

Senate Unanimously Confirms Deborah Lipstadt as Antisemitism Monitor

By Ron Kampeas, JTA

The Senate in a voice vote unanimously confirmed Deborah Lipstadt, 75, the Holocaust scholar who endured delays and a contentious hearing in her nomination to be antisemitism monitor.

The vote March 30 took mere seconds. "The ayes appear to have it," Sen. Tammy Baldwin, the Wisconsin Democrat who was presiding over the session, said after calling for a vote. "The ayes do have it. The nomination is confirmed." There were no "Nos."

Still, the fact that none of Lipstadt's erstwhile Republican critics demanded debate or a headcount — actions that could have further delayed her nomination — was in

sharp contrast to the procedural manuevers Republicans used for months to delay her confirmation.

Jon Ossoff (D-GA) introduced the motion to nominate Lipstadt in part because he represents Georgia, where Lipstadt teaches at Emory University, but he also noted his Jewish roots in his 4-minute speech.

"It was U.S. forces who liberated Dachau and Buchenwald, and Annie and Israel, my great-grandparents, they got out of Europe," Ossoff said. "Many of my family did not, Madam President, and they perished in the Holocaust. This isn't ancient history.



Deborah Lipstadt

This is recent history. And right now, as we speak, the scourge of antisemitism is rising again, in this country and around the world. If we mean the words 'never again,' then at long last Madam President, let's confirm Deborah Lipstadt to fight antisemitism on behalf of the United States."

Lipstadt is now the first antisemitism monitor to have the role of ambassador, under a law passed by Congress in 2020, which enhances her status overseas when she makes representations to foreign governments and allows her more direct access to the secretary of state and to the president should she come across a situation that she believes requires executive action.

The fact that the rank of ambassador means the role requires Senate confirmation subjected Lipstadt to scrutiny. Her sharp past criticisms of former President Donald Trump, and particularly of Wisconsin Republican Sen. Ron Johnson, led to delays and a contentious hearing in February. Only two Republicans on the Foreign Relations Committee joined Democrats earlier this week in advancing the nomination.

A broad array of Jewish and pro-Israel groups advocated on behalf of Lipstadt, including groups as the Orthodox Union and Christians United for Israel that maintain close ties with Republicans.

Palestinian Scholar Claims Jews Started Ukraine War to Establish a Second Jewish State

By *Algemeiner Staff*

A leading Palestinian Muslim scholar went on a bizarre rant on Turkish television, claiming that the Jews started the war in Ukraine in order to establish a new Jewish state there and "are now saying that the Temple and biblical Jerusalem are located in Ukraine and not in Palestine."

According to a translation by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), Mraweh Nassar, the Secretary-General of the Jerusalem Committee of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, made the statements on Turkey's Channel 9, an Arabic-language outlet affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Nassar claimed that Israel now wants to align with Russia and China because "America has forsaken them," with the US supposedly telling Israel,

"your [Zionist] project is a failure, and you are bound to come to an end — if not this year, then the next."

As a result, he claimed, "even the Jews themselves" — including Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman and former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu — "are now convinced that Palestine cannot be the state for the Jews. So, they started saying that holy Jerusalem is in Ukraine and not in Palestine. Ukraine is now the candidate to become the future Jewish state."

"They are now saying that the Temple and biblical Jerusalem are located in Ukraine and not in Palestine," Nassar said. "If this does not work, tomorrow they might say that they are in the Netherlands."

Neither Lieberman nor Netanyahu



Palestinian Muslim scholar Mraweh Nassar
denies Holocaust

has made such a statement.

"Perhaps one of the reasons [the Jews] instigated this war was to empty out Ukraine," Nassar mused.

The cleric also appeared to falsely claim that a Jewish state already exists in Ukraine, saying, "The whole world knows about the Jewish state in eastern Ukraine. I remembered that there were 43,000 [Jews] there, but now they say 200,000."

"It is an independent state, and they did not want to spread the word about it, so they would not be told to go there rather than come to Palestine," he claimed.

Nassar also simultaneously denied the Holocaust and falsely claimed that Jews were responsible for it, saying, "Even in the false Holocaust... There is a book written by a Jew, which asks 'Who killed the Jews?' They were offered to take the Jews for five dollars each. They took one look, saw that most of them were old, and said: 'We don't want them.' A Jew wrote this book and said: 'We killed the Jews' — that is what he means — 'because we refused to accept 100,000 or 200,000 Jews who were in Germany, in exchange for a handful of dollars.'"



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'March of the Living' Resumes After 2-Year Hiatus: 'Almost the Last Opportunity to March with Holocaust Survivors'

By Benjamin Kerstein, *The Algemeiner*

The International March of the Living resumed its annual pilgrimage to the remains of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps in Poland. In April, following a two-year hiatus, with organizers calling it "almost the last opportunity to march alongside Holocaust survivors."

Due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, which borders Poland, the march will be limited in scope, organizers said. Only around 2,000 people will attend.

It will take place on April 28 to coincide with Yom HaShoah, Israel's official Holocaust Memorial Day.

"In the last few years, the International March of the Living and the world as a whole have lost many Holocaust survivors," the organization's leadership said in a statement. "This is almost the last opportunity to march alongside Holocaust survivors. It is our responsibility to carry the torch of their memory even in the face of the tragic ongoing war in Ukraine."

Eve Kugler, a survivor who will participate in the march, also warned of the dwindling number of living witnesses to the Holocaust.

"We survivors are becoming an increasingly rare breed," she said. "And this should worry you more than it worries me. It should worry you because hatred of Jewish people and Holocaust denial are still prevalent."

"If this is how the memory of the



Participants at March of the Living walk the train tracks leading to Auschwitz-Birkenau Death Camp.

Holocaust is treated — or dare I say abused — when those who suffered it are still here to tell our story ... then how much worse will it be when the survivors are no more than a distant memory?" Kugler

asked.

Eitan Neishlos, the grandson of Holocaust survivor Tamar Zisserman, emphasized the responsibility of youth to carry on the memory of the Holocaust and its survivors.

"Out of great respect to those who perished, and tremendous esteem for the survivors, today the responsibility is passed to members of the third generation," he said. "From now on, we will preserve their memory and demand of ourselves that 'Never Means Never.' This duty is not a burden, it is a privilege."

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Events Recap

A joint effort by Alan Potash, CEO and Cora Ginsberg, Campaign Chair

Alan:

I shared in my eblast update after our two wonderful events: Lion of Judah and Major Gifts that I was inspired by the welcoming that I received as the new Jewish Federation of the Desert CEO. But what I want to share in this article is not only were the events meaningful and successful, but also that I am honored to be part of this community. The role of the Federation is to raise funds from individuals and then give those funds to organizations who meet our criteria of caring for the vulnerable, promoting Jewish Education and Identity, support Community



Inclusion and Engagement, Addressing Antisemitism and supporting our partners in Israel and Overseas.

That is a tall order.

Campaign Chair Cora Ginsberg and I want to share the highlights from these two events:

Speaking of Tall Orders, the keynote speaker for Lion of Judah started a project after losing her husband in 9/11, providing socks for first responders, which led to a business called Tall Order. Lisa Friedman Clark gave a powerful talk on how her family and others were supported by federations after the attack on 9/11. Her small project has turned into a vibrant business and story. Her twin sons now lead the business as a constant memory of their father who died on that awful day. As part of their business model a percentage of the sales of the socks and other garments goes to support first responders and

other relief operations. She did sell socks at the Lion of Judah event and will donate back to the Federation a percentage of the sales. A Lion in the room, Pat Kenner bought socks for everyone in the room as a donation on behalf of the Federation. Phyllis Eisenberg agreed to help us distribute the socks.

The Lion of Judah movement has been an incredible asset to Jewish philanthropy here and around the world. The sisterhood of the Lion community has contributed more than a billion dollars over the past 50 years, establishing it as a powerful force in tzedakah. The women have broken the glass ceiling in the world of endowments. Demonstrating philanthropic support long after they pass away. For example, there are thirty women in our community that have already set up their Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE).

In addition to the beautiful Lion of Judah event, we held the Major Gifts event under the stars.

This year's beautiful event was a welcome back celebration to thank our donors and to highlight the work for the Federation. The keynote speaker was the former Israeli ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer. He addressed the over 130 people in attendance, focusing on key issues from an Israeli perspective on Russia and Ukraine, Iran, Antisemitism, and other significant points between Israel and the US relations.

Thank you all for your support of the Jewish Federation of the Desert. Please look forward to future updates on how we are going to make an impact in our community.

Sincerely,

Cora & Alan

Germany Gets Approval for Israel's Arrow 3 Missile Defense System

By Anna Ahronheim, *The Jerusalem Post*

Germany has received approval from Israel and the United States to purchase the Arrow-3 missile defense system, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

German legislators have in the past pushed for Berlin to buy Israel's Iron Dome system to ward off aerial threats, but on April 4 the head of the German Air Force Lt. Gen. Ingo Gerhardt told the *Post* that the Arrow 3 is the most relevant system for the threats facing the European nation.

"The Iron Dome is used for short-range threat and we have quite a capable industry back home and we will procure systems for that," Gerhardt said. "And for higher interceptors, we have the Patriot weapons system that we will modernize. If it means [threats at a range of] 15,000km and then it is exoatmospheric we do not have anything and that is why I had a close look at the Arrow 3 and we are really interested in the system."

The purchase of the system, which

has been pushed by Chancellor Olaf Scholz, "starts with the approval of Israel and the United States and they gave us the approval," Gerhardt said. "They gave us the approval that we can cooperate on it. But, we still have to talk about the details."

Should Germany buy the system it would mark the first time that the Arrow 3, one of Israel's most advanced air defense systems capable of intercepting ballistic missiles at altitudes of over 100 km and with a reported range of up to 2,400km, has been sold to another country.

Russia has stationed Iskander missiles in locations that could reach many European cities like Berlin. The missiles, that have been used in Ukraine, fly too high to be destroyed by conventional air defense systems.

"We must all prepare ourselves for the fact that we have a neighbor that is currently prepared to use force to assert

its interests. That's why we have to work together to make sure that doesn't happen," Sholz said in an interview with German television last week.

According to German newspaper *Bild am Sonntag*, the procurement of the system which is still under development will cost at least two billion euros. The report said that system would be operational by 2025 and its Green Pine radar would be set up at three locations in Germany from where data would then be sent to NATO Air Force Combined Air Operations Center in Uedem.

Should there be a missile threat, an interceptor missile would be launched



to destroy it.

The Arrow-3 development program is one of the joint programs between Israel and the United States, was co-managed by the US Missile Defense Agency and Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO) in the Directorate of Defense R&D of the Israel Ministry of Defense.

The Arrow 3 is a highly maneuverable system designed to provide ultimate air defense by intercepting ballistic missiles when they are still outside the Earth's atmosphere and is considered one of the world's best interceptors due to its breakthrough technological capabilities. The Arrow 3 is the only interceptor that doesn't carry a warhead but intercepts an incoming missile by crashing into it.

The new latest generation of the Arrow 3 system is believed to have better interceptor capabilities at a much higher altitude and much further away from the soil.

New Initiative to Support Participation in Jewish Summer Camps

By Alan Potash, CEO

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is pleased to announce a new initiative to support participating in Jewish Summer Camps. With the support from generous donors and the Jewish Federation of the Desert. The Jewish Federation of the Desert is establishing a Jewish Summer Camp scholarship program for children in grades 3-11 to encourage attendance at Jewish summer residential camp.



Eligibility requirements for the Jewish Experience Scholarship include:

- 1) The maximum of \$1,000 per summer and available for up to two summers
- 2) The scholarship is available for children currently enrolled in grades 3 through 11

- 3) The camp session must be two weeks or longer
- 4) The program must be a summer residential Jewish camp recognized by the Jewish Federation of the Desert
- 5) The child must attend religious school during the year of the camp experience.
- 6) The family must be a contributor, in good standing, to the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of the Desert
- 7) The family must be a resident of Riverside County in California
- 8) Upon returning from camp write a letter of appreciation to the donors and an article to the Jewish Community News

For more information contact Alberto Tejero at the Jewish Federation of the Desert 760-324-4737.

Recipient Shares a Program Receiving Federation Funds

Temple Sinai's Religious School Purim Celebration



On March 13 Temple Sinai's Religious School celebrated

Purim.

We began our day with the Purim Megillah (the scroll of Esther), read by Rabbi Novak.

Our students, volunteers, guests, and staff shook their groggers (Yiddish for "noisemakers") every time we heard the name of the villain Haman being mentioned.

We continued with baking chocolate and marmalade filled hamantaschens, while practicing naming the ingredients in Hebrew.

Giving directly to those experiencing poverty, matanot l'evyonim, became our mitzvah project. Giving to others honors Esther and Mordechai's legacy of saving the Jewish people.



Our students filled 86 draw-string backpacks that were distributed among Martha's Village and Kitchen & Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine, with an abundance of donated hygienic supplies. They also enjoyed writing encouraging cards that

were placed in each backpack.

We concluded our celebratory day with our older students staging a funny Purim-spiel (Yiddish for "play"), and, of course, enjoying the warm, freshly baked, hamantaschen.

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JCN STATEMENT

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

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The Advice I Gave Madeleine Albright When She Found Out She Was Jewish

By Stuart E. Eisenstadt, for JTA



Madeleine Albright

Madeleine Albright, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (1993-1997) and the first woman to hold the post of Secretary of State (1997-2001) during the Clinton presidency, passed away March 23, 2022. Her long-time colleague, Stuart E. Eisenstadt, the newly appointed chair of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, governing board of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, shared the poignant story of when Albright discovered her Jewish ancestry and how it impacted her work in world politics thereafter.

It was mid-January 1996, and I was in my hotel room in Davos, Switzerland, at the World Economic Forum. She called me through a secure line from her office in the State Department during the transition following Bill Clinton's 1996 reelection, before she was confirmed by the Senate as the first female Secretary of State in American history. I was about to be nominated by the president to the position she offered me as her Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business & Economic Affairs. She asked, "How long have you known me?"



Stuart E. Eisenstadt

"Well," I replied, "20 years, since you and I worked together in the West Wing of the Carter White House, you as congressional liaison for the National Security Council under Zbig Brzezinski, and me as President Carter's Chief Domestic Policy Adviser."

The next question was even more odd: "What religion am I?"

"Madeleine, of course, you are a Czech Catholic. What's this all about?"

She explained that a Washington Post reporter, Michael Dobbs, was doing an investigative article on her background as she awaited Senate confirmation, and shockingly determined that she was Jewish, not Catholic. She had known that her parents twice fled Czechoslovakia: first to London as Hitler and the Nazis were going to take over, and then again in 1948, this time to the United States, after her father, a Czech diplomat who returned after the war, was confronted by Stalin and the Communists. She did not know that both of her parents were born Jewish and converted to Catholicism during the war, raising her and her siblings as Catholics.

"What must I do?" she asked. She told me she feared the American Jewish community would oppose her nomination, believing that she was embarrassed by and covered up her Jewish past, and this might sink her confirmation. Moreover, she said, "What am I supposed to say to my three girls? Am I to tell them they should now convert to Judaism?"

My instant advice was to tell the truth, which was that she never knew about her parents' conversion; to embrace her newly discovered Jewish past with pride; and that of course, neither she nor her three children should feel they needed to convert to Judaism. I also explained that given

my work on Holocaust justice in the Clinton administration, and frequent interaction with Holocaust survivors, that the Jewish community understood that during World War II all sorts of methods were used to protect Jewish children, including placing them in Catholic convents or in Christian households where they were raised by righteous gentiles.

I told her that several of the Jewish friends I had made in Belgium when I was U.S. Ambassador to the European Union had been saved in just that way. Tomas Kraus, the head of the Federation of Czech Jewish Communities, later confirmed that "it is common for Jews from this part of the world to be ignorant of their Jewish roots."

By being candid, I was certain there would be no blow-back either from the Jewish community or the Senate. Besides, I reminded her, as U.N. Ambassador during Clinton's first four years in office, she had established herself as a strong, fervent supporter of Israel against Arab attacks.

She followed my advice and was confirmed with a remarkable 99-0 vote.

But Madeleine Albright went beyond my fondest hopes in identifying with her Jewish past. As Secretary of State, in her maiden trip to her Prague birthplace in July 1997, she went straight to the Pinkas Synagogue to look for her grandparents' names among the more than 77,000 Czech and Slovak Holocaust victims lovingly inscribed by Czech survivors on the wall of the synagogue. She found the names of her paternal grandparents, Arnost and Olga Korbel, who had perished in the Nazi death camps — Arnost in Theresienstadt in 1942 and her grandmother in Auschwitz

in 1944. At the synagogue she said publicly, "Tonight...their image will be forever seared into my heart."

Later during her tour to welcome her native Czech Republic and two other former Soviet bloc countries into NATO — a burning issue today with the Russian invasion of Ukraine — she toured other Jewish sites in Prague, and movingly confronted her past: "The evil of the Holocaust" has taken on "even greater personal meaning" since she learned the fate of her grandparents. "To the many values and many facets that make up who I am, I now add the knowledge that my grandparents and members of my family perished in the worst catastrophe in human history. So I leave her tonight with the certainty that this new part of my identity adds something stronger, sadder and richer to my life."

She went a step further and on a later trip went to the small villages where her fraternal and maternal grandparents had lived, to try to relive their history.

As her Under Secretary, I saw up-close how her background as a refugee from fascism shaped her foreign policy views and her greatest triumphs in the two Balkan Wars, in Bosnia and Kosovo. As U.N. Ambassador, she joined with National Security Adviser Tony Lake to successfully urge President Clinton, over Pentagon and State Department opposition, to take aggressive U.S. leadership of NATO and direct military strikes against Bosnian Serbs following the brutality against Bosnian Muslims encouraged by Serbian strongman President Slobodan Milošević.

The July 1995 massacre of more than 7,000 Bosnian men and boys at

continued on next page

Johnson Criticizes UK Universities for 'Being Tolerant of Antisemitism'

By JNS.org

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said universities in the United Kingdom have for "far too long been tolerant of casual or indeed systematic antisemitism."

The prime minister made the remark on March 23 in response to a question by Parliament member Andrew Percy during the "Prime Minister's Questions" event in the Commons Chamber, reported Britain's news channel GBN.

Percy asked about the National

Union of Students inviting British rapper, activist and conspiracy theorist Lowkey to appear at its annual conference. Lowkey was due to perform at the conference at the end of March but pulled out on Friday after Jewish students expressed concerns about his participation in the event.

Percy said Lowkey has "engaged in antisemitic conspiracy theories."

The British MP called on Johnson to do "everything in his power to



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

ensure campuses were a safe place for Jewish students," according to Jewish News. He also noted the rise of antisemitism on college

campuses and cited examples of Jewish students facing antisemitic attacks and being "marked down by their own professors."

Johnson said it was important that the United Kingdom have an antisemitism task force "devoted to rooting out" the problem "in education at all levels." He also said it was "very important [that] we now have—and I hope everyone understands—the need for change, for rapid and irreversible change."

Singapore to Open Embassy in Israel After 57 Years of Ties, in Sign of Abraham Accords' Spillover Effects

By Ron Kampeas, JTA

Singapore will upgrade its presence in Israel from consulate to embassy, in the latest move reflecting thawing relations between Israel and Muslim countries.

Israel and Singapore forged diplomatic ties in 1965 and have enjoyed friendly relations for decades. Israel sells Singapore defense equipment and has had an embassy in the country since 1968.

continued from previous page

Srebrenica, dumped into a mass grave, evoked for her the Holocaust her parents had escaped. She confronted Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Colin Powell, stating, "What's the point of having this superb military that you're always talking about if we can't use it?" That military action paved the way for the Dayton Accords negotiated by Richard Holbrooke, the peace agreement that ended the war.

In January 1999, following another Serb massacre of Kosovo Albanians at the small Kosovo village of Racak, Secretary of State Albright brilliantly combined diplomacy with NATO military force, again over Defense Department opposition, to secure a

However, Singapore, mindful of its huge Muslim-majority neighbors, Malaysia and Indonesia, has sought to keep the ties out of the public eye. The Times of Israel reported that Israel's defense minister, Benny Gantz, visited the country last year but kept it quiet out of deference to Singapore.

Now, Singapore is openly boasting about its Israel relations. Vivian Balakrishnan, the Southeast Asian

city-state's foreign minister, made the embassy announcement Monday in Jerusalem where he was meeting with Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid. The embassy will be in Tel Aviv.

The advent of the Abraham Accords normalizing ties between Israel and four Arab nations, brokered in 2020 by the Trump administration in its final months, has eased the stigma of open ties with Israel among nations

sensitive to Muslim sensibilities.

Since the launch of the Abraham Accords, not only has Israel normalized ties with the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Morocco and Bahrain, it has improved existing diplomatic relations with Egypt, Jordan and Turkey. The Biden administration is committed to expanding the Abraham Accords, one of its few areas of agreement with the Trump administration.

peace which lasts to this day.

She was a strong, constant supporter of my work on Holocaust justice in my negotiations with Swiss and French banks, German and Austrian slave labor companies, and European insurance companies. She gave the keynote speech at the Washington Conference which led to the Washington Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, where she wove her own Holocaust background into the contemporary challenge of returning looted art. And she asked me to lead the U.S. delegation to the Kyoto conference on Climate Change, giving me strong backing for the Kyoto Protocols.

We went through tragedies as well. I accompanied her to Dover Air Force

Base, where we met the flag-draped coffins of American diplomats killed in terrorist attacks at the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and she gave an uplifting speech on the sacrifices American diplomats take to try to create a better world.

Madeleine Albright, tiny in stature but huge in impact, had a charisma, a sparkle, a brilliance and a fluency in Czech, French, Polish and Russian. She connected the foreign policy she forged with President Clinton to the lives of everyday people around the world. All of these qualities made her larger than life. One of her trademarks was wearing a variety of brooches on the lapel of her clothing to underline her political and diplomatic messages.

When I asked why, since she had not done this in our early years together, she recalled when Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein, following his invasion of Kuwait, compared her to an "unparalleled serpent." She wore a snake pin in response, and a tradition as born.

The United States has lost a great American public servant, a role model for women as the first female Secretary of State, a professor at Georgetown University, an author, a lifelong proponent of democracy and human rights, a constant friend of Israel, and someone who embraced her Jewish background. And I have lost a dear friend.

California Book Festival Rescinds Invitation to Author Alice Walker Over Past Antisemitic Comments

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

A book festival in California has disinvited Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and poet Alice Walker from its event due to the author's history of making antisemitic remarks about Jews and Israel.

Walker, 78, was scheduled to interview writer Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, at the latter's request, at the headlining event of the annual Bay Area Book Festival, which will take place May 7-8 in downtown Berkeley and is set to feature over 250 authors. The festival is the main project of the Foundation for the Future of Literature and Literacy, a California non-profit organization.

Organizers cancelled Walker's participation in the festival on March 24 after being informed about her past hateful comments, *The Jewish News of Northern California* reported March 25. Jeffers subsequently pulled out of the festival in response, the festival's publicist Julia Drake told the outlet.

"We were aware of the fact that Alice Walker had made some controversial statements in the past, but we weren't aware of the extent of it," Drake said. "One of the big missions

of the festival is we won't tolerate any hate speech or antisemitic statements, so we realized that this was not something that we could do."

Drake added that organizers are now searching for "another headlining event that is worthy of the festival."

Walker, who was the first Black woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for fiction for "The Color Purple" in 1983, has repeatedly compared Israel to Nazi Germany and is an avid supporter of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. In 2011, she claimed, "I think Israel is the greatest terrorist in that part of the world. And I think in general, the United States and Israel are great terrorist organizations themselves." That same year she said Israel is "as



Alice Walker

frightening to many of us as Germany used to be." Walker has also made antisemitic claims about Jews and Israel in her poetry.

She told an Israeli publisher in 2012 that she does not allow "The Color Purple" to be translated into Hebrew because "Israel is guilty of apartheid and persecution of the Palestinian people, both inside Israel and also in the Occupied Territories."

In a 2018 interview with *The New York Times*, the author and human

rights activist promoted the book "And the Truth Shall Set You Free," by British conspiracy theorist David Icke, which claims Jews control the world and includes quotes from notorious "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." In the book, Icke describes the Talmud as "among the most appallingly racist documents on the planet," and argues that Jews are secretly responsible for various racist groups, including the Ku Klux Klan.

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Wednesday, May 18th - 3:30 PM

PART I will deal with the northeast coast (New York NY, Newport RI, Philadelphia PA)

Wednesday, June 15th - 3:30 PM

PART II will cover the southern area (Savannah GA, Charleston SC, New Orleans, LA and Galveston, TX)

Wednesday, August 3rd - 3:30 PM

PART III will discuss the northern midwest areas (Chicago, IL, Minneapolis MN and St. Louis, MO)

Wednesday, September 14 - 3:30 PM PART IV will cover the west (New Mexico, Arizona, California)

Each session will have an abbreviated syllabus and reading list • Each session stands alone

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Sierra Club Reverses Course After Canceling Trips to Israel

By Gabe Stutman, News editor; J. The Jewish News of Northern California (3-15)

Following an advocacy campaign by national Jewish and pro-Israel organizations, the Oakland-based Sierra Club has reversed its recent decision to cancel trips to Israel.

"Recently, the Sierra Club hastily made a decision, without consulting a robust set of stakeholders, to postpone two planned outings to Israel," a statement from executive director Dan Chu, released Tuesday afternoon, said. "The process that led to this was done in ways that created confusion, anger, and frustration."

"Let me be clear: the Sierra Club's mission is to enjoy, explore and protect the planet," it went on, "and we do not take positions on foreign policy matters that are beyond that scope."

"For nearly a decade now, Israel is one of the countries we've offered outings to," it continued. "As such, we intend to update our schedule soon to offer new outings to Israel later this year. We are committed to working with stakeholders to ensure these trips are crafted in a way that better reflects the range of diversity in the region."

The announcement followed a concerted advocacy campaign from Jewish and pro-Israel organizations, that included an outpouring of public statements, open letters and a virtual meeting with Sierra Club leadership.

California Jewish advocacy groups and state politicians met virtually with Sierra Club officials. Tye Gregory, who heads the S.F.-based Jewish Community Relations Council, attended the meeting and said he was "encouraged" by the response of Sierra Club leadership.

J. broke the news of Sierra Club's decision to cancel trips to Israel, which include tours of the country's ancient ruins, natural landscapes and bird populations.

The JCRC in Silicon Valley also attended the Monday meeting, as did the Jewish environmental group Hazon, state Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco and Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel of the San Fernando Valley, the chair and vice chair of California's Legislative Jewish Caucus.

Days of dueling statements, social media posts and open letters from interest groups followed the Friday report. While Jewish pro-Israel groups excoriated the decision to cancel, pro-Palestinian and anti-Zionist organizations celebrated it as a major win in their efforts to protest the Jewish state.

Among the Jewish organizations pressuring Sierra Club to reverse course were the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, JCRC and others, who criticized the historic American

nonprofit sharply, saying it had wrongly embraced the controversial boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, had acquiesced to groups that demonize Israel unfairly, or had caved to interest groups that pose an obstacle to peace by rejecting Israel's existence.

The Palestinian Adalah Campaign for the Boycott of Israel, Jewish Voice for Peace, the NDN Collective, the Movement for Black Lives and at least three other groups were behind the effort to urge Sierra Club leadership to cancel the Israel tours, charging that the trips "erase the existence of the Palestinian people and Israel's systemic racism," provide legitimacy to Israel and tacitly overlook environmental crimes committed against Palestinians, such as redirecting water to Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

The trips "greenwash Israel's system of apartheid," the groups wrote in a February 22 letter to Chu and Sierra Club's board of directors, and "make a mockery of the Sierra Club's stated commitment" to grow the environmental movement "so that oppressed communities will find justice."

After the Sierra Club's decision came to light, Jewish and pro-Israel groups worked quickly to mobilize a response that included public statements and the subsequent

meeting.

ADL executive director Jonathan Greenblatt shared his concern in an open letter to Chu that the organization was making concessions to groups that try to "shut down any form of engagement or interaction with Israel or Israelis."

These groups, Greenblatt wrote, "present a biased and simplistic approach to the complex Israeli-Palestinian conflict, positioning this dispute over territorial and nationalist claims as the fault of only one party — Israel — while ignoring other actors and dynamics."

"Experiencing Israel through its environment, geology, history and people does not negate, nor 'greenwash,' the pressing reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Greenblatt added.

"No other country has been singled out," Gregory wrote in an email to the JCRC community, arguing that claims of "greenwashing" played into antisemitic tropes. "An autumn trip to China, for example, is proceeding."

Meanwhile, pro-Palestinian and anti-Zionist organizations had issued statements praising what appeared to be a successful campaign to hold Israel accountable for what they consider to be crimes committed against Palestinians.

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Iowa Governor Signs Antisemitism, Israel Boycott Bills

By Andrew Lapin, JTA

Iowa's governor signed bills into law on March 23, codifying a definition of antisemitism for the state and restricting state business with companies that boycott Israel.

One of the two bills signed by Republican Kim Reynolds calls for the state to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism in discrimination and anti-bias training.

The other builds on an existing section of the state code that prohibited it from investing in "companies that boycott Israel," by expanding the definition of a "company" to include subsidiaries and parent companies.

"Today we express Iowa's enduring support for the State of Israel and our categorical rejection of anti-Semitism," Reynolds said in a statement. "Together, these bills send an important message: Iowa continues to stand shoulder to

shoulder with the State of Israel, one of America's most important and reliable allies while fighting all forms of religious and ethnic discrimination."

The bills fall into two separate but related trends of legislation. The IHRA's 2016 working definition of antisemitism, while controversial for including certain criticisms of Israel, has also been adopted by more than 800 entities worldwide, including 200 just last year, according to a recent study by the Combat Antisemitism Movement and Tel Aviv University.



Iowa Governor
Kim Reynolds

Its use in anti-bias training, as is proposed in the new Iowa law, has proven popular even as some Republicans are seeking to outlaw anti-bias training altogether.

And state provisions on working with companies that "boycott Israel," passed in a flurry during the initial heyday of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement, have reentered the spotlight since the ice cream company Ben & Jerry's announced last year that it would no longer do business in "Occupied Palestinian Territory."

Since that announcement, numerous states (including Colorado in late March) have invoked their anti-boycott laws to divest public funds

from Unilever, the parent company of Ben & Jerry's.

Though Iowa has already had such a provision on the books since 2016, the specific description of which companies are now included under the law would likely make it easier for the state to inflict subsequent punishment on Unilever over the Ben & Jerry's controversy. The bill was first introduced last month.

Reynolds was accompanied at the signing ceremony by Yinam Cohen, Israel's Consulate General to the Midwest.

About 5,400 Jews live in Iowa, making up 0.2% of the state's population, according to a 2020 study by Jewish demographers Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky.

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Arab Women in Jerusalem Study Hebrew for a Stronger Future

The Lissan nonprofit teaches Hebrew to 400 Arab women in Jerusalem seeking more independence and employment opportunities.

By Naama Barak ISRAEL 21C

Almost a decade ago, a group of women from the Arab Jerusalem neighborhood of Isawiya looked for a program where they could study Hebrew. They didn't find anything appropriate and ended up inviting two students from the nearby Hebrew University to teach them.

They enjoyed their studies so much, that a year later they sought to bring aboard all their female friends, relatives, and neighbors.

That's how the "Women Speaking Hebrew" program began. Fast forward a few years, and it's now under the umbrella of the nonprofit organization Lissan (Arabic for "language" or "tongue") that promotes gender and social equality in Jerusalem.

"Hebrew is an absolutely vital need in east Jerusalem," explains Lissan CEO Talia Vekshtein. "Jerusalem is a city whose institutes and public bodies operate in Hebrew. To get any service, to speak with doctors at the hospital, to understand the letters from City Hall and to confidently and independently go around the place you have to know the language."

Vekshtein notes that 64 percent of the women in eastern Jerusalem don't speak any Hebrew, compared to only 12 percent of the men. "That keeps them dependent on their partners to carry out basic actions," she says.

Unlike elsewhere in the country, Hebrew wasn't traditionally included in the east Jerusalem school curriculum. Recent years have seen a rise in Hebrew lessons both in schools and by private tutors, but the level isn't always great and private lessons are expensive, especially for one of the poorest

communities in Israel.

To empower these women and help them gain more independence, Lissan runs multiple all-women's language courses, makes information regarding issues such as national medical and social security rights more accessible, and offers courses geared at finding employment.

Registration fees are symbolic and are waived when they can't be paid.

Learning About Each Other

The Women Speaking Hebrew program is now comprised of 40 volunteer teachers, eight coordinators and 400 female students, ranging in level from beginners to advanced.

Nasra Dahdal from the neighborhood of Shuafat tells ISRAEL21c that she has wanted to learn Hebrew for a while. As an Arabic teacher and former employee of the University of Bethlehem, she didn't come across many Hebrew-speaking Israelis.

"To know a person, you should learn their language. Without talking to each other you can't learn about each other, so I thought that it would be good to join and learn," she says.

A few months into the program, she's enjoying the teaching and the level, and as a retiree has plenty of time to focus on her studies.

"Within three months, I read and write very well, although I still have problems with [differentiating between the Hebrew letters] kuf and kaf. But I'm practicing. I'm a teacher myself, and I know how to study," she says.

"This is a very, very good course for me. I'm enjoying it and having



Lissan's women-only Hebrew classes make it comfortable and appropriate for all participants.



There are some 400 students enrolled in Lissan classes, taught by 40 volunteer teachers.



Lissan Hebrew classes start at beginners' level and are geared toward employment.

fun with the teachers, playing with learning, learning some songs – children's songs, but [it makes] you feel young," she laughs. "I say that no matter how old you are, you need to keep on with life and have to carry on. If not for you then for your children. If you educate your children, you open a window for them. Without the language you can't get around. It's very difficult."

Still, the course has practical benefits for Dahdal herself too.

"You receive a document from the bank, from the post office, from different places and you have to find

someone to translate. I do Google Translate of course, but it's not really accurate for official documents like taxes, bank statements, HMO statements," she notes. "Everything is in Hebrew. Even when they say on the phone 'Press 1 for Arabic,' you find the recorder telling you many things in Hebrew."

Less alienating

Lissan is supported by philanthropic funds and private donors. Hebrew University provides the program with classrooms and grants credit points to students who volunteer as teachers.

One such student is Avital Ende, who's studying for her master's in art history. Last year she volunteered as a teacher, and this year she's a pedagogical coordinator.

As Ende explains, even teaching Hebrew at beginners' level has a huge impact on students.

"It's not as if they had complete grasp of the language, found a job or became completely integrated. And yet, I do think that even on the most basic level – of going to the mall and being able to ask where Zara is or getting on the bus and being capable of asking where to get off, or going to National Insurance offices or to the local HMO, and for the language around you to be less alienating – I find that to be significant," she says.

"I'm originally from Jerusalem myself, and I think there's great value in bringing together [people from] different parts of the city. For me, it's also been an opportunity to meet this large part from which there's great detachment," she adds. Ende is committed to learning Arabic, too.

continued on next page

Israel is One of the Top 10 Happiest Countries

The newest UN World Happiness Report puts Israel in ninth place, its highest ranking in the report's 10 years.

By Abigail Klein Leichman Israel 21c

Israel ranked ninth in the 2022 World Happiness Report issued by the United Nations on March 18, moving up from 12th place last year to its highest-ever position. The Happiness Ranking is based on a three-year-average from 2019-2021.

The other countries in the top 10 are Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway and (in 10th place) New Zealand.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the World Happiness Report, which uses global survey

data to report how people evaluate their own lives in more than 150 countries.

Scores are based on individuals' assessments of their lives, as well as variables including GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, and perceptions about freedom, generosity and corruption.

The report's authors note that over the past decade, life evaluations rose by more than a full point on the 0 to 10 scale in 15 countries – including Israel – and fell by that amount or more in eight countries.

Interestingly, however, Israel

ranked in the bottom 10 in terms of how many respondents to the survey would opt for a calm life over an exciting life.

"The World Happiness Report 2022 reveals a bright light in dark times. The pandemic brought not only pain and suffering but also

an increase in social support and benevolence. As we battle the ills of disease and war, it is essential to remember the universal desire for happiness and the capacity of individuals to rally to each other's support in times of great need."

continued from previous page

Female Empowerment

For field coordinator Munira 'Abd al-Hadi, Arabic is far from foreign. Originally from the Arab town of Iksal in northern Israel, she's now studying chemistry at the Hebrew University and working as a matriculation and psychometric teacher alongside her position at Lissan.

She stresses that learning Hebrew is empowering for women, and that their studies can have far-reaching impact on their surroundings.

"We see the importance of female empowerment and how women are a very important part of Arab society because they form the basis of the home. Most of the work inside the home is done by women, since they raise and educate the children. We want to promote women and empower them and also to give them the chance to go out to work," she explains.

The most important thing she wants the Lissan students to gain, she says, is the confidence to know "there's nothing that can get in the

way of achieving their goals. They're not worth less than anyone else in Jerusalem. Whether they're just studying or going out to work, this empowerment is the most important thing for them and their families."

Lissan CEO Vekshtein concurs. "Our goal is for every woman in east Jerusalem to have the liberty and independence to be in charge of her life, to exercise her rights and to have access to the rights and resources that she deserves," she says.

She looks forward to running Hebrew classes at community centers in east Jerusalem, also for men, in conjunction with City Hall; continuing Hebrew teacher training classes; and resuming Arabic-language courses geared at medical teams that were put on halt during Covid. There's also a pilot project in the works to teach Hebrew to Bedouin women in the Negev desert.

"We aspire to expand into more projects and to reach more women and audiences that require our services," Vekshtein concludes.

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- 1 Jewish Federation Co-President Jackie Cohen, Lion of Judah Co-chair Carol Fragen, Guest speaker Lisa Friedman Clark, Lion of Judah Co-chair Phyllis Eisenberg and Jewish Federation Co-President Roberta Nyman
2 Jackie Cohen, Jewish Federation CEO Alan Potash, 2022 Kipnis-Wilson Friedland honoree Fran Kaufman, Roberta Nyman
3 Barbara Platt, Pearle Rae Levey, Susan Konheim
4 Gail Siegel, Joanne Chunowitz, Phyllis Eisenberg, Aviva Snow
5 Rita Philip, Lois Schnitzer, Mardi Spitzer, Gail Romain
6 Cora Ginsberg, Bobbie Holland
7 Lois Johnson, Barbara Platt, Joan Lehr
8 Julie Feldman, Patricia Kenner, Sheila Sloan, Phyllis Eisenberg, Joanne Mintz
9 Helen Varon, Alan Potash, Aviva Snow
10 Meredith Langus, Susan Langus
11 Sheila Sloan, Pat Hubbard
12 Gail Scadron, Audrey Bernstein
13 Robin Berman, Jane Effress

- 14 Phyllis Pepper, Jewish Federation Women's Coordinator Leslie Pepper
15 Cydney Osterman
16 Stephanie N. Ross, Fran Kaufman
17 Linda Gubman, Kipnis-Wilson Friedland 2022 Honoree Fran Kaufman and her daughters Marcie Kaufman and Elaine Kaufman Granauer
18 Celia Norian, Peggy Greenbaum, Nancy Noddle
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Caring for the Vulnerable: A Visit to Angel View

By Alberto Tejero, Jewish Federation CFO

On April 7, the Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert (JMOGD) hosted a visit with the Jewish Federation to two of the Jewish Angel View houses for children and adults with disabilities in the Coachella Valley. We were given a tour of the facilities, including their Kosher kitchens (supervised monthly by Rabbi Yankel Kreiman), flower garden/courtyard with a swing built for a wheelchair, recreation and sports areas, swimming pool and the mineral spring pool that originated everything.

Angel View was founded in 1954 on a natural hot mineral water spring in Desert Hot Springs by a group of parents whose children suffered

from polio. The therapeutic waters, considered among the highest quality in the world, soothed the children's aches and pains helping in their rehabilitation.

The visionary founders named the new charitable foundation Angel View after a naturally occurring rock formation at the base of Mt. San Jacinto. With dedication of purpose and generous supporters from local communities, a 52-bed rehabilitation hospital was constructed on donated land on Miracle Hill Road.

When polio was eradicated, Angel View expanded its treatment program to care for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, most of whom also have physical disabilities. Many of their clients have some form of paralysis; approximately 70 percent require the use of wheelchairs.

Since those early days, Angel View has built and currently operates 19 six-bed residential group homes where clients receive loving care in family-like environments. For many years, residential care was their only service. However, to keep pace with changing community needs, in 2008 Angel View launched a Day Program for adults with intellectual disabilities from

Spotted just before Pesach on the roads in Israel. The sign reads: "I am driving slowly, I have a pot of soup with kneidelach." Only in Israel!



From left to right - Michael & Lynn Zaifert, Joel & Michalena Appell, Ron Schwartz, Arni Gillman, Leslie Harris, Alan Potash, Mark Swartz, Alan Gitlin, Mel & Ellen Gold, Enid Herbstman and Donna & Sid Weiss.



Plaque acknowledging Jewish Federation and Tamarisk CC

throughout the Coachella Valley. The program has been so successful, it's been expanded three times.

Starting in the 1960s with one shop in Palm Springs, Angel View has developed a thriving network of 18 Resale Stores throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Proceeds from store sales are a critically important source of funding that enables them to provide their clients with a better quality of life.

Through the years, our Jewish Federation Outreach Program has partnered with the Tamarisk Men and Women to support Angel View: Two new vans were donated, two new Kosher kitchens were installed, bathrooms were remodeled and a new covered patio was built. In our



Donated van



Tour of facilities

visit today, we noticed that the mineral spring pool needs to be re-plastered. . . Maybe a new project?

We, at the Jewish Federation greatly encourage you to book a visit to any of the Angel View houses. Please feel free to email me at alberto.tejero@jfedsps.org for more information. Many beautiful smiles are guaranteed! A heartwarming experience for sure!

(Thanks to Catherine Rips and Janae Delgado from Angel View and Arnie Gillman (JMOGD and Jewish Federation Board member) who facilitated this visit).

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Shabbat Schedule - May-July 2022

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, followed by light Kiddush lunch.

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

Shavuot: Sunday, June 5: 9:45 am, 1st Day of Shavuot services. Monday, June 6: 9:45 am, 2nd Day of Shavuot, including Yizkor Memorial Service.

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.chabadrm.com
760-770-7785
Friday night services: Check website for times.
Shabbat morning services begin at

10 am, followed by Kiddush lunch. Daily Minyan: Shacharit (morning) Services 7:00 am, Sundays 8:00 am. Check web for updated times for Mincha & Maariv.

Shavuot: "Sleepless on Shavuot" All-Niter night of June 4, beginning 10:30 pm, followed Sunday June 5 with services and dairy kiddush lunch and ice cream party at 10:45 am. Yizkor observed at second day Shavuot services June 6 at approximately 11:15 am.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim. Plans underway to resume regular services and programs in Sun City Palm Desert. Monthly dinners offered now. Contact Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim to receive weekly "Chabad in Sun City Newsletter" with listing of all services and activities: sussiedenebeim@gmail.com.

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

Summer schedule: Weekly services through May, then June 3, July 1 and August 5. Weekly services return in September.

Shabbat services offered online. Everyone welcome. Saturday 11 am—Zoom Torah



SHAVUOT

Erev Shavuot:
First day:
Second day:

Saturday night, June 4
Sunday, June 5
Monday, June 6 YIZKOR

Study with Discussion conducted by Rabbi Zions. Held weekly except month of July. For Zoom invite email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

CONGREGATION

SHALOM BAYIT (Reform)

Rabbi Kenneth Milhander, 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 Vía 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 first, second and fourth Fridays of the month, at 6:30 pm and

Shabbat morning services at 10:30 am. Join Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86202660636>. For more information email info@orhamidbar.org.

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. Summer schedule: May and June: regular twice monthly schedule. July and August: Services only held the third Fridays (July 15 and August 19). 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

continued on next page

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, preceded by return of Wine and Cheese 'Happy Hour' from 7:00-7:30 pm. Saturday

morning begins with "Nosh and Drash" at 10:00 am, followed by Shabbat morning services. 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. Friday, May 6: Temple Isaiah welcomes the new Jewish Federation CEO Alan Potash as guest speaker

this Shabbat (see ad page 2). Shavuot services at 10:00 am Sunday, June 6/Monday, June 7 (Yizkor).

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, preceded

by pre-service Oneg at 5:00 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am. Schedule continues through Summer. Proof of vaccination or negative covid test within 72 hours required.

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.



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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.

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- Mary and Tom Bernstein**, Thank you from Cora Ginsberg.
- Lisa Friedman Clark**, Congratulations from Janine Gershon.
- Phyllis Eisenberg**, Congratulations on your honor, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- Barbara and Bernie Fromm**, Best wishes on your 65th Anniversary, from Ellen and Jim Labes, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Alan Potash, Sandy and Rich, Sherry Salzman, and Sherry and Howard Schor.
- Fran Kaufman**, In your honor, from Joseph and Susan Wise Miller.

- Henry "Pat" Kerns**, Happy 90th birthday from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- Nancy Noddle**, Thank you from Cora Ginsberg.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- Janet Emmerman**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- Shelli Goodman**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Gail and Bob Scadron, Leslie and Barry Usow.
- Howard Schor**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Cora Ginsberg.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- Audrey Bernstein**, In memory of Bob Scholl, from Barbara Shrayer.
- Cass Graff-Radford**, Condolences on the passing of your beloved brother Brian, from Cora Ginsberg.
- Cyma Cohen**, In memory of your beloved husband Leo, from Allan and Roberta Nyman, Leslie and Barry Usow.
- Schapira Family**, In memory of Beth's passing, from Leslie Kushner
- Tory Miller**, Condolences on the passing of your beloved father, from Cora Ginsberg
- Barbara Weber**, In memory of your mother, Sylvia, from Rosalie and Zvi Benjoseph.

החכם THE SAGE

No man is an island, entire of itself.

Of course. I have you.

Every person is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.

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We learn this from the English poet, John Donne, who wrote this in 1623.

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Community Calendar of Programs - May 2022

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**.

7:30-8:30 pm – "2B A Jew" – Or Hamidbar's introduction to Judaism. **Rabbi David Lazar** teaches about the holidays as they come up in the yearly calendar alongside foundations of Jewish practice and culture. Email info@orhamidbar.org for more information.

Tuesdays:

5:00-6:45 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Weekly Community BBQ** offered until end of May/early June, weather permitting. 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 weekly through June 29, then on hiatus until September.

7:00 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: 'Ask the Rabbi': A Weekly Open Q & A with **Rabbi Yonason Denebeim**.

Thursdays:

1:00-2:00 pm Temple Sinai Tai Chi.

7:00 pm – Temple Isaiah "Bereavement Group" on Zoom with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Contact Rabbi directly for more information: rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

8:00 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs - Virtual class: "JLI Torah Studies Course led by **Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger**. RSVP to Boz Werdiger, boz@chabadps.com, or 760-550-5793

Youth and Teens:

Chabad of Rancho Mirage offers programs for children 3 through High School. **Ckids Club** for children 3-13 offers monthly programs. **CTeen** is for teens in high school who meet weekly for events, discussion and participation in humanitarian projects. Contact Chaya at 760-272-1923 for more information. All programs end mid-June for summer.

Monday, May 2

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Women's Rosh Chodesh "The Kinds of Kindness – Being Kind."** Contact Chaya at 760-272-1923. (Classes are individual and dependent on each other).

Wednesday, May 4

3:30 pm Har-El Galen Book Course will meet on Zoom. **Sherry Schor**, Har-El President, will explore the book **"People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present"** by Dara Horn. In response to a recent a recent wave of deadly antisemitic attacks, Horn realized that she was being asked to write about dead Jews, never about

living ones. In this collection of essays, Dara Horn challenges us to confront the question: Why so much fascination with Jewish deaths and so little about Jewish lives in the present? Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

Thursday, May 5

5:00 pm Beth Shalom "The Vision of Conservative Judaism," A Conversation with **Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks: "Vision: A Bridge with the Future"** Fourth in a Four-Part Series includes **Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Celebration** with Israeli food Community Welcome – No Charge. RSVP with Proof of Vaccination REQUIRED by Friday, April 29. Information and reservations: 760-200-3636

Sunday, May 15

9:30 am – 2:30 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert participating in Hadassah Southern California Women's Wellness Day at the Luxe Hotel in LA. Call President Roni Spetalnick 760-360-8465 for details.

Wednesday, May 18

11:00 am Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy **"Shmooze, Nosh and Help Plan Our Future"** get together, open to all women. RSVP/information: Call or email Leslie Pepper – leslie.pepper@jfeps.org or 760-324-4737.

Wednesday, May 18, June 15, August 3 and September 14

3:30 pm Har-El Galen Summer Course **"Knowing Our American Jewish History."** Four session Zoom program. Presenter: **Rabbi Richard**

Zionts. No charge. Community invited. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation. See ad page XX for each session topic.

Tuesdays, May 17 through June 21

Chabad of Rancho Mirage is offering the 6-part JLI course "The Values That Shape Judaism's Civil Code." For information go to myjli.com/learn/chabadrm.

Thursday, June 2

7:00 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert evening meeting at Sun City Palm Desert/Sunset View Clubhouse/Oasis Room. Speaker: **Harriet Rossetto**. Men and women invited. Proof of COVID vaccination required. \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Questions? Call Debbie at 760-289-7987

Wednesday, June 8

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Women's Rosh Chodesh "To Live In Deed."** Contact Chaya at 760-272-1923. (Classes are individual and dependent on each other).

Wednesday, June 15

11:00 am Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy **"Shmooze, Nosh and Help Plan Our Future"** get together, open to all women. RSVP/information: Call or email Leslie Pepper – leslie.pepper@jfeps.org or 760-324-4737.

Sunday, July 10

10:30 am – 3:30 pm Sabra of the Desert **"Game Day"** at Sun City Shadow Hills Montecito Clubhouse. For further details contact Marilyn Katz, 818-448-9299.



Book Discussion

Women's Philanthropy (Women's Cultural Alliance) would like to invite you for a book discussion on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at the Jewish Federation at 11:00 am. Men and women are invited... Please RSVP!

A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka: A Memoir ...

A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka, Lev Golinkin's account of his family's emigration from Kharkov to the US, made me laugh, made me cry, and made me think. Sometimes all three in a couple of paragraphs, as when he describes the impact of the language barrier for adult immigrants: "Then you realize this is it. Lev Golinkin's memoir is the vivid, darkly comic, and poignant story of a young boy in the confusing and often chilling final decade of the Soviet Union. It's also the story of Lev Golinkin, the American man who finally confronts

his buried past by returning to Austria and Eastern Europe to track down the strangers who made his escape possible. . . and say thank you. Written with biting, acerbic wit and emotional honesty Golinkin's search for personal identity set against the relentless currents of history is more than a memoir—it's a portrait of a lost era. This is a thrilling tale of escape and survival, a deeply personal look at the life of a Jewish child caught in the last gasp of the Soviet Union, and a provocative investigation into the power of hatred and the search for belonging. Lev Golinkin achieves an amazing feat—and it marks the debut of a fiercely intelligent, defiant, and unforgettable new voice.

This book can be purchased on Amazon or found in your local bookshop or library. For further information contact Leslie pepper

at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfeds.org. RSVP's would be welcomed.

women's PHILANTHROPY Shmooze, nosh and help plan our future!

Fran Kaufman

Chair



JEWISH FEDERATION
OF THE DESERT



Attention ladies! Join us for our upcoming meetings on Wednesday, May 18th and June 15th, 2022 at 11:00 AM. All welcome!

Bristol University Professor Loses Appeal to Overturn Firing for Harassment of Jewish Students

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

David Miller, the former University of Bristol professor who was fired after harassing Jewish students, has lost an appeal to be reinstated.

In October, University of Bristol fired David Miller after he called for "the end of Zionism" and spread conspiracies about British Jewish students. At the time, the university issued a statement saying that Miller's conduct was unbecoming and that his

employment would be "terminated with immediate effect."

"Support David Miller," a group representing Miller, announced on March 30 that the appeal had failed. Responding to the news the following day, Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA), an education watchdog, said the appeal decision vindicates the concerns of Jewish advocacy groups about the sociology

professor's treatment of Jewish students. CAA had previously planned to sue the university over the issue.

"This ruling is a further vindication of the courageous Jewish students on whose behalf we brought proceedings against the University of Bristol last year," said CAA CEO Gideon Falter. "Following the launch of our lawsuit and an outcry from across the Jewish community, it was clear to the university that it would be held to account in court and had to act to protect Jewish students in accordance with the law, and David Miller was fired within a month."

Falter continued, "Universities across the country should be warned that we will do whatever it takes to defend Jewish students from racists on campus by upholding their rights

in court where necessary."

In his March 30 statement, David Miller said his firing is part of a "pernicious witch hunt led by known assets of the State of Israel in the UK and funded by the dirty money of pro-Israel oligarchs" and that he will again appeal his firing at an employment tribunal.

"The University of Bristol has wilted under this new wave of McCarthyism," Miller complained. "The university treated this appeal as a mere formality with a predetermined outcome."

Miller's firing last year concluded a months-long investigation of his activity, which began making news in 2018 when he mocked Jewish students for feeling unsafe on campus — blaming their fears on "propaganda which they have been schooled with."

DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



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

Jewish Community Service for Ukraine



Above: Rabbi Jules King, Rabbi Ken Emert, Rabbi Richard Zions, Rabbi Steven Rosenberg, Rabbi J.B. Sacks, Ken Halpern and Rabbi David Novak.

Over 250 members of our Jewish community came together at Temple Sinai on March 13, 2022, for a service in support of the besieged people of Ukraine, led by the spiritual leaders of six congregations in our Coachella Valley.



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Have A Nosh With Miriam



Shavuot begins on June 4th, and dairy meals are the traditional fare. I'm sharing a wonderful single-bite chocolate coated cheesecake treat and, if you cut them into one-inch squares, the recipe makes a whopping 64 treats! ... And ... I'm not sure I ever gave you my mother's "cheesecake pie." Much lower in calories than regular cheesecake, the filling is a delicious but not-so-rich cheesecake batter, that is baked in a German sweet pie crust. The results are quite special. B'tay avon! Happy Shavuot!



No-Bake Chocolate Covered Cheesecake Bites

These cheesecake bites don't require any baking, though they do require a smidge of planning since they will need to chill in the fridge for 6-8 hours or overnight before slicing. Note: If the cheesecake is still a bit soft, pop the tray into the freezer before slicing. You can also try running a sharp knife under hot water between slices to get a clean cut.

Crust:

10 full graham crackers
10 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted
Pinch salt

Topping:

2 cups dark or semi-sweet chocolate chips (can also use chocolate melts)
2 tsp vegetable oil

Filling:

3 8 oz packages cream cheese,
left at room temperature
2 Tbsp granulated sugar
1 14 oz can condensed milk
1 tsp vanilla
Juice of ½ lemon plus zest

Garnish: (optional)

1 cup white chocolate chips +
1 tsp vegetable oil
Sprinkles

Line an 8×8 square baking pan with parchment paper. Place graham crackers in a food processor fitted with blade attachment. Pulse until crumbs form. Add crumbs, melted butter and pinch of salt in a mixing bowl. Combine well. Spread crumbs in bottom of pan and press down evenly. In a large bowl mix cream cheese using hand mixer until smooth. Add sugar and beat. Add vanilla and lemon juice and beat again. Add condensed milk. Spread evenly on top of crust. Chill covered for 6 hours or overnight. You can also freeze for 2 hours.

Remove cheesecake from pan and cut into even squares. Melt chocolate and oil in a microwave safe bowl in 30 second intervals until completely smooth. Dip each square of cheesecake in chocolate. Top with sprinkles or drizzle melted white chocolate on top.

Lil Zucker's Cheesecake Pie

Crust:

1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ cup sugar
2 Tablespoons butter or margarine
1 egg
Dash salt

Filling:

6 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese
1 cup small curd cottage cheese
½ cup sugar
3 eggs, separated
Dash salt
1 rounded Tablespoon cornstarch
1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine ingredients for crust. Form a ball. Chill briefly then roll out on floured board. Spray pie pan and ease dough into it. Prick bottom with fork.

Prepare filling by combining all ingredients but the egg whites. Mix well. Beat egg whites till stiff. Fold into mixture. Pour into unbaked crust. Bake at 350° about 40 minutes or until golden brown. Option: Thinly slice a banana or other fruit and place a single layer of the fruit on top of the unbaked crust before pouring filling over.



Simchas

Congratulations to **Pam Price** on her prestigious appointment as Desert Empire representative to the California Arts Council. Long associated with the



Pam Price

arts and promotion of art in our community, she is also a well-respected journalist, writing for local media and the bringing news of our Jewish community to the San Diego Jewish Times **Tommy Clark** ... Mazel tov to **Tommy Clark**, son of **Julie Fey-Clark** and **Scott Clark**, grandson of **Bob** and **Cheryl Fey**, on



Tommy Clark

being confirmed at Temple Sinai on May 20th. Share your simchas with us. Email (mhbentjcn@earthlink.net) or call Miriam Bent at 760-323-0255.

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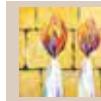
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welcomed. JFS has rewarding **volunteer opportunities** in its community programs and is now accepting applications for several positions. **Tribute cards** provide a unique way to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one, all while supporting 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.



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, May 6	Shabbat Kedoshim	6:51 pm
Friday, May 13	Shabbat Emor	6:56 pm
Friday, May 20	Shabbat Behar	7:01 pm
Friday, May 27	Shabbat Bechukotai	7:06 pm
Friday, June 3	Shabbat Bamidbar	7:10 pm
Saturday, June 4	Shavuot	After 8:37 pm
Sunday, June 5	2 nd day Shavuot	After 8:37 pm
Friday, June 10	Shabbat Naso	7:14 pm
Friday, June 17	Shabbat Behalotecha	7:16 pm
Friday, June 24	Shabbat Shlach Lecha	7:18 pm
Friday, July 1	Shabbat Korach	7:18 pm
Friday, July 8	Shabbat Chukat	7:17 pm
Friday, July 15	Shabbat Balak	7:14 pm
Friday, July 22	Shabbat Pinchas	7:11 pm
Friday, July 29	Shabbat Matot-Masei	7:06 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Nat Bent, Patricia Brodsky, William (Bill) Bronstein, Charles Eugene Huppin, Norman Morosohk, David Peters and Florence Faye Stern.
Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.



In Loving Memory of Nat Bent

The Jewish Federation of the Desert extends heartfelt condolences to Miriam, David and all of the Bent Family on the passing of our beloved Nat (1935-2022). Nat moved his family to Palm Springs over 36 years ago to serve as the Federation Executive Director. Before retiring from the Jewish National Fund, he held many executive positions throughout his career including American Friends of the Hebrew University. He had also dedicated his personal time to the Hadassah Men's Association and Temple Isaiah, to name a few. His personal relationships, chivalrous and kind nature is known throughout the desert where will be remembered as a fine dresser, a real class act and nothing less than a mensch.

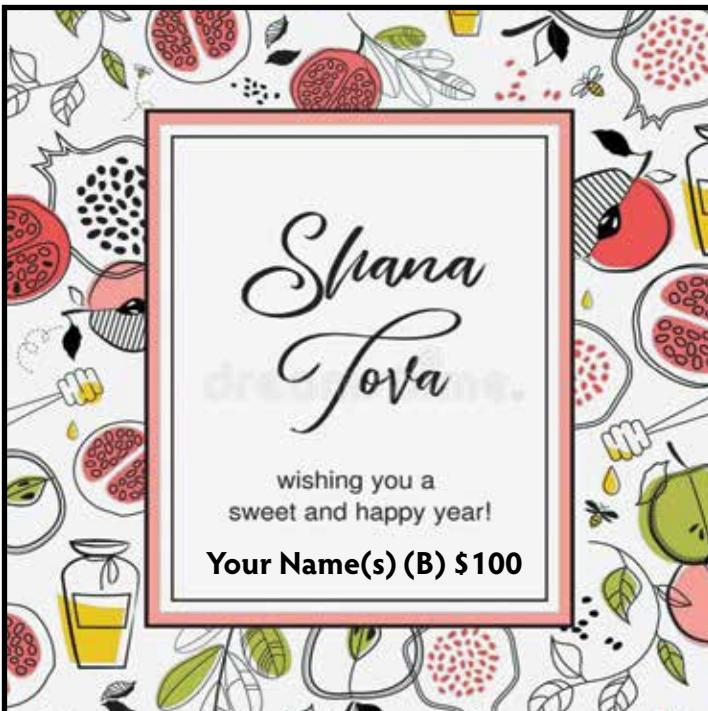
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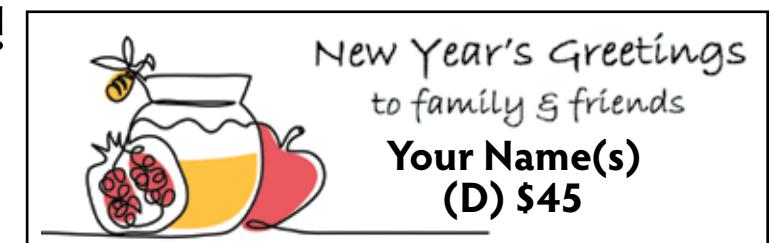
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