As part of the plan, a UK Border Force ship was put on standby to pick up the dinghy as it reached Britain. However, the migrant's craft drifted off course and after covering 35 kilometers (22 miles) at sea eventually reached the shore 48 kilometers (30 miles) further down the coast, at Lydd, where passing motorists reported the small group to police.

The arrival of the dinghy, carrying nine men, two women, and a 10-year-old child, was widely covered by British media at the time, though the presence of a scientist was not noted.

Police were dispatched to the beach to pick up the migrants, and MI6 agents quickly moved in to

retrieve the technician, who was taken to a safehouse and questioned by intelligence officials, the report said.

"We were reassured during our interview Iran seems to be sticking by the terms of the JCPOA," the source was quoted as saying. "This is good news."

After being interviewed by British authorities, the technician was transported to the US, the report said.

US President Donald Trump pulled out of the JCPOA in May 2018, saying the agreement was not strict enough in preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons; also citing concerns over Iran's ballistic missile development program.

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# Human vs. Monkey Brains: Why We Have More Mental Disorders

By ISRAEL21c Staff

Humans' superior cognitive and adaptive abilities and their tendency to anxiety, depression and other mental diseases may be two sides of same coin. Comparing human brains to monkey brains reveals that our more evolutionarily advanced brains may be more efficient but are

also less robust, according to new research from Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science.

Neurobiology Prof. Rony Paz explains that our brains are like modern washing machines – technologically sophisticated but more vulnerable to breakdown and costly disorders.

"Why, on the one hand, do humans have such superior learning, cognitive and adaptive abilities and, on the other, this tendency to anxiety, depression and other mental diseases? We have shown that these may be two sides of the same coin," said Paz.

Raviv Pryluk, a research student in Paz's research group, devised a way

to test and compare the efficiency of the neural code in the pre-frontal cortex, where higher functions like decision making and rational thinking occur, and the amygdala, a more evolutionarily ancient region that is responsible for the "fight or flight" basic survival functions, as well as emotions.

The neural code in the "more evolved" pre-frontal cortex showed more efficiency than the amygdala, both in humans and monkeys. And the neural code of both areas in the human brain was more efficient than its monkey counterpart. But the higher the efficiency of a particular neural code, the more it was prone to errors.

"Evolution works with trade-offs," said Pryluk. "There may be a zero-sum game between efficiency and robustness; and our complex, multidimensional brains have gained one at the price of the other."

Their findings, recently published in the journal *Cell*, may help to explain why disorders as ADHD, anxiety, depression, PTSD and autism are common in humans.

The Weizmann scientists worked in collaboration with Prof. Itzhak Fried of Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv and UCLA Medical School in Los Angeles, as well as Hagar Gelbard-Sagiv of Tel Aviv University and Yoav Kfir, at that time a research student in Paz's group.



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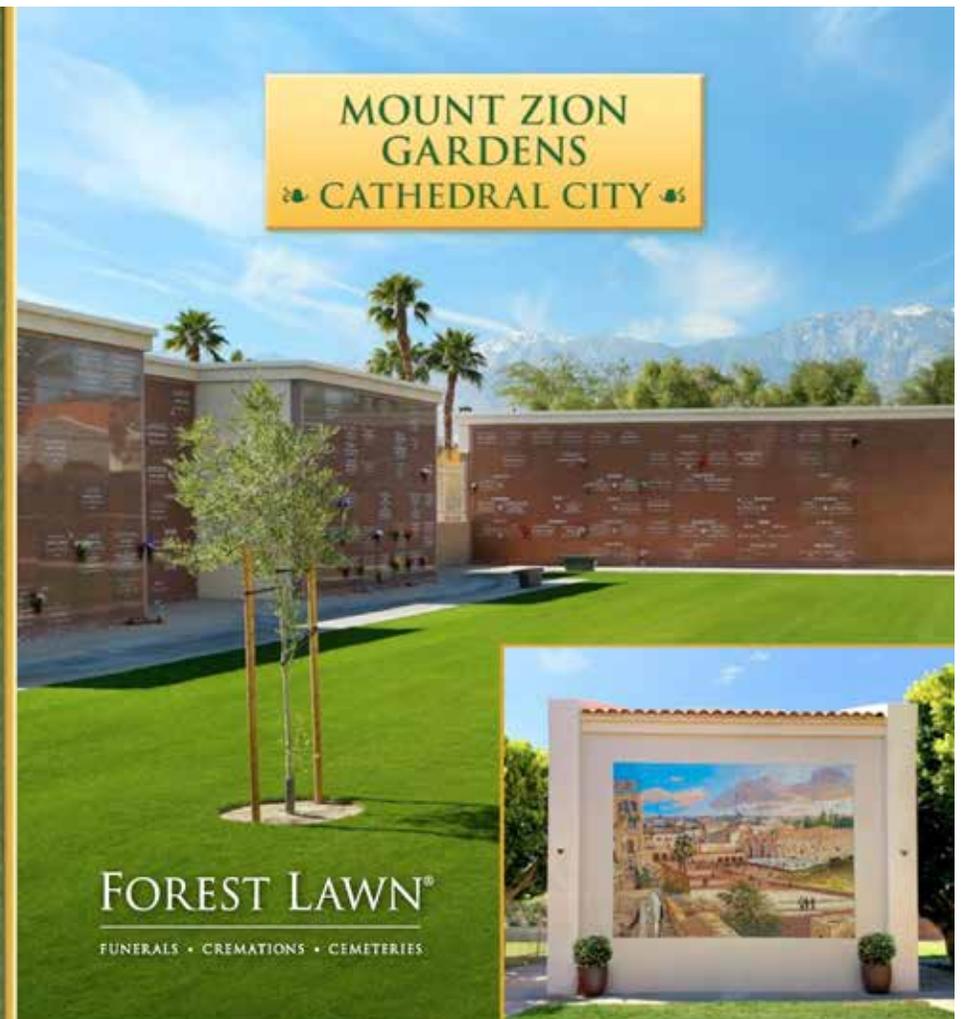
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# Sick or Hurt While Traveling? Air Doctor Has Your Back

A terrible experience on vacation inspired an Israeli to start a service linking travelers to trusted physicians in a growing variety of countries.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

After completing his military service, Yam Derfler did what many newly released Israeli soldiers do: He went off to see the world. Only something went wrong in Mexico, when Derfler got sick and couldn't find a doctor. He ended up in a hospital getting the wrong treatment.

Back home after he finally recovered, Derfler found that others had suffered similar experiences abroad, unfamiliar with the local language and medical system. His research revealed doctor-locating apps in specific countries geared to residents, but nothing for tourists.

So in 2015, he and three cofounders began building Air Doctor, a platform that lets travelers (or their loved ones) locate an appropriate physician and book an immediate or scheduled appointment. Doctors can be chosen based on location, medical specialty, language spoken and other clients' reviews.

The app went live last summer after the Israeli company won a \$3.1 million investment from insure-tech startup studio Kamet, run by AXA at offices in Paris, London and Tel Aviv.

"Since we launched in July we've seen great success and momentum," says Yuval Zimerman, Air Doctor marketing director.

So far the app has been downloaded on App Store and Google Play about 20,000 times. As of the end of December 2018, Air Doctor functions in some 15 countries and has vetted close to 2,000 doctors.

"The main way we get to people is through B2B partnerships," Zimerman explains. "We team up with insurance companies, hotels and other entities that are directly connected to the end user."

In Israel, Air Doctor has an exclusive partnership with the Phoenix insurance company, enabling anyone holding Phoenix travel insurance to use Air Doctor

abroad with no out-of-pocket fees. In other places, you pay the healthcare provider up front and get reimbursed later, although Air Doctor is working on an in-app feature that will streamline and hasten the process.

"One of our potential investors is a vice president at a major insurance company, and he loved the idea of Air Doctor because he once fell while on vacation and his company couldn't help him find a doctor. He had to go to the hospital," says Zimerman.

The app currently works in countries such as Greece, England, Spain, France, Italy and Mexico, and in specific cities including Moscow, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Thailand and Peru are coming online soon.

"When you open the app it detects your location and there's a nice interface to pick the specialty and doctor. For worried parents with children in another country they can do it on their end. If you

get sick in Mexico, your mom in Israel can use the app remotely to find the right doctor, set an appointment and pay for it."

Zimerman notes that Air Doctor does not simply link to a list of doctors in a locale.

"We partner with the actual doctors, so they know who we are and we know they are licensed and trusted practitioners. We do background checks and we talk to the doctors. Sometimes we even fly out and meet with doctors as part of our vetting process."

The customer feedback feature enables the startup to take action if there is ever a complaint about a particular physician.

The company, which has 17 employees in the Jerusalem suburb of Beit Nekofa, was named one of the top 10 startups of the 2018 MassChallenge Israel accelerator and was chosen to present at an insure-tech conference next March in Germany.

## Palm Springs High School Students Learn About Holocaust from a Survivor

The reality of the Holocaust was brought to Palm Springs teens on January 28 when Dr. Alexander White shared his experiences with 400 Palm Springs High School students. He was their age when Hitler invaded Poland and he survived because he was one of 1200 Jews saved by Oskar Schindler to work in his factories. After the war, White attended medical school in Munich before moving to the United States. He

would later serve in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and become an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Chicago Medical School. He practiced in that city for



Steve Geiger of Mensch International Foundation (left) with Dr. Alexander White.



40 years before retiring to Scottsdale. In 2004 he published his memoir "Be a Mensch: A Legacy of the Holocaust." He was brought to our community by Mensch International Foundation as keynote speaker at their January 28 Holocaust Remembrance observance, where he was presented a 2019 Mensch Award along with Monsignor Howard Lincoln and, posthumously, Betty Ford.

# Third Woman Gets Divorce After Independent Orthodox Court Annuls Marriage

Court convened at request of Center of Women's Justice represents a challenge to the state rabbinical courts which decline to use tools for annulling or dissolving marriages even in long-term cases.

By Jeremy Sharon, Jerusalem Post

In a further challenge to the Chief Rabbinate's control of marriage and divorce, an independent, ad hoc Orthodox rabbinical court has freed a woman from a defunct marriage by annulling the union, the third such case it has resolved in the last nine months.

The basis for the court's annulment of the marriage was the principle in Jewish law of a "mistaken transaction," whereby it can be assumed that someone entering into an agreement who was not provided with the full details of the transaction would not have agreed to the transaction, had they known the full details.

The court stated that the woman had not been informed of her husband's prior violent behavior and other serious problems, and therefore annulled the marriage on the principle in Jewish law of a "mistaken transaction," whereby it can be assumed that someone entering into agreement who was not provided with the full details of the transaction would not have agreed to it had they



**The Independent rabbinical court headed by Rabbi Daniel Sperber (center) issuing its third ruling annulling a marriage**

known.

According to the Center for Women's Justice, which requested that the court convene on the case, this is the first time in Israel that any rabbinical court has annulled a marriage on the principle of "mistaken transaction" outside of cases where the spouse is missing or comatose.

Independent rabbinical court rulings are not seen as valid by the Chief Rabbinate and the state Rabbinical Courts Administration, and the woman in question would likely encounter difficulties re-marrying in Israel through the rabbinate.

The court, headed by Rabbi Daniel Sperber and convened by the Center for Women's Justice, has previously issued two similar rulings, both in 2018, one for a woman denied a divorce for more than 18 years and

one for a woman denied a divorce for nine years.

The state rabbinical courts have struggled to resolve the most severe and intractable long-term cases of divorce refusal and have not used tools within Jewish law to dissolve or annul marriages which some Orthodox rabbis have endorsed.

The latest case involves a woman originally from abroad and who married abroad, but who now lives in Israel. During the marriage, her ex-husband was violent and emotionally abusive, and humiliated her in various ways. He had been married previously, which the woman was aware of, subsequently refused to grant his first wife a divorce, and eventually used the divorce process to extort favorable terms in the divorce agreement, a fact which his second wife was unaware of when she married him.

The man was also physically violent toward his first wife and was eventually convicted in a criminal court of assault and imprisoned due to his violent behavior against her. He had also been imprisoned on other occasions for other criminal behavior and was even hospitalized in a psychiatric ward due to mental health problems he suffered from.

None of this information had been disclosed to his second wife before they were married.

According to CWJ, the man has been released from prison, is no longer part of the Jewish community, lives with a Muslim woman and no longer considers himself Jewish.

Since the woman was not told that the man was violently and emotionally abusive toward his first wife, as well as the fact that the woman had been pressured into the marriage, Sperber and two other rabbinical judges, who have declined to disclose their

names, annulled the marriage and ruled that the woman is single, that her marriage had never been valid, and that she is free to marry anyone, even a cohen, whom divorcees are generally prohibited from marrying.

"The verbal, psychological and physical abuse that she went through justifies without any doubt separating her from her husband, and if the man would have been heard by a rabbinical court there is no doubt that they would have ruled to obligate him to grant a divorce," wrote the rabbinical judges of the ad hoc court.

"The husband is evil and wicked and refuses to grant the long-awaited divorce, he does not listen to teachers and continues to sin towards G-d and his fellow man. It appears that the chance of getting a divorce from him are zero," they wrote.

They also wrote that since the woman was totally unaware of the man's severe problems before she married him, the marriage was a "clear" example of "mistaken transaction," and that the marriage should therefore be annulled.

The rabbis also said that the fact that the man was living with a Muslim woman meant he was essentially an apostate.

Following the ruling, the Center for Women's Justice saying that it was pleased that the rabbinical court had annulled the marriage and disregarded the husband's refusal to willingly terminate the union.

"This is good news - a halachic institution exists in the State of Israel which advances the values of freedom and justice for women," said the organization in a statement to the press. "This independent rabbinical court provides to women who are unable to divorce their spouse. This is an important step for women in Israel, Jewish law and democracy in Israel."

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# Scientists Find a Cause of Rare Heart Failure in Pregnancy

Israeli research could point the way to very different diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to peripartum cardiomyopathy.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Scientists in Israel report that they have found one of the possible primary causes of peripartum cardiomyopathy (PPCM), a rare form of heart failure that can affect women in their last month of pregnancy and up to five months after giving birth.

PPCM can be difficult to detect because its symptoms — swelling in the feet and legs and shortness of breath — mimic many of those of third-trimester pregnancy. And its incidence varies widely among geographic regions.

In the United States, PPCM strikes in approximately 1 in 4,000 live births while in Japan it's 1 in 6,000. In Haiti and Nigeria, PPCM happens much more frequently; in northern Nigeria the figure is estimated at 1 in 100.

The disease, which can be fatal, is little understood.

A study published in the *American Heart Association journal Circulation* on December 3, 2018 by researchers in Israel reveals that one possible cause of PPCM is a functional defect in the heart cells of the new mother.

"It was previously suggested that levels of STAT3, an essential protective protein involved in cellular response to stress, were abnormally low in the heart cells of PPCM patients," said Prof. Jonathan Leor, who led the study with Dr. Nili Naftali-Shani, his colleague at the Cardiovascular Research Institute at Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine and Sheba Medical Center.

"This triggered a biological process that ultimately sliced the lactation hormone prolactin, creating toxic products that cause the disease," Leor continued. "But we found that levels



of the STAT3 protein were in fact higher in the heart cells of women with PPCM than in those of healthy women."

The team then discovered that the underlying mechanism involved in PPCM is a heart-cell defect characterized by an impaired release of growth factors that regulate blood vessel formation or factors that activate the immune system.

The researchers say their discovery calls into question the medical justification for treating women with PPCM with bromocriptine, a drug used to treat symptoms of hyperprolactinemia (high levels of prolactin), which has serious adverse effects.

"Our future challenge will be to explore the exact molecular defect in heart cells of women with PPCM and to determine a new target for prevention and therapy," Leor said.

## Using a New Genetic Engineering Technique

Another significant aspect of the study was the use of a cutting-edge genetic engineering technique pioneered in stem-cell research that led to a Nobel Prize for a British and a Japanese researcher in 2012.

Naftali-Shani used this method to produce stem cells and beating heart cells from the skin cells of PPCM patients and healthy controls.

These cells are what proved that the accepted theory was incorrect.

"This is the first time that this technique was used to study the mechanism of PPCM," Naftali-Shani said. "The myocardial cells produced from the stem cells of the patients had functional defects that caused them to secrete inflammatory proteins and a protein that inhibits the formation of blood vessels in the muscle, even without stress.

"We hope that this discovery will pave the way for early diagnoses and new, effective prevention and treatments."

The research was done in

collaboration with Dr. Natali Molotski, Dr. Uri Amit, Li-at Zeltzer and Alina Levich, all of TAU and Sheba; Prof. Michael Arad and Dr. Rafael Kuperstein, Dr. Yael Nevo-Caspi, Haya Abbas and Prof. Gidi Paret of Sheba Medical Center; Dr. Irit Huber of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology; and Dr. Lorenzo Monserrat of Coruña, Spain.

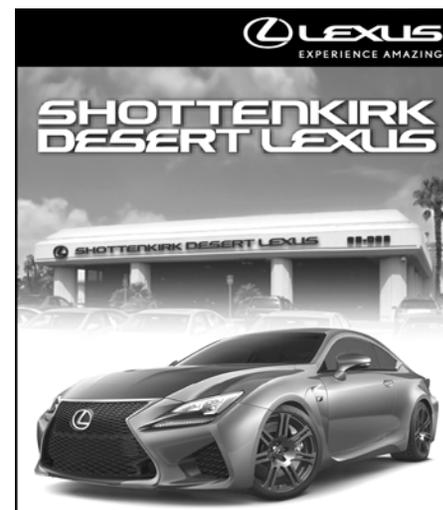


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## Simchas

The Greenbaum clan is sharing their wonderful news: **Bob Greenbaum's** daughter and son-in-law, **Jolene** and **Chad Peterson**, are the proud parents of a daughter, **Esther Norma**. Delighting in Esther's arrival are, from left, grandpa Bob Greenbaum, great grandparents **Jim** and **Peggy Greenbaum**, Dad Chad and Mom Jolene ... It was a field of red, white and blue on February 16 as tennis players celebrated Patriots Day at Tamarisk CC. Share your Simchas with us. Email or call Miriam Bent at [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net) or 760-323-0255.



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Friday, March 8	Shabbat Pekudei	5:04 pm
Friday, March 15	Shabbat Vayikra	6:10 pm *
Friday, March 22	Shabbat Tzav	6:16 pm
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\* Daylight savings time begins March 10



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## 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.



## Have A Nosh With Miriam

..and nosh some hamantashen

Purim is March 20/21 this year. As always, the pastry for the hamantashen is my beloved mother-in-law Goldie Rittberg's recipe because it is, simply, the best; easy to work with and delicious. The fillings are from my eclectic collection. Enjoy! Happy Purim! MHB



### Goldie's Honey Dough

1/3 cup Crisco	2 1/2 cups flour	1 Tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 cup sugar	2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder	1/2 teaspoon grated lemon rind
1/4 cup honey	2 eggs, beaten	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Thoroughly cream the Crisco and sugar together. Add honey. Beat in eggs, lemon juice and lemon rind. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt, then stir into the egg mixture and form into a soft dough. Toss lightly on a floured board. Roll out to 1/4 inch thickness and cut into circles. Fill with desired filling, pinch into triangles and bake for 18 to 20 minutes at 350°F. until golden brown.

### Apricot, Date and Pistachio Filling (Pareve)

1 1/4 cup (about 6 oz) dried pitted apricots, diced	(more if needed)
2/3 cup pitted dates (preferably Medjools or Barhi), diced	2/3 teaspoon vanilla extract - pinch salt
5 Tablespoons packed brown sugar	1 1/2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
2/3 cup apricot nectar or apple juice	1/3 cup unsalted pistachios, lightly toasted and chopped

In a heavy saucepan, combine apricots, dates, sugar, nectar or juice, vanilla and salt. Simmer together over low heat until fruit is soft and liquid is absorbed, 12 to 15 minutes. If mixture seems too dry, add a little more nectar or juice and cook a little longer. Add lemon juice and cook an additional three minutes. Remove from heat and cool before adding pistachios. Refrigerate until cold before using.

### Apple Butter Walnut Filling (Milchig or Pareve)

1/2 cup packed brown sugar	2 Tablespoons apple butter
1 teaspoon cinnamon	
1 cup chopped walnuts (or pecans)	Combine. Chill briefly before using.
2 Tablespoons melted butter or margarine	

### Prune, Walnut, Raisin & Orange Rind Filling (Parve)

8 oz. pitted prunes	2 teaspoons grated orange rind
1/2 cup raisins (optional)	6 Tbsp. plum or strawberry jam
1/4 cup walnuts, ground to a fine powder	

Cover prunes with boiling water and soak 15 minutes. Drain and chop finely or puree in processor. Combine with remaining ingredients.

### Poppy-Seed Filling (Milchig)

3 oz. poppy seeds	2 oz. raisins
1/2 cup milk	3 oz. sugar
3 oz. honey	grated peel from 1 lemon

Boil the milk with the sugar and poppy seed until it thickens. Let cool then stir in the remaining ingredients.

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