Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Tammuz/Av 5784 - August 2024

Event Highlights 2024/5

Hold the date for

Cabaret for a Cause:

Tuesday, December 3rd

After a very successful *Cabaret for a Cause* last year the Jewish Federation of the Desert has decided to present *Cabaret for a Cause* again this year at Tamarisk Country Club. Please mark December 3rd on your calendar; more details to come. Please call the Federation office if you have any questions.

5785 – 2024 High Holy Days

Rosh Hashanah:
Erev: Wednesday, October 2
Thursday & Friday October 3/4
Kol Nidre: Friday, October11
Yom Kippur: Saturday, October 12
Sukkot: October 16-23
Simchat Torah October 23-24

Jewish Federation of the Desert Feast of Jewish Learning: Part 1
Sunday, November 17, 2024

Jewish Federation of the Desert Feast of Jewish Learning: Part 2
Sunday, March 23, 2025

Women's Philanthropy/ Community Engagement Jewish Book Council Programs
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
Monday, January 20, 2025
Sunday, February 9, 2025
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Tolerance Education Center Jewish Book Council Programs
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Sunday, December 15, 2024
Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
Thursday, April 24, 2025
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
Tuesday, June 10, 2025

See page 3 for the book titles, names of authors and whether the programs will be in person or virtual.

A Message from the CEO

Alan Potash

Jewish Federation Chief Executive Officer

This coming year (our fiscal year is July-June) will be a new journey for all of us. As the Federation embarks on a new year with a strong slate of board members, we will work together to enhance the mission and work of the Federation to strengthen the community.

I am honored to work with them and represent the Jewish Federation of the Desert in the Coachella Valley.

As you already know this past year has been a very challenging one, as we were called upon and continue to help and address Israel's war with Hamas and the hostages being held in captivity. In addition, we are still following the war in Ukraine and the rise of antisemitism in America.

Looking forward to the coming year I will focus on our mission to care for vulnerable, community engagement and helping Jews around the world.

Palm Springs and Desert Area is an exceptional community and we have so much to be proud of. It takes leadership and support from the community to ensure that we have a strong and vibrant Jewish community here and to support Jewish communities around the world.

Collectively, we are charged with the responsibility to lead our community with integrity and Jewish values.

Using one of my favorite teachings from Pirke Avot, by Rabbi Tarfon, *"It is not your responsibility to finish the work [of perfecting the world], but you are not free to desist from it either"*

Let's make a difference.

Alan Potash, Chief Executive Officer

From the President

Arnie Gillman, President

Last year at this time I became president of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, hoping I would be able to accomplish all the goals I set for myself and the Board. We not only accomplished those goals, but we exceeded our own expectations. I am so proud of the Board and the staff who worked tirelessly to continue to make this a vibrant Jewish community. As I reflect on my first year, I am overwhelmed by the impact we made on the lives of the less fortunate we have helped.

On October 7th Israel experienced one of the worst days in its history. Our federation went to work on that Saturday to make sure our partners in Israel received any support they needed. As the weeks passed, we started a fund to help the people of Israel in which 100% of the money we collected goes to organizations on the ground. I would personally like to thank each individual who has stepped up and supported our efforts through their donations.

One of the highlights of the last year was the Jewish Agency for Israel's Soldiers in Uniform program visit from the IDF soldiers, they spent several days visiting with members of our community. The outpouring of love and support demonstrated towards the soldiers was inspiring. In conversations with the soldiers, they shared with me how meaningful it was to have the support of the Jewish community thousands of miles away from home.

Another major highlight from the last year was the establishment of our visiting authors program through our membership with the Jewish Book Council , in which notable Jewish authors visited our community, hosting lectures and facilitating spirited discussions. We look forward to continuing this program in the coming year.

Looking forward to my second year as President, I am thrilled to announce the Jewish Federation will be reopening the Tolerance Education Center in Rancho Mirage. In the coming months we plan to offer a variety of programming. We recently hired Bricelyn Koltun as the Educational Program Director for the Center.

One of my top priorities for the coming year is the establishment of a new program that will allow donors and non-donors to visit the many organizations we support. This initiative will allow members of our community to see the direct and meaningful impact of their support.

I have absolute confidence that with the support of the Board, the staff, and our community we will achieve our goals for the coming year.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me directly at arniegillman@gmail.com with questions, comments, or ideas.

Thank You,

Arnold

everyone counts
can we count on you?
DONATE
Jewish Federation of the Desert Annual Campaign

2024-2025 JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jewish Federation Takes Over Management and Operations of the Tolerance Education Center

By Alan Potash, CEO

In early Spring the Jewish Federation of the Desert was asked to take over the management and operations of the Tolerance Education Center. As an important resource for the community and the significant reputation that the Center has in the Coachella Valley, the Federation board and I agreed it was important for us to take this on.

Over the past several months, we have been working hard to make improvements to the building and get it ready to open full-time in September with exhibits, speakers, films and most importantly a resource for area educators.

Bricelyn Koltun hired as Educational Program Director.

I am pleased to announce that Bricelyn Koltun has been hired as Educational Program Director. She comes to the Coachella Valley with significant experience in Holocaust Education, with a background in history, museum and genocide studies. She also brings experience in program/exhibit design and administration, and is a lifelong traveler and photographer.

Developing a Stable Israel for the Future

By Alan Potash, CEO

Israel is facing so many challenges following the October 7th massacre by Hamas. I have written and spoken about the many day-to-day needs the people of Israel are facing. I am not sure if many people are looking long term, but, in mid-July, I read an amazing and inspirational economic story about a business founded and developed in Israel but now based in New York, being purchased by Google (Alphabet) for $23 Billion. Wow. This will be the largest purchase of an Israeli company to date.

Many American Jews and Israelis are proud of Israel's technological advancements over the years. Most people are using some of Israel's technology every day and not even aware of it. So, how can a country constantly defending its right to exist bring to the world so many necessary advancements.

Whether hi-tech, med-tech, fin-tech, ag-tech Israel is leading the world in these areas. Back to why? The authors of Start up Nation and the Genius of Israel discuss this in their books. The bottom line in my opinion is Israel and Israelis are always looking for and finding solutions to problems.

Yes, Israel's economy is suffering during this war with over 300,000 people in reserves general productivity is down. The agricultural industry is short on labor, and many fields are not able to be harvested or planted.

Even though most everyone is aware of the challenges Israel is facing most are positive about Israel's future. With the announcement in Mid July by Google to purchase WIZ for $23 Billion has generated a great deal of enthusiasm. During one of the Times of Israel podcasts they broke down the tax benefit to Israel of this transaction. With the back of the napkin calculations, Israel could receive 2-3 billion in tax revenue.

So, what is WIZ and why does Google want to buy it? From the Times of Israel story about Wiz, "*An elite Israeli military intelligence unit may once again be about to prove its value to the nation's tech economy as Google's parent company eyes cybertech company Wiz for an eyewatering $23 billion.*"

I am still trying to figure out why Google wants to buy them. When I do, I will update the article.

Are you receiving the weekly e-newsletter or the Israel updates? If not, please check your junk mail file.

The Jewish Federation has a robust weekly eblast emailed on Friday afternoons to over 1800 email addresses. Do you receive it?

If you have received it in the past but haven't received it lately it might be in your junk or spam folder. If it is, you need to go into the email settings and highlight the email and move it into the main folder—you can also call the office and we will walk you through how to fix it. It is important that you receive the eblast because we share information not just for the Federation but also for the local Jewish organizations that send us their events.

If you have never received the eblast it means we do not have your email address … and we not only invite you but urge that you send us your email so that you can be "in" our community. We do not inundate you with emails … this is a once-a-week Friday afternoon transmission with important news that impacts us as a Jewish community. Please join us. Email your email to bebsabe.morrison@jfedps.org.

Jewish Book Council Programs for 2024/2025

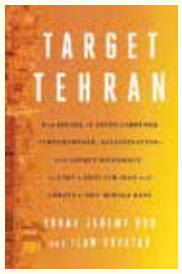
By Leslie Pepper, Director of Women's Division and Community Engagement

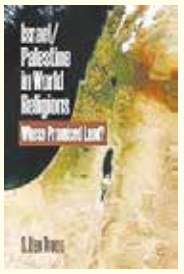
The Jewish Federation of the Desert is thrilled to announce our exciting lineup of authors for the 2024/2025 season. We have an exceptional roster of authors confirmed to date, thanks to our third year's collaboration with the Jewish Book Council.

Founded in 1944, the Jewish Book Council is the longest-running organization devoted exclusively to the support and celebration of Jewish literature. The Council's mission, as stated on its website, is "to promote the reading, writing, and publishing of quality English-language books of Jewish content in North America." It is an independent not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation chartered in New York. The JBC Network is a membership organization of over 120 participating JCCs, synagogues, Hillels, and Federations, and our Jewish Federation of the Desert is now a proud second-year member of this wonderful Book Council.

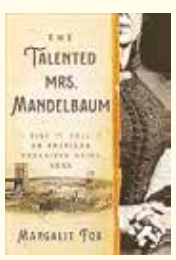
This year there will be four groupings of Books/Authors. **Feast of Jewish Learning** will have two events, with five authors in November 2024 and three in March 2025. There will be eight programs offered through **Women's Philanthropy/Community Engagement** between December 2024 and May 2025, and another ten authors offered by the **Tolerance Education Center**, in their building, between September 2024 and June 2025, listed below. Of these, 17 will be in person presentations and 11 virtual.

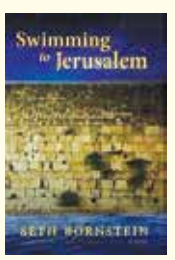
FEAST OF JEWISH LEARNING PART 1:
Held at the Jewish Federation Building:
November 17, 2024 - Yanah Bob, Target Tehran, **Virtual**
November 17, 2024 - Ilan Evyatar, Target Tehran, **Virtual**
November 17, 2024 - Ilan Troen, Israel/Palestine in World Religions, **In Person**
November 17, 2024 - Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin - Tikun Ha'Am, Repairing Our People, **In Person**
November 17, 2024 - Lee Yaron, One Hundred Human Stories, **Virtual**

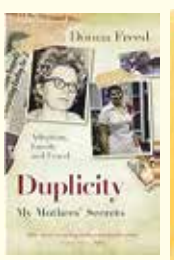


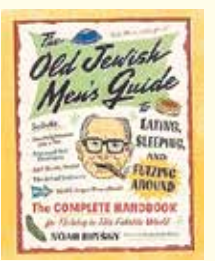


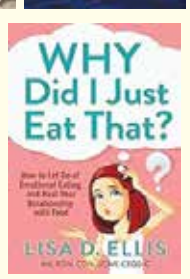
WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
Held at the Jewish Federation Building:
December 11, 2024 - Andrew Mellen, Unstuff Your Life, **In Person**
January 20, 2025 - Margalit Fox, The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum, **In Person**
February 9, 2025 - Seth Bornstein, Swimming To Jerusalem, **In Person**
February 12, 2025 - Donna Freed, Duplicity, **Virtual**
March 05, 2025 - Noah Rinsky, The Old Jewish Men's Guide to Eating, Sleeping and Futzing Around, **Virtual**
March 19, 2025 - Na'Ama Shefi, The Jewish Holoday Table, **Virtual**
April 09, 2025 - Lisa Ellis, Why did I Just Eat That?, **Virtual**
May 07, 2025 - Susan Blumberg Kasson, Bernadine's Shanghai Salon, **In Person**



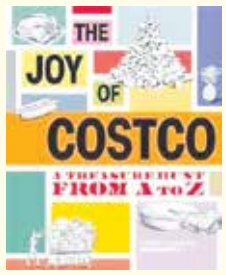


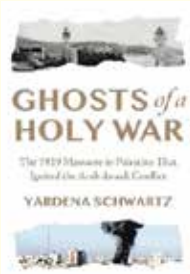




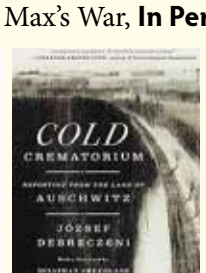


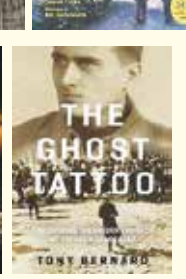
FEAST OF JEWISH LEARNING, PART 2:
Held at the Jewish Federation Building:
March 23, 2025 - Susan and David Schwartz, The Joy of Costco, **In Person**
March 23, 2025 - Rachel Gordan, Post War Stories; How Books Made Judaism American, **In Person**
March 23, 2025 - Yardena Schwartz- Ghosts of A Holy War**, In Person**

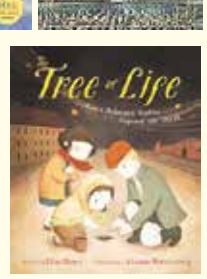




TOLERANCE EDUCATION CENTER SCHEDULE:
Held at the Tolerance Education Center:
September 17, 2024 - Robin Judd, Between Two Worlds , **In Person**
September 24, 2024 - Jason Bell, Cracking the Nazi Code, **In Person**
October 15, 2024 - Tony Bernard, The Ghost Tatoo, **Virtual**
November 19, 2024 - Faris Cassell, Inseparable, **In Person**
December 03, 2024 - Alexander Bruner, Cold Crematorium, **In Person**
December 15, 2024 - Janice Cohn, The Christmas Menorahs, **In Person**
January 21, 2025 - Stephanie Smartschan, Evitchka, **Virtual**
March 18, 2025 - Judy Rakowsky, Jews In the Garden, **In Person**
April 16, 2025 - Elisa Boxer, Tree of Life, **Virtual**
April 24, 2025 - Mitchell Raff, Little Boy, I Know Your Name, **In Person**
May 13, 2025 - June Hersh, Food, Hope, Resilience, **Virtual**
June 10, 2025 - Libby Hellmann, Max's War, **In Person**







The Tolerance Education Center: Assessing its Essential Mission

By Bricelyn Koltun, TEC Educational Program Director

As I have started to acquaint myself with the Tolerance Education Center of Rancho Mirage over the past few weeks, the concept of *I'dor vador*, has struck me as the very foundation of the Center's essential mission as founded by Earl Grief in 2006. With a mission of not only tolerance and accountability, the TEC is a space that defies classification. Not quite a formal classroom of traditionally delivered curricula, nor wholly a conventional museum.

The late Theodore Bikel, noted mensch, Tevye the Dairyman, and acclaimed performer, musician, activist, and teacher, explained in his spoken word essay "Yiddish", from 2014's *'While I'm Here,'* why he chose to share Jewish stories:

"I am a universalist. I believe in the family of man. I believe in the brotherhood of man. I am curious about my neighbor; I hope that he is curious about me. I sing Jewish songs…I sing of many cultures, but I sing Jewish songs, not because they are better songs than the songs of my neighbor. I sing them because they're mine. And, unless I sing them, that part of the culture will vanish, and that wonderful meadow with proliferating flowers, with a profusion of flowers, would have the Jewish flower missing. That's why I sing Jewish songs."

How profoundly does Bikel set the stage for us to use the past as a point from which to see present and future, but also continue a dialogue between our unique differences that excludes insular and narrow interpretations and gives full recognition to all Jewish experience both within our community and as a minority in the 21st century. Bikel's songs, his deep love for the Yiddish language shared, are *l'dor vador*. He breaks down, much like his beloved Tevye, the tension between traditional and contemporary.

Like Bikel, the TEC challenges us to learn who we are as much as it asks us to learn about others because it is our shared human-ness across the varied topography of our differences where true empathetic dialogue may be found.

Stories stitch the moments of our life together much like many of the 19th century immigrant quilts I used to work with in artifact collections. Just as quilts are stories in their own way, engineered from smaller parts to form a whole, the stories of our own experiences illustrate ways in which we can cultivate empathetic connections which can change the way we and others think. In a 2010 study co-directed by Princeton psychology Professor and neuroscientist, Uri Hasson, he reported that as human beings hear stories, brain waves become more 'empathetic' and begin to resemble each other. He articulated that if deep understanding is achieved, it is possible for brain responses to "sync", so the listener is experiencing the same wave responses as the storyteller without the core memory (Hasson, 2010). Storytelling then, becomes a vital catalyst enabling the 'sharing' of personal context that activates the parts of the human brain responsible for empathy, in which the listener can feel, retain, and reflect upon multiple perspectives perhaps previously unknown, even once returned to one's individual context.

Bricelyn Koltun hired as Educational Program Director.

As a museum studies student in the Midwest, I have always been curious how to root museums within their communities in accessible and dynamic ways. Over a career that spanned programming and administration in living history, public history, collections, fine arts, and performance arts, my goal has been to prioritize storytelling in innovative ways to produce respectful discourse around real world challenges utilizing accessible history, humanities, and technology. At the TEC my goal is to unite these themes through programming and exhibits that amplify human stories attempting to connect across often tense or seemingly immutable boundaries in hopes of facilitating dialogue, deepening empathy, activating civic awareness, and inspiring human solutions. It is also important to consider the unique disposition of the TEC as an ambassador within the community and as an effective partner within the region among peer organizations as it seeks to recommit to its overall mission in 2024.

As the TEC approaches twenty years of continuance, it marks a true dedication and commitment by The Coachella Valley community to safeguard and sustain the TEC's mission. Its existence speaks directly to the desire of the Coachella Valley Jewish community to reach both inward and beyond in a consistent manifestation of *l'dor vador*, which acknowledges and honors the past while always being accountable in the present and moving towards the future. The Tolerance Education Center has had a proud tradition of directly engaging with students across the Coachella Valley, and has held a myriad number of Jewish and cultural events in its nearly twenty year history. With the new resources and attention being brought to the Center by the Jewish Federation of the Desert, and without losing sight of our beginnings, we, collectively, as a community, are now further empowered to both uplift our myriads of experiences and facilitate a respectful place where the narratives of others are also lifted. In this way, the passing of Jewish stories *l'dor vador* ensures a vivid Jewish flower in Bikel's meadow of man and provides fertile ground to hold space for the flowers of our many neighbors. It is these interactions, in cultivation and growth together, that the universal human themes of connection reveal themselves and productive "syncing" can be nurtured.

TOLERANCE EDUCATION CENTER

35147 Landy Lane, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 ■ 760-328-8252

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

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EDITORIAL
Alan Potash, CEO
Miriam H. Bent, Editor
Bailey Communications, Layout & Design

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

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Chazzan Danny Maseng Will Be Desert Outreach Synagogue Cantor for High Holidays

By Rabbi Dr. Jules King

Desert Outreach Synagogue is pleased to announce that Chazzan Danny Maseng, a world-renowned Cantor, will be our Cantor of the High Holy Days. Joining him will be Sarah Lonsert, his Cantorial Assistant. Together, they will create a musical experience that will uplift our spirits for the High Holy Days.

Chazzan Maseng has had a distinguished career as a Cantor, both in New York and Los Angeles, and as a playwright, actor, singer, and composer. He has spent four decades traveling the world, inspiring, teaching, and rekindling the love of Judaism through Torah, Hassidut, Jewish culture, and the Arts.

Born in Israel to American parents, Danny Maseng first came to the United States to star on Broadway in 'Only Fools Are Sad.' A playwright, actor, singer, and composer, Danny has served the National Endowment for the Arts as an opera and musical theater evaluator. He has been the Director of the Spielberg Fellowships at

FJC, the Spiritual Leader of URJ congregation Agudas Achim in NY, the Artistic Director of The Brandeis-Bardin Institute, and the Cantor of Temple Israel of Hollywood in California. He is also the recently retired Chazzan and Spiritual Leader of Makom LA, a dynamic, post-denominational community in Los Angeles.

Danny Maseng is one of the most popular and respected composers of contemporary liturgical and synagogue music. He has been an invited guest of the American Conference of Cantors, the Cantor's Assembly, and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. His compositions are sung worldwide, most recently at Disney Hall in L.A. by the renowned Pink Martini and at Carnegie Hall by the New York City Youth Chorus.

Chazzan Maseng has been the Patron Artist of the Avraham Geiger School for Cantorial Arts in Berlin, Germany. His essays, writings, and poems have been included in books by leading Jewish scholars, including Rabbis Larry Hoffman, Kerry Olitzky, and Jeff Salkin.

He has been a faculty member for major organizations, including Limmud, JCM, The URJ, and The Wexner Heritage Foundation, and he is deeply involved in interfaith dialogue.

Sarah Lonsert, his Cantorial Assistant, who has been referred to as the singer with an angelic voice, will join him. Sarah was cast as one of the leading characters in Danny Maseng's musical "Let There Be Light" at Temple Israel of Hollywood. She has sung with Cantor Maseng since then.

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

Desert Outreach SYNAGOGUE
"Come join us! You already belong!"

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

Rosh Hashanah Day	October 3rd
Morning Service	10:00 AM
Yom Kippur Eve	October 11th
Kol Nidre Evening Service	7:00 PM
Yom Kippur Day	October 12th
Morning Service	10:00 AM
"Healing Service of Music and Meditation"	4:00 PM
Yizkor	4:30 PM
Nei'lah/Havdalah	5:00 PM
"Break the Fast"	6:00 PM

Non-member tickets $150 to $395. Tickets and Registration at **www.My-DOS.org** or scan the QR code.

Join us for our unique and uplifting services during the High Holy Days, featuring our world-renowned Cantor, whose music will inspire your spirit.

For more info, scan

or call
760.449.0111

HIGH HOLY DAY SEMINARS

Rabbi Dr. Jules King
Rabbi-Cantor Danny Maseng

"Preparing for the High Holy Days" *with Rabbi Mark Borovitz*	September 19th 7:00 PM
"Preparing for the High Holy Days through the Lens of Torah" *with Rabbi Rachel Axelrad*	September 25th 2:00 PM on Zoom
"Getting into the High Holy Days' Music" *with Rabbi-Cantor Danny Maseng*	September 26th 7:00 PM

Seminars are no cost.
Registration required at **www.My-DOS.org** or scan QR code.

Israel 2024

Five months ago, in March, friends Judy Manetathchi and Dee Robins visited Israel. Below are articles each wrote about their experiences.

By Judy Manetathchi

From the moment we sat in our seats on our EL AL Airbus flight to Israel on March 27th, I felt wanted and appreciated. We were seated next to a young man returning from a short turnaround trip to Phoenix for his grandmother's funeral. This young man, who had made Aliyah with his wife from England several years ago, immediately thanked us for our willingness to travel to Israel and wanting to volunteer. He shared how he saw it, that Israel is the mother ship, and during these most difficult times, it is healing to spend time with distant cousins.

This was the theme throughout my trip. Those we would meet shared tears and expressed gratitude that we had come so far when we could have gone anywhere else.

We spent a couple of days in Tel Aviv, where we visited Hostage Square on Shabbat and walked the Super Nova sight. Words cannot accurately describe the impact and the myriad of emotions felt at laying eyes on the vast memorial for those murdered and posters calling home the hostages.

Following Tel Aviv, Nitzana was our home for the next five days. I say home because of how welcomed we were by the Ramat Ha Negev Municipality and how the Negev is so closely related to our desert of the Coachella Valley. In Nitzana, a stone's throw from the Egyptian border, we witnessed hundreds of big rigs transporting supplies to Gaza via the Nitzana Crossing. We volunteered picking and packing strawberries and picked tomatoes, minimally filling the large need to keep the agriculture on the kibbutzim running. Those coaching us on the farms were most appreciative, and it was heartening to hear the different languages amongst us as we worked, knowing that we all shared the same love and heart for the land of Israel.

After the Negev, we traveled to Jerusalem, where this trip afforded an experience of Jerusalem, vastly different from my first visit eight years ago, which was an 8-day sprint through Israel, including just a few hours in the Old City. This time, choosing an Airbnb near the Machane Yehuda Market, I could walk the hilly streets of Jerusalem, visit the Kotel three times, and taste the most amazing honey-glazed round challah for three shabbats in a row. In Jerusalem, I learned to tie Tzizit on the soldiers' uniforms, completing two of the 50,000 of 150,000 still needed (tying Tzizit is very tedious), and packed fruit for the evacuees from the North staying in

continued on page 12

By Dee Robins

I have visited Israel several times over the years with family and friends and have always loved going. But a recent trip there during the war gave me a different perspective of the country and its' people. I witnessed first-hand the undying spirit and unity of the Israelis and their willingness to live life to the fullest. They truly had such heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to us for traveling so far to be there.

We started off in Tel Aviv. Attending Kabbalat Shabbat service at Hostage Square was a wonderful way to begin the trip. The Rabbi spoke of Jewish unity and the divine spark that all Jews have given to us by Hashem, This spark bounds all of us together spiritually. I felt this spark immensely throughout our stay.

From Tel Aviv we traveled south to volunteer on a farm in Ramat HaNegev on the out-skirts of Nitzana. There we did a lot of farm work and helped pick and pack strawberries, and tomatoes. We also met a member of the kibbutz Revivim who took the time to show us the temporary graves of those who were murdered on Kibbutz Berei. These stories and the monstrosity that took place at SuperNova will never be forgotten. Spending time in Nitzana was enlightening. It is a pioneering community of people that love the land and are welcoming to all. The Ramat HaNegev Educational Center is working tirelessly to educate those that are in need to give them a better way of life.

From there we went to Jerusalem for the remaining three weeks of our stay. Being in Jerusalem was a memorable and once in a lifetime experience. I saw and experienced many special moments and was so grateful to be able to be there and of service. One day while in the Old City, a shop owner even said to me, "It's good that the Jews in the Diaspora have not forgotten their people."

To volunteer, we packed up bags of fruit for the evacuees and tied Tzitzit for the soldiers' uniforms. We stayed walking distance to the Kotel, and on Shabbat watched in delight at all the Yeshiva students coming to service dancing and singing arm in arm.

I saw fathers wearing Kippahs with their children in tow, while carrying a rifle over their shoulder to protect their family. Everyone continues to live normal lives under very difficult circumstances.

The evening of the Iran bombing we hurried to the bomb shelter in the basement of the apartment building

continued on page 12

Angel View – Mineral Pool Update

By Alberto Tejero, CFO Jewish Federation of the Desert

Eighteen months ago, Alan Potash and I were invited to visit Angel View's facilities for children and adults with disabilities located in Desert Hot Springs. Angel View gave us a tour of the facilities, including the Kosher kitchens, dormitories, recreation areas, outdoor swimming pool, and when we came to the therapy pool (by the way, the origin of Angel View) and noticed that it was no longer functioning to meet the therapeutic needs of the residents, we knew that the Federation had to get involved!

Angel View sprung into life in 1954 atop a natural hot mineral water spring in Desert Hot Springs. A group of parents whose children suffered from polio visited the spring; 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 came to be on donated land on Miracle Hill Road. This was the original location for what is today the headquarters of Angel View's therapeutic Day Program.

Through the years, the Jewish Federation has partnered with the Tamarisk Men and Women to support Angel View by replacing an old van, remodeling the Kosher kitchens, renovating bathrooms, building a new covered patio, and now contributing to the remodeling of the indoor mineral spring therapy pool.

As you can see from the pictures, new piping, surfacing, and bringing the pool up to code was necessary. The project took over a year from the bidding process, permits and inspections to today's beautiful result.

On behalf of Angel View's children and adults with disabilities, a big thanks to the Tamarisk Men and Women for their support and generosity that allowed this project to be completed.

We at the Federation greatly encourage you to visit any of the Angel View houses - Many beautiful smiles are guaranteed. A heartwarming experience for sure.

Please feel free to email me at alberto.tejero@jfedps.org for more information.

Where Jewish Life Blooms in the Desert

Temple Sinai Palm Desert ~ High Holy Days 5785

Rabbi David Novak and Cantorial Soloist Wayne Abravanel

Erev Rosh Hashanah:
Wednesday October 2
7:00 PM
Oneg following

Rosh Hashanah Morning:
Thursday, October 3
10:00 AM

Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre:
Friday, October 11
7:00 PM

Yom Kippur Day:
Saturday, October 12
10:00 AM
Healing Service & 12-Step Service During the Break
Afternoon Service/Yizkor: 4:00 PM.
Break-the-Fast following.

Everyone can be a part of Temple Sinai. Our dues schedule is only a guide, we'll work with you. We welcome all community members to come join us. We also welcome children of non-congregants in our religious school.
To inquire about High Holy Day tickets or membership, please email Toni Robinson at trobinson@templesinaipd.org

Community Observes Yom HaShoah

By Miriam H. Bent

(Left to right) Ken Hailpern (Beth Shalom), Rabbi David Lazar (Or Hamidbar), Rabbi Jules King (Desert Outreach Synagogue), Rabbi Ken Emert (Sun City Jewish Services), Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott (Sun City Jewish Services), Rabbi Steven Rosenberg (Temple Isaiah), Rabbi Andrew Bentley (Desert Outreach), Rabbi David Novak (Temple Sinai), Rabbi Yaacov Rone, Soloist Gerry Noriega and Rabbi J.B. Sacks (Beth Shalom)

Four survivors at the event.

Dancers from Palm Desert High School

Palm Valley High School 10th grader Lily Jones, with Leslie Pepper

Dr. Gary Levin, Co-chair of event, with Leslie Pepper, Director of Community Engagement

Yom HaShoah 5784 was observed on Sunday, May 5, 2024, as our community gathered at the University of California/ Riverside Palm Desert Campus auditorium for our annual Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration. As our local Holocaust survivors once again lit candles in memory of the six million, we noted those who were no longer with us, and the frailty of others. It has been seventy-nine years since liberation, and we are grateful for those still with us.

Our Jewish Community's clergy led prayers and readings. The beautiful music of our trio of musicians (Linny Smith on piano, Becky Long on cello and Cindy Brogan on violin) added to the solemnity of the day.

The program was chaired by Dr. Gary Levin and Stephanie Ross, with Linda Carmi, Sandi Danciger, Talia Lizemer-Hawley, Bricelyn Koltun and Rabbi J.B. Sacks, and coordinated by Leslie Pepper, Jewish Federation Director of Women's Philanthropy and Community Engagement.

A moving highlight of the afternoon were eight students from Palm Desert High School (Amaya D'Souza, Riley Hart, Cidni-Marie Hordista, Skye Penny, Alexis Potter, Lily Schneider, Victoria Thomas and Hannah Woods) presenting an original Holocaust-themed performance, created by their teacher, dancer/choreographer Christina McKeever.

Another special moment was last year's Holocaust Poetry Contest first place winner, Lily Jones, a 10th grade student at Palm Valley School, reading her moving poem "Through the Window."

The program included taped performances of "Remembrance of Things Present," a curated collection of stories from the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, brought to life by professional actors from The Braid.

US Unites 30+ Nations in Global Push Against Antisemitism

The State Department document urges governments to enhance protection for Jewish communities.

By Corey Walker, The Algemeiner

More than 30 countries led by the United States adopted "global guidelines for countering antisemitism" during a gathering of special envoys and other representatives from around the globe in Argentina on Wednesday.

Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, the US special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism, formally announced the guidelines at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Buenos Aires, where dignitaries were gathering to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1994 bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish community center.

"From the AMIA terrorist attack 30 years ago to the aftermath of [Hamas' massacre across southern Israel on] Oct. 7, the danger of antisemitism is clear. That's why my colleagues and I recognize the urgent need to unite and spur international action against this evil," Lipstadt said.

"We distilled these twelve 'guidelines,' each one a best practice that we know to be effective. We are confident that this framework – to quote one of my colleagues in the State Department – can provide 'structure and guidance' to public authorities worldwide. I am also confident that these guidelines will broaden and deepen international diplomacy and policy discourse about how best to counter antisemitism."

Lipstadt called on other countries and institutions to endorse the framework, arguing it "will not eradicate Jew-hatred, but it will help to shape how the international system responds."

Her comments came about three months after the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) released a report showing antisemitic incidents in the US rose 140 percent last year, reaching a record high.

Most of the outrages occurred after Oct. 7, during the ensuing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Meanwhile, antisemitic incidents have also skyrocketed to record highs in several other countries around the world, especially in Europe, since the Hamas atrocities of Oct. 7.

The US State Department on Wednesday released a document detailing the legally nonbinding guidelines and listing the dozens of countries that endorsed them.

Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt

Multiple international bodies, including the European Commission and Organization of American States, also adopted the framework.

Perhaps most significantly, the guidelines state that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism is "an important internationally recognized instrument used by over 40 UN member states since its adoption."

IHRA, an intergovernmental organization comprising dozens of countries including the US and Israel, adopted a non-legally binding "working definition" of antisemitism in 2016.

Since then, the definition has been widely accepted by Jewish groups and well over 1,000 global entities, from countries to companies. The US State Department, the European Union, and the United Nations all use it.

According to the definition, antisemitism "is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

IHRA provides 11 specific, contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere.

Beyond classic antisemitic behavior associated with the likes of the medieval period and Nazi Germany, the examples include denial of the Holocaust and newer forms of antisemitism targeting Israel such as demonizing the Jewish state, denying its right to exist, and holding it to standards not expected of any other democratic state.

"Concerned states, special envoys, national coordinators, and representatives tasked by their governments to counter antisemitism, in cooperation with international bodies,

offer the following best practices, which have proven to be effective guidelines in formulating public policy," the guidelines read.

"We urge all states and international bodies, as well as civil society, to embrace and use these practices, many of which already form the basis of regional and country-based action plans," the document continues.

"These guidelines can be applied everywhere, not only in societies with Jewish communities."

The guidelines urge governments and political leaders to "speak out" against antisemitism "swiftly, clearly, and unequivocally, whenever and wherever it occurs."

They also caution governments not to politicize antisemitism, acknowledging that anti-Jewish bigotry exists "across the political spectrum."

One measure calls on governments to craft "strategies and action plans" to tackle antisemitism with the help of Jewish organizations, researchers, and experts.

Appointing "national coordinators, special envoys, or designated officials" can help thwart antisemitism in public policy, the guidelines say.

The guidelines also highlight the surge of antisemitism on social media platforms, encouraging governments to inform themselves on the "evolving trends" of anti-Jewish hate online.

Governments and international organizations should "assess impacts" of online antisemitism on Jewish communities and "find solutions" to fight this modern method of promoting bigotry within the current legal frameworks, the guidelines suggest.

The State Department document urges governments to enhance protection for Jewish communities, underlining their vulnerability as "targets of physical threats and attacks from both foreign and domestic sources."

Moreover, educating the public on the history and consequences of antisemitism and enforcing anti-discrimination laws can help minimize anti-Jewish hatred in society, the guidelines argue.

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Antisemitism in America: A Gallup Poll

By Rabbi Dr. Jules King, Desert Outreach Synagogue

Recently, the Gallup organization published the results of a poll they conducted on attitudes toward antisemitism in America. The results are very enlightening and worth noting. I would like to share some of the findings and my thoughts about them.

First, here is a summary of the findings: Most Americans perceive that prejudice against Jewish people is a problem in the country today, with half considering it very serious. In 2003, it was 9%.*Jewish Americans are more likely than other religious groups to report mistreatment and say it has increased.

* More than one in three Jews report poor treatment or harassment in the past year. Close to half say that poor treatment has increased compared to the past.

* Most upsetting of all, most Jewish Americans say they have felt reluctant to reveal their religious affiliation to others.

My views:

As we look back, even just a few two decades ago, people were much quieter and more reticent to raise issues or bring attention to matters of hate and especially antisemitism. Perhaps in part to deny that it was happening or to pretend that perhaps it wasn't all that pervasive. I believe that in the past — and possibly even today — many still pretend not to hear things in hopes that it will all go away.

The thinking has been, "Why make trouble?" "Surely, they didn't mean it," or "They don't know what they're saying,"… Or possibly… "It wasn't all that bad. They're generally good neighbors or colleagues." But the numbers have increased dramatically; those who consider antisemitism a "very serious problem" have grown from 9% to 49% in twenty years. Jewish hatred abounds sadly everywhere, and there is no place safe, it seems.

The Gallup poll states that it is older Americans who are most likely to describe antisemitism as a problem. In my experience, I disagree. I speak to younger people frequently, and many of them are concerned, largely due to social media.

Social media has changed everything about how we live, how we communicate, and how we live our lives. People are not usually quiet or shy about making their thoughts known and live out their lives publicly on social media. One must look no further than Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, or any other social media platform to quickly realize people regularly publish all the details of their daily happenings and lives. The good. The bad… and the ugly. We are surrounded by cameras everywhere. Our world is lived virtually and certainly very public for all the good and bad. I am convinced that social media gives a global voice and vehicle for immediate transmission of all things… especially hate! The subtleties of the past have become too overt and obnoxious today and have allowed antisemites to find connections to each other and spread their vile and hateful words and actions.

Hate and prejudice against people and religions, not just Jewish people, is more than just wrong. As we have seen in the past and currently, it often leads to violence. It cannot be tolerated and must be addressed.

Perhaps polls and articles such as the Gallup work will open the eyes and minds of decent Americans — Jewish and not — to the problem of hatred. Half of America already sees the seriousness.

UK's New Prime Minister Observes Shabbat, Supports Israel

By Beth Harpaz, The Forward

For the first time ever, 10 Downing St., the official residence of the United Kingdom's prime minister, will be home to a practicing Jewish family.

Keir Starmer, whose wife is Jewish, was sworn in July 5th by King Charles III after the Labour Party won in a landslide. Though Starmer himself is not Jewish, his children are being raised Jewish and he says the family will continue to gather for Shabbat dinners while he is running the country.

Starmer has also been a strong supporter of Israel and pledges to fight the surge in antisemitism that's plaguing the United Kingdom.

The Starmers belong to the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St. Johns Wood, in London, which describes itself as an "inclusive, diverse and egalitarian community" committed to social justice and welcoming of non-Jewish partners.

Keir Starmer

They're raising their kids "to recognize the faith of their grandfather's family," Starmer said. "Just carving out that tradition, that bit of faith on Friday is incredibly important." He said in the past that he avoids Friday night events so he can spend the evening at home.

Starmer made fighting antisemitism part of his platform, and he's criticized former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn for Corbyn's anti-Jewish positions. Stormer even briefly suspended Corbyn from the Labour Party after Corbyn dismissed a report that found Jewish Labour Party leaders had been mistreated.

Starmer has pledged "zero tolerance" for antisemitism in the party and said: "I think we can make up for lost ground."

Starmer has said that some of his wife's family live in Israel, but "Thank God" none of them were directly affected by Hamas' October 7 attacks.

Shortly after October 7 he said he felt a "deep sense of shock" at the rise in antisemitism in the UK, adding: "We stand by Jewish communities here, and we stand by Israel internationally for the terrorist acts."

He has said that "the first and most fundamental thing is getting that ceasefire, ensuring we can get hostages out," while underscoring his "steadfast" support for the country. "I will not try and bully Israel into making concessions that are not in its interests. Israel deserves to live in peace and security."

While Starmer said he opposes the notion of Israel annexing parts of the West Bank, he also opposes a boycott.

His stance has made his family a target for pro-Palestinian protesters. In April, a prosecutor said that Victoria Starmer (Starmer's wife) was "intimidated and scared" after a demonstration "effectively forced her out of her own home."

It is believed that 46% of UK Jews voted Labour in this election, compared to 30% voting Conservative. That is a significant change from the 2019 election, where only 11% of Jewish voters supported Labour, mainly because of the statements made by Jeremy Corbyn. However, Labour also lost several seats to five pro-Palestinian independent candidates.

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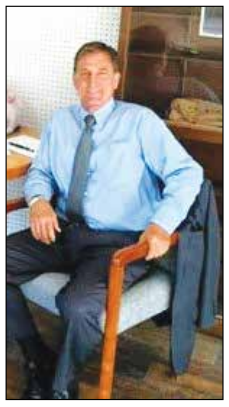
Christian Lawmaker Plans Shoah Museum to Combat Antisemitism

Pennsylvania State Rep. Mark Gillen faces threats and harassment while pursuing his educational project.

By Miri Weissman, Jewish News Syndicate

Pennsylvania State Rep. Mark Gillen is pushing forward with plans to build a Holocaust Museum in Berks County in the face of growing antisemitism.



Pennsylvania State Rep. Mark Gillen

The Republican lawmaker is determined to create an educational center despite facing threats and opposition.

Gillen, who has represented Pennsylvania's 128th district, in the state's Amish country, since 2010, recently traveled to Israel with the Jerusalem-based Harel Association, which works to help teenage immigrants from the former Soviet Union integrate into Israeli society.

During his visit, he volunteered on military bases, packing first aid kits and food parcels to support soldiers amid manpower shortages.

The Republican legislator, who is Christian, also toured Christian sites in Jerusalem's Old City and visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem.

"I'm enjoying Israel very, very much. It is a very spiritual land," Gillen said. "I'm encouraging people and lifting their spirits because I stand up for them abroad."

The Pennsylvania representative's commitment to preserving history extends beyond his recent trip. Gillen founded the Berks Military History Museum in Mohnton, Pennsylvania, which houses World War II artifacts.

Encouraged by the public interest in the Holocaust section of his military museum, Gillen is focusing on a new project: The Berks Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Set to be built in 2025, the museum will be funded by community contributions.

All the artifacts for the museum were loaned or bought, mainly from Europe. So far, he has acquired Warsaw Ghetto Stars of David and concentration camp uniforms. He is in the market for a WWII train car and intends to go to antique shops in Poland in the future. Josh Shapiro, the governor of Pennsylvania since 2023 and a friend of Gillen, has expressed his support for the project.

"I wasn't expecting the efforts of antisemites to shut down my project," Gillen said. The opposition became so severe that a bomb squad was placed on standby during the ceremonial groundbreaking in 2021. Following the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, Gillen faced further harassment after publishing a commentary supporting Israel and condemning Hamas in a local paper.

Online, Gillen was targeted with antisemitic slurs and Holocaust denial comments.

"Because I'm a public official, you have to live with this," he lamented. "They want to get inside your head, and I won't let them. It only validated that we should be doing this."

Gillen's stance against antisemitism extends to his political actions. He recently removed state funding from the University of Pennsylvania, calling it a "hub of antisemitism." The lawmaker said it was entirely unacceptable to "give taxpayer dollars to schools allowing these protests to go on in violation of their own rules of hate speech and threats."

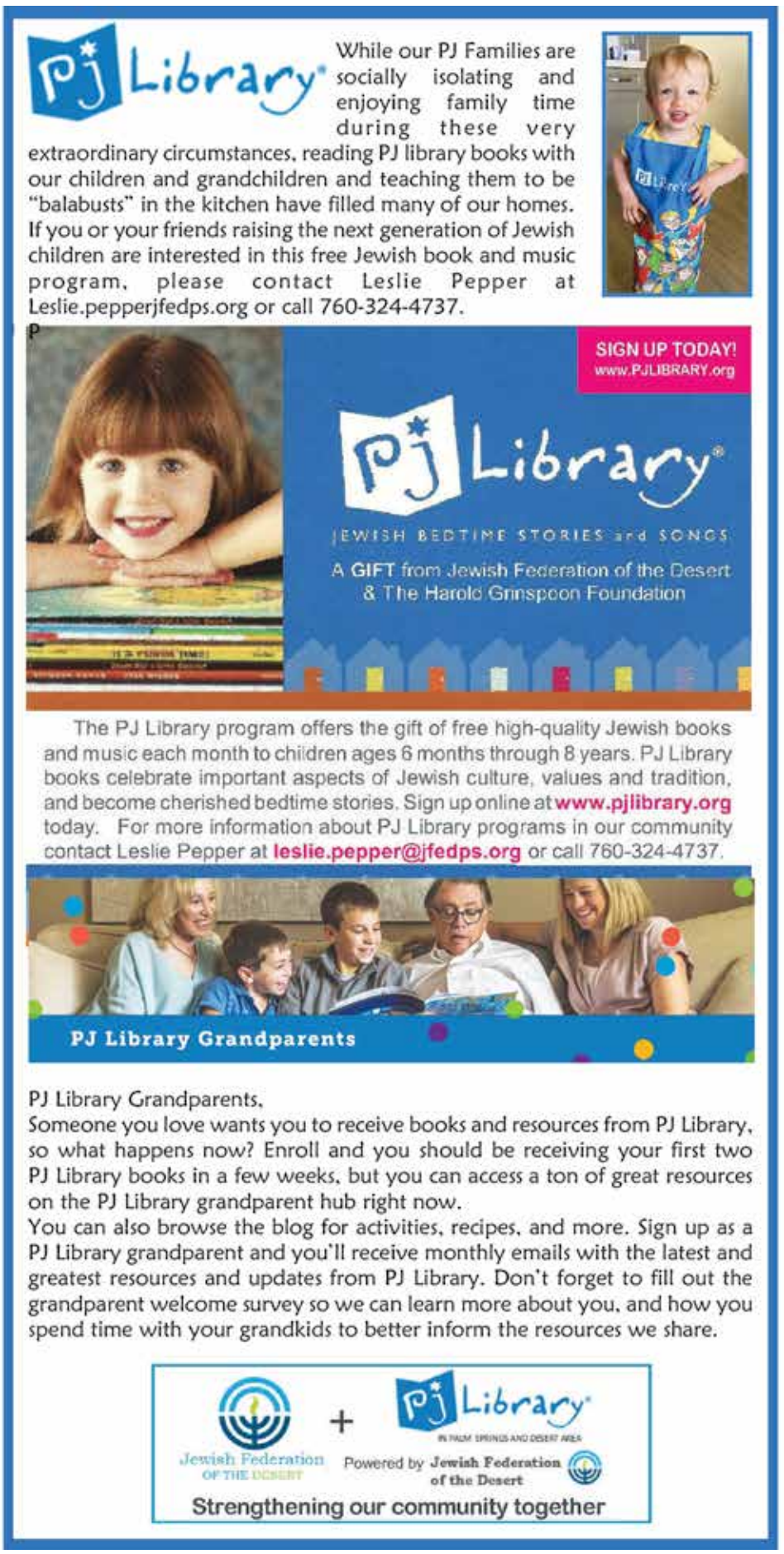
When approached by the university administration about restoring funding, Gillen responded, "Not unless you enforce policy changes."

The representative also commented on the recent shooting at the Trump rally in Pennsylvania, "It hit close to home because my secretary was sitting right behind Trump where the bullets hit, and my good friends Congressman Dan Meuser and Senate candidate Dave McCormick were there.

"Assassinations are sadly a part of U.S. history, and we need to ratchet down the rhetoric that 'the other party is the enemy' and visceral hatred for someone on the other side of the aisle. It is a problem," Gillen said.

He emphasized his approach to politics, saying, "When I ran for office, I never discussed my competitor; it is just not who I am. But unfortunately, this is the exception, not the rule regarding politicians."

Originally published by Israel Hayom.



Manetathchi continued from page 6

hotels around the city. Everywhere where we went, the message was the same, "Tell people to come visit us "and "you need to move to Israel- it is not safe in America to be a Jew."

Oddly, I felt safe throughout my trip, even when we needed the safe room in the apartment building where we took cover on the night Iran sent their barrage of missiles. I will not ever forget the casual conversation between the four women and two young girls, waiting out the missile storm, and how we were welcomed into their home and shelter as though we, too, were family. We were wonderfully taken care of by the mom and two sons in charge of the Airbnb. One of the sons, a soldier fighting in the North, still managed to text us to answer our questions and bring us a cake when he had a couple of days leave.

There was no way I could deny the spiritual buzz in Jerusalem that had a life of its own. Those we encountered possessed the gift of living in the here and now, and purely enjoying the moment. The faith that permeated the air, even the morning after the bombing in the market, is what I hold on to, draw from, and do my best to channel daily in the desert on the other side of the world that I still dwell in. One souvenir I brought back, in addition to my new Hamsa charm and Star of David ring, is the distinct knowledge that a piece of my heart remains in Israel and is waiting for my return.

Robins continued from page 6

we were staying in. We stayed inside while bombs went off above us sitting next to a family of 2 small children, their mother, and grandmother. We spoke of motherhood and the possibility of the young mother having another child. It was amazing to me that death was never part of any conservation during the bombing, and instead we spoke of new life. I didn't feel any fear in these moments, or during any of my time in Israel. I always felt very safe. The next day people returned to work and life continued on as usual. This is life in Israel.

We returned home a few days later and I had plenty of time to process the whole experience. A few things have become clear to me. Israel has the Shekhinah (The Divine presence) hovering over the land, and the spark within us, that unites all of us, is connected to the Shekhinah. I believe Israelis' love for life and their true resilience gives them the strength to survive anything. If you can visit Israel she needs your support. We are a people that I am proud to be a part of. While I may have always loved Israel, during my experience this time I fell *in love* and I will always carry her in my heart.

Adonai, s'fatai tiftach, ufid yagid t"hilatecha.

Israel Offers to Treat Ukrainian Child Cancer Patients After Deadly Strike on Hospital

By Jacob Frankel, The Algemeiner

Israel has offered to take in and treat child cancer patients displaced by Russia's deadly missile strike that destroyed part of Ukraine's largest children's hospital in Kyiv on July 8th.

The Okhmatdyt children's hospital, including its childhood cancer ward, was hit during the onslaught.

"We are extracting whoever we can. We don't know the number of people trapped there," Ukrainian Health Minister Viktor Liashko said in a press conference outside the hospital.

Following the destruction, Israel offered to take in and treat displaced cancer patients from the Ukrainian hospital to the Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, according to the Israeli media outlet Ynet. The offer was reportedly conveyed to the Ukrainians by Israel's Ambassador to Ukraine, Michael Brodsky.

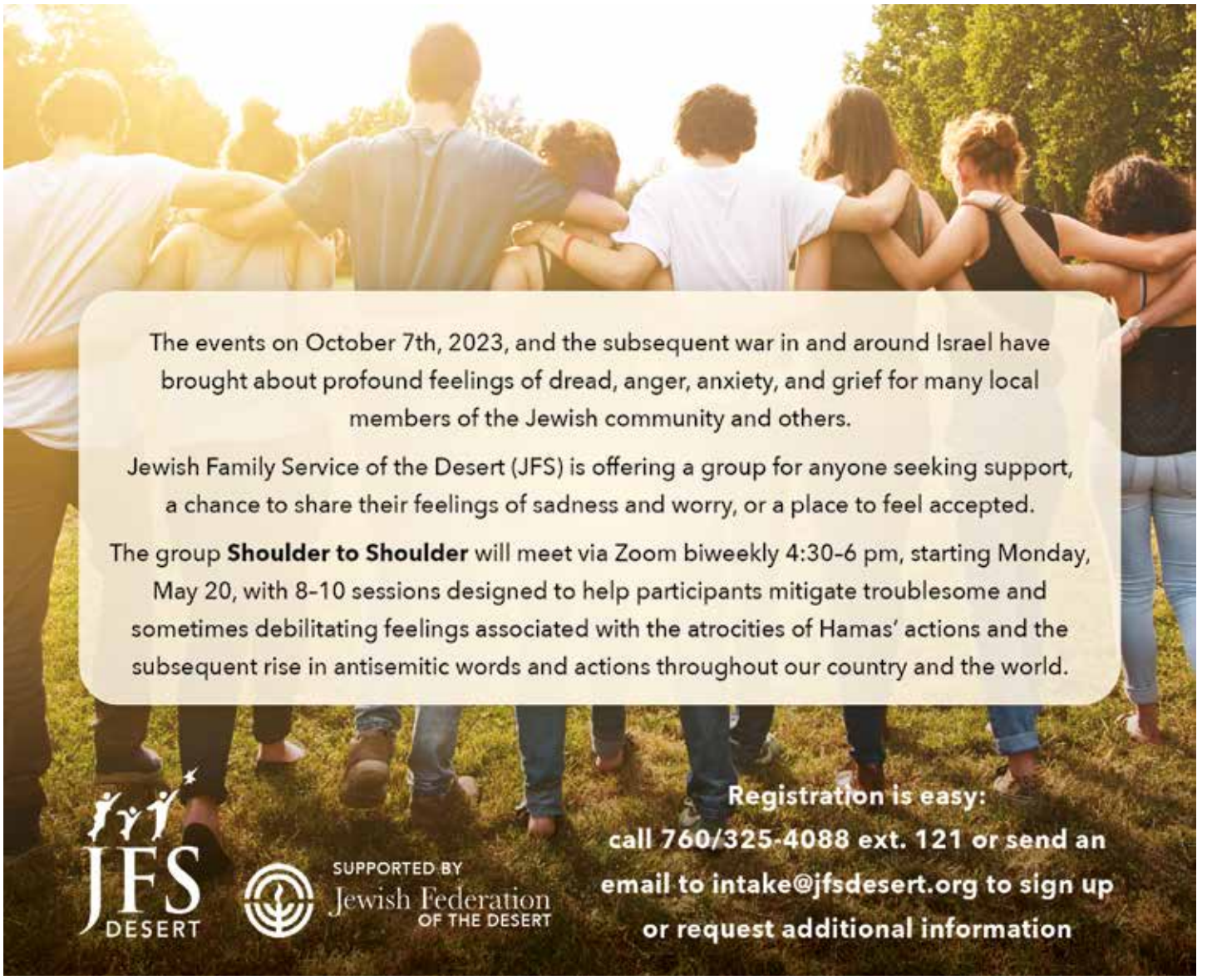
"The Israeli embassy has long-standing ties with the Okhmatdyt Hospital. At the beginning of the war, the embassy delivered medical equipment to the hospital, their doctors visited Israel, our doctors came and advised online," Brodsky told Ynet. "The embassy is exploring the possibility of assisting in the rehabilitation of the heavily damaged hospital. I also spoke with the Sheba Medical Center."

Brodsky noted that, at the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022, several children with oncological diseases who were hospitalized in Ukraine were evacuated to Israel for treatment. "Israel has a reputation as a country with a big heart, and we are doing everything to maintain that reputation," he said.

According to Sheba Medical Center, located by Tel Aviv, its professionals treat around 50,000 cancer patients a year and are the "absolute leader in cancer treatment in Israel."

In the past, Israel has come to the aid of nations confronted by humanitarian crises. In 2020, for example, Israel dispatched teams to Honduras and Turkey in the aftermath of earthquakes in each country.

Israel has also provided numerous instances of aid to war-torn Ukraine since Russia's large-scale invasion in early 2022. According to Mashav, the Israeli government's foreign aid department, an Israeli field hospital was established in western Ukraine staffed by personnel from Sheba Medical Center. Magav has also shipped food, medicine, and generators to war-torn regions of Ukraine.



NYU Settles Antisemitism Lawsuit with Jewish Students

By Dion J. Pierre, The Algemeiner

New York University has agreed to pay an undisclosed sum of money to settle a lawsuit brought by three students who sued the school for responding, allegedly, to antisemitic discrimination "with deliberate indifference," the school's spokesperson confirmed in a statement issued on Monday.

In resolving the case, NYU avoids a lengthy trial which would have revealed precisely who and which office received but failed to address numerous reports that — according to the court documents filed in November — NYU students and faculty "repeatedly abuse, malign, vilify, and threaten Jewish students with impunity" and that "death to k—es" and "gas the Jews" were chanted by pro-Hamas supporters at the school.

The suit was one of many filed against colleges and universities after an explosion of antisemitic conduct that followed Hamas' Oct. 7 massacre across southern Israel. It charged that "pleas for help and protection" were ignored and that NYU administrators "gaslighted" Jewish students instead of punishing those responsible for the discriminatory acts to which they were subjected.

"The parties have agreed to a confidential settlement of the litigation, including monetary terms," NYU spokesperson John Beckman said in a press release. "None of the confidential terms detracts from NYU's obligations to combat antisemitism under the agreement. As a result of the agreement, NYU is creating a new Title VI coordinator position — among the first major universities in the country to do so."

Speaking in the same press release, the plaintiffs' attorney issued a statement which positively described the terms of the settlement.

"NYU, by entering into this historic settlement, is to be commended for taking a leading position among American universities in combating antisemitism on campus," said Marc Kasowitz of Kasowitz, Benson, and Torres LLP. "Other universities should promptly follow their lead."

Columbia also settles lawsuit

Columbia University, another elite school based in the New York City area, has also settled a lawsuit in which it was accused by a student of neglecting its obligation to foster a safe learning environment amid riotous pro-Hamas protests that were held at the school throughout the final weeks of the academic year.

The resolution of the case, first reported by Reuters, calls for Columbia to hire a "Safe Passage Liaison" who will monitor protests and "walking escorts" who will accompany students whose safety is threatened around the campus. Other details of the settlement include "accommodations" for students whose academic lives are disrupted by protests and new security policies for controlling access to school property.

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Two Universities Hand Down Years-Long Suspensions to Pro-Hamas Rioters; Columbia Places Administrators on Leave

By Dion J. Pierre, The Algemeiner

The University of Florida (UF) has handed down severe and potentially life-altering punishments to seven pro-Hamas rioters who participated in occupying the campus in an attempt to intimidate officials into boycotting and divesting from Israel, according to Fresh Take Florida, a news service of the university's College of Journalism and Communications.

UF's disciplinary body was set on slapping the students' wrists, sentencing most to probation only based on recommendations from "hearing bodies," until its new dean, Chris Summerlin, intervened and issued full suspensions for as many as four years. The harshest suspensions — including four years for Allan Hektor Frasheri, 21, and three years for other students — while not being formal expulsions, are long enough to make it unlikely that the students serving them will return to the University of Florida.

The seven students have reportedly submitted appeals to overturn their punishments that are pending.

Summerlin's suspensions may not be the only consequences that the students will face. According to Fresh Take Florida, the students were part of a group of nine that were arrested by local law enforcement for trespassing and resisting arrest, charges that are being prosecuted by the Alachua County State Attorney's Office. They are taking their chances at trial, the news service added, noting that all nine have rejected "deferred prosecution," an agreement that would require them to plead guilty, or no contest, in exchange for the state's expunging the convictions from their records in the future so long as they abstain from committing more criminal acts.

One of the nine, computer science student Parker Stanely Hovis, 26, — who was suspended for three years — proclaimed on Tuesday that they will contest the state's cases.

"We did not resist arrest, and we are prepared to fight our charges," Hovis said in a statement. "We're standing in solidarity with each other, and collectively demanding that the state drop the charges against us."

The University of Texas at Austin has also meted out lengthy suspensions to pro-Hamas protesters who violated school rules, a course of action that experts believe is a deterrent against similar behavior in the future.

Three students have been sentenced to deferred suspensions, a form of probation which allows them to continue their studies so long as they comply with school rules going forward, according KUT News, a National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate. As part of their punishment, they must pass an exam testing their knowledge of school policies on free speech and protests and formally declare their awareness of the harsher, full suspensions they will receive should they violate school rules again.

One student, KUT added, was given a "full" two-year suspension during which he is banned from campus. The suspension effectively disenrolled him from the university, but he can reapply for readmission in 2026.

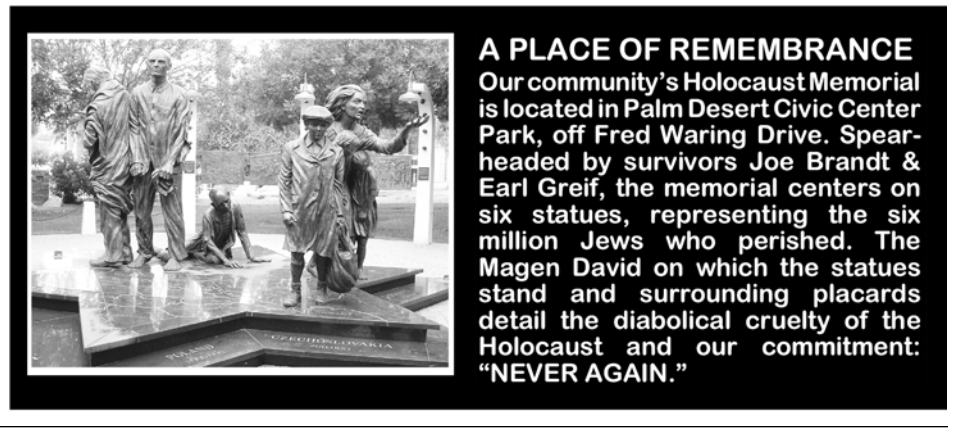
"The University of Texas at Austin provided a world-class learning environment where every student can thrive," said a letter, as quoted by the outlet, sent to one of the students who was placed on deferred suspension. "At this juncture, suspension appears to be the appropriate consequences for these serious infractions."

It continued, "However, recognizing your commitment to educational growth, we want to offer you an alternative path to avoid suspension by proving that you have learned from this experience. We offer you the choice to accept a deferred suspension."

Administrators and faculty have also been disciplined for their conduct amid a wave of anti-Israel demonstrations that upended campus life at universities across the US this past semester.

Columbia University announced that three administrators have been placed on involuntary leave for sharing communications which "disturbingly touched on ancient antisemitic tropes" while serving on the job, president Minouche Shafik said in a statement. The action followed an explosive Washington Free Beacon report which revealed that administrators Susan Chang-Kim, Cristen Kromm, Matthew Patashnick, and Josef Sorett, who is dean of Columbia College, sent a series of text messages which denigrated Jews while spurning their concerns about rising antisemitism and the fate of Israel, denouncing them as "privileged" and venal.

"Whether intended as such or not, these sentiments are unacceptable and deeply upsetting, conveying a lack of seriousness about the concerns and experiences of members of our Jewish community that is antithetical to our university's values and the standards we must uphold in our community," Shafik said. "We are taking action that holds those involved in this incident accountable … more broadly, we will launch a vigorous program of antisemitism and antidiscrimination [sic] training for faculty and staff this fall, with related training for students under the auspices of university life."



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FBI Used Israeli Tech to Crack Phone of Trump's Would-be Assassin

By Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News

The FBI used Israeli technology to hack into the cellphone of would-be Donald Trump assassin, Thomas Matthew Crooks, the Washington Post reported July 16.

After Crooks shot and killed one man and injured three, including grazing the former president's ear, during a Saturday outdoor campaign rally, a Secret Service sniper shot him dead.

When a cellphone was found on the body it was taken to the nearby Pittsburgh FBI office, where the agents couldn't break into it. The phone was sent to the FBI lab in Quantico, Va., where the investigators used software invented by Israeli company Cellebrite, to hack into the device in less than 40 minutes.

Cellebrite, which is headquartered in Petach Tikva and traded on the NASDAQ, has a platform that can access, extract, and decode data from computer devices to reveal evidence as well as analyze it.

The company also uses its proprietary software to keep sensitive information safe.

The 25-year-old company is used by over 2,500 North American federal, state and local agencies, the police departments of the 20 largest American cities, and 25 national police departments in the European Union.

Tribute Card Donations

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

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

• **Miriam Bent**, In honor of your son's marriage and becoming a Bubbie, from Sheila Bailin.

• **Rhoda Brickell and Carole Shapiro**, Thank you for a very special evening with great company and delicious food, from Barbara Platt.

• **Phyllis Eisenberg**, Congratulations on joining the board of Jewish Family Service of the Desert, from Barbara and Robert Paget.

• **Phyillis Eisenberg,** Thank you for a lovely evening, from Debra and Mickey Star.

• **Neil Feinberg**, Happy Birthday from Jim Greenbaum.

• **Wendy Goodfriend**, In honor of your 75th birthday, from Merle Arenson*, Rick and Bunni Benaron*, Miles Berger and Harriet Hochman*, Bob and Robin Berman*, Bill and Joanne Chunowitz*, Cindy Farber*, Frank Goldstin and Paul Clowers*, Jane Effress and Harvey Lambert*, Barbara Federman and Jim Levitas, Howard and Lori Friend*, Adrian and Cass Graff-Radford*, Wendy Hahn and Kent Whinnery*, Bobbi Holland*, Roger and Leenie Kaplan*, Pat and Joan Kerns*, Steve and Margie Kulp*,, Karen Lee, Brahm and Deborah Levin*, Jeff and Jackie Levin*, Bertel Lewis*, Ken and Barbara Lieberman*, Cydney Osterman and Ken Schoenfeld*, Steve and Alana Polacheck, Robert and Mary Jo Pomerantz*, Gail Richards*, Bob and Gail Scadron*, Trudy Schwartz*, Barry and Leslie Usow*, Sheldon and Barbara Weisberg*, Craig and Maureen Wielansky*, Lee and Laurie Wielansky*, and Richard and Lili Ann Zisook*.

• **Cass Graff-Radford,** Thank you for a lovely afternoon, from Joanne Chunowitz, Sherry Schor and Leslie Usow*.

• **Deana Hapip**, In celebration of your special birthday, from Diane Simon and Ellen Gold*.

• **Leenie Kaplan**, Thank you for your dear friendship, from Barbara Paget.

• **Rhonda and Gary Korzon**, Wishing you a Happy Holiday, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.

• **Karen Lee**, Thank you for a lovely afternoon, from Joanne Chunowitz, Sherry Schor and Leslie Usow*.

• **Dolly and Julian Levy**, In honor of your 70th anniversary, from Henry and Joan Kerns, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

• **Dr. Paul and Terry Lubar**, Thank you, from Shelli Goodman and Bernie Plack, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Dolly and Julian Levy, and Sherry Schor.

• **Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mandell**, Best wishes on your 60th anniversary, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

• **Eunice Meister**, Happy special birthday, from Loreen Jacobson.

• **Dr. Richard and Amy Noren**, Congratulations on your wedding anniversary from Dad (Joe Noren) and Marnie Miller.

• **Allan and Roberta Nyman**, Good luck on your new adventures, from Phyllis Eisenberg.

• **Jack Olshansky**, In honor of your 95th birthday, from Barry Kaiman.

• **Mr. and Mrs. Paul Parry**, Thank you for a delightful evening with good food and special friendship, from Barbara Platt.

• **Scott and Mark,** In gratitude for your company and transportation to Shelly's memorial, from Barbara Platt.

• **Jane and Larry Sherman,** Thank you for a wonderful Shabbat dinner and all the Passover goodies, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman.

• **Jane and Larry Sherman**, For all your philanthropic endeavors, from Karen Lee* and Lili Ann and Ricky Zisook*.

• **Jaime and Dr. Amy Siegel**, In honor of you, from Milton and Nina Zale.

• **Al Siwak,** Mazel tov on celebrating 91 glorious years, from Lilo and Leslie Cooper.

• **We celebrate the Bat Mitzvah** of Toni Victor, Allison Hyman, Mary Levine, Barbara Federman, Nina Zale, Barbara Weisberg and Iris Smotrich, from Barry Kaiman.

• **Rabbi Ronald Wolfson**, In celebration of your ordination as Rabbi from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, from Barry Kaiman.

• **Shelly Zucker,** In honor of your 80th birthday from Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ehrlichman, Phil and Ellen Glass, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

• **Wendy DeWoskin**, Hoping you are feeling better, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

• **Nancy Ditlove,** Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Loreen Jacobson, Dale and George Rotner.

• **Barbara Fromm**, Get well quickly, from Suzanne and Jeff Feder, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

• **Margot Halperin**, Wishes for a speedy recovery, from Loreen Jacobson, Debra and Mickey Star.

• **Margot and Jerry Halperin**, Hope you will feel better very soon, from Suzanne and Jeff Feder.

• **Barry Kaiman**, Get well soon, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.

• **Nate Metzger**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bobby Scadron.

• **Gail Movitz**, Best wishes on your upcoming surgery, from Lilo and Leslie Cooper.

• **Jerry Pollan**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bobby Scadron.

• **Nancy Siwak**, Wishing you well as you approach your upcoming diagnosis, from Lilo and Leslie Cooper.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

• **Faye Bildman**, in memory of your beloved husband Art, from Debra and Mickey Star*.

• **Jean Broday**, In memory of your beloved husband Al, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Debra and Mickey Star.

Tribute Card Donations

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

• **Martin Cherlin**, In memory of Sherry; our sincerest sympathies, from Judith Kotick Hans and Dale and George Rotner.

• **The Frank Family**, with deepest sympathy from Ron and Dani Cukier.

• **Terri Ginsberg**, In memory of your beloved son David, from Bob and Carol Friedman.

• **Mr. and Mrs. Mort Goldfine,** in memory of your beloved sister Sheila, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.

• **Nancy Graves,** with deepest sympathy from Ron and Dani Cukier.

• **Jim Greenbaum**, May the memories of Peggy forever be a blessing, from Kathy Garon Bauman, Jill and Brad Deutser, Marilyn, Dan and Nancy Freund.

• **Beverlee Greene**, Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved Stan, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

• **Mr. and Mrs. Bob Greenly,** Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved son Darren, from Ron and Dani Cukier.

• **Amy and Frank Linde**, Condolences on the passing of your beloved, elegant mother, Audrey Chatzky, from Cora Ginsberg.

• **Eunice Meister and Family,** Heartfelt condolences remembering your beloved Jerry, from Judy and Barbara Appelbaum, Lilo and Leslie Cooper, Dennis and Nancy Ditlove, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ehrlichman, Suzanne and Jeff Feder, Sande and Ed Fineman, Cora Ginsberg, Ron and Muriel Goldberg, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Loreen Jacobson, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Bertel Lewis*, Paul and Terry Lubar, Joe Noren and Marnie Miller, Barbara Platt, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry Schor, Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak, Debra and Mickey Star* and Barbara Weisberg,

• **Nancy Meshulam**, With sadness on the loss of your loving sister, from Dale and George Rotner.

• **Judy Nathan**, In loving memory of your husband Ron, from Bob and Carol Friedman, Diane and Arnold Simon* and Ellen and Mel Gold*.

• **Robert Nathan**, In memory of your beloved Leslie, from Vicki and Mural Josephson.

• **Billy Nissinoff and Family**, Sincerest sympathies. Our friend will be sorely missed, from Dale and George Rotner.

• **Veda Ofseyer,** In loving memory of Rabbi Jordan Ofseyer, from Sheila Bailin and Trudy Levy.

• **Marla Olshansky**, In memory of your beloved mother Sheila, from Marnie Miller.

• **Sherry Schor**, In memory of your beloved Howard, from Susie and Joel Cohen*.

• **Sheila Stone**, In loving memory of your beloved Ira, from Sandra Borns, Joanne and Bill Chunowitz, Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak, Nora Rado, Debra and Mickey Star, Leslie and Barry Usow.

• **Tom Weil**, In memory of Helaine Tolkin Weil, from Iris and Tevie Bornstein.

• **Roslyn Weinstein and Family**, In memory of your beloved brother, Alan Leibowitz, from Debra and Mickey Star.

• **Barbara Weisberg and Family,** In memory of your beloved Sheldon, from Judy Appelbaum, Richard and Bunni Benaron, Audrey Bernstein, Bill and Joanne Chunowitz, Susie and Joel Cohen*, Lilo and Leslie Cooper, Patrick Dati and Greg Schedler, Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ehrlichman, Suzanne and Jeffrey Feder, Judy and Jack Feinberg, Sande and Ed Fineman, Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Cora Ginsberg, Jacqueline Goldfarb, Patty and Larry Goodman, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Loreen Jacobson, Ronnie and Barbara Kahn, Scot and Lance Karp, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Henry and Joan Kerns, Joellen and Gary Leifer, Pat and Terry Lubar, Marilyn Malkin, Renee Mayer, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Jeff and Linda Noddle, Barbara Platt and Family, Rella and Monty Rifkin, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry Schor, Nancy and Al Siwak, Debra and Mickey Star*, Leslie and Barry Usow, Nina and Milton Zale.

**Donation earmarked for Israel Emergency Fund*

75% of European Jews Conceal Jewish Identity

The survey from 2023 precedes the October 7th invasion of Israel by Hamas, and since then, antisemitism has increased by 400% in some countries.

By Vered Weiss, World Israel News

A European Union survey found that 75% of Jews in Europe have concealed their Jewish identity in public, 80% believe antisemitism is worse than it was 5 years ago, and 37% say they have directly experienced antisemitic harassment, often several times.

The survey from 2023 precedes the October 7th invasion of Israel by Hamas, and since then, antisemitism has increased by 400% in some countries.

The EU's Fundamental Rights Agency gave the survey to 8,000 Jews in Europe in the first half of 2023.

EU's Fundamental Rights Agency questioned over 8,000 Jews across the continent in the first half of 2023 before consulting 11 national Jewish bodies in the wake of Hamas's invasion of Israel.

In the survey, 96% said they experienced antisemitism in their daily life even before October 7th, with 56% saying they experienced it offline from people they knew, 90% saying they had experienced it online, and 4% saying they were physically attacked for being Jewish.

Of those responding, 75% said they concealed their Jewish identity in public "at least occasionally," and 34% said they avoided Jewish events because they don't feel safe.

Concerning the government's response to antisemitism, 60% said they were dissatisfied.

Around 53% said they were worried about their own safety, and 60% said they were concerned about their family's safety in Europe.

Even before the significant rise in antisemitism after the October 7th attacks, 80% said antisemitism had worsened in five years and that they often encountered familiar stereotypes accusing Jews of "holding power and control over finance, media, politics or economy."

This is despite efforts made by European governments and the EU in general to combat antisemitism with an EU strategy to fight anti-Jewish hate adopted in 2021.

Sirpa Rautio, director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights said, "The spillover effect of the conflict in the Middle East is eroding hard-fought-for progress" in fighting antisemitism and "Jews are more frightened than ever before."

Shabbat Schedule - August 2024

BETH SHALOM, Palm Desert
(Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)
Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks (rabbi@congregationbethshalom.net)
42600 Cook Street, Second Floor, Palm Desert, CA 92211. 760-200-3636.
IN-PERSON Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am, followed by light Kiddush lunch.
Visitors welcome with valid identification. For information, email info@congregationbethshalom.net or call 760-200-3636. www.CongregationBethShalom.net

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES
Rabbi Yonason Denebeim &
Rabbi Arik Denebeim
250 East Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264 www.chabadpalmsprings.com 760-325-0774. Check website or call to confirm times of Shabbat and holiday services.

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 &
Rabbi Benny Lew.
www.chabadrm.com
Weekly Shabbat Services start at 10 am, followed by a sit down lunch/kiddush. Check online for weekday and Friday schedule of services Text 760-770-7785 or e-mail: info@chabadrm.com to be added to our mailing list. All programs and events are updated on our website.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT
Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
Call 760-848-8250 or e-mail: info@chabadsuncity.com for schedule.
Contact Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim to receive weekly "Chabad in Sun City Newsletter" with listing of all services and activities: sussiedenebeim@gmail.com.

CHABAD OF LA QUINTA
Rabbi Moshe Katz
50620 Eisenhower Drive, Ste. G103, La Quinta, CA 92253. 760-709-2431.
Email: chabadlaquinta@ gmail.com.
Chabad LQ offers weekly Torah studies, home visitations, Kosher meals, Shabbat Services, Women's Circle, Youth activities, Holiday programs and more.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL, a Contemporary Reform Congregation *(Member, Union for Reform Judaism),* offering year-round services, Torah study, youth and adult classes and events. Membership open for residents and non-residents.
Rabbi Richard Zionts, Ph.D.;

Website: harelurjpd.org.
Shabbat Eve Zoom Services are conducted weekly at 5 PM. Rabbi Richard Zionts shares a D'var Torah on a timely topic based on our timeless tradition. Cantor Joseph Gole provides inspiring melodies and insights from our Shabbat Eve liturgy. Attendees are encouraged to click on the Zoom presentation early for a conversation with clergy and congregants. Har-El welcomes visitors from out of state as well as those in California and the Coachella Valley.
Rabbi Zionts holds Torah Study on Zoom every Saturday morning at 11 AM. For a Zoom link, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.
August Shabbat Service: Friday, August 23 at 5:00 pm on Zoom.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE, Rancho Mirage
Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Rabbi Andrew Bentley, Cantor Lori Reisman Patterson. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. Shabbat services held on the second Fridays at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage. On second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi Axelrad. Beit Sefer Religious School begins again on October 8th and is held Saturday mornings (from 9:45 AM to noon. Check website for most current information: www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com.or www.my-dos.org
August Shabbat service: Friday, August 9 at 7:00 pm.

OR HAMIDBAR
Rabbi David Lazar
rabbi@orhamidbar.org
In-person services each 1st Friday of the month and 3rd Shabbat morning. Online services all other Friday evenings and Shabbat mornings of the month. Kabbalat Shabbat Service - Fridays 6:30 pm; Shabbat prayer and study - Saturdays 10:30 am.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES, Palm Desert
Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert. In person services in Speaker's Hall in the Sunset View Clubhouse (second clubhouse) in Sun City Palm Desert the first and third Fridays at 7:15 pm. Information: Nadine Brinhendler, 707- 332-3947.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild
www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org
Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com. Shabbat Candle Lighting on Fridays at 6:00 pm on Zoom. 1st Friday with Rabbi Malka Drucker; 2nd Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat; 3rd Friday with Kerry Abram; 4th Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat. Shabbat Book Study with Rabbi Malka Drucker on Zoom Saturdays 4:00-5:00 pm. Check our website for current info including Torah Study with Rabbi Ilana one Saturday morning per month. For more information and for Zoom link call 951-468-0004.

TEMPLE ISAIAH, Palm Springs
Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. (rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com). Cantorial Soloist Dr. Sarah Sela joins Rabbi on the bima most weeks.
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. Email: temple@templeisaiahps.com; www.templeisaiahps.com.
Shabbat services Friday evenings at 7:30 pm, preceded by Wine and Cheese 'Happy Hour' from 7:00-7:30 pm and Oneg following.
Saturday morning torah study, "Nosh and Drash," begins at 10:30 am. Once a month, usually first Shabbat, Nosh and Drash includes a Shabbat morning/torah service. Check website to confirm.
All services also streamed online.
To access any activity, go to Temple Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program.
Dor Hadash (New Generation)
Religious School for children 8 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah held Shabbat afternoons at 1:00 pm online with Rabbi Rosenberg resuming in the fall.

TEMPLE SINAI, Palm Desert
(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi David Novak
rabbi@templesinai.org
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260. www.templesinaipd.org 760-568-9699.
Go to templesinaipd.org for access information. Shabbat services are in-person and online on Livestream at www.templesinaipd.org. Friday evening services 5:30 pm, preceded by pre-service Oneg at 5:00 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am.
August services held in chapel as well as online.
Temple Sinai's Avi Levine Religious School 9:30 - 12:00 AM on designated Sundays throughout the school year. Contact Talia Lizemer-Hawley, Community Educator, for more information, educator@templesinaipd.org

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

Community Calendar of Programs - August 2024

Sundays:
11:00-11:30 am Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City **Tanya Teachings.** For men and women.

Tuesdays:
7:00 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Tanya, a class for women, with **Sussie Denebeim.** Call 760-848-8250 for more information.

Wednesdays:
7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage Tanya Class led by **Rabbi Shimon Posner.** For men and women. Hosted each week in Rancho Mirage and also available on Zoom.

8:00 pm – Temple Isaiah "Judaism 2.0 with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Online course on ZOOM: Judaism 2.0: New course: "What Jews Believe"". To participate, email Rabbi at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

Saturdays:
1:30 pm Temple Isaiah "Jewish University" features adult education classes as well as religious school learning opportunities and Bnai Mitzvah preparation for the Temple's growing group of young people. Check website for programs: www.templeisaiahps.com.

Thursday, August 15
10:00-11:30 am Desert Outreach Synagogue **Men's Breakfast Club**

Monday, August 19
7:00 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert Summer Study: "We Live on Borrowed Time: What Gives You Meaning, Purpose, Fulfillment at this Age & Stage in Life?" Speaker: **Ken Hailpern**. At home in Sun City Palm Desert. Space limited. Reservations required. Call Vivian at 818-687-9446.

Email (preferred) Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-835-1022 to have your events included in the community calendar.

Jerusalem Choir, with Jews and Arabs, Wows US Talent Show

Jerusalem Youth Chorus earns enthusiastic approval from judges and a standing ovation from the live audience.

Israel Hayom

A youth choir composed of Jews and Arabs has advanced to the second round of "America's Got Talent" after an impressive audition on Tuesday night's episode of the *NBC* show.

The Jerusalem Youth Chorus, made up of singers from east and west Jerusalem, delivered a stirring rendition of Philip Phillips's song "Home," earning enthusiastic approval from all four "America's Got Talent" judges and a standing ovation from the live audience.

Judges Simon Cowell, Heidi Klum, Sofia Vergara and Howie Mandel all gave emphatic "yes" votes to the group, praising their performance and message.

One choir member described the group's mission to the judges, saying, "We believe through music and through working together and talking to each other, we are taking a step forward into building that amazing future where there is justice and there is freedom and there is equality and there is inclusion."

When asked by Klum about their plans for the $1 million prize money, another member responded, "We will create more spaces just like these choruses so people can meet people who are different from them."

Cowell commended the group, saying, "You made something very complicated—beautiful through friendship.".

Argentina Declares Hamas a Terrorist Organization. Move Designed to Show Support for Israel

By Juan Melamed, JTA

Argentina has officially designated Hamas an "international terrorist organization," in a show of support for Israel that extends President Javier Milei's shift away from the country's pro-Palestinian past.

Milei's office announced the move, citing Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, the group's links with Iran and a recent landmark ruling by Argentina's judiciary that Iran was the architect of two deadly terror attacks in Buenos Aires in the 1990s.

The announcement attributed the declaration to Milei's "unwavering commitment to recognizing terrorists for what they are."

Argentinian President Javier Milei

Argentina's Jewish political umbrella organization, DAIA, praised Milei's move. "The representative entity of the Argentine Jewish community welcomes the historic act," the group said in a statement on X.

The declaration is largely symbolic but does mean that any assets tied to Hamas in Argentina can be frozen. The government agency that will now pursue Hamas' assets previously identified and froze some assets tied to Hezbollah while the Argentinian government was on its way to declaring the Lebanon-based group a terror organization.

That declaration came just before the 25th anniversary of the AMIA Jewish community center bombing in Buenos Aires, which killed 85 people on July 18, 1994. The new announcement comes days before the 30th anniversary of the bombing, which Argentina attributes to Hezbollah and Iran. (Both groups have denied responsibility.)

Jewish groups including World Jewish Congress and the Latin American Jewish Congress are hosting an anti-terrorism summit in Buenos Aires on Wednesday, in advance of a Wednesday morning demonstration in front of the rebuilt and recently refurbished AMIA building that international leaders are expected to attend.

Milei — whose embrace of Israel aligns with both his right-wing politics and his personal affinity for Judaism — is expected to speak, along with U.S. antisemitism envoy Deborah Lipstadt, Canadian antisemitism envoy Deborah Lyons, local Jewish leaders and officials from across Latin America.

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Meta Updates Moderation Policy for Word 'Zionist' Used in Hate Speech Targeting Jews, Israelis

By Shiryn Ghermezian, The Algemeiner

Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, announced an update to its moderation policy regard-ing posts that use the word "Zionists" as a proxy to target Jews or Israelis in hate speech.

Meta said it will now remove posts that use "Zionists" to refer to Jews and Israelis in harmful and derogatory ways.

"We recognize there is nothing approaching a global consensus on what people mean when they use the term 'Zionist,'" Meta explained. "However, based on our research, engagement, and on-platform investigation into its use as a proxy term for Jewish people and Israelis in relation to certain types of hateful attacks, we will now remove content that targets 'Zionists' with dehumanizing comparisons, calls for harm, or denials of ex-istence on the basis that 'Zionist' in those instances often appears to be a proxy for Jewish or Israeli people."

Meta said it made its decision after consulting with 145 external experts "representing civil society and aca-demia across the Middle East and Africa, Israel, North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia." They in-cluded political scientists, historians, legal scholars, digital and civil rights groups, freedom of expression ad-vocates, and human rights experts.

Meta's longstanding policy has been to remove posts that attack people based on protected characteristics such as nationality, race, and religion. Political affiliations and ideologies are not among those protected characteristics. Meta also previously only considered the word "Zionist" as a proxy for Jewish or Israeli people in very specific cases, such as when Zionists are compared to rats, which is a common antisemitic trope.

"Going forward, we will remove content attacking 'Zionists' when it is not explicitly about the political move-ment, but instead uses antisemitic stereotypes, or threatens other types of harm through intimidation, or vio-lence directed against Jews or Israelis under the guise of attacking Zionists," Meta said.

The policy update will be implemented on Facebook and Instagram, and comes nine months after the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel, where 1,200 people were murdered and approximately 250 were taken as hostages. Since the onslaught, antisemitic incidents have skyrocketed to record highs in several countries around the world, amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. In many cases, anti-Israel activists have threatened "Zionists," calling for their expulsion from the community and even for their death.

The Israeli tech nonprofit organization CyberWell, which uses artificial intelligence and open source intelli-gence tools to track antisemitism and Holocaust denial on social media platforms, submitted data-focused analysis to Meta regarding the use of "Zionist" as a replacement for "Jew" that helped Meta examine the is-sue before it announced its updated policy on Tuesday. The antisemitism watchdog group thanked Meta for its updated policy and for recognizing that attacking Zionists "is akin to attacking 'Jews.'"

"The use of the term 'Zionist; to spread antisemitic vitriol while avoiding detection has been used by radicals on the far left and extremists on the far right. Today, Meta has spoken through thoughtful action," said Cyber-Well founder and executive director Tal-Or Cohen Montemayor. "By acknowledging the phobic nature of when abuse of the term 'Zionist' is meant to spread bigotry and fear, they are actively protecting a targeted minori-ty group of users on their platform that are currently experiencing the worst wave of targeted hate since the Holocaust. We are thankful to our partners at Meta for taking this step, and we hope that other platforms fol-low suit. With clear policy, safer digital spaces for everyone are possible."

Meta said it has examined issues surrounding the term "Zionists" for years, including recently in March at its policy forum, a meeting that takes

place on a regular basis where Meta team members from various depart-ments discuss potential changes to its community standards, community guidelines, and advertising stand-ards.

The World Jewish Congress (WJC) – which recently launched the Institute for Technology and Human Rights to address online antisemitism – applauded Meta's decision, saying that after "years of advocacy by the WJC, its affiliated Jewish communities, and other organizations," the move "marks a significant step in combating the veiled antisemitism that has proliferated under the guise of political discourse and has skyrocketed since Oc-tober 7."

Meta's decision is a "much-needed advancement in our ongoing fight against online antisemitism and hatred," WJC President Ronald S. Lauder said in a statement. "By recognizing and addressing the misuse of the term 'Zionist,' Meta is taking a bold stand against those who seek to mask their hatred of Jews. We appreciate that Meta has truly listened to the voices of Jewish communities that we work with. This policy change will help create a safer, more respectful online environment for everyone. I hope all other platforms will follow Meta's leadership and take similar action."

The updated policy was also praised by a number of other Jewish organizations, including StopAntisemitism, the Campaign Against Antisemitism, the European Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee.

The Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs said, "As we've seen over the last nine months, hatred against Jews takes many forms, and this update in Meta's Hate Speech policy shows what we've said all along: anti-Zionism IS antisemitism."

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Have A Nosh

It is 122 degrees here in Palm Springs as I am writing this column, and not much sounded inviting until I thought about kugels! My Jerusalem Kugel, I'm delighted to say, has gotten rave reviews as "authentic" by Israelis who have tried it! The other two are great recipes too, especially the tri-fruit dessert kugel, which is always a hit. Enjoy! Miriam Bent

Miriam's JERUSALEM KUGEL (Pareve)

Note: Easy to recreate at home; all you need is a sure hand and the confidence to make a quick caramel of oil and sugar. Just when you think you've got your sugar dark enough, cook it a minute longer--you'll see and taste the difference in the results, but watch carefully and stir constantly at the end. If you burn the caramel, start over. As long as the sugar is transformed into caramel, don't worry if the oil and sugar do not incorporate completely; everything is absorbed at the end, when it bakes.

16-19 oz. Vermicelli (thin spaghetti)*
2/3 cup vegetable oil
2 cups sugar
8 eggs, beaten
2 teaspoons kosher salt (just a little more than 1½ teaspoons table salt)
1½ - 2 teaspoons finely ground black pepper (more or less, according to your preference, but this kugel is supposed to have a bit of a peppery "bite."

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Cook noodles in salted water according to package directions; rinse and drain well. Put in large bowl. In a heavy skillet, combine oil and sugar over medium heat. Cook, stirring regularly in the beginning and constantly in the last stages, until sugar is very dark but not burnt. Will take from 12 to 20 minutes. Remove from heat.

In a large bowl, quickly combine drained noodles and caramelized sugar. Stir to incorporate. Let cool at least 10 minutes, then add eggs, salt, and pepper and stir to combine.

Container options: Can be baked in a 9" X 13" pan, but making it in a Dutch oven or - as I did - in a half foil pan (about 8" X 10") makes a taller kugel. In any case, grease the bottom and sides of the container, pour the kugel in, do not cover it, and bake for 70-75 minutes. The top should be crusty. Serves 12-16.

CHERRY ALMOND KUGEL (Milchig)

8 ounces medium, spiral egg noodles
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 can pitted cherries, well drained
1 1/2 cups sour cream
1 cup cottage cheese
3 eggs
1 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
2 tablespoons melted butter
1/2 cup slivered almonds

Cook noodles in a large stockpot with boiling, salted water until tender, about 5 minutes. Drain noodles in a colander and place in a large bowl with the butter. Toss to coat well.

Preheat the oven to 350degrees F. Lightly grease a 9 by 13-inch baking dish. Combine sour cream, cottage cheese, eggs, 3/4 cup sugar, the lemon zest, vanilla, and almond extract in blender or food processor. Process until smooth, stopping to scrape down the sides as needed. Stir together the sour cream mixture, buttered noodles, and cherries. Place the noodle mixture into the prepared dish. In a small bowl, combine the melted butter, almonds, and the remaining 1/4 cup sugar. Sprinkle nut mixture over the noodle pudding and bake for 25 to 30 minutes. Pudding should be cooked through and golden. Serves 8-10.

TRI-FRUIT KUGEL (Milchig)

½ lb. fine noodles, cooked
8 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
1/4 lb. butter or margarine, at room temperature
8 oz. sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 eggs
2 15-oz. cans mandarin oranges, drained
1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained
1 16-oz. can pitted dark cherries, drained
Cinnamon and sugar for topping

Preheat oven to 350degrees F. Combine cream cheese, butter, sour cream, sugar, vanilla and eggs in a blender until well combined. Pour in a bowl and add contents of one of the cans of mandarin oranges, the pineapple, cherries and cooked noodles. Combine well. Pour into a 9" X 13" baking disk. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar and arrange remaining mandarin oranges over top. Bake for 45 minutes until golden brown and a knife inserted into center comes out clean. Can be made several days ahead, refrigerated, and served cold.

Simchas

Roberta and Allan Nyman

It was a lovely send-off, tinged with sadness, as community leadership said goodbye to **Roberta** and **Allan Nyman**, who have moved to Calabasas to live nearer their daughter. Each served as president of our Jewish Federation (Roberta a couple times!) and had a significant impact on our community for many years. The Jewish Federation held a luncheon on June 6th for those who worked closely with the Nymans and many wonderful memories were shared over the afternoon. They will definitely be missed. We wish Roberta and Allan the very best! ... Mazel tov to **Dina** and **Tani Pinson** on the birth of their daughter, **Leba**, on June 6 in Palm Springs. Overjoyed grandparents are **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim** and **Yankel** and **Chana Dvora Pinson ...** Mazel tov to **Elizabeth Schreiber**, daughter of **Dr. David** and **Courtney Schreiber,** on being called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat Bamidbar, June 8, 2024, at Temple Isaiah ... Welcome to **Rabbi J.B. Sacks** as he assumed the pulpit of Congregation Beth Shalom in Palm Desert on July 1, upon the retirement of **Ken Hailpern** after 14 years as their beloved spiritual leader **...** We finished the paper before the bris, so the only name we have, as per proud grandparents **Rabbi Shimon** and **Chaya Posner**, is "**Prince Posner.**" A hearty mazel tov to **Rabbi Mendy** and **Chana Posner** on the July 9 birth of their son … Mazel tov to cousins **Darwin Uriel Avila** of Palm Desert and **Zoli Samadhi Emery** of Henderson, Nevada, on their B'nai Mitzvah at Congregation Har-El on June 22, 2024 (Shabbat Sivan). They are the grandsons of Har-El board member, **Samuel Trussell**, and his wife **Vetza**, and the family represents three generations of Har-El members …… Mazel tov to **Carol Fragen** on being elected the new president of Temple Isaiah. She comes with a wealth of history, having been a member of the temple for over 50 years. (Her husband, **Dr. Ronald Fragen,** served as Temple Isaiah's President from 2008-2010) …

Elizabeth Schreiber

Rabbi JB Sacks

Darwin Uriel Avila

Zoli Samadhi Emery

Carol Fragen

Share your simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-835-1022.

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August

Friday, August 2	Shabbat Matot Masei	7:02 pm
Friday, August 9	Shabbat Devarim	6:55 pm
Monday, August 12	Tisha B'Av	
Friday, August 16	Shabbat Vo'etchanan	6:47 pm
Friday, August 23	Shabbat Eikev	6:39 pm
Friday August 30	Shabbat Re'eh	6:30 pm

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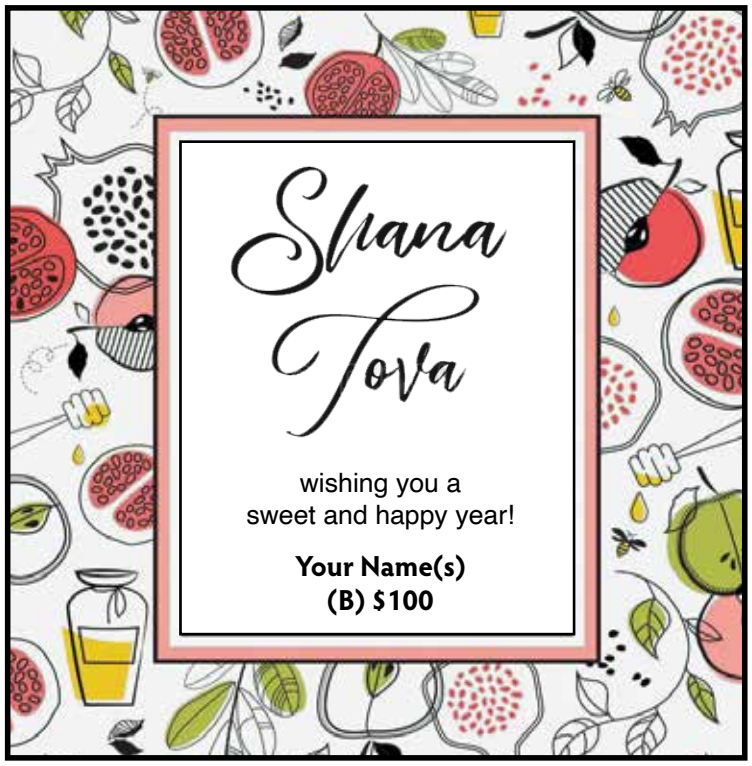

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