



Final Thoughts



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

I've always hoped for the wisdom to know when I have made my mark and to know when it is time to go.

Thankfully, it is not because of any issue with the position, my leadership, health or another job offer. Rather, it is because I am surrounded by an incredible team of colleagues, each of whom is outstanding in their field. Our leadership team is ready to fly without me. The officers and board of our Jewish Federation have never been stronger.

For many years I shared with you the times when I couldn't sleep at night, worrying about some serious problem in our community – rising antisemitism, financial aid to address hidden poverty, or a crisis; disaster after disaster, and making sure we had the resources to allow people to recover. I felt the imperative that our response should reflect the values of Jewish Federation and of our community. I wanted to look back at that response and be proud of what we had done. For 12 years, I have been privileged to see us become a highly regarded Federation, respected locally both

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Rise in Antisemitism Matched by Ignorance of Magnitude of the Holocaust

Over Half of UK Population Doesn't Know Six Million Jews Were Killed in the Holocaust. Numbers in US even worse.

By Benjamin Kerstein, The Algemeine

A new survey found disturbing levels of ignorance about the Holocaust in the United Kingdom, including a majority who did not know that six million Jews were murdered.

The study by Schoen Cooperman Research, commissioned by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), found that 89 percent of UK respondents know about the Holocaust, though only 75 percent understand that it refers to the genocide of European Jews.

The survey further showed that over half (52 percent) of respondents did not know that six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. Nine percent believe two million Jews were killed, while 13 percent put that number at one million or less.

The newest findings were compared with separate Claims Conference studies of four other countries — France, Austria, Canada, and the United States — that showed similar results, with over 50 percent of participants unaware of the true number of Holocaust victims.

Among the UK respondents surveyed, an ignorance of certain details that characterized the Nazi-perpetrated genocide was also evident. The only concentration



camp most could name was Auschwitz (63 percent), with the second, Bergen-Belsen, far behind at 14 percent. Thirty-two percent either did not know or gave an incorrect answer.

The numbers were worse in the US, with 45 percent of those surveyed unable to name a single concentration camp or ghetto.

In both the UK and the US, however, there was an awareness of the dangers presented by ideologies like Nazism. Fifty-eight percent of US respondents said something like the Holocaust could happen again, and 56 percent of

UK counterparts agreed.

Holocaust denial was quite low, with no more than 10 percent of respondents from the US, UK, Austria, France, and Canada calling the genocide "a myth" or "greatly exaggerated."

In the UK, knowledge of the British government's reaction to the Holocaust was low. Nineteen percent said, incorrectly, that Britain took measures to save Jews once it became aware of their mass murder. A further 15 percent accurately said that the government took no immediate action but pledged to punish the Nazis following the war. Thirty-five percent were "not sure."

Contrary to historical fact, moreover, 67 percent of respondents wrongly stated that

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JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT

SAVE THE DATE.

Yom HaShoah

HOLOCAUST

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Community observance:
SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022





An evening with
Ron Dermer

From 2013–2021 Ron Dermer served as Israel's Ambassador to the United States.

Minimum gift to 2022 annual campaign: \$10,000 per couple (\$3,600 per out-of-town MG)

For information: 760-324-4737.

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15 2022

RECEPTION 6 PM
DINNER 7 PM

at Tamarisk Country Club

Major Gifts Dinner 2022

Jewish Federation OF THE DESERT

2021-2022

**JEWISH FEDERATION
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In My Head and Heart



**Cora
Ginsberg**

Jewish Federation
Campaign Chair

I am Cora Ginsberg, Campaign chair for our Jewish Federation's 2021-2022 campaign. Some of you may remember me from years ago. "Hey, why is she back?" In truth, I never left. In my head and my heart, my Jewish family has always been with me. I was born as Europe was in flames and families were torn apart. I'm a second generation American on my father's side and third on my mother's. I am so fortunate. Only through all the genealogy programs have I just begin to know my family's history. I have so much to learn. It is only in the last two years that I learned to spell my father's name.

Growing up, there was the blue box on the kitchen windowsill. On Friday night my sister and I each put a quarter in, my parents a dollar. When that box was full another one mysteriously appeared. That started my giving. As I grew up I was always

taught to care for others, that we were all responsible for one another.

As newlyweds my late husband and I made a pledge of \$50 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The year was 1958. I started saving the money each week so that we could pay this pledge. We were so proud. There was someone somewhere – either in the United States or Europe -- that was depending on that money. In the intervening 64 years Federation has changed. We have changed, but the need hasn't. There are still those with staggering needs.

.. How can my Jewish child go safely to school?

.. How can I find housing where we can live safely?

..How can my husband or I find work where we are not harassed?

..I need daycare.

..I need food. We are hungry.

..My child is embarrassed to go to school. We need clothes.

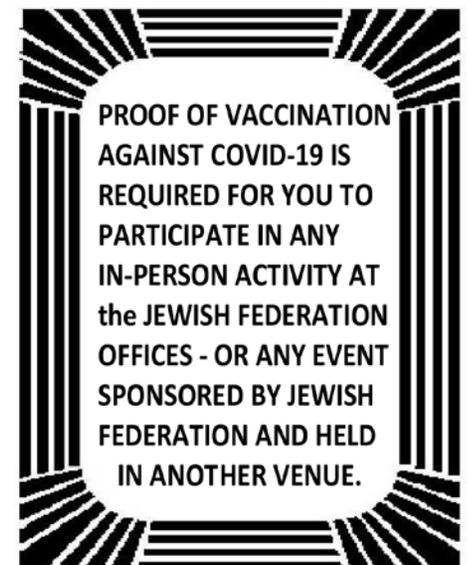
..I don't have money fix my glasses ... or my teeth.

Through your support of the Jewish Federation's annual campaign these needs are addressed by our Jewish community. Your gift assures that Federation is able to be there to help. We can't always fix every problem,

but we can and do make a difference ... every day. What is important is that you give. Give, and feel proud of your gift. All gifts, large or small, make a difference.

When I give I smile because I know somewhere somehow it will make an impact. Many years ago, in Israel, I heard an Ethiopian woman speak. What she said still resounds with me in my head and my heart. "I didn't know who you were but as I walked through the desert, I felt your arms around my shoulders and in my heart."

My arms and yours are on the shoulders of people in need anywhere in the world. Please help me start this year with smiles and the joy of being able to make a difference.



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by our Jewish community and our general community, and nationally recognized in several areas.

Through bequests and intentional legacy gifts, we are starting to build an endowment in our Federation to make sure that foundational funding will be there for our core programs.

This will help ensure that the work we have started will be sustained, that the programs we established will be secure, and that the quality of professionalism and positive culture we have established will continue. Many community leaders share this vision, and they are investing, year after year, in our current infrastructure

and work.

I have had the opportunity to realize some of the goals I set for myself in this community. I will, with gratitude, be able to leave this position in hands who will guard what we all together have built – the most compassionate, professional and impactful community resource

we truly need.

That's a wrap! I will forever be grateful for all we have been able to accomplish together. Thanks for the memories.



Bruce Landgarten

It felt like there still were questions to be asked of Bruce regarding his tenure in our community, and he readily concurred. The following Q & A reflected his thoughts on several crucial areas in which he was significantly involved as he led our community these past twelve years... A dialogue with JCN Editor Miriam H. Bent

Bruce began by describing his initial thoughts when coming to our community: "Throughout my 12- year tenure, I've been driven by an unwavering belief that the American Jewish community must remain committed to collective responsibility-and that the Jewish Federation system at its best is the ultimate vehicle for collective action.

"I knew the Desert was different from day one. We have a large senior adult population, people from almost every state in the country and low percentage of millennials. We are home to Temples and strong Jewish institutions with high visibility that do their own fundraising. In many cases, people don't even give to us. And I'm okay with that because it helps the Jewish community. But if you give a million dollars to a secular museum and nothing to the Jewish community, we need to talk about that."

What do you see as our biggest threat today? The rise of antisemitism. No matter what direction you turn, it seems to be approaching us, whether it's from domestic issues to global issues. It raises the question of, will we be safe as Jews, especially in a land in which we thought we were pretty secure? I would encapsulate with that the anti-Zionism, anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment that has boiled up over the most recent years. I think we all knew it was under the surface. Now it's attacking us in broad daylight in all sorts of places in the world.

Second, Jewish Federation's purpose is to care for the needs of the Jewish people and work to build a more vibrant Jewish future. In caring for the needs, there's greater disparity for the vulnerable out there today. And COVID has exacerbated this, whether it's aging populations, frail Holocaust survivors, individuals with disabilities or individuals who are financially insecure. We've seen an explosion of need transpire over the course of the past 18 months.

Third, it's really the question — I worry about the state of Jewish vibrancy — how do we engage more of the next generation, to desire to join in rather than opt out? How do we embrace a world where we are seeing far more interfaith marriages? How do we embrace as opposed to judge and project?

Which were your most meaningful projects? If you ask me to single out the most meaningful projects the Federation has spearheaded and continues to move forward is like asking a parent to name their favorite child. The most relevant examples would be our Tzedakah Fund that helps individuals and families in need or who suddenly find themselves in crisis. We lend a hand and get people back on their feet so they can once again become self-sufficient.

Our newest focus, "The Center Against Hate and Intolerance": "I'm excited about our Federation's

commitment to this project, launching the "Center Against Hate and Intolerance" where Federation stands up to "Hatred and Intolerance" by engaging students as thinkers and problem solvers, addressing contemporary antisemitism, racism, and xenophobia bodes well for our community's future. The Center will convene the "Common Table" around which representatives from public schools, community, Temples and agencies will come together to build consensus on issues important to the Jewish community.

Our Community Security Initiative (CSI), which creates programs that provide security, monitoring and training for Jewish and crossed faith, institutions, Temples with Secure Community Network as our key partner, is one of my prize projects.

Areas of concern? I'm aware that people of generations behind me, who have never known a time where there wasn't an Israel, take Israel for granted. I think it's very, very dangerous to ever take the existence of Israel for granted. We need to teach children that it's okay to disagree-you know, you don't have to be in agreement on everything; are you in agreement with everything that our government does? Of course not. And that's why it's a democracy and there's a free flow of ideas-but don't take it for granted. The identity and destiny of the Jewish people is linked to Israel. And do

understand how unique and privileged we are to live at this time and how important it is for the future of the Jewish people for Israel to always be strong and secure.

What were your priorities? Throughout my tenure here, I focused on outreach opportunities that met community members where they are, literally and figuratively, to engage them in Jewish life and strengthen Jewish identity in the Next Generation.

Our engagement platform has involved new young families and we reached out through our PJ Library program, the national program welcoming young families into a Jewish community. Informal education programs play a key role. Promoting Birthright Israel for young adults reaches this critical age demographic. I'm proud that we fund Hillel at UC Riverside, the University of Redlands and Hillel programs at our Desert colleges. I am convinced that supporting Jewish life on a college campus is vitally important, even more so now with the increased antisemitism at these institutions.

And now? The biggest question has been, what will my next chapter be? I have no plans to retire, just exploring opportunities to use my experience to continue from the outside looking in. I'm ready to start a new chapter of my life, a chapter that I look forward to writing.

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Britain allowed all or some Jewish refugees into Britain during World War II.

There was also profound unfamiliarity with “Kindertransport,” a British rescue operation that transferred thousands of Jewish children to the UK following the Kristallnacht pogroms. A full 76 percent of respondents either did not know or were mistaken about what it was.

There was strong support, however, for Holocaust education. Eighty-eight percent said it was important to teach about the

Holocaust in order to prevent another one, while 83 percent said all children should be taught about it and 72 percent said UK schools should devote more resources to the subject.

“We are very concerned to see the profound gaps in knowledge of the Holocaust in this and in previous studies, including about events connected to the UK,” said Gideon Taylor, president of the Claims Conference.

“Yet it is very powerful to see the overwhelming majority of UK respondents say the Holocaust should be taught in schools,” he

added. “This is where we need to focus our energy.”

Greg Schneider, the executive vice president of the Claims Conference, said it was “particularly disappointing to find that the Kindertransport, an important historic chapter that reflected the best of humanity and should serve of a beacon of hope in the darkest of times, is being forgotten.”

“Now more than ever it is critical that we find new and innovative ways to perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust through education,” he urged.

Anesthetize Nerve Cells to Shrink Breast Tumors?

New nanotech approach to breast cancer targets the nervous system around the tumor, inhibiting growth and metastasis.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Researchers at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology have developed an innovative treatment for breast cancer, based on analgesic nanoparticles that target the nervous system.

The researchers found that cancer cells stimulate infiltration of nerve cells into the tumor, and these cells then help the cancer cells proliferate, grow and migrate.

Based on these findings, they tried targeting the tumor through the nerve cells.

Nanoparticles containing an anesthetic are injected into the bloodstream. Once they reach the tumor, they accumulate around its nerve cells and paralyze the local nerves — and communication between the nerve cells and cancer cells.

When tested on cancer cell cultures and on lab mice, the method led to a significant inhibition of tumor development and of metastasis to the lungs, brain and bone marrow. The

study, published in *Science Advances*, was led by Prof. Avi Schroeder and chemical engineering PhD student Maya Kaduri.

Schroeder, head of the Louis Family Laboratory for Targeted Drug Delivery & Personalized Medicine Technologies, develops innovative cancer treatments, including for breast cancer and specifically for aggressive triple-negative breast cancer. He encapsulates drug molecules in nanoparticles, which transport the drug to the tumor and release it inside, without damaging healthy tissue.

Kaduri explained that blood vessels formed in tumors contain nano-sized holes that enable penetration of nanoparticles, while healthy tissue does not have such holes.



Technion PhD student Maya Kaduri

“We know how to create the exact size of particles needed, and that is critical because it’s the key to penetrating the tumor,” she said.

“The fact that this is a very focused and precise treatment enables us to insert significant amounts of anesthetic into the body because there is no fear that it will harm healthy and vital areas of the nervous system.”

The researchers believe the new approach may be relevant for treating breast cancer in humans.

The study was supported by the Rappaport Technion Integrated Cancer Center as part of the Steven & Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation Fellowship Fund for Cancer Research, and by Teva, as part of its National Forum for BioInnovators. The research was conducted in cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine at Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Institute of Pathology at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center.

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EDITORIAL

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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.

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Can a Synagogue Feel Open with Locked Doors?

Rabbis Reflect on Pittsburgh, Three Years Later

By Jacob Kamaras, Jewish News Syndicate

In a sense, the Jewish communal reactions to the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh and the coronavirus pandemic were diametric opposites.

After Robert Bowers shot and killed 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha Synagogue on Oct. 27, 2018, American Jews were urged to show up at services in droves the following Shabbat to display solidarity with the victims and to make clear that their rituals and way of life would not be threatened. Conversely, in the early stages of COVID-19, health concerns meant that they were forced to stay home as most in-person prayer was put on hold.

Today, as three years have passed since the Pittsburgh attack and as synagogues navigate the complexities of reopening, these seemingly unrelated events raise the same question: How can synagogues balance necessary precautions with a welcoming approach?

"Since people are so eager to be back in a community together—and so yearning to feel this sense of openness and warmth and welcoming—I've tried really hard that to make sure that we're able to do that while also being attentive to ongoing safety and security matters," Rabbi Daniel Berman, leader of the Conservative congregation Temple Reyim in Newton, Mass., told JNS. Berman explained that congregants may not be as careful about security protocols such as keeping the synagogue doors closed and locked when they are seeing a friend for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

Rabbi David A. Lyon, senior rabbi at the Reform synagogue Congregation Beth Israel in Houston and vice president of the board of the Central Conference of America Rabbis, said the only concerns surrounding the synagogue's reopening pertained to COVID rather than security. Still, he acknowledged the balancing act that accompanies this "new era" in synagogue security after the Pittsburgh shooting. He shared that

when recent visitors to Beth Israel went through standard procedures—they rang the bell, got let in by security, presented their driver's licenses and put identification stickers on their lapels—one of them turned to him and said, "I guess can get out any door we want, but we can't get in that easily."

"Our doors are locked, and they only work one way," Lyon told JNS. "What does that really mean about the way we're living and the way we want to grow our Jewish community? It's a literal thing we're dealing with, but figuratively, when we think of the synagogue as a place of communal gathering, I'm old enough to remember a day when you just opened the door and walked in. It has changed, and it's not going back. When we enter synagogues in America, like we would enter synagogues in Europe, we have to call, make arrangements and buzz in."

Pittsburgh as an 'awakening'

Rabbi Elazar Muskin, leader of the Young Israel of Century City (YICC) in Los Angeles and president of the Orthodox movement's Rabbinical Council of America from 2017 to 2019, recalled that shortly before the Pittsburgh attack the synagogue had been considering decreasing some security expenditures due to a relative "lull" in incidents. But the Tree of Life shooting swiftly served as an "awakening" that underscored the "false sense of security that we had prior to it," Muskin told JNS. Accordingly, YICC did not reduce any security measures.

The awakening continued into 2019, a year in which the Anti-Defamation League reported a record-high number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States, including another deadly synagogue shooting in Poway, California.

Although 2020 saw a slight decline in anti-Semitic incidents, a massive surge in Jew-hatred accompanied the 11-day conflict in May between Israel, Hamas and other terror factions in the Gaza Strip. This included an attack on both

YICC and Pat's, a kosher restaurant next door to the synagogue, in which the vandal broke a window at the eatery but failed to do so at the synagogue because its windows are made of reinforced glass.

Last month the Jewish Federations of North America launched a three-year, \$54 million initiative called LiveSecure, geared to ensure that all 146 communities across the country with a Jewish Federation have the Community Security Initiative, which is currently in place at 45 Federations nationwide. The initiative serves as a single point of contact for critical incident coordination, information and intelligence sharing, safety and security training, and resources for every Jewish institution in a community. (*The Jewish Federation of the Desert is part of this initiative*).

"Hatred across the country is on the rise, anti-Semitism is clearly on the rise," said Muskin. "It's something we have all have to be concerned about. The Jewish community is always very sensitive to anti-Semitism. We have strong organizations that are outspoken about this. They rally the troops to be outspoken."

'Anti-Semitism is a perennial problem'

Berman said Temple Reyim's security protocols changed "dramatically" after Pittsburgh, which "put our community in a different frame of mind. We needed to really shift the way we were thinking about safety and security in our synagogue."

Temple Reyim began locking its doors during office hours and Shabbat services, whereas previously the doors were only locked when the building was empty at night. The congregation now has a key fob system for community members, while other visitors need to make arrangements ahead of time or speak with the office onsite in order to enter the building.

While the new system marked "a dramatic shift for a community which

previously had open doors," said Berman, the Tree of Life incident left Temple Reyim with no choice but to change its protocols. He said he still grapples with the question of "How do we make sure that we are still loving, welcoming, open, and expressing this desire for people to always feel at home here, with the need to lock our doors?"

Pittsburgh "created out of necessity a time to review" the security procedures at Beth Israel, said Lyon, noting that the synagogue increased visibility and has a Houston police presence on its campus every day.

"We're fortunate to have a very compatible relationship with Houston Police Department, the local FBI, the local ADL and other agencies. If anything is heard or reported, we learn about it," he said.

Increased security has the silver lining of adding a layer to the community's relationship with law enforcement on a cultural level, he said. Lyon recounted that after a police officer once wished him "Shabbat Shalom" on a Friday night, the rabbi told his staff that if the officer ever wished him *zei gezunt* (Yiddish for "be healthy"), he would fall over. Indeed, one day the officer told the rabbi *zei gezunt* as he exited the campus.

Three years after the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history, YICC's Muskin affirmed that the uninterrupted continuation of synagogue life remains a key aspect of the communal response.

"Anti-Semitism is a perennial problem," said Muskin. "It never went away, and it never is going to go away. We just have to be constantly on alert to it and not allow it to fester. We should never be threatened to a point where we become paralyzed. We were not going to stop after the attack in Pittsburgh. I rallied our members and said, 'We need to really, really show up.' Threats to our very existence are not going to be tolerated."

Israeli Team Develops Cancer Treatment That Doesn't Damage Healthy Cells

Bar-Ilan study may provide a response for types of hematologic cancers currently considered untreatable.

World Israel News: October 27, 2021

Israeli researchers at Bar-Ilan University have developed a novel

treatment approach in the fight against hematologic cancers that involves attacking the cytoskeletal protein, called WASp, which has a unique structural condition in active hematologic cancer cells while leaving healthy cells unharmed.

Cancer cells depend on actin, a protein that plays a key role in the cytoskeleton, to carry out their malignant functions. Malignant cells need actin to be active, proliferate, migrate and invade. The WASp protein controls actin's activity and structure.

The Bar-Ilan team focused on destroying WASp in malignant cells and demonstrated that the degradation of WASp assists in inhibiting and destroying these malignant cells.

To date, the involvement of WASp in cancer has not been completely understood, but it is known to be found in cancer cells in a unique structure that allows it to be identified and manipulated. Inducing the degradation of WASp can destroy mainly malignant cells without threatening healthy cells,

and can even be used to treat most types of hematologic cancers.

Focusing on the damage of the cytoskeleton of the malignant cell, the research team performed screening to identify SMCs (small molecule compounds) that degrade the WASp compound. The team used bio convergence technologies to identify the SMCs, which combine biology with various engineering technologies, including artificial intelligence and machine learning.

By using a device developed by Prof. Yanai Ofran of Bar-Ilan, small molecules were identified in Prof. Mira Barda-Saad's lab that damage cancer cells without posing too much risk to healthy cells.

The researchers proved the efficacy of using SMCs to inhibit proliferation and destroy the malignant cells in laboratory experiments using cells taken from actual patients, as well as a mouse model carrying human blood cancer.

The WASp protein interacts with

another protein, WIP, which binds to a specific point known as the "recognition site" and protects it against degradation. The SMCs bind to the recognition site and prevent the two proteins from binding together, thereby promoting degradation of the WASp, which is no longer protected by WIP.

This study may provide a response for types of hematologic cancers for which treatment has not yet been found. The focused targeting of WASp, which aims to damage the cytoskeleton of the blood cancer cells, could replace treatments such as chemotherapy and other biological therapies which, because of their non-specificity, damage not only cancer cells but other cells in the body, or cause cancer cells to become resistant to treatment.

Prof. Barda-Saad notes that SMCs are already being used for various medical purposes, and they can be administered to patients through the blood system or by ingestion.



Opportunity Drawing!

We will be holding an Opportunity drawing at Women's Card Day for three \$100.00 gift certificates from local eateries and for 20 bottles of wine from France and California valued at over \$26.00 per bottle.

Tickets are being sold for \$10.00 a ticket and you **NEED NOT BE PRESENT THAT DAY TO WIN**. All proceeds go to our Federation's Tzedakah Fund.

Contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org to purchase your OPPORTUNITIES!

"To Compar is to Despair"



Harriet Rossetto,
LCSW

Do you compare yourself to others? Judging your insides by their outsides?

Do you need to be Perfect?

Validated by others? Do you look for love in all the wrong places?



Let's Talk
310.384.1417
harrietrossetto@gmail.com

US Justice Department Seeks \$9.9 Million Penalty from Montana Man Who Made Antisemitic Robocalls

By Algemeiner Staff

The US Department of Justice is taking official action to recover a \$9.9 million fine issued to a Montana man for making thousands of racist, antisemitic, and threatening robocalls.

The fine was levied against Scott Rhodes, 52, of Libby, Montana. An FCC investigation found that he used false caller ID information to make 4,959 robocalls to victims across the US.

Among the calls were antisemitic statements and threats, one of which

called the mayor of Charlottesville, Virginia a "Jew Mayor" with a "pet Negro Police Chief," and blamed them for the death of a counter-protester at the notorious 2017 far-right rally that took place in that city.

"We're no longer going to tolerate a Jewish lying press and Jew corruption of an American legal system," the message said.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Brian Boynton for the Justice Department's Civil Division said in a statement, "It is unlawful to spoof

caller ID numbers to trick consumers into answering unwanted phone calls with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value."

"The department will work with its agency partners to vigorously enforce the telemarketing laws that prohibit these practices," he added.

The Justice Department suit seeks to not only recover the fine, but also obtain an injunction against Rhodes that would stop him from further violating the Truth in Caller ID Act.

Beth Shalom Offers Free Four-Part Series on Conservative Judaism Open to Community

By Ken Hailpern

Congregation Beth Shalom, guided by Spiritual Leader Ken Hailpern, has embarked on two programs that combine outreach to the wider desert Jewish community and inreach to its own members: a 4-part series, "The Vision of Conservative Judaism: Living, Learning, Community," and a Shabbat evening devoted to diversity, inclusion, and welcoming members of Coachella Valley's LGBTQ+ community. Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks, a Beth Shalom member, will lead the series of interactive conversations, funded in part thanks to a grant from the Pacific Southwest Region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, awarded to recognize and promote the synagogue's innovative programming in the community.

The series is based upon the three pillars of "G-d, Torah, and Israel" reimagined as "Living, Learning, and Community," each being important

to Conservative Jews. Judging from the enthusiastic, capacity crowd at November's opening session, "Living: A Bridge with G-d," the series is tapping into something important to our community's Jews, whether or not they identify with the Conservative Movement.

The program continues on Saturday, January 15, at 7:00 pm, with "Community: a Bridge with Others," focusing on the importance of community in Judaism, be it worshipping with a minyan, connecting with a synagogue fellowship, or our tradition's emphasis on supporting others within and outside the Jewish community. It will be preceded by Havdalah and include a Wine & Cheese reception.

On Friday, March 25, at 7:45 pm, during Shabbat evening services, the theme will be "Learning: a Bridge with Torah," focusing on how Conservative

Judaism balances dedication to our inherited traditions with today's demands and exigencies. An Oneg Shabbat dessert reception follows.

The series reaches its apex on Thursday, May 5, at 5:00 pm, with "Vision: A Bridge with the Future," promoting a deeper visioning of what Judaism can be, both personally and communally. A conversation about the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Israel will be included in this Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day celebration featuring Israeli food.

Diversity Shabbat January 28

On Friday, January 28, at 7:45 pm, Congregation Beth Shalom will host a Diversity Shabbat service and program of outreach to the LGBTQ+ community in the desert. Conservative Judaism's open and welcome "Big Tent" approach will

be highlighted. An Oneg Shabbat dessert reception follows.

Rabbi Sacks, the Conservative Movement's first openly LGBTQ+ rabbi, descends from 17 generations of rabbis. Ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary, he received his Doctor of Ministry from the Claremont School of Theology. He serves as rabbi of Congregation Am HaYam in Ventura, CA, and is the Education and Curriculum Specialist for the Stories of Music Project at The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

The public is welcome to attend any or all of these in-person programs without charge. Reservations are necessary and can be made by email (preferred) to BethShalom18@gmail.com or by calling (760) 200-3636. Proof of vaccination is required for admittance.

German Public Broadcaster Declines to Work with Palestinian Science Journalist

Accused of Antisemitism

By Algemeiner Staff

One of Germany's leading broadcasters confirmed on November 2 that it would not proceed with the employment of a journalist with a record of anti-Zionist and antisemitic comments, citing issues around trust as the reason.

In a statement, the West German Broadcasting Corporation (WDR), which is part of a consortium of public broadcasters throughout Germany, said that it would not be working with the German-Palestinian journalist Nemi El-Hassan because "there is no longer any trust for future cooperation."

El-Hassan had been due to begin presenting a science

program, "Quarks," later this month. However, an expose of her pro-Palestinian activities by the right-wing tabloid *Bild* revealed that she had attended the annual "Quds (Jerusalem) Day" demonstration in Berlin in 2014.

Organized and promoted by the Iranian regime, the Lebanese Shi'a terrorist group Hezbollah and other Iranian allies in the region, "Quds Day" events around the world traditionally feature virulently antisemitic and anti-Zionist speeches, Hezbollah flags and ceremonial burnings of the Israeli flag. For the last two years, local authorities in Berlin have banned the "Quds Day" demonstration,

citing its antisemitic content.

Bild also sifted through El-Hassan's social media posts, discovering that she had expressed support for the anti-Israel BDS campaign and "liked" posts glorifying terrorism.

In an article for the *Berliner Zeitung* newspaper, El-Hassan argued that WDR had treated her as "the supposedly antisemitic and Islamist moderator with Palestinian roots, who allegedly lacks the ability to think scientifically because she is Muslim."

El-Hassan's piece — entitled "I'm a Palestinian, deal with it" — went on to assert that German guilt over the Holocaust was also a factor. "The last

few weeks have shown that in the land of the perpetrators, I should be declared an antisemite by birth," she wrote.

The head of Germany's main Jewish organization welcomed WDR's decision not to employ El-Hassan, but warned against anti-Muslim generalizations.

"The doubts about the fundamental positions of Ms. El-Hassan were evidently justified," Josef Schuster — president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany — told the *Judische Allgemeine* newspaper.

"Any general suspicion of Muslims is completely unacceptable," Schuster added.

“Vax the Jews” Banner Rattles Austin Jewish Community

“If over time this becomes mainstream and accepted, then things get more and more serious.”

By Pesach Benson, *United With Israel*

An antisemitic banner held over a highway coupled with antisemitic graffiti at a nearby high school have left the Jewish community of Austin, Texas, feeling rattled.

The banner — which was held up by a group of people who are members of the neo-Nazi Goyim Defense League — said “Vax the Jews.” It was held over the Far West Overpass of Austin’s Mopac Expressway on October 24. Photos of the incident circulating on social media showed the people making Nazi salutes. The crowd broke up peacefully with the arrival of police officers and no arrests were reported.

The overpass is not far from Austin’s Jewish community center and several synagogues.

Two days earlier, nearby Anderson



“Vax the Jews” banner held over Mopac Expressway

High School was vandalized with antisemitic and racist graffiti. Swastikas and slurs were found painted on several parking spots and on a storage shed. Police are investigating.

“It was just really scary to see that going into school,” Anderson High School Senior, Aiden Horwitz told

CBS Austin. She added that a police officer had told her that this was the fourth year that an incident like this has happened.

“I immediately broke down crying because I am a member of the Jewish community, and it honestly was horrific. It honestly makes me feel unsafe to go to school and I know that a lot of other people feel that way too. It targeted multiple groups, multiple minorities, not just one,” Senior Hannah Cukierman told local Fox 7.

But it was the Goyim Defense League’s banner that had antisemitism watchdogs more concerned. The Anti Defamation League’s web site describes the GDL as “a loose network of individuals connected by their virulent antisemitism.”

“They are provocateurs, they are looking for attention, they’re looking for social media spikes,” ADL Austin Regional Director Renee Lafair told

CBS Austin. Lafair described the group as not local to Austin and said there had been warnings that they were planning something.

“Our concern is if over time this becomes mainstream and accepted, then things get more and more serious, so our job is to try and keep things as far to the fringe as possible,” Lafair said.

In 2018, the Goyim Defense League duped Hall of Fame football star Brett Favre into recording a video that appeared to endorse the neo-Nazi group. After learning the true nature of the video and that it was going viral on white supremacists internet forums, Favre’s representatives had the video removed and the quarterback apologized for not being more careful.

In a letter to the Jewish community, the JCC said it didn’t believe the two incidents were related.

Austin’s Congregation Beth Israel Firebombed. 18 Year Old Arrested

The Jewish Press

18-year-old Franklin Barrett Sechriest of San Marcos, Texas, was arrested November 10 for setting a fire in front of a synagogue in Austin, Texas, on October 31 amid a rising number of anti-Semitic incidents in the city over the last few weeks.

Sechriest was seen on video carrying a gas canister outside of Congregation Beth Israel. Authorities say he poured accelerant on the

front entry of the building and set it ablaze. He was also filmed driving past the synagogue a few days before the fire.

“We are grateful to the authorities, including the Austin Fire Department, Austin Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for their diligent and persistent work investigating this hateful, anti-Semitic act,” said the synagogue’s senior rabbi, Steve



Damaged entrance doors, with fireman inside building.

Folberg. “It gives us some sense of relief to learn of this arrest, but we are staying vigilant. Across Central

Texas and beyond, we are seeing a spike in attacks against Jews.”

While no one was injured, Folberg said that damage was “significant” and included the destruction of “historic doors,” in addition to damage to the building’s exterior and to a stained-glass window. Additionally, “there is extensive smoke damage to our sanctuary, and remediation and restoration will take significant time and expense.”



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Dozens of Alaska Museums 'Stand in Solidarity' With Jewish Museum After Repeated Antisemitic Vandalism

By Algemeiner Staff

The umbrella organization for Alaska's museums expressed solidarity with the Alaska Jewish Museum (AJM), which has been the target of antisemitic vandalism this year.

Leslie Fried, the AJM's curator, has twice discovered swastika stickers affixed to the doors and walls of the museum. The AJM and the advocacy group StandWithUs' Northwest division are offering a \$5,000 reward for information on the perpetrators of the vandalism.

Museums Alaska Director Dixie Clough stated, "Alaskan museums are appalled by the attacks, and



Alaska Jewish Museum exterior

they are eager to show support for the Alaska Jewish Museum and the Alaska Jewish Campus as they seek to address these crimes and ensure the safety of



Swastika stickers affixed to door and walls of AJM

their facilities and community."

"There has been an increase in antisemitic behavior in Anchorage over the past few months, and we saw a role for museums as community educators to stand up against these hateful acts," she said.

Clough added, "We want to ensure that the museum attacker is brought to justice, and that the Alaska Jewish community knows that they are not alone. They have support across the state."

At least 40 institutions signed onto a statement in support of the AJM, saying, "History reveals that malicious acts increase during

uncertain times, and they flourish when encouraged or ignored by people in leadership positions. We will not ignore this spiteful act and we will work with the Alaska Jewish Museum to combat bigotry and prejudice in all its forms."

Alaska is home to approximately 6,000 Jews. Located in Anchorage, the AJM was established in 2004 in order "to provide the people of Alaska with a way to explore its Jewish history and culture and, by doing so, to honor the significant Jewish contributions to that state and the greater United States."

Antisemitic Rally in Texas: 'Honk If You Know the Holocaust is Fake'

Neo-Nazis stage crudely antisemitic demonstration outside Jewish community center in San Antonio, Texas.

By The Algemeiner

Four days after they staged an antisemitic stunt at a highway overpass in Austin, Texas, the same crop of white supremacists appeared in the city San Antonio on Tuesday, where they staged a crudely antisemitic demonstration across the street from a Jewish community center.

Under the eye of local police officers, supporters of the neo-Nazi "Goyim Defense League" flaunted banners carrying vulgar antisemitic slogans that denied the Holocaust, defamed Jewish religious practices and blamed the COVID-19 pandemic on a Jewish conspiracy.

Wearing T-shirts decorated with Nazi swastikas, two of the group's supporters held a banner reading "Honk if you know the Holocaust is fake."

Another poster attacked the Jewish tradition of circumcising

infant males at the age of eight days using pornographic language. Fliers claiming that "every single aspect of the COVID agenda is Jewish" were scattered by the group as they rallied opposite the San Antonio Jewish Community Center, where a Holocaust commemoration event was taking place.

Local leaders condemned the display.

"Amid a rise of antisemitic incidents in our community, we must stand with our Jewish neighbors and reject the hatred and ignorance that endangers the spirit of our entire city," the city's mayor Ron Nirenberg wrote on Twitter. "San Antonio will not tolerate these heinous acts and we will never give a platform to white nationalists."

In a separate statement, city councilman Manny Pelaez said: "I hope my Jewish friends and



Neo-Nazi 'Goyim Defense League' banner

neighbors know they are loved and that these protestors are not part of our community, nor are they welcome in San Antonio."

Traveling supporters of the "Goyim Defense League" — described by the Anti-Defamation League as a "small network of virulently antisemitic provocateurs led by Jon Minadeo II of Petaluma, California" — reportedly arrived in San Antonio on Sunday following their appearance in Austin. On Sunday night, they demonstrated outside a fundraising event for Israel held at San Antonio's Cornerstone

Church.

The group also distributed antisemitic fliers on the front lawns of houses in the surrounding neighborhood. One local resident, Catherine S., told local news outlet KSAT, "I picked one up and opened it, and inside I found these disgusting antisemitic fliers full of propaganda and disgusting things about Jewish people."

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Jewish Federation OF THE DESERT | Women's Cultural Alliance

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Featured speaker: *Lisa Friedman-Clark*

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For information/reservations contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or email leslie.pepper@jfedps.org

WOMEN ARE REQUIRED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED TO ATTEND

Women's Cultural Alliance

While the ladies of our community accomplished significant programs and activities during the months of forced isolation due to COVID-19, it felt wonderful to be able to finally get together in person, reconnect with friends and kvell over the many accomplishments achieved despite the pandemic.

Fran Kaufman convened the first in-person meeting of the Women's Cultural Alliance on November 10th and the sheer number of programs impressed all in attendance. During our 18 months of virtual programming, we held a successful Women's series, offered zoom movies and book reviews, collected clothing and blankets for community distribution, supported Jewish Food drives for Passover, Rosh Hashanah and Find Food Bank mobile centers, got our Baby Pantry started and carefully took advantage of volunteer opportunities.

Roberta Nyman, Federation Board co-chair, gave an update on our Holocaust programs, reaching thousands of middle school and high school students in our three valley school districts. Michelle

Less than a dozen tables are still available as the JCN goes to press. Want to attend? Call Leslie Pepper NOW at 760-324-4737 to find out if there still is space for you to come!

Coneybeare, chair of our Women's Card Day, there were only a few tables still available before selling out.

Fran Kaufman invites any woman wishing to participate in one or more of our Women's Cultural Alliance activities to attend the next meeting, on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 9:30 am for coffee and kibbitzing, then convening at 10:00 am to plan our activities for 2022.

Following the WCA meeting the Federation community room will screen the Nancy Spielberg movie "Above and Beyond" at 11:00 am. Because of limited space, reservations are required by calling the Jewish Federation at 760-324-4737. Proof of vaccination is required to attend.

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New to the Desert and haven't established your own special foursome as yet? Call or email Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or email leslie.pepper@jfedps.org, let her know what you play and we will do our best to put together a game for you.

Proceeds help to support our Jewish Federation's Special Tzedakah Fund.

Chair: Michelle Coneybeare

Women must be fully vaccinated to participate.

Tables must be reserved. Call 760-324-4737 with your credit card or mail checks to Jewish Federation of the Desert, 69-710 Hwy. 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270



BDS Fail: New York State to Divest from Ben & Jerry's Parent Company

Arizona, Florida and New Jersey have already divested or are in the process of divesting from Unilever. New York joined the club, and other states are considering making the move.

By Pesach Benson, *United With Israel*

It appears that boycotting Israel — or even just Judea and Samaria, the ancient homeland of the Jewish people — doesn't pay.

New York state's pension fund will dump \$111 million in investments in Unilever, the parent company of Ben & Jerry's. State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, who oversees the fund, confirmed to the *New York Post* on Friday that the divestment was because of Ben & Jerry's boycott of Judea and Samaria.

"After a thorough review, the New York State Common Retirement Fund will divest its equity holdings in Unilever PLC. Our review of the activities of the company, and its subsidiary Ben & Jerry's, found they engaged in BDS activities under our pension fund's policy," DiNapoli said in a statement to the *Post*.

With \$263 billion, the New York State Common Retirement Fund is the third-largest public pension fund in the U.S. Only California's separate pension funds for public employees and teachers are larger.

Not long after the boycott was announced in July, the comptroller's office notified Alan Jope, CEO of the London-based conglomerate, that Unilever was engaging in Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions activities and risked a state review and possible divestment.

Unilever maintains that under the terms of its acquisition of the Vermont-based ice cream company, the Ben & Jerry's board of directors may independently set its own social mission policy.

According to the *Post*, Jope replied in August that "Unilever has a strong and longstanding commitment to our business in Israel. We employ nearly 2,000 people in the country across our four factories and head office, and we have invested approximately \$250 million in the Israeli market over the last decade."

The CEO then added, "On this decision, it was no different. Ben & Jerry's has also

made it clear that although the brand will not be present in the West Bank from 2023, it will remain in Israel through a different business arrangement."

However, Unilever's initial actions during the boycott's early stages contradict that non-interference position. Ben & Jerry's board chair Anuradha Mittal confirmed in July that the board wanted to boycott all of Israel, but was pre-empted by Unilever. The parent company issued a statement insisting that while Judea and Samaria would be boycotted, the State of Israel would not.

"I am saddened by the deceit of it," Mittal told NBC News at the time. "This is not about Israel. It is about the



violation of the acquisition agreement that maintained the soul of the company. I can't stop thinking that this is what happens when you have a board with all women and people of color who have been pushing to do the right thing."

More than 30 states have anti-BDS laws. These laws include divesting state holdings in companies that engage in

BDS, or entering into contracts with them.

State laws against BDS have ensured the boycotters get their just desserts. Arizona, Florida, and New Jersey have already completed or are in the process of divesting a combined \$393 million in Unilever investments. Other states are examining whether Unilever has violated their anti-BDS laws.

These laws are credited with quickly reversing Airbnb's boycott of Israeli settlements in 2019.

Unilever's 400 brands include a wide variety of familiar consumer goods such as Dove personal care products, Lipton tea, Hellmann's mayonnaise and Sunlight soap.



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San Diego School District Commits to 'Fighting Antisemitism,' Citing Rise in Hate Crimes

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) adopted a resolution October 26th denouncing antisemitism and promoting education about the Holocaust, citing a rise in recent years in anti-Jewish harassment on its campuses. "The Board of Education denounces the rise in antisemitic rhetoric and hate-motivated crimes and incidents that denigrate Jewish students and staff in the communities served by SDUSD," said the resolution, passed at Tuesday night's board meeting. It also "affirms the rights" of Jewish students, staff and families to work

to revise school materials "to ensure they are inclusive and reflective of best practices and the full diversity of Jewish people including those in California and San Diego."

The second largest district in the state, SDUSD serves over 120,000 students from pre-school through 12th grade.

Jewish groups cheered the resolution's passage, with the local Anti-Defamation League office calling it "an important message to the community that antisemitism has no place in our schools."

"With the rise of antisemitism across the country, SDUSD and other

school districts cannot ignore the reality that Jewish communities face. According to the FBI's most recent hate crimes report, 57 percent of reported religious-based crimes were directed against Jews — even though Jews make up only 2 percent of the country's population," Kelsey Greenberg Young, ADL San Diego Education Director, told *The Algemeiner*.

"While the purpose of this Resolution is to demonstrate that SDUSD is committed to fighting antisemitism and all forms of hate, there are those who attempt to wield forums like these as a political tool in advancing the agenda of fringe activists who sought to derail the true intent of the Resolution, which is to ensure safe and welcoming classrooms for our students," Greenberg Young commented.

The heated debate at the October 26 board meeting included testimony from Jewish students, according to a local CBS affiliate report, including one current student who told of seeing posters at school that "labeled Jews 'colonizers.'" An opponent of the measure who also spoke charged the district with working with "proven Islamophobic organizations."

The resolution specifically rejected the notion "that Jewish students or the Jewish population are somehow responsible for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

It also directs the district's Superintendent to work with Jewish groups and the recently-created Governor's Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education, to develop and promote a speaker's bureau on genocide.

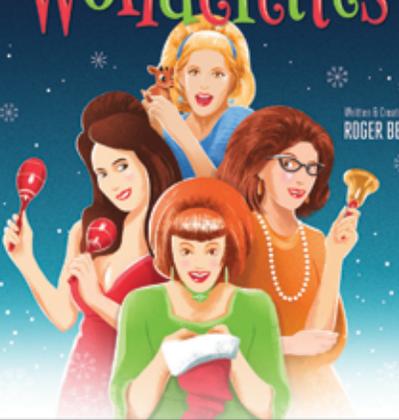
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For more information contact Kevin Giser at Kevin.giser@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737.

What Do You Want
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Orthodox Singer Narkis Stuns as Israeli Wins Best Designer at Dubai Fashion Festival

By Tzi Joffe, Jerusalem Post

Israeli singer Narkis, a religiously observant Jew, performed at the World Fashion Festival Awards in Dubai on October 30 during a runway walk showing off dresses by Israeli designer Ilanit Mizrahi, who ended up winning first place at the fashion week for best bridal designer.

Narkis performed her song "Holechet Itcha" (Walking with You) in both Hebrew and Arabic while wearing a dress with the Emirati and Israeli flags embroidered on it.

"Holechet Itcha has also arrived in Dubai," wrote Narkis on Instagram.

"Much respect to Israel. May we merit to get to more moments like this. Believe in yourselves," wrote Mizrahi. "Israel is on the map."

Video shared on Instagram showed Mizrahi with a crowd at the awards show after receiving her award, dancing to the Hebrew song "Mitzvah Gedolah L'hiyot B'Simcha" ("It is a Great Commandment to be Happy") and a series of other Hebrew songs.

This was the first time that Israel took part in the fashion show. Mizrahi was joined by a number of other Israeli designers, including Laura Bouznah,

Reut Atias, Liat Lukatch, Ilanit Reuven, Eden Aharon and Rachel H, among others.

Israeli i24 news served as the show's media partner.

The World Fashion Festival Awards has a stated goal of establishing "sustainable bridges between the worldwide countries and the UAE (Middle East Hub) by Recognizing, Promoting and Awarding the BEST achievements in the field of art, beauty, culture and fashion."



Narkis

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235 Members of a Lost Tribe of Israel Come Home

New immigrants from northeast India landed at Ben-Gurion Airport in a special operation to bring these descendants of the Tribe of Menashe to Israel.

By Abigail Klein Leichman

Hailing from Manipur in northeast India, they are descendants of the lost biblical tribe of Menashe and have preserved the Jewish tradition across 27 centuries of exile.

The latest group of Bnei Menashe to arrive was assisted by Minister of Aliyah and Integration Pnina Tamano-Shata and the Jerusalem-based Shavei Israel organization, following months of preparation in cooperation with The Jewish Agency for Israel.

Michael Freund, chairman of Shavei Israel, said more than 4,000 Bnei Menashe already live in Israel and



Bnei Menashe immigrants kissing the ground after arriving in Israel on October 13, 2021

have been integrated in the Israel society successfully.

"We still must not forget that 6,500 members of the community are still waiting in India and longing for the moment when they too will be able



Bnei Menashe children arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport

to come to Israel and it is our duty to do everything we can to make this happen," Freund added.

The ancestors of the Bnei Menashe were part of the Assyrian exile. These families wandered through Central

Asia and the Far East for centuries, before settling in what is now northeastern India, along the borders of Burma and Bangladesh.

Tamano-Shata welcomed the newcomers. "It's good that you are at home. For years you dreamed about returning to Zion and now we have managed to make the dream come true," she said.

"According to the policy I lead in the ministry, we work to bring Jews to Israel from all countries of the world, regardless of race, gender, origin or income level."



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FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL-PARKS & MORTUARIES

Israeli Fire Crews Battle 200 Blazes, Arson Suspected in Several

Investigators believe two largest wildfires near airport and in north were deliberately set.

By David Hellerman, World Israel News

Israeli fire crews battled more than 200 wildfires amid unseasonably warm, dry and windy conditions on Saturday. Investigators said several of the blazes, including the two largest, appeared to have been deliberately set.

The largest of the fires were near the northern Israeli town of Gita, and Zeitan, near Ben Gurion International Airport. Until the Zeitan fire was brought under control, planes taking off from the airport had to alter their



departures. The Gita fire forced 75 families to evacuate their homes.

Fires also broke out near the northern towns of Hadera, Yarka, Kafr Kabul and Kafr Yasif, the central Israeli towns of Rosh Ha'Ayin and

Burgeta and the Har Adar settlement north of Jerusalem.

Authorities officially tallied 212 fires.

On Friday, citing concerns for wildfires amid the weather reports, the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority closed off many hiking paths and nature trails in the areas of the Carmel Forest, Judean Mountains, and other areas through Sunday.

Smoke, along with a dust storm

that blew over the country from Jordan and Saudi Arabia, prompted Israeli authorities to warn people with sensitive heart-lung conditions, pregnant women, the elderly and children to stay indoors.

The warm weather and windy conditions are expected to continue.

In August, a massive wildfire outside Jerusalem that took days to get under control was also blamed on arson.

Jewish Life on Campus is Back

By Eran Vaisben, Inland and Desert Hillel's Executive Director

"Great to be back!" is a statement that I hear it almost every week from students, staff and faculty members. After more than 16 months of a pandemic-induced campus closure, students are back living in university dorms, attending classes and participating in many social and educational activities. This is all very exciting!

Inland and Desert Hillel was here for Jewish students during the COVID-19 school closure and is now back on campus operating at full speed. We provide spiritual, cultural, educational and social programs and activities for Jewish students who attend colleges in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. We also assist students addressing challenges such as antisemitism and anti-Israel incidents on campus.

Hillel empowers students to assume leadership roles and plan programs with the hope that they will be actively involved with their Jewish communities in the future. Stephen Giverts, UCR Hillel Student Board President, describes his experience: "After joining Hillel, I immediately felt a sense of community, as Hillel fosters a welcoming environment where everyone can



Student at University of Redlands celebrate Sukkot

connect with their Jewish heritage. Hillel has helped me become a student leader, providing me with a strong sense of connection to Judaism and Israel."

Last year, many students felt isolated and wanted more in-person social interactions. After a year of virtual online activities, we started this academic year with a boost of energy and motivation. The student boards at campuses served by Inland and Desert Hillel are working together to plan weekly Shabbat dinners, holiday events and social activities that engage dozens of Jewish students. Our programming has experienced a positive increase

in participation and involvement. Hillel's staff strives help and support students as they build/re-build their Jewish communities on campus as well as inspire them to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life and learning.

All of these programs are supported by generous donations of community members who reside in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. We thank our biggest supporter - the Jewish Federation of the Desert.



"I have made lifelong friends in my Hillel and have learned so many valuable lessons about friendship, leadership and community."

—L. Simon, University of Redlands

Inland and Desert Hillel provides spiritual, cultural, educational and social programs and activities for Jewish students who attend colleges in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. We envision a world in which **every student** is inspired to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life and learning.

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Shabbat Schedule - December 2021

While more congregations are opening to in-person services if participants are fully vaccinated, it is wise to check with your chosen facility on Thursday or Friday to make sure there are no changes regarding attendance. Most continue to offer online services as well.

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

Proof of vaccination required on first in-person return visit. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination.

In-person Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am. Online services discontinued. Services followed by light Kiddush lunch. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination.

For information, email BethShalom18@gmail.com or call 760-200-3636.

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim

250 East Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264 www.chabadpalmsprings.com 760-325-0774. Check website or call to confirm when Shabbat services are held.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT

Rabbi Mendy Friedman
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.chabadm.com 760-770-7785

"Taste of Shul" available Fridays on Zoom and Facebook live. Shabbat morning services begin at 10 am, followed by Kiddush. We are gradually returning to our full pre-covid kiddush lunch. Call for more information.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
Plans underway to resume regular services and programs in Sun City Palm Desert. Check schedule.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D.; Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus. harelurjpd@gmail.com 760-779-1691.

New website: harelurjpd.org.
Shabbat services offered online. Everyone welcome.

Zoom Shabbat Evening Services 5 pm with Rabbi Richard Zions and Cantor Joseph Gole. Discussion with attendees before and after the Shabbat Services.

Saturday 11 am—Zoom Torah Study with Discussion conducted by Rabbi Zions. For Zoom invite email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT (Reform)

Rabbi Kenneth Milhandler, 1320 W. Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220. Contact 951-392-5380.

DESERT OUTREACH

SYNAGOGUE Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Associate Rabbi. Cantor Lori Reisman Patterson. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com.

Desert Outreach Synagogue Services - In-person services on 2nd Friday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, with proof of vaccination or negative Covid test within 72 hours. Also, live-streamed on our DOS website: www.desert-outreach-synagogue.com.
Torah Study with Rabbi Rachel Axelrad - 2nd Saturday morning - 10:30 - 11:30 am - Lite nosh and learning together at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar rabbi@orhamidbar.org. Virtual Kabbalat Services Fridays at 6:30 pm and Shabbat morning services at 10:30 am. For information email info@orhamidbar.org.



Chanukah 5782 - 2021

First night: Sunday, November 28 through Monday afternoon, December 6th

Friday, November 5th - 6:30 pm - In person and Facebook live 2021 Pride Interfaith Kabbalat Shabbat service at United Methodist Church of Palm Springs (1555 East Alejo). Must be fully vaccinated and wear mask in building.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott and Accompanist Brent Reynolds. In person services in Speaker's Hall in the Sunset View Clubhouse in Sun City Palm Desert have returned. Services are held the first and third Fridays at 7:15 pm. To attend participants must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask at services. Please bring your card. Information: Susan Katzman, 760-641-0411.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

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

Virtual holiday services led by Rabbi David Lazar.

Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom the third Friday of each month with Rabbi David Lazar at 6:00 pm and Shabbat teaching with Rabbi Lazar the next morning at 9:30 am. Every other Friday of the month: Shabbat Candle Lighting with Rabbi Emerita Malka Drucker at 5:45 pm. Contact templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com for Zoom Address.

TEMPLE ISAIAH

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. www.templeisaiahps.com.
Weekly in-person Shabbat services have returned. Friday evenings at 7:30

pm and Saturday morning at 10:00 am. To attend in person services requires being fully vaccinated and masks are required when in the building. Also being streamed online. To access any activity, go to Temple Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program. "Jewish University" Saturdays from 1:30-3 PM on Zoom. No charge. RSVP requested.

TEMPLE SINAI (Member, Union for Reform Judaism)

Rabbi David Novak
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260. www.templesinaipd.org 760-568-9699. Go to templesinaipd.org for access information. Shabbat services are in-person and online on Livestream at www.templesinaipd.org. Friday evening services 5:30 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am. Proof of vaccination or negative covid test within 72 hours required. Masks must be worn in the building. On Friday, December 3, immediately following 5:30 pm Shabbat services, will be a Special Recognition Dinner honoring Fred Fabricant, Gail & Saul Jacobs, and Jack Olshansky for their many years of dedication to the Temple. Cost: \$36 per person. Entertainment by pianist John Bayless. Reservations can be made by calling the Temple office (760-568-9699) or Nancy Singer (760-345-7647).

BIKUR CHOLIM

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



Community Calendar of Programs - December 2021

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

Mondays:

2:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: The Prayerbook, with Sussie Denebeim
7:30 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: "The Prophets: Stories that shaped our history" with Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger.

Tuesdays:

5:00-6:45 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Weekly Community BBQ** is back offered in person. Place order by 2 PM Monday and save 15%. Pickup/drive through also available.

7:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: "Insights for Daily Living, from the Torah" with **Sussie Denebeim**.

Wednesdays:

2:00-4:00 pm Temple Sinai Mah Jongg
7:30 pm - Temple Isaiah "Bereavement Group" with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Contact Rabbi directly for more information: rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

Thursdays:

1:00-2:00 pm Temple Sinai Tai Chi.
3:30 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs - Virtual class: "The Mystical Parsha" with **Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger**. RSVP to Boz Werdiger, boz@chabadps.com, or 760-550-5793
7:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual "Ask the Rabbi" with **Rabbi Yonason Denebeim**.

Saturdays:

7:00 pm Havurah of the Desert:

Havdalah followed by film and webinar discussions. For information and Zoom link: info@havurahofthedesert.org.

Sunday, November 28

5:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage celebrates first night of Chanukah at their annual **Chanukah at The River** event.

Monday, November 29

5:00 pm Bikkur Cholim, Jewish Federation of the Desert and PJ Library invite the community to join in celebrating **Chanukah at Boomers**, 67,700 East Palm Canyon in Cathedral City. For more information call Bikkur Cholim at 760-325-8076 or Leslie Pepper at the Jewish Federation, 760-324-4737. See ad page 13

Wednesday, December 1

3:30 pm Galen Har-El **Book Course. Lynda Zions** will present and lead a discussion on the book **"Stitching A Life: An Immigration Story"** by Mary Fein published in 2020 and available on Amazon. For a Zoom invitation, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 2

9:30 am Sabra Hadassah **Installation of Officers and Chanukah celebration**. Sun City Shadow Hills Clubhouse. Fully COVID vaccinated required. For information call Debbie at 760-289-7987.

Saturday, December 4

7:00 pm Beth Shalom **Chanukah Party & Gift Auction**. Menorah lighting, Sufganiyot. Admission

free with wrapped gift, minimum value \$15.00. Limited capacity. Reservations with Proof of Vaccination REQUIRED by November 30. 760-200-3636.

Sunday, December 5

3:00 pm Temple Isaiah **Chanu-Cue** (Chanukah BBQ) open to the community. Fully COVID vaccinated required to attend. See ad page 11

Wednesday, December 8

3:30 pm Har-El will have a review and discussion of the Webinar presented by **Bernard Harrison** on **"Blaming the Jews: Politics and Discussion."** Question and Answer Session led by a Professor from the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism at Indiana University. For a Zoom invitation, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Wednesday, December 8

4:00-6:00 pm Jewish National Fund **Major Donor Reception** at The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage. Guest speaker: Lt. Col. Tiran Attia, IDF. (Minimum gift of \$5,000 to the JNF 2022 campaign to attend). Information: Call Donna Raider 760-864-6208, ext. 989.

Monday, December 13

10 am - 4 pm Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy **6th Annual Women's Card Day**. See ad page 10. As the JCN goes to press only 12 tables are still available, so call Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 now if interested in participating.

Wednesday, December 15

9:30 am Jewish Federation Women's Cultural Alliance open meeting. See page 10 for information.

Wednesday, December 15

11:00 am Jewish Federation in person viewing of **Above and Beyond**, Nancy Spielberg's riveting movie about a group of Jewish American war pilots and their plans for smuggling planes out of the US to be flown for Israel's use during their War of Independence in 1948. Limited space. RSVP required. Call 760-324-4737. Proof of vaccination is required.

Wednesday, December 15

3:30 pm Har-El Film review: **"The Rape of Europa"**—This documentary details the theft and recovery of art stolen by the Nazis in World War II. The discussion will be led by **Robert Schneeweiss**, Docent, Palm Springs Art Museum. Available on Prime. For a Zoom invitation, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 19

1:00 pm Beth Shalom **'Late Lunch' Barbecue and Movie "Return of the Violin."** Members/\$20; Non-Members/\$25. Paid reservations with Proof of Vaccination REQUIRED by December 14. 760-200-3636.

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



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:

- **Jeannette Galante**, Happy belated special birthday, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Terri Ketover**, Congratulations on your 'star' as an important member of the community, from Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Bruce Landgarten**, You will be missed! Wishing you good health and happiness, from Jim Miringoff.
- **Roberta Nyman**, Congratulations from Fran Kaufman.
- **Sandy Schwartz**, Happy Birthday from Rollye and Chuck Rinkey.
- **Albert Silverman**, Congratulations on your 90th birthday, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Muriel and Ron Goldberg, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Loreen Jacobson, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Marnie

Miller and Joe Noren, Sherry and Howard Schor, D. Larry Sherman, Barry and Leslie Usow.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Norm Lewis**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- **Jacqueline Smason**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, with healing thoughts, Ana Landau.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Gail Baron and Family**, In memory of Arnold Baron, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Lois Davidson and Family**, In memory of your beautiful, sweet daughter and sister Joy, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Family of Rina Eliashar**, for the loss of your beloved mother, from Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.

- **Folick Family**, in memory of Jeff Folick, from Bob and Carol Friedman.
- **Dr. Adrian and Cass Graff-Radford**, In memory of your beloved brother Jonathan, from Terri Lind
- **Cass Graff-Radford**, In memory of your beloved brother Jonathan Freed, from Cora Ginsberg, Alan J. Goldstein and Mary Levine, Margie and Stephen Kulp, Barbara and Ken Lieberman, Leslie and Barry Usow.
- **Lee Hixon**, In memory of your beloved husband Phil, from Phil and Ellen Glass, Roberta and Allan Nyman.
- **Family of Fran Lubens**, Condolences on the loss of your mother, from Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- **Jerry Marsee**, In memory of Helen Marsee, from Gloria Chodak.
- **Jane and Tom Shandell**, In memory of your beloved father Dick, from Cora Ginsberg.

Global Ranking Puts Tel Aviv U 5th for Entrepreneurship, as Only Non-US Institution

By Sharon Wrobel, *The Algemeiner*

Tel Aviv University scored fifth place in the world for entrepreneurship, according to a global ranking of higher education institutions conducted by innovation policy advisory and research firm Startup Genome.

The only non-American institution ranked in the top 10, Tel Aviv University, came in behind Stanford University, MIT, UC Berkeley and Harvard. Other leading institutions in the 2021 ranking included Cornell, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and Columbia University.

"This is a very significant achievement for both Tel Aviv University and the State of Israel," commented Prof. Moshe Zviran, Dean of the Collier School of Management at the Tel Aviv University. "The Startup Genome ranking is a standard of entrepreneurial excellence



of the highest level in the world."

The ranking is measured by the involvement of alumni of the world's top universities in entrepreneurship, and in the establishment of "scaleup" companies that have advanced beyond the startup stage and are worth at least \$50 million. According to the ranking, about 1,300 Tel Aviv University alumni have founded active companies in a wide range of fields, with about 40 making it to the status of scaleup companies.

"Israel in general, and TAU as its

leading entrepreneurial university, form fertile ground for uniquely creative young entrepreneurs who establish independent companies and hold key positions in the world's leading corporations," said Prof. Zviran. "The rich toolbox which our students acquire during their studies serves them well when they enter the job market."

Tel Aviv University's Collier School of Management has about 28,000 alumni, the largest such network in Israel, with many of the graduates holding top management positions. Among the alumni of the Tel Aviv University are Alon Carmeli, founder of Canzon and former CEO of Babylon Ltd.; Nir Zuk, founder and CTO of Palo Alto Networks; and Erez Vigodman, former CEO of Teva Pharmaceuticals.

To help students and alumni of the Tel

Aviv University on their path to develop their venture, the Collier School runs an annual \$100,000 startup competition. It also operates an entrepreneurship club, bringing together students and alumni.

FertilAI, which develops AI algorithms to improve the success rate of fertility treatments, was one of the winners of the 2021 startup competition. Another winner, Sweet Victory, has produced a mint-flavored chewing gum made of natural plant leaf extract, promising to instantly reduce sugar cravings by blocking the sweet taste receptors on the tongue.

"We are proud of our alumni and students for this achievement and will continue to fortify Tel Aviv University's position in the top echelons of global entrepreneurship," Zviran remarked.

Hackers Reveal Venezuela Shelters Palestinian Terror Groups

By Pesach Benson, *United With Israel*

Hackers who broke into Venezuelan intelligence revealed that President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government is giving protection to Palestinian terrorists involved in money laundering, drug dealing, terror and other crimes, *Israel Hayom* reported on November 1.

While Venezuela's support for Hezbollah is well-known, the South American country's safe haven for Palestinian terrorists is not.

The anti-government hacker group, which calls itself Team HDP, told *Israel Hayom* it was working in cooperation with former Venezuelan intelligence officials. It gained access to the Directorate General of Military Counterintelligence and released the names of several Palestinian and Hezbollah operatives working in the South American country.

One of the Palestinian terror cells said to belong to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades is made up of at least four men working under the guise of doctors in Merida, a western region in Venezuela where uranium, thorium and coltan mines of interest to Iran currently operate. The hackers identified three of the four as "Fawaz Snofar," "Mahmoud

Khalaf," and "Muhammad Abu-Rah." According to information obtained by Team HDP, one of the fake Palestinian doctors is responsible for the deaths of several patients in Merida.

Israel Hayom also reported that the Cuban Intelligence Directorate, also known as G2, is also involved with the Palestinian activities.

Hezbollah and Iran Connections

As for the Hezbollah operatives, they are involved in the trafficking of arms, drugs, strategic minerals and even women and children. The hackers identified them as all members of the Maklad family from As-Suwayda, a Syrian village near the Jordanian border. According to

Team HDP, they entered Venezuela under the cover of Spanish-language students.

Energy-starved Venezuela helps Iran defy U.S. sanctions on its oil exports. With Venezuelan oil refineries in disrepair, *Reuters* reported that Caracas had agreed in September "to swap its heavy oil for Iranian condensate that it can use to improve the quality of its tar-like crude."

Venezuela also pays Iran with money, gold and other commodities — possibly including uranium, thorium and coltan. Uranium and thorium can be used to fuel a nuclear chain reaction, while coltan is a rare earth mineral used to manufacture

electronic capacitors in commonly used cell phones, laptops and other technology.

In mid October, a fugitive businessman with ties to the Maduro regime and Hezbollah was extradited to the U.S. after being arrested in Cape Verde. According to reports, Alex Raab a businessman and Maduro aide, is accused of exploiting food aid to Venezuela to launder millions of dollars for the president. Some of that money, reports say, was also directed to Hezbollah.

Venezuela has been devastated by hyperinflation, poverty disease and crime brought on by widespread mismanagement, corruption, and falling oil prices.



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Generic, Cancer-Killing Israeli Drug Approved for Marketing by FDA

By Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman, The Jerusalem Post

The American Food and Drug Administration has approved a groundbreaking, complex, generic drug indicated for the treatment of ovarian cancer, multiple myeloma and Kaposi's Sarcoma.

Ayana's Doxorubicin-HCl Liposomal Injection will now be available in the US market. The drug is a modified chemotherapy treatment that targets cancer cells directly, thereby reducing side effects.

The drug, and the company that makes it, are located in Jerusalem. It was developed by Prof. Yechezkel Barenholz, a world expert in biochemistry, nanotechnology and drug development and the winner of the 2020 EMET Prize for exact sciences.

Barenholz is also the inventor of Doxil, the world's first nanotechnology drug approved by the FDA in 1995. Doxorubicin-HCl is the generic version of Doxil, which had first been produced by Johnson & Johnson.

He has written over 420 scientific publications and owns more than 55 patents.

The treatment leverages the drug doxorubicin – a cytotoxin or chemotherapy drug – encapsulated in a closed lipid sphere called a liposome.

A liposome can be imagined as a small "ball" the size of a virus, explained Barenholz. The ball is made of an envelope made of special "fat" molecules with a watery solution inside. These balls are referred to as nano-liposomes.

"We load the toxic agent into these balls and infuse them into a patient's bloodstream once a month," he said. "These nano-Liposome balls travel through the bloodstream until they reach the cancer tissue and there,

through tiny pores in the blood vessels, exit the bloodstream and accumulate in the cancer tissue.

"Unlike healthy cells, cancer cells produce ammonia, and this ammonia releases the active toxic agent [doxorubicin] out of the nano-liposomes balls in proximity to the cancer cells, leading to the cancer cells' death," Barenholz explained.

The targeted technology helps solve one of chemotherapy's biggest challenges: side effects. The treatment reduces hair loss, gastrointestinal issues and other results of chemo, which attacks all cells equally – both healthy and cancer ones.

"When a patient does not suffer from so many side effects, the compliance rate is much better and it is much easier to treat the patient," Ayana CEO Gal Cohen said.

Barenholz founded Ayana in 2012 at the request of several oncologists and cancer patients when J&J struggled to manufacture Doxil. A generic drug is also much less expensive, making it more accessible to those in need.

It took from the end of 2012 until now to obtain FDA approval after building the ability to produce Doxorubicin-HCl in Israel according to Good Manufacturing Practice and meeting all other FDA requirements for US marketing authorization.

Cohen, who joined Ayana in late 2020, led the team to obtaining the FDA approval and for commercial launch readiness.

Over the last decade, while the company was working on the treatment, other novel treatments for cancer have also been developed. This includes, for example, monoclonal antibodies. But Cohen said that many of these new treatments are



Prof. Yechezkel Barenholz holding Ayana's Doxorubicin-HCl Liposomal Injection.

cost inhibitive and don't work for everyone. Chemotherapy is still the most consistently effective treatment for cancer.

The drug will be made available through a strategic partnership with Padagis, which was recently acquired for \$1.55 billion by Altaris

from Perrigo, a company that has been operating since 1887. Padagis provides hundreds of topical and other specialty pharmaceuticals to its primary markets of the United States and Israel, has annual sales of around \$1 billion and employs over 1,300 people worldwide. The companies are ready for commercial launch of the drug.

Although Ayana is a small company of only 12 employees, Cohen said it has a pipeline of other products that it is working on, also centered on the use of nanotechnology.

"We believe that it is cutting edge technology and that many people could benefit from treatment through this delivery system," Cohen said.

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Holocaust Survivor Turned Priest Buried as a Jew, as Per His Own Wishes

Yaakov Tzvi Gruner was saved by the Church in World War II and dedicated his life to it in gratitude, but long ago decided that he would die as Jew.

By Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News

A Jewish Holocaust survivor turned priest who served the Catholic community in Israel for decades was buried next to his murdered family in Poland as a Jew, according to his own specific wishes.

Father Gregor Pawlowski was born Jacob Tzvi Gruner in 1931 and grew up in a religious home in Zamosc, Poland. When the Nazis invaded, the family was put in a local ghetto, and his father disappeared, presumably murdered by the Germans. He, his mother and two sisters were then moved in 1941 to another ghetto in Izbica along with the rest of the Jews of his town. Gruner managed to escape, but his family was gunned down into large pits outside of Izbica along with the rest of Zamosc's Jewish population.

The boy fled from place to place until eventually finding refuge in a church. He obtained a baptismal certificate in the name of Gregor Pawlowski, which he then kept for the rest of his life. He became a priest, but he never forgot his Jewish roots and wanted to serve among his people, even if not as one of them, and in 1970 the Church granted his request to send him to Israel.

Before he left, he put up a monument at the Izbica mass murder site and even prepared a grave for himself there. It included an inscription on the stone that said

in part, "I abandoned my family in order to save my life at the time of the Shoah.... My life I saved and have consecrated it to the service of God and humanity. I have returned to them this place where they were murdered for the sanctification of God's name."

Pawlowski served the Catholic community of Jaffa for almost four decades. He became friendly seven years ago with a yeshiva head, Rabbi Shalom Malul, who regularly brings students to Poland, and had found the headstone, contacting the unusual priest when he returned. Whenever he returned to the site on another Holocaust education trip, he would call Pawlowski, who would recount the story of his survival to the students over the phone.

Malul said that Pawlowski had told him that he had joined the Church in deep gratitude for having been saved by them during the war. Yet he still felt intensely Jewish, said the rabbi.

"He said 'I was born a Jew, I lived as a Christian, and I will die as a Jew,' and that 'my heart feels Jewish,'" Malul said.

The rabbi said that Pawlowski also took on some Jewish rites, such as having a mezuzah on the doorpost to his home, fasting on Yom Kippur, and refraining from eating leavened bread items on Passover.

He did not keep his unusual burial plans a secret, either.

He not only wrote in his will that he wanted to "have a minyan at his funeral and to have Kaddish [Jewish prayer for the dead – ed.] said," added Malul. "He even told the Church about his will, which took no small amount of courage to do. He wrote that he would remain a Christian till he died, but that afterward he was cutting himself off from Christianity. The Church respected his wishes, and he continued to serve as a priest."

Pawlowski died on October 21, aged 90, and Malul fulfilled his friend's will to the letter.

In 2008, on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, Pawlowski was interviewed extensively by a Catholic website and was asked why it was important to tell the entire story of his background.

"I did not want to live a lie," he answered. "I did not want to deny my roots, my mother, my father, my people. I want to be truthful. Thus, I have a homeland and that is Poland and I belong to the Polish people. However, I have a nation

that is first – the Jewish people. I was circumcised on the eighth day and I belong. I belong both to Poland and to Israel. I cannot speak against Poles because they saved me and I cannot speak against Jews because I am one of them."

Pawlowski did have one surviving relative, a brother who had fled into the USSR when it briefly held the area of Poland where the family lived. Chaim Gruner survived the war, emigrated to Israel and found his brother after reading an interview with Pawlowski in a Polish newspaper in 1966 in which he related his history and told of his plans to move to Israel.



With our normal community activities on hold due to the pandemic, the Jewish Federation has been arranging for many interesting, compelling programs to offer to our community online. As we sent out notices for these programs we realized that we do not have email addresses for about half of our JCN readership. We'd love to add you to our list. You will not be overrun with emails (about half a dozen a month) and you'll get information about some terrific programs.

Email us your email to: info@jfedps.org

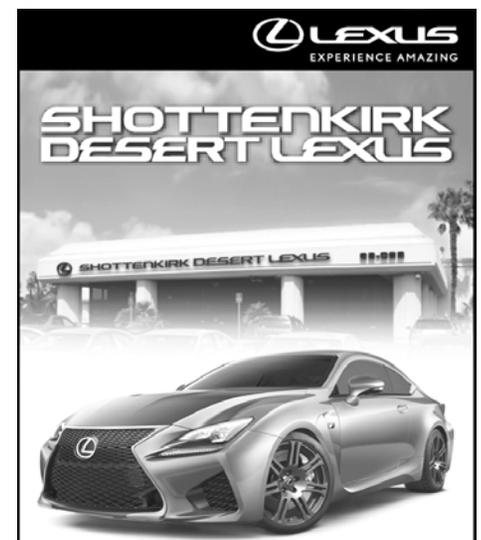


Opportunity Drawing!

We will be holding an Opportunity drawing at Women's Card Day for three \$100.00 gift certificates from local eateries and for 20 bottles of wine from France and California valued at over \$26.00 per bottle.

Tickets are being sold for \$10.00 a ticket and you **NEED NOT BE PRESENT THAT DAY TO WIN**. All proceeds go to our Federation's Tzedakah Fund.

Contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org to purchase your OPPORTUNITIES!



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Have A Nosh With Miriam

This year Chanukah begins the night of Sunday, November 28. This first recipe includes the little tricks that assure good crisp latkes. That onion marmalade topping came with the JCC Carrot Latke recipe but pairs well with many different latkes ... and is pareve, so a good option to serve with meat meals. Of course, there is the traditional applesauce for meat meals and sour cream for dairy. Enjoy! Happy Chanukah! -MHB



CRISPY TRADITIONAL POTATO LATKES (PAREVE)

2 lbs. Russet or Yukon Gold potatoes 2 large eggs, beaten
1 medium onion Salt & pepper to taste
½ cup chopped scallions Vegetable oil for frying
(green onions)

Peel potatoes and drop in cold water until all are peeled. Using a grater or food processor, coarsely grate the potatoes and onion. Place together in a fine-mesh strainer and press out all the water over a bowl. The potato starch will settle to the bottom. Carefully pour off the water and retain the potato starch, adding it to the potato/onion mixture in a bowl. Add the scallions, eggs, salt and pepper. Mix well.

Heat a thin film of oil in a non-stick frying pan. Use about 2 tablespoons of the potato mixture per latke and add to pan, flattening the mixture out with the back of the spoon or spatula. Fry until golden then flip and brown second side. Drain on paper towels. Serve immediately. Makes 24-28 latkes.

ST. LOUIS JCC CARROT LATKES (PAREVE)

1¼ lb. carrots ¼ teaspoon white pepper
½ small onion 3 Tbsp. flour
1 large egg About ½ cup oil for frying
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground ginger

Coarsely grate the carrot and onion. Transfer to large bowl. In a small bowl, beat egg with salt, ginger and pepper. Pour over carrots. Add flour and mix well. Heat half the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Drop batter by two spoonfuls into oil. Flatten slightly with spoon. Fry about 4 minutes per side, until golden brown. Keep temperature of oil at medium, so carrots will have time to cook, not burn. Add more oil to pan as needed. Stir batter for each new batch. Remove from pan to large cookie sheet covered with paper towels, to blot off excess oil. Place in warm oven to keep hot until all are cooked. Makes about four servings. Good with onion marmalade.

ONION MARMALADE TOPPING

2 Tbsp. olive oil 1 to 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
2½ lbs red or sweet onions, ⅓ cup dry red wine
 halved and sliced thin ¼ cup cranberry or cranberry
Salt and pepper to taste apple juice
⅓ cup red wine vinegar

Heat oil in saute pan over medium heat. Add onions and cook, stirring often, for five minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and cook at medium-low heat for another five minutes, until golden brown, stirring often. Lower heat if onions are browning too quickly. Add 1 Tbsp. sugar. Stir until dissolved. Add vinegar and bring to boil, stirring. Add wine and again bring to boil. Cook over medium-high heat until most the liquid has evaporated, stirring often. Add cranberry juice, stirring, until it is absorbed and onions are soft. Taste for seasoning and add last tablespoon of brown sugar, if needed, cooking for an additional minute for sugar to dissolve. Serve warm or cold.

'Baruch HaVaccine?'

By Shira Hanau, JTA

When Rabbi Lisa Gelber, spiritual leader of Congregation Habonim in New York City, heard that the Food and Drug Administration had approved the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine for children ages 5-11, she couldn't wait for the moment that her daughter would get the shot.

But she also knew her daughter was scared of needles. So she sat down with her daughter, 11-year-old Zahara, and together they composed a kavanah, Hebrew for intention, to

reflect the gravity and gratitude with which they viewed this milestone and process the feelings her daughter had about the shot.

"Holy One of life and love, wrap me in a warm embrace as I prepare to receive my COVID-19 vaccine," the prayer begins. "I give thanks to the doctors and scientists who are creators like you, for the wise people who approved the vaccine, and for everyone who made sure this was available to kids."

Guatemala Recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's Capital in a Revolutionary Way!

By Nosson Shulman, United With Israel

There is no doubt that the people of Guatemala have developed a special relationship with Israel. The Jewish state has played a huge role in helping the third world country develop its economy by providing humanitarian aid, disaster relief, clean water resources, agricultural training, medicine, and technological know-how.

The goodwill of the Guatemalans towards Israel is also reinforced by the fact that more than 50% of its population is Evangelical.

In turn, the Guatemalans have been a reliable friend. In addition to being a staunch ally of the Jewish State in the UN (they vote against almost all anti-Israel resolutions), on May 16, 2018 they became only the second country to move their embassy to Jerusalem after the US (who had done so only two days prior).

Being the second country to recognize the Holy City as Israel's rightful capital was big news in itself, but now the Guatemalans



27 Cities in This Country Have Streets Named Jerusalem Capital of Israel!

have taken it to the next level, not just merely recognizing the truth but proclaiming it loudly for all to hear!

In an unprecedented move, 27 cities in the country have officially named a street in their municipality as "Jerusalem the Capital of Israel," including Guatemala City (the country's capital). Matanya Cohen, Israel's Ambassador to Guatemala, believes that by next summer, 34 cities (10% of all cities in the country) will have a street bearing this name.



Simchas

No, Federation Associated Director **Kevin Giser** and Board member **Arnie Gillman** are not practicing safe distancing. What you see are two tables filled with Chanukah gifts collected by **Arnie's** diligent Jewish Men's Outreach group, to give to children participating in the Boomers Chanukah celebration, November 29th. Todah rabbah gentlemen! ... Last month we announced the birth of **Esther Pearl** and **Baruch Kreiman's** son on October 11, but we went to press before his bris so had to wait until this issue to share his



Kevin Giser and Arnie Gillman

name: **Nachum Noach Kreiman** ... On December 3 Temple Sinai is honoring four very special individuals who have devoted their waking hours, and most probably their dreams, to the growth

and flourishing of their temple. Mazel tov Mazel tov to **Gail and Saul Jacobs**, **Fred Fabricant** and **Jack Olshansky** ... Mazel tov to **Roni Spetalnick** on being installed for her third term as president

of Sabra Hadassah of the Desert. Two months into her first term the pandemic hit and her presidency has been a challenge these past 20 months but normalcy is beginning to return and Roni and her board look forward to a productive year. *Congratulations to **Terri Ketover** being honored with the 444th star on Palm Springs Walk of Stars October 2nd ... Share your Simchas with us. Email mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call **Miriam Bent** at 760-323-0255.*



Roni Spetalnick



Classifieds

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/ PERSONAL AFFAIRS MANAGER

Excellent local references. Bill paying, reconcile bank statement, run errands, drive to appointment. Computer help: MS Office, QuickBooks, emails. Notary. 2 hours minimum. Trustworthy, discreet, dependable. 760-408-5260.



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 3	Shabbat Miketz	3:54 pm
Friday, December 10	Shabbat Vayigash	3:55 pm
Friday, December 17	Shabbat Vayechi	3:57 pm
Friday, December 24	Shabbat Shmot	4:00 pm
Friday, December 31	Shabbat Vayeira	4:05 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Rina Eliashar and **Phil Hixon**. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



Celebrate Chanukah With Us!

Bikkur Cholim, Jewish Federation of the Desert & PJ Library invite you to the

Chanukah Party at **BOOMERS!**
Monday, November 29 at 5 PM

RSVP to 760-325-8076 or 760-324-4737

Community Schools

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

Children 18 months through
Elementary School
Alephschoolhouse.org
347-721-8782

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

Call 323-0255

We honor and thank
BRUCE LANDGARTEN
for his inspirational leadership and dedicated support of the Jewish community in the Inland and Desert region. Wishing Bruce a joyful retirement with many happy experiences.

— STUDENTS, STAFF
AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF INLAND AND DESERT HILLEL

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JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT

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(760) 324-4737

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Dear Friends,

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow; Jewish Federation is on the ground here in the Desert, in Israel and Overseas everyday. We focus on the quality of life for the Vulnerable, Educating community and Engaging the next generation. Our profound thanks for your continued support of the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

IRA ROLLOVER TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

While you're planning for the remainder of this year, we want to remind you that the IRA Charitable Rollover provision permits individuals 70 1/2 or older to donate up to \$100,000 annually from their IRAs to charities without having to count the distribution as taxable income. The donation counts toward the donor's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The provision allows for rollover directly to charitable organizations such as The Jewish Federation of the Desert, but NOT to "Donor Advised Funds".

The SECURE Act allows people 72 and over to abstain taking a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRAs in 2020. Therefore, your RMD for this year may be more than you expect. Rather than taking the entire RMD and paying income tax on the distribution, you can maximize your tax savings and support Federation's mission driven work for "Tikkun Olam", repairing the world.

GIVING STOCK

If you are using appreciated stock, it is important that you contact our office at (760) 324-4737 or email alberto.tejero@jfedps.org, and provide us with the donor's name, name of the security, and number of shares being transferred into our Charles Schwab account by December 27 to ensure a 2021 tax benefit.

Because of the tax advantages of contributing from your IRA, this retirement bucket is the optimal account to be considered for your charitable donations. When you make a contribution to Federation from your IRA, you should not take those distributions personally. Inform your IRA administrator to donate directly to Jewish Federation of the Desert on your behalf.

For IRA rollover contributions, please mail to:
Jewish Federation of the Desert, 69710 Hwy 111; Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Alberto Tejero
CFO

Bruce Landgarten
CEO

Roberta Nyman
Co-Board Chair

Jackie Cohen
Co-Board Chair



**The Strength of a People.
The Power of Community.**

