



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Av-Elul 5785 - August 2025

On Solidarity, Resilience & Community: Reflections on Federation's Pride Mission to Israel During the Iran War



Danny Labin

Chief Executive Officer
Jewish Federation
of the Desert

I embarked on June 8th, along with a group of fellow Desert residents and a total of 100 participants from across the US and Canada, on what was intended as a weeklong Federation solidarity mission to Israel. As a Pride Mission, this was a unique way for LGBTQ+ Jewish leaders across North America to come together in solidarity with Israel in the ongoing aftermath of the October 7th massacre and the Swords of Iron war that has continued ever since. When the first missiles from Iran began falling on Israel in the early hours of Friday, June 13th, the mission took on multiple levels of unprecedented solidarity that in my many years of leading missions and other Israel education trips, I have never before experienced.

It's first critical to explore why, at this particular moment in time, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) recognized the need to organize an LGBTQ+ Mission. Much has changed for all of us since October 7th; everyone in the global Jewish community has been impacted. For many in the LGBTQ+ community specifically, the last nearly two years have been a period marked by isolation from the circles that were once welcoming to us. Identifying as a supporter of Israel today, let alone a Zionist, is considered by many to be an egregious affront that has left so many members of our queer Jewish community feeling rejected, ostracized, and in some cases worse. From its inception, this



Mission participants at the Western Wall

trip was planned as an opportunity not only as a way for LGBTQ+ Jewish leaders to come together to express solidarity for Israel, but for us to express solidarity with each other at this crucial moment.

On the first full day of the Mission, we visited the south of Israel along the Gaza border, where the atrocities of October 7th were committed. We visited Kibbutz Nir Oz, a thriving kibbutz just two years ago that lost more than a quarter of its population that day. We visited the site of the Nova Music Festival, where 378 people were murdered and 44 people were taken hostage that day. We went to Hostage Square in Tel Aviv and met with families of hostages still held in Gaza. All on one day. That day culminated with a dinner siren set off by the firing of a Houthi rocket from Yemen, while we were



Kibbutz Nir Oz

gathered in a restaurant in Tel Aviv trying to find solace and respite from the challenging day that had been. And this was all before the missiles from Iran began to fall.

What that day and the days that followed delivered was indeed a sense of solidarity: with the people of Israel, with the individuals we met, with the communities behind the

continued on page 3



Re'im, Site of the October 7, 2023 Nova Music Festival



Immediately after the October 7th massacre, families of hostages taken into Gaza launched a project of handing out yellow ribbons on the streets of Israel. Later on, supporters outside of Israel adopted the symbol in order to call for the release of the



hostages. The 'ribbon' on the right is a pin with the LGBTQ+ rainbow that was given to participants on the June LGBTQ+ Israel Mission. Cropped, in the middle, is one of the Mission participants, holding his pin as he presses his hand onto the Western Wall.



Final Year of Presidency . . . Arnie Gillman

As I enter my final year as President of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude, pride, and anticipation. Serving this vibrant and resilient community has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Over the years, I've had the privilege of working alongside dedicated professionals, passionate volunteers, and generous supporters who believe in the power of collective responsibility, Jewish values, and the

enduring strength of our people. This final year is not just a time of winding down, but of meaningful reflection and renewed commitment. I look forward to continuing to deepen the impact of our work—supporting Jewish life locally, standing in solidarity with Israel, combating antisemitism, and responding to the evolving needs of our community. Together, we've built bridges between generations, strengthened connections across

organizations, and made a tangible difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families. I am especially focused this year on ensuring a strong and thoughtful transition for the next generation of leadership—leaders who will bring fresh energy and new ideas while upholding the values that have guided us for decades. I will continue to work closely with Federation's new Chief Executive Officer, Danny Labin, to strengthen our

community and to ensure continuity. My hope is to leave behind not just a legacy of accomplishments, but a clear and sustainable path forward that allows our Federation to thrive in the years ahead. There is still much work to be done, and I remain as passionate as ever about our mission. With your continued partnership, I'm confident that my final year as Federation President will be our most impactful yet.

2025-2026 JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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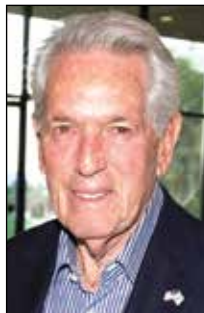
Sheri Borax



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Barry Fisher



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Bobbi Holland



Dr. Robert Jacobs



Barry Kaiman



Scot Karp



Margie Kulp



Matthew
Lieberman



Katie Small



Dan Weisberg



Nina Zale

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Danny Labin moderating a panel on the effects of October 7th on identity in Israeli society, with Shay Bramson, Chair of Hevruta, a nonprofit supporting religious LGBTQ+ Jews in Israel, and Hila Peer, the Chair of The Aguda, the Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel.



Danny Labin and Bill Fields speaking at the Federation Office after return.



Danny Labin, Gordie Nathan, Stephen Steinhart and Jim Stoller, all part of our Desert delegation.



Left to right: Rabbi Kenneth Emert, Louis Levin, Marty Rouse, Federation CEO Danny Labin, Stephen Steinhart and Jim Stoller (Louis and Marty not from our Desert community)

firsthand accounts of what took place on October 7th, and with one another. As we discovered the remarkable strength of so many Israelis, the group took an experiential journey of learning that led to an unshakable sense of solidarity for us all – whether it was someone's first time in Israel or others, like me, who previously lived in Israel for many years. Our solidarity extended to the LGBTQ+ community. We met with local leaders who are at the forefront of the ongoing struggle for equal rights for the gay, lesbian, bi and trans communities in Israeli society. We learned that, while Israel has been at the helm of many advances in gender equality, several struggles persist, including securing the rights of the trans community. These concerns resonated deeply with our group members, who share many of these concerns about equality and the struggle for trans rights in American society.

Yet another layer of solidarity that unfolded was directly between everyone and Federation. The North American Federation system has now collectively raised nearly \$900 million to support the people of Israel since October 7th. Many of the nonprofit organizations we met with along the Mission were among the hundreds of NGO recipients of Federation grants, which have enabled so much of the life-changing, and in many cases life-saving work, that has been taking place across Israel. Being on the ground, seeing how Federation donations from each participant's community directly turn into trauma care, mental health services, and other tangible ways to address critical needs brought inspiration and pride – and added to the prevailing sense of solidarity.

A lot has happened in the Middle East during the weeks that have passed since Federation ensured that all 100 members

of the Mission returned safely and swiftly to their homes in the US and Canada despite the closure of Israeli airspace during those 12 days of direct conflict with Iran. During these past few weeks back in the tranquility of the Desert, I have had time to reflect on the value of all that solidarity that was developed during the official week of the Mission and in the extended days spent in the bomb shelters before returning back to North America. In the long term, this solidarity will have untold impact on the lives of all those who participated. We are yet to see the ways in which that pans out. As a committed gay Jew, it's exhilarating to be part of it.

In the immediate term, something extraordinary has already happened. The palpable solidarity developed had a direct

impact on each individual's resilience. When the first Iranian missile sirens went off in the middle of that chaotic Friday night everyone was scared and disoriented, but none of us on the Mission panicked. It was as if the internal solidarity within the group -- the solidarity fostered by the people we had met over the course of the week -- was an inoculation. What all that accrued solidarity really amounts to, in practical terms, is a sense of community. When we feel like we belong, when we know we are not alone, we get an amazing boost, a veritable shot of resilience. There are many ways to build and feel community. A mission to Israel, especially in a time of active conflict, has now proven to be one. But there are many other more desirable ways that are a lot closer to home. Wherever we are from, whoever we are, whomever we love, may we each find within our Jewish community the solidarity that builds resilience, and may community at this critical moment in our people's history continue to be our greatest strength. For that very purpose, the Jewish Federation of the Desert is here.

Emergency Leadership Mission, "United for Security"

By Jackie Cohen, Immediate Past Co-President, Jewish Federation of the Desert

On June 25th & 26th I had the privilege of representing our Jewish Federation of the Desert in Washington, DC, at the Emergency Leadership Mission, "United for Security." Over 400 Federation executives and lay leaders from across the country attended the conference, which was sponsored by our national umbrella organization, Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). We met with a total of 200 Members of Congress to urge them to act upon a Six-Point Policy Plan for the nation's Jewish community that will focus on:

1) increasing the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to \$1 billion annually



Jackie Cohen with Congressman Raul Ruiz

2) providing federal support for Jewish community security personnel costs

3) expanding FBI resources to combat domestic and global terrorism

4) providing federal assistance to local law enforcement to protect Jewish institutions

5) regulating social media hate speech and incitement of violence

6) enforcing existing hate crime legislation

Over the course of the two days, we also heard Yahuda Kaploun, nominee to be the Special Envoy for Antisemitism; Samuel Ramer, the FBI General Counsel; and heart wrenching testimonials from the relatives of Israeli hostages. Advocating on behalf of our Jewish Federation, I had the honor of meeting directly with Representative Ken Calvert (CA-R), the legislative director

for Senator Adam Schiff (CA-D), and the legislative director for Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz (CA-D). Three survivors of the NOVA Music Festival massacre of October 7th joined our meeting with Representative Calvert. As these incredibly brave survivors cope with their personal trauma, they are working tirelessly to bring home those friends and family members still held in captivity. The event concluded with a Congressional Reception attended by many members of Congress. All of us who came to DC from near and afar left knowing that our voices and the concerns of the Jewish community had been respectfully heard.

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Miriam H. Bent, Editor
Bailey Communications,
Layout & Design
Chief Executive Officer
Danny Labin

JCN STATEMENT

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

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The Jewish Federation of the Desert expresses sincere gratitude to our great friend and philanthropist Sherwyn Turbow for his ongoing contributions to the Jewish community of the Desert.

Thank you, Sherwyn, for hosting the recent event at PGA West that introduced so many local residents to our visiting Israeli soldiers. We are especially grateful for your most recent Federation commitment of \$50,000.

Yemeni Forces Intercept Iranian Weapons Headed for the Houthis

By Vered Weiss, World Israel News

Yemeni National Resistance Forces (NRF) intercepted 750 tons of munitions and hardware sent by Iran to the Houthis, US Central Command (CENTCOM) reported on X. This is the largest ever shipment intercepted by the forces that combat the Yemen-based terror group, which regularly disrupts shipping and fires missiles into Israel.

Among the recovered items were weapons and military hardware, including hundreds of advanced cruise, anti-ship, and anti-aircraft missiles, along with warheads, guidance systems, components, drone engines, air defense systems, radar units, and communications gear.

The equipment showed telltale signs

of originating from Iran and companies associated with the Islamic regime's Ministry of Defense; some even came with manuals written in Persian.

CENTCOM wrote on X, "Yemeni partners successfully intercepted a massive Iranian weapons shipment bound for the Houthis."

The NRF, led by Gen. Tareq Saleh, fights alongside the legitimate government of Yemen against the Houthis, a terror group that seized control of many areas of the country. "The actions of the NRF support the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) and are a direct reflection of their commitment to a safe Yemen, Red Sea, and Gulf of Aden," CENTCOM continued.

Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla, commander

of CENTCOM, lauded the NRF, saying, "We commend the legitimate government forces of Yemen who continue to interdict the flow of Iranian munitions bound for the Houthis. The interdiction of this massive Iranian shipment shows that Iran remains the most destabilizing actor in the region. Limiting the free flow of Iranian support to the Houthis is critical to regional security, stability, and freedom of navigation."

In 2014, Yemen's Houthi rebels seized the capital Sanaa and ousted the internationally recognized government with the backing of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Their takeover plunged the country into a protracted civil war and triggered a Saudi-led military intervention in 2015.

Support for Israel Holding Strong Among US Public, Growing Among Young Voters

by Corey Walker, The Algemeiner

American support for Israel in its war against Hamas has reached its highest level since the conflict began and includes a surprising surge of support among younger voters in Gen Z, according to a new Harvard CAPS-Harris poll.

The poll, conducted from July 6–8, found that 77 percent of registered voters say they support Israel in the ongoing war in Gaza, while just 23 percent back Hamas. That marks a continued trend of stability in pro-Israel sentiment across the US public. In June, the poll revealed that 75 percent of the US public supported Israel over Hamas.

Among Americans aged 18 to 24, support for Israel now stands at 60 percent,

compared to 40 percent for Hamas. That's a notable jump from 52 percent support for Israel in March and could suggest a broader generational shift. The increase is particularly significant given Gen Z's reputation for progressive activism and skepticism toward traditional US foreign policy allies.

Support for Israel rises with age, reaching 92 percent among voters 65 and older.

The poll also found a strong majority of voters, 80 percent overall, say that "Hamas must release all remaining hostages without any conditions or face serious consequences." Even among Gen Z, 61 percent agree, suggesting a broad rejection

of Hamas's actions, despite more nuanced generational divides on broader policy questions.

While older voters remain more hawkish, favoring strong Israeli military action and opposing any deal that leaves Hamas in power, Gen Z respondents were more open to negotiated outcomes. Still, the overall direction appears to show a consolidation of support for Israel as the war continues.

The Harvard CAPS-Harris survey polled 2,044 registered voters online and has become one of the most closely watched monthly trackers of public opinion on foreign policy.

Israel's First Total Artificial Heart Transplant Performed by Doctors at the Hadassah Medical Organization

For the first time in Israel, a device has completely replaced a human heart.

By A. Friedman, Hadassah.org

A 63-year-old man's life was saved when, for the first time in Israel, doctors at the Hadassah Medical Organization performed a total artificial heart transplant. Only 114 such transplants have been performed anywhere in the world.

In Israel until now, even the most advanced life-extending devices implanted in patients were connected to a patient's original heart. Patients requiring advanced cardiac devices received a partial support system — typically, a left ventricular assist device (LVAD), which supplements the existing heart. However, while LVADs help patients with left-side heart failure, they are ineffective when both chambers of the heart have collapsed.

During the complex, seven-hour operation, the patient's heart was removed and replaced with an artificial heart made of titanium combined with biological animal tissue and advanced sensors. The artificial heart was developed by the French company CARMAT, represented in Israel by Tzamal Medical.

"This was a major milestone in Israel, something unprecedented," said Offer Amir, MD, director of the Hadassah Medical Organization's Heart Institute, who led the operation and the months of feasibility planning that preceded it.

Added Amit Korach, MD, head of the medical center's Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, who directed Israel's first artificial heart transplant. "For the first time in Israel, we can offer a lifesaving solution for those whose entire heart has failed."

The complex procedure required a large medical team that included cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, anesthesiologists, intensive-care specialists, operating room nurses and a heart-lung machine technician. CARMAT's cardiac surgeon and two technicians participated in the landmark operation.

The transplant necessitated the simultaneous use of two operating rooms. While the artificial heart was prepared for implantation in one

operating suite during a highly precise process that included the addition of artificial valves, in another operating suite doctors removed the patient's diseased heart and connected him to a heart-lung machine to keep him alive during the transition.

Once the implant site was ready, the artificial heart was connected to the patient's main blood vessels, returning blood from the patient to the pump and sending it back out again. Gradually, the surgical team reduced support from the heart-lung machine while increasing support from the new heart until the patient was completely disconnected from external life support and the new heart was fully operational.

"It felt like I was standing in the future," said Alexander Lipey-Diamant, MD, head of the Hadassah Medical Organization's Adult Open Heart Surgery Unit and part of the transplant team, as were the medical center's Rabea Asleh, MD, head of the Heart Failure Unit; cardiac surgeon Ayman Murar, MD; and senior anesthesiologist Ralitsa Stoyanova, MD.

Since the operation had never been performed in Israel before, it required months of preparation, including extensive coordination with the patient's insurance provider and Israel's Ministry of Health.

To prepare for the surgery, a Hadassah team traveled to France for special training, which was done alongside French cardiac surgeons and representatives of CARMAT, the artificial heart's developer. After the Hadassah Medical Organization's surgeons had mastered the transplant procedure, they returned to Israel and trained the rest of the medical team.

The decision to perform the transplant was made after a careful review of the patient's condition. He had long suffered from heart failure and severe breathing difficulties, which greatly impaired his daily life, and faced a serious risk of death while waiting for a suitable donor heart. The expert team concluded that the transplant was his only option and tests confirmed he was

a good candidate for the procedure.

The artificial heart will provide him with at least two full, high-quality

years of life as he awaits a human heart transplant.

TEMPLE ISAIAH WELCOMES YOU

At Temple Isaiah, the High Holy Days season offers personal and communal journeys of self-awareness and change. We have cultivated a welcoming Jewish community that has provided our congregants with an environment to learn, to grow and to connect to God, Torah, and the community. Our High Holiday services are designed to meet the changing needs of our community while keeping the Jewish traditions we so value. We invite you to join us.


Rabbi Marc Rubenstein
Cantor Dr. Sharone Rosen



Monday, September 22	Erev Roshanah	6:30 pm
Tuesday, September 23	First day Rosh Hashanah	9:30 am
Wednesday, September 24	Second day Rosh Hashanah	9:30 am
Wednesday, October 1	Kol Nidre	6:30 pm
Thursday, October 2	Yom Kippur - morning	9:30 am
	Lecture/study with Rabbi	3:30 pm
	Mincha	4:30 pm
	Yizkor	5:00 pm
	Ne'ilah	5:30 pm
	Havdalah	6:30 pm
	Break the fast	7:00 pm



332 WEST ALEJO ROAD, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262
INFORMATION/TICKETS/MEMBERSHIP: 760-325-2281



A PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE

You are encouraged to visit our community's Holocaust Memorial, located in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park off Fred Waring Drive, between San Pablo and San Pascual. Spearheaded by survivors Joe Brandt and Earl Greif, this moving memorial tells the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust and why we must commit our lives and efforts to assure it does not happen again. Never again.

States, Cities, Schools Across US Declare #EndJewHatred Day in Solidarity With Jewish Community

By Shiryn Ghermezian, The Algemeiner

State and local elected officials in the US, as well as public schools across the country, have pledged to recognize April 29 as #EndJewHatred Day in an effort to empower and show solidarity with Jewish communities in the US and Canada in their fight against antisemitism.

The international grassroots civil rights movement #EndJewHatred made the announcement on Tuesday, revealing that it has secured close to 100 proclamations, resolutions, and citations in support of #EndJewHatred Day from governors, senators, members of Congress, and state and local elected officials.

Some of the most recent proclamations have been issued by New Hampshire Gov. Kelly Ayotte and US Reps. Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ), and Tom Barrett (R-MI). In Canada, Melissa Lantsman (MP – Thornhill) issued the first Canadian #EndJewHatred Day proclamation, followed by MP Stan Cho and MP Dawn Gallagher of the Provincial Parliament in Ontario.

The Anti-Defamation League's (ADL)



latest Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, released earlier this month, revealed that antisemitism across the country last year broke "all previous annual records" since the ADL began tracking such data in 1979. The group recorded 9,354 antisemitic incidents in 2024, marking an average of 25.6 a day.

The new #EndJewHatred Day "serves as a unifying call to action to combat antisemitism in all its forms and to raise awareness of the ongoing challenges faced by Jewish communities," as said in the proclamation signed by Ayotte. A proclamation signed by Colorado Gov. Jared Polis stated there is "an

urgent need to act against antisemitism in Colorado and across the country." Antisemitism in Colorado increased by 41 percent last year and by 373 percent over the past five years, according to the ADL's latest audit.

Miami, Annapolis, and Beverly Hills are among the cities that have recently recognized #EndJewHatred Day. New York City first recognized #EndJewHatred Day in 2023.

Schools that have vowed to recognize the date include Miami-Dade Public Schools, and districts in Florida, Michigan, Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York. Schools will commemorate this date

by making sure it is marked on school calendars and observing it "through emails, morning announcements, or in other ways," according to the #EndJewHatred movement.

"As the #EndJewHatred movement is sweeping across the United States and Canada, elected officials are coming on board, setting aside politics and ideology, and declaring April 29 to be #EndJewHatred Day, a day of unity and solidarity with the Jewish people marking our collective commitment to end Jew-hatred in our lifetime," said #EndJewHatred co-founder Brooke Goldstein. "As the first civil rights movement of and for the Jewish people in modern times, our common mission is to liberate the Jewish people from discrimination, violence, and oppression, and to make Jew-hatred as unacceptable as any other form of racism or bigotry."

"Just as there are days and even months dedicated to fighting for other social justice causes, April 29 is now recognized as a day of empowerment and justice for the Jewish people," Goldstein added.

The Women's Retreat is now "The Retreat" ~ celebrating Har-El's 21st Anniversary!

"THE RETREAT" Sunday, October 19, 2025, 10:00 AM

Hosted by Marylyn and Andy Gladstein

10:00-10:45 AM BRUNCH BITES AND COFFEE BAR



Keynote Speaker: DR. STEVEN WINDMUELLER ~ "The Current State of American Jewry: Antisemitism, The Divisions Among Americans Today and the Impact of Social Media."

Following keynote address there will be two breakout sessions, led by Professor Samuel Trussell, JD, and Leslie Pepper, Director of Community Engagement/Jewish Federation of the Desert. Following program: Handel's Ice Cream Sampling and Anniversary Cake in honor of Har-El's 21st anniversary.

Couvert: \$36 • Sponsor: \$72 • Patron: \$144

Send check payable to "Har-El Institute" to Har-El Institute
c/o L. Zionts, P.O. Box 10190, Palm Desert, CA 92255.

**Sold out last year.
Early reservations
recommended.**

LOCATION AND GATE CODE PROVIDED FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF PAID RESERVATION. Questions? mtziontspd@aol.com

PLEASE CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION IN HONOR OF HAR-EL'S 21ST ANNIVERSARY:
Silver (\$360); Gold (\$500); Titanium (\$1000 and over). Your name(s) will be listed on the program.

OP-ED: The Antisemitic Attacks Are Painful. The Silence from our Trusted Partners is Excruciating.

"We have marched beside you. We have prayed with you. We have stood together for justice. Please do not disappear"

(JTA) By Rabbi Asher Knight, Senior Rabbi, Temple Beth El, Charlotte, NC

My family has lived in Colorado for generations. I was in touch with my mother and cousins following the firebombing attack on people marching to call attention to the hostages held in Gaza. Some of my cousin's children attend school in Boulder. This was not far away. In my mind, I can visualize exactly where it happened.

In just the last 50 days: arson at the Pennsylvania governor's residence; assaults on Jews in the streets; vandalism of schools, synagogues and businesses; two murdered outside a Jewish event in Washington, D.C., and a firebomb attack on a peaceful gathering in Boulder that injured 15, including a Holocaust survivor.

In several of these cases, attackers shouted, "Free Palestine." Or they said it when they were caught. Or the graffiti they wrote said it. These are not political statements. These are acts of antisemitic terror.

But something else makes this moment even more painful.

The silence.

I serve as the senior rabbi of Temple Beth El, the largest synagogue in the Carolinas. For years, our clergy and community have shown up. We have marched for racial justice, stood for LGBTQ+ rights, defended reproductive freedom, and worked alongside churches, faith communities of every kind and community partners to build a more just Charlotte. We have worked steadfastly with public schools and stood arm in arm at vigils and rallies. We showed up, again and again, because our faith commands us to.

And now, as Jews are being attacked

in the streets, harassed on campuses and set on fire, the silence from many of our trusted partners is devastating.

We have not heard from many of the clergy or political leaders who regularly speak out for compassion, equity, and peace.

We have not heard from those who have insisted repeatedly that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism.

When Jews are targeted, burned, and killed under banners of "Free Palestine," those voices have now fallen all too silent.

That silence sends a deafening message: that Jewish safety is negotiable. That Jewish lives are less urgent. That the grief of Jews burned alive is not worthy of their compassion or outrage. It leaves us feeling alone. It forces us to wonder if our pain is visible. If our safety matters.

This is not a time to stay quiet. It is time to be brave. A time to speak with the same moral clarity we have offered to others.

To our friends, our partners in justice, our fellow clergy, our neighbors in the work of healing the world: Where are you?

If you believe in peace, now is the time to say that violence is never acceptable.

If you believe in justice, now is the time to reject hatred in all its forms.

If you believe that all people are created in the image of God (the text you cite is Jewish, by the way), now is the time to say that Jewish people are also created in the image of God.



Rabbi Asher Knight

You can oppose war and still condemn terror.

You can grieve for Gaza and innocent life and still say that burning Jews alive is wrong.

You can challenge Israeli policy and still know that Jews everywhere are not responsible for it.

If you care about justice, say something. Stand for what is right. Do not let hate go unanswered.

Why? Because there is no liberation in setting people on fire. There is no justice in chasing Jews from public spaces. There is no righteousness in staying silent.

And you should know that hatred that is allowed to grow never stays contained. It always spreads. It always finds new victims and the people peddling in it will always create new grievances to justify more violence.

Say something. Silence is not love. Silence feels like abandonment. And silence will certainly not protect us. We need you to speak up. We have marched beside you. We have prayed with you. We have stood together for justice. Please do not disappear. We are still here. We need to know that you are too.



This High Holiday season – and all year long – don't just attend services, be part of something deeper. Join a vibrant and welcoming community that is proudly Jewish, proudly inclusive and proudly supportive of Israel and one another.

We are CONGREGATION BEIT HAVERIM, the Coachella Valley's new center for contemporary Jewish life – where our tent is wide enough to welcome everyone and close enough to make you feel truly embraced. Come find connection, meaning and community. Come home to Beit Haverim.

High Holiday Services held at Mizell Center in Palm Springs. Friday night Shabbat services with delicious Oneg held at Mizell throughout the year. Shabbat Services + potluck dinners held in a private home.



RABBI STEVEN ROSENBERG
HAZZAN DR. SARAH SELA



Call 760-766-3212 or email beithaverimps@gmail.com for more information re: joining Beit Haverim or to attend High Holiday Services.

2025 - 5786 HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Tuesday, September 22, 2025	6:30 PM
Rosh Hashanah morning	Wednesday, September 23, 2025	10:00 AM
Kol Nidre	Wednesday, October 1, 2025	6:30 PM
Yom Kippur morning	Thursday, October 2, 2025	10:00 AM
Yizkor		5:30 PM
Neilah (closing service)		6:00 PM

Interested in working with
the Jewish Community?

See page 21

Women's Retreat is Now "The Retreat" Celebrating Har-El's 21st Anniversary. Renown Scholar is Keynote Speaker. Open to the Community.

By Lynda Zionts

Dr. Steven Windmueller is the Har-El Keynote Speaker for "The Retreat" on Sunday October 19, 2025. Dr. Windmueller is Emeritus Professor of Jewish Communal Studies at the Jack H. Skirball Campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles.

Prior to coming to HUC, Dr. Windmueller served with the American Jewish Committee, was Director of the Albany (NY) Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation.

During his tenure at HUC-JIR, Dr. Windmueller served for ten years as the Director of the HUC School of Jewish Nonprofit Management and was named to the deanship of the Los

Angeles Campus of HUC-JIR. He also served as Dean of the LA Campus and was awarded an honorary doctorate by Hebrew Union College.

The author of four books and numerous articles, Professor Windmueller holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

His articles on Jewish communal trends, antisemitism and Jewish political behavior have appeared in a number of secular and Jewish publications.

Currently, Dr. Windmueller consults with national agencies, federations,



synagogues and foundations regarding the impact on our community of such occurrences as the Pandemic, climate disasters and the social, economic and political trends that are re-shaping American Jewish life.

His Keynote Address at "The Retreat" is "The Current State of American Jewry: Antisemitism, The Divisions Among Americans Today and The Impact of Social Media."

Following the Keynote Address all will have the opportunity to further discuss the points made by Dr. Windmueller in two separate break-out groups, led by Professor Samuel Trussell, J.D., and Leslie Pepper, the Jewish Federation of the Desert's Director of Community Engagement. Both Dr. Windmueller and

Rabbi Zionts will attend the breakout sessions.

The morning will start with Breakfast Bites, Coffee Bar and visiting and conclude with Handel's Ice Cream and cake celebrating Har-El's 21st Anniversary.

We thank Marylynn and Andy Gladstein for annually hosting this event that is open to the community.

Please come together as a greater community for an exciting and intellectually stimulating morning on Sunday, October 19, 2025, starting at 10:00 AM. "The Retreat" invitation is on page 6. Location will be given when your reservation is received and confirmed.

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Band Members That Chanted 'Death to IDF' Has US Visas Revoked

By Jewish News Syndicate

The U.S. Department of State revoked the visas for the members of the Bob Vylan band, who are facing a criminal probe in the U.K. for leading chants of "death to the IDF" in the U.K.

This was "in light of their hateful tirade at [the] Glastonbury [music festival], including leading the crowd in death chants," Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said in a post. "Foreigners who glorify violence and hatred are not welcome visitors to our country," he added. Bob Vylan had a U.S. tour lined up in November.

Separately, police have initiated a criminal investigation into the duo's actions and those of another band, Kneecap, and the talent agency that represented the Bob Vylan reportedly dropped them. Their agency, United Talent Agency (UTA), removed their page from the agency's website, the LBC radio station reported.

"The team were dealing with a live situation, but with hindsight we should have pulled the stream during the performance. We regret this did not happen," the Variety online edition quoted a BBC spokesperson as saying,



Bob Vylan

adding, "The BBC respects freedom of expression but stands firmly against incitement to violence."

Glastonbury is the largest music festival in the United Kingdom, attracting some 200,000 revelers. The Bob Vylan duo asked thousands of attendees to chant "Death to the IDF," echoing a performer who also told them to "not give up your dreams" even when they're "working for Zionists."

A British government spokesperson condemned the rhetoric used on stage by Bobby Vylan, which was aired on the BBC, as did the organizers of the Glastonbury music festival the next day.

Muslims are World's Fastest-Growing Religious Group; Jews Far Below Pre-Holocaust Numbers

Demographer Sergio DellaPergola says it will take another 10 to 20 years for world Jewry to fully regain 1930s level, predicts most Jews will live in Israel within next decade

By Rossella Tercatin, *The Times of Israel*

Between 2010 and 2020, the global Jewish population grew by fewer than one million people – a 6% increase – significantly slower than the 12% growth rate of the world's overall population, according to a new Global Religious Landscape report released June 9, 2025 by the Pew Research Center.



Sergio DellaPergola, Professor Emeritus and former Chairman of the Hebrew University's Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry

The Jewish growth rate mirrors that of the Christian population, which rose from 2.1 billion to 2.3 billion over the same period. In contrast, the Muslim population expanded at a much faster pace (by 21%), growing from 1.7 billion to 2.0 billion, making it the world's fastest-growing religious group.

Of the Jewish population, about 46%, or 6.78 millions, lived in Israel, 39% or 5.7 millions, in the United States, and the rest in other areas of the world, including 3.1% in France, 2.4% in Canada and 2% in the United Kingdom – with estimated populations of 460,000, 350,000, and 300,000, respectively.

The Pew report highlights that, nearly 80 years after the Holocaust, in 2020, the global Jewish population still fell short of its pre-World War II level, 14.78 million compared to an estimated 16.6 million in 1939.

According to Sergio DellaPergola, Professor Emeritus and former Chairman of the Hebrew University's Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, it will take another 10 to 20 years for the Jewish population to recover to its pre-Holocaust size fully.

"It will mark a historic moment," he told *The Times of Israel* over a video interview.

DellaPergola previously served on the academic advisory committees for two major Pew studies on American Jews, published in 2013 and 2020. Although he did not contribute directly to the Global Religious Landscape report, its authors noted that they relied extensively on data he compiled for



Jewish schoolchildren at Athénée Ganenou in Brussels await the arrival of President Isaac Herzog

the annual "World Jewish Population" chapters in the American Jewish Year Book.

The Pew report analyzes data from 2010 to 2020, but DellaPergola has already released updated figures covering up to January 1, 2024.

"The general trends remained the same, even though some numbers, especially for Israel, have increased," he said. He explained that the Jewish population in Israel grows by about 100,000 every year.

DellaPergola has been following global Jewish population trends since the 1980s. (Members of our Desert Jewish community living here in the 1990s may remember meeting DellaPergola on several occasions when he came to our community to speak on behalf of American Friends of Hebrew University).

According to the demographer's most recent estimates, as of the beginning of 2024, there were approximately 15.7 million Jewish individuals worldwide.

Who is a Jew?

However, DellaPergola noted that his estimate and Pew's cannot be directly compared, as they rely on slightly different definitions of who is considered Jewish.

"When we tackle the question of assessing how many Jews live in the world, the way we define who is a Jew is always crucial," he said.

In his reports, DellaPergola provides

four different definitions – and therefore numbers.

The Core Jewish population, estimated at 15.7 million in 2024, comprises individuals who identify exclusively as Jewish, whether in religious, cultural, or ethnic terms.

Additional definitions include children of at least one Jewish parent (18.8 million in 2024), and individuals with Jewish background or connections – including non-Jewish household members – estimated at 21.8 million.

Finally, some 24.8 million were eligible to move to Israel under the Law of Return (all Jews, their children, grandchildren, and respective spouses).

"Pew's core mission is to study religious trends, so they define Jewish identity primarily through a religious lens, excluding individuals who identify as Jews with no religion," DellaPergola explained.

"Interestingly, in this report, they applied a much narrower definition than in the previous studies on American Jews," he added.

Indeed, the Pew authors clarified that this survey included only those who self-identified as Jewish by religion. In contrast, the earlier reports on American Jews counted individuals with a Jewish parent or those who identified as Jewish for cultural, ethnic, or other non-religious reasons.

For Israel, the Pew Report relied on data from the Interior Ministry, which

defines Jews according to the Chief Rabbinate's criteria: individuals born to Jewish mothers or converts recognized by a rabbinical court.

As a result, the survey excluded more than half a million residents who live in Israel under the Law of Return but are classified as having "no religion."

Majority v. minority

According to DellaPergola, understanding demographic trends within the Jewish community requires recognizing the starkly different realities faced by Jews in Israel versus those living abroad.

"In Israel, Jews are the majority, whereas outside the country, they exist as a small minority," he explained. "This fundamental difference carries profound psychological, political, financial, and institutional implications — all of which influence demographic patterns."

Israel also has a higher percentage of religious and ultra-Orthodox individuals, who tend to have a higher birthrate and

continued on next page



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therefore fuel a more rapid growth.

"However, it is important to consider that the general birthrate in Israel has been stable at around three children per woman for many years," DellaPergola noted. "This is unique. If we take the 100 most developed countries in the world, not a single state reaches a similar birthrate."

In light of declining birth rates across much of the Western world, the global Jewish community is entering a new demographic phase, the expert noted.

"For about a century, Jewish diaspora communities generally had lower birthrates than the broader societies in which they lived," DellaPergola explained. "Today, the trend is shifting, as birthrates in many countries have fallen so low that Jewish families are actually having more children on average."

This shift is particularly pronounced in communities with larger ultra-Orthodox or religious populations.

"For instance, the Jewish community in the United Kingdom has grown for the first time in decades, largely driven by the Haredi population," the demographer said.

What about assimilation?

DellaPergola noted that assimilation rates among Jews have recently stabilized after a century.

"For about 100 years, assimilation increased steadily," he said. "In the US and many European countries, it reached 60%. Essentially, it can't go higher."

At the same time, he pointed out a growing trend of assimilated or partially assimilated Jews reconnecting with their Jewish identity. "Much of this resurgence has been driven by external pressures," he explained. "Whether labeled antisemitism or anti-Zionism, the phenomenon has surged dramatically over the past 15 to 20 years."

According to DellaPergola, surveys from multiple countries consistently report a rise in antisemitic attitudes in recent years.

"People increasingly perceive hostility, which fuels a need for solidarity and community, a search for friendly faces," he said.

He added that while the Hamas attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent conflict are likely influencing these dynamics, it will take years to fully understand their impact on assimilation

trends within Diaspora communities.

Should I stay or should I go?

At the same time, DellaPergola emphasized that, for the first time in 40 years, Israel experienced an immigration deficit between 2023 and 2024, with more people leaving the country than immigrating or returning to it.

"It takes about 12 months to see if someone who exited the country did so in some permanent way," DellaPergola said. "Some 80,000 people who had left Israel by 2023 had not returned yet by December 2024. During the same period, approximately 30,000 Israelis returned to the country from abroad, and another 30,000 immigrated. This still leaves Israel with 20,000 fewer people. It is unprecedented."

According to DellaPergola, most trends in Aliyah (immigration) and Yeridah (emigration) are closely tied to economic factors.

"Examining unemployment rates and other economic indicators in Israel and abroad often provides a reliable forecast of migration patterns in any given year," he explained.

"However, in this case, the trend began before October 7 at the time of the judicial overhaul, which was not an economic phenomenon," DellaPergola added. He was referring to the current government's controversial attempt in spring 2023 to drastically shift the balance of power between the judiciary and the executive – an effort that sparked mass protests involving hundreds of thousands of people.

According to DellaPergola, Israel's political trajectory will continue to shape both emigration rates and the decisions of Diaspora Jews facing antisemitism about whether to make Israel their home.

However, within the next decade, the demographer projects that half of the world's Jewish population will reside in Israel.

"Today, approximately 45% of Jews live in Israel, and that share increases by about half a percentage point each year," said DellaPergola. "Reaching the 50% mark will be another historic milestone — just like when the global Jewish population will surpass its pre-Holocaust numbers."



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Kol Nidre	Oct. 2	7:00 PM
Yom Kippur	Oct. 3	10:00 AM
Gratitude Service		2:30 PM
Healing Meditation		4:00 PM
Yizkor		4:30 PM
Nei'lah & Havdalah		5:00 PM
Break The Fast		6:00 PM

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

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Miriam Bent**, Thank you for all your wonderful work putting the monthly Jewish Community News together. All your hard work is so appreciated, from Douglas Morton.
- **Robin Berman**, Happy birthday from Jane Effress and Harvey Lambert, and Margie Kulp.
- **Rabbi Harold Caminker**, In honor of your 75th birthday, from Dan Weisberg and David Klingenberg.
- **Avraham Chaim**, Mazel on your Bar Mitzvah. Sorry we cannot celebrate with you but send our best wishes, from Joni and Freddi Lovell.
- **Alter Chanoch**, Mazel on your Bar Mitzvah. Sorry we cannot celebrate with you but send our best wishes, from Joni and Freddi Lovell.
- **Bill Chunowitz**, Happy 85th birthday and many more, from Gail and Bobby Scadron, Leslie and Barry Usow.
- **Stephen G. Edelstein**, In honor of your 80th birthday, from your siblings c/o Lori Rubin.
- **Phyllis Eisenberg**, Happy 85th birthday from Joyce Abramson, Sandy Epstein, Marilyn Marker, Cathy Pitts, Sheila Sloan, Chickie, Harlene and Klaus Steinberger and Toni Victor.
- **Tom Fellman**, Honoring you for your Jewish philanthropy, from Barry Kaiman and Toni Victor.
- **Barbara Fremont**, Congratulations on your beautiful great-grandson Brook, from Eunice Meister.
- **Ray Galante**, In honor of your 95th birthday, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Arnie Gillman**, Your willingness to step up during the Federation's need was exemplary, from Barry Fisher.
- **Arnie Gillman**, In honor of you, in appreciation and thanks, from Phyllis Newman.
- **Cass Graff-Radford**, Thinking of you, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Jerry Halperin**, Happy special birthday and many more, from Susie and Bob Diamond, Leslie and Barry Usow

- **Jerry Keller**, Congratulations on your 90th birthday, from Joanne and Bill Chunowitz, Nancy and Dennis Ditlove.
- **Jerry Keller**, Thank you for a lovely party, from Barbara Platt.
- **Joan Kerns**, In honor of your 90th birthday, from Bill and Joanne Chunowitz, Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Danny Labin and Yehuda Gidron**, Welcome to the Jewish Community. I can't wait to meet you both, from Douglas Morton.
- **Susan and Ron Langus**, Congratulations and wishing you well in your new home, from Barbara Platt.
- **Barbara Lieberman**, Happy birthday from Jane Effress and Harvey Lambert.
- **Renee Mayer**, Thank you for a lovely party day, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Jack Olshansky**, Celebrating your 96th birthday, from Barry Kaiman and Toni Victor.
- **Rhoda Samuels**, Happy special birthday! Sending love on your wonderful celebration, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Jane and Larry Sherman**, Happy Passover. Thank you for a beautiful evening, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Larry Sherman**, In honor of your 90th birthday, with our very best wishes, from Judy and Jack Feinberg, Dolly and Julian Levy, and Eunice Meister.
- **Bill Silverman**, In honor of your 90th birthday: Mazel tov from Dolly and Julian Levy.
- **Mickey Star**, Happy 90th birthday and many more, from Jim Levitas and Barbara Federman, Sheila Sloan and Ted Goldman, Leslie and Barry Usow
- **Karen Wander**, Sending love and best wishes on your special birthday, from Gail Scadron.
- **Dany Weisberg, David Klingenberg and the Jewish Federation Board of Directors**, In honor of you, from Bill Amplo.
- **Shelly Zucker**, A wonderful evening! Thank you from Eunice Meister.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Sheri Borax**, You are in our thoughts and prayers, Fondly, Barbara Platt, Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- **Dennis Ditlove**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Eunice Meister.
- **Cass Graff-Radford**, Thinking of you and wishing you well, from Marnie Miller, Barbara Platt, Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross, Gail and Bob Scadron, and Trudy Schwartz.
- **Roger Kaplan**, Sending our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Susan Langus**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Reva Levy**, Sending get well wishes to you with love, Loreen Jacobson and Barbara Platt.
- **Gail Richards**, Sending hugs for a speedy recovery, from Cora Ginsberg and Loreen Jacobson.
- **Albert Silverman**, Wishing you a complete recovery, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Toni Victor**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Barbara Platt.

Rabbi Richard Zionts, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Loreen Jacobson.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Carol Appel and Family**, In memory of Sheldon Appel, from Sande and Ed Fineman and Pat Hubbard.
- **Vicky and Charles Brodsky**, in memory of your beloved mother, Cass Graff-Radford, from Mark and Cathy Maslan
- **Vicky and Charles Brodsky**, in memory of your beloved parents, Cass and Adrian Graff-Radford, from Bob and Ronni Kaplan, Cathy and Larry Pitts.

continued on next page



Tribute Card Donations Continued

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

- **Wendy Eager**, In memory of Marilyn Eager, from Fran Kaufman.
- **Sandy Epstein**, In memory of your dear sister Rochelle Lewis, from Cathy and Larry Pitts.
- **Robert Flamer**, In memory of Janice Flamer, from Sandy and David Silberstein.
- **Joan Freeman**, In memory of Mel, from Dennis and Linda Bloch.
- **Elaine Gershenson**, Our condolences on the loss of your father, John Vedder, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Cass Graff-Radford**, In loving memory of your beloved husband, Dr. Adrian Graff-Radford, from The Aisley and Conn Families, Nancy and Michael Basofin, Sheri Borax, Joanne and Bill Chunowitz, Loren and Howard Friend, Marilyn Freund, Toni and Bobby Garmisa, Cora Ginsberg, Alan Goldstein and Mary Levine, Frank Goldstin and Paul Clowers, Jim Greenbaum, Wendy Gross and Bill DeWoskin, Robin and Eric Hananel, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, Loreen Jacobson, Frances Kaufman, Joellen and Gary Leifer, Terri Lind, Cathy and Mark Maslan, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Barbara Platt, Sue Rappaport and David Suss, Stephanie and Dr. Paul Ross, Gail and Bob Scadron, Jill Shore, Amy and Jaime Siegel, Debra and Mickey Star, Leslie and Barry Usow, and Suzanne and Tom Zarrilli.
- **The Graff-Radford Family**, In memory of your beloved parents, Cass and Dr. Adrian Graff-Radford, from Ivette Delgadillo, Maureen DuMouchel, Jane Effress and Harvey Lambert, Marilyn and Jerry Gitt, Suzanne and Marc Homme, Alison and Howard Hyman and Fran Kaufman, Rosalind Miller, Cathy and Larry Pitts.
- **The Graff-Radford Family**, In memory of your beloved mother from John Bomgardner, Alan Goldstein and Mary Levine, Barbara Platt, Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **James Graff-Radford**, In memory of your beloved father, Dr. Adrian Graff-Radford, from Maureen DuMouchel, Blair and Lisa Rothstein.
- **Neill and Michelle Graff-Radford**, In memory of Adrian and Cass Graff-Radford, from Michael and June Drucker.
- **Josefa Heidi Greenberg**, In memory of Charles Greenberg, from Arnie and Sue Gillman.
- **Family of Frances Horwich**, In memory of Frances Horwich, a great lady, from Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ehrlichman, Sandy and Paul Epstein, Robert and Wendy Goodfriend, Jamie Kabler, Jon and Sally Kovler, Alan and Carol Parsow, Mary Jo and Robb Pomerantz.
- **Carol Horwich-Luber**, Our deepest sympathies on the passing of your mother, Frances Horwich, from Susie and Bob Diamond, Lili Ann and Ricky Zisook.
- **Carol Horwich-Luber and Margie Kulp**, Sincerest condolences from Fran Kaufman.
- **Alison Hyman**, In memory of your beloved mother, Joan Goldberg, from Barbara Appelbaum, Bill and Joanne Chunowitz, Cora Ginsberg, Phil and Ellen Glass, Wendy Hahn and Kent Whinnery, Barry Kaiman and Toni Victor, Ron and Susan Langus, Mary Levine, Renee Mayer, Susan Rappaport and David Suss, Debra and Mickey Star.
- **Ann Jaeger**, Jerry was an old friend and I will miss him, from Joe Noren.
- **The Ronald Kahn Family**, In memory of your dear one, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Bryan Kocen**, Condolences on the loss of your beloved mother, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Joel Kocen**, Condolences on the loss of your beloved JoAnn, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Kocen Family**, May JoAnn's memory be a blessing, from David Gold, Fran Kaufman
- **Margie Kulp and Family**, Sincere condolences on the loss of your mother, Frances Horwich; she was quite a woman, from Steven and Janet Anixter and JoAnn Anixter Silva, Lois Davidson, Susie and Bob Diamond, Jane Effress and Harvey Lambert, Jeannette and Raymond Galante, Joellen and Gary Leifer, Kathleen Lewis, Barbara Platt, Carol and Jim Resnick, Ricki and Steven Sharpe, Lili Ann and Ricky Zisook.
- **Liza McMowan**, Condolences on the passing of your husband Jerry, from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Nate Metzger**, In memory of your beloved brother, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Norma and Ted Nelson**, In memory of your beloved brother Barry, from Sharon Kaplan, Diane and Arnie Simon.
- **In memory of Betty Schneider**, from Justin and Robert Schneider.
- **Dr. Caryn Selick Halpern and Family**, In memory of Roberta Selick, beloved mother, grandmother and friend, from Vi Garden/Nature/Adventure Club c/o Gail Meyers, Cindy Howton, Sanford and Tina Katz, Karen and Bernie Rubinstein, Bill Selick, Robert Shumaker, Marilyn Siegel and Sandra Steinberg.
- **Geri Sherman and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband, Dr. Jim Sherman, from Shelli Goodman and Bernie Plack, Ellen and Stuart Markus.
- **Dr. Amy Siegel and Family**, In memory of Roberta Selick, from Joel and Lisa Blitzter, Ellen and Phil Glass, Barry Kaiman and Toni Victor, Ron and Susan Langus, Katie Small, Milton and Nina Zale, and Suzanne Zarrilli.
- **Diane and Arnie Simon**, Deepest condolences on the loss of your beloved sister, Beverly, from Arnie and Sue Gillman, Norma and Ted Nelson.
- **Judi Stein**, In memory of your mother, Joni Graff, from Barbara and Murray Beck.
- **Heather Wallis and Family**, In loving memory of a dear old friend, Ron Wallis, from Barbara Platt.
- **Jonathan Widran and Liz Halen**, In memory of beloved Fred Widran, from Deborah Levin, Susan London, Lita Widran, and Sanford Widran.
- **Shirley Zipkin**, In memory of your beloved husband Larry, from Jane Effress and Harvey Lambert, Sande and Ed Fineman.

Entire Anti-Israel UN Commission Quits After US Sanctions Rapporteur

All three members of UN Human Rights Council commission probing Israel resign in unison, after US sanctions UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese.

By World Israel News Staff

All three commissioners assigned by the United Nations Human Rights Council to a permanent board of inquiry probing Israel resigned on July 14, days after the United States sanctioned United Nations Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, accusing her of antisemitism and support for terror.

Following the conflict between Israel and Gaza terror groups in the spring of 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council established the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Established initially with a team of 24 staffers – later reduced to 18 – the panel was headed by three commissioners, including chairwoman Navi Pillay of South Africa, Miloon Kothari of India, and Chris Sidoti of Australia.

All three have been accused of strongly anti-Israel bias, and in some cases, antisemitism.

In 2022, Miloon Kothari questioned Israel's right to UN membership and evoked antisemitic tropes about Jewish control of the media—remarks condemned by 18 nations including the U.S., U.K., Germany, and France.

Chris Sidoti has in the past trivialized the issue of antisemitism, claiming that Jews “throw



Navi Pillay, Miloon Kothari, and Chris Sidoti, the three members of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory

around accusations like rice at a wedding.”

Navi Pillay, who was tapped in July 2021 after she had lobbied governments to “sanction apartheid Israel,” led a commission that generally turned a blind eye to Hamas terrorism and incitement, even after the October 7 massacre.

The three commissioners filed their resignations, with chairwoman Pillay citing

“age, medical issues, and the weight of several other commitments.”

However, the timing of Pillay's resignation, occurring at the same time as the two other commissioners also quit and just days after the US sanctions on Albanese were announced has fueled speculation the commission was under pressure within the UN.

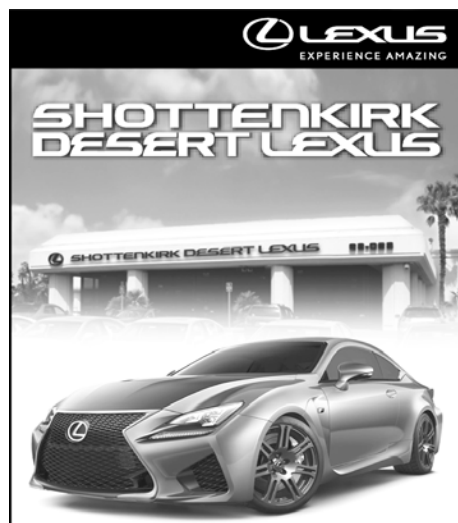
On July 16, US Secretary of State Marco

Rubio announced that US companies were now barred from doing business with Albanese, who has also been banned from entering the US.

“This week, the dominoes are falling,” said Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch.

“First, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio made the historic decision to sanction Francesca Albanese, the UN's pro-Hamas rapporteur, in wake of a massive campaign led by UN Watch. Now the architects of the UN's anti-Israel inquisition are fleeing the ship. The tide is turning.”

“The resignation of all three commissioners is long overdue,” Neuer continued. “This was a commission born in prejudice — designed to target Israel, while ignoring Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Palestinian Authority. Its members were selected precisely for their hostility to the Jewish state.”



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No-host lunch optional: 11:00 AM. Confirm with reservation.
Movie and popcorn at 12:30 PM. Discussion follows ... with ice cream.

Wednesday, August 20, 2025: “Keeping Up With the Steins”

The Bar Mitzvah service is of great significance. However, many families still plan extravagant celebrations following the service. “Keeping Up With The Steins” is the story of Joanne and Adam Fiedler as they plan a Bar Mitzvah party that attempts to surpass that of the Stein family's party which took place on a cruise ship and had a *Titanic* theme. The movie is hilarious and reflects our ability to laugh at our own foibles.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025: “The Chosen”

FROM BOOKS TO MOVIES FILM: Based on the novel by Chaim Potok with the same name, “The Chosen” depicts the friendship between Reuven Malter, the son of a modern traditional Jewish college professor, and Danny Saunders, the son of an ultra-Orthodox Hasidic Rebbe. Set in Brooklyn in the 1940s, the film follows Reuven and Danny's friendship as they both question their faith and family, each ultimately finding their purpose in life.” The Chosen” raises some pertinent questions and may serve as good preparation for the upcoming High Holy Days. LET'S DISCUSS!

The movie is free. Suggested contribution \$10.
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US Victims Can Sue Palestinian Terrorists, Supreme Court Rules Unanimously

Vita Fellig, Jewish News Syndicate

Americans who are victims of Palestinian terror can sue for damages in U.S. courts, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously on June 20, 2025, upholding the constitutionality of the Promoting Security and Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act of 2019.

The 2019 law expands the 1992 Anti-Terrorism Act, which allows Americans harmed by overseas terror attacks to sue foreign entities, including the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organization, for damages.

"It is permissible for the federal government to craft a narrow jurisdictional provision that ensures, as part of a broader foreign policy agenda, that Americans injured or killed by acts of terror have an adequate forum in which to vindicate their right to Anti-Terrorism Act compensation," wrote John Roberts, the high court chief justice.

Danny Danon, the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, told JNS that "this is an important milestone in bringing justice to victims of terror, and holding terrorists to account wherever they are."

Ahmad Sharawi, a research analyst at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told JNS that the decision represents a "major legal

milestone for American victims of terrorism."

Associate justices Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett and Ketanji Brown Jackson joined Roberts in the majority opinion. Clarence Thomas filed a concurring opinion, which Neil Gorsuch joined.

"The critical question in these cases is what boundaries the Fifth Amendment's due process guarantee, as originally understood, places on the federal government's power to extend personal jurisdiction over respondents," he wrote. "Historical evidence demonstrates that the answer is 'none.'"

Under the Fifth Amendment, every "person" is protected from being "deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law," so, Thomas wrote, the respondents, which include the Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinian Authority, "must establish both that they are 'person(s)'



U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts

protected by the Fifth Amendment and that the Promoting Security and Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act transgresses their due process rights."

"I am skeptical that entities such as the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority enjoy any constitutional rights at all, let alone qualify as 'person(s)' for purposes of the Fifth Amendment."

Thomas added that the Fifth Amendment "was never understood to constrain Congress's ability to extend federal jurisdiction."

"The federal government has always possessed the power to extend its jurisdiction beyond the nation's borders, and, as understood in 1791, the Fifth Amendment did not limit this sovereign prerogative," he wrote.

Charles Stimson, a senior legal fellow at the Heritage Foundation and deputy director of its Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies and manager of its national security law program, told JNS that the court's decision was "pretty common sense."

"I'm not the least bit surprised that the court came down the way it did. I'm not the least bit surprised that it was unanimous, and I'm not the least bit surprised that Thomas

and Gorsuch wrote what they wrote in their concurrence," he said. "I'm only surprised that Alito didn't join them in that concurrence. That's the only surprise of this case, because Alito takes a very hard stand on terrorism."

The case is now remanded back to the Second Circuit. "This is a long way from being over," Stimson told JNS.

The case is "very fact dependent," and the District Court will conduct fact finding processes, and since this is a civil suit, there will be discovery and depositions, according to Stimson.

"Who knows if anyone from the PLO and PA will show up for those," he told JNS. "There may be a default judgment" if they don't show up in court, he added. "This is years if not decades away from being resolved."

One can't know where the case will go. "A trial is called a trial. It's not a play," he said. "You don't know what the end is gonna be." Still, Stimson said, the victims overcame a "first big hurdle."

The plaintiffs in *Fuld v. Palestine Liberation* included Miriam Fuld, on behalf of her husband Ari Fuld, who was killed by a Palestinian terrorist in 2018 in Judea and Samaria, and other U.S. victims of Palestinian terror attacks between 2002 and 2004.

"OK, so this is a big deal indeed. My late brother Ari's wife appealed to the Supreme Court and won. Unanimously," Hillel Fuld stated. "Now, any American citizen affected by Palestinian terror can sue the Palestinian Authority in American courts. Pretty unprecedented. Wow."

Daniel S. Mariaschin, CEO of B'nai B'rith International, told JNS that "today's unanimous Supreme Court ruling is a landmark victory for American victims of Palestinian terrorism—and for justice itself."

The court's decision "reaffirms their right to seek redress in U.S. courts and sets a precedent that those who carry out, support or enable acts of international terror can and will be held accountable—now and in the future."

"Today's unanimous decision is a victory for American citizens who fall victim to vicious acts of terrorism overseas," stated the American Jewish Committee. "Allowing victims to pursue justice in U.S. courts provides a clear message to terrorists who kill or harm Americans that they will be held to account for their crimes."

Agudath Israel of America told JNS that the court's ruling "ensures that American victims of terrorism abroad will be able to seek justice in the United States, as Congress intended when passing the law."

"This case will go a long way towards vindicating the rights of murdered and wounded innocent Jews and Christians to sue the Arab-Islamic terrorists' paymasters, and may help deter future terrorism," Morton Klein, national president of Zionist Organization of America, told JNS.

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Schedule of Services

S'lihot

Saturday, September 13 S'lihot 7:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 23 First Day 9:15 am
Wednesday, September 24 Second Day 9:15 am

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 1 Kol Nidre 6:00 pm
Thursday, October 2 Morning 9:15 am
Yizkor 4:30 pm
Afternoon / Ne'ilah 5:15 pm
Sounding the Shofar 7:15 pm





Shabbat Schedule - August 2025

AHAVAT ACHIM/Sun City Jewish Services, Palm Desert

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert and Cantorial Soloist Ezra Yaron. 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.

BEIT HAVERIM, Palm Springs

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg (rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com). Where friends old and new gather for Shabbat services with special Oneg at Mizell Center or services and potluck dinners in members' homes. **Friday, August 8:** Shabbat Service at Mizell Center, 480 S. Sunrise Way (at Ramon), Palm Springs at 6:30 pm. Shabbat mornings at 10:30 am: Nosh and drash/torah study online or in person. For schedule of services, potluck Shabbat dinners, Shabbat morning programs and activities email beithaverim@gmail.com or call 760-766-3212.

BETH SHALOM, Palm Desert

(Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)
Rabbi Dr. JB Sacks (rabbi@congregationbethshalom.net); Ken Hailpern, Madrikh Ruhani (ken@congregationbethshalom.net)
42600 Cook Street, Second Floor, Palm Desert, CA 92211. 760-200-3636. 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

Beth Shalom SPECIAL TISHA B'AV PROGRAM: **Sunday, August 3, 10-11:30 am.** "A Tisha B'Av Journey Through Jewish History and Culture". No charge. See ad page ____

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. Shacharit services Monday-Friday at 7:30 am; Sundays at 8:00 am and Shabbat at 10:00 am. Evening services 10 minutes before sunset. Check website or call to confirm times.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT

Rabbi Mendy Friedman. Located in south Palm Desert. Call for information and location: 760-969-2158; www.chabadpd.com. Shabbat morning services 10:00 am. Monthly Shabbat dinners.

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. **Ckids Hebrew School** 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM on designated Sundays throughout the school year. Check our schedule online Info: chabadrm.com/ckids or Chaya Posner: chaya@chabadrm.com or 760-272-1923.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
Call 760-848-8250 or e-mail: info@chabadsuncity.com for information. Monthly Social Happy Hour. Holiday dinners and celebrations. Zoom Torah classes. 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: Info@ChabadLQ.com; website: www.ChabadLQ.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 Zions, Ph.D.; Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus. harelurjpd@gmail.com 760-779-1691.

Website: harelurjpd.org.

Abbreviated Shabbat schedule for August and early September. Weekly in person Shabbat Eve services resume after the High Holy Days. Email for location and schedule. Rabbi Zions holds Torah Study on Zoom every Saturday morning at 11 AM. For a Zoom link, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE, Rancho Mirage

Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Rabbi Chazzan Maseng and Sarah Lonsert, Cantorial Soloist. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. Shabbat services held at 7:00 pm on the second Fridays at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert in Rancho Mirage. On second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi Axelrad. *Check the calendar for updates.*

Adult Education: Adult B'nai Mitzvah, Hebrew—Beginning and advanced, Introduction to Judaism, Adult Confirmation, Adult Learning. Contacts: rabbi@my-dos.org; www.my-dos.org

OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar
rabbi@orhamidbar.org
In-person services each first 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. For more information of in-person services, upcoming classes and Zoom links, visit orhamidbar.org.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org
Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com. Shabbat Candle Lighting on Fridays at 6:00 pm on Zoom. First 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

332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281 (Tuesday-Thursday). Email: temple@templeisaiahps.com; Website: templeisaiahps.com. Shabbat services Friday evenings in the Liberman Chapel at 6:30 pm followed by Oneg. Torah services are on Shabbat mornings at 10:30 during season; on hiatus during summer. Check website to confirm services and programming. Services also streamed online. To access any activity, go to Temple Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program. Interim Associate Rabbis: Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Rabbi Suzanne Singer. Cantorial Soloists: Ezra Yaron, Elliot Levine. Check website for schedule. Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service is broadcast on Facebook: www.facebook.com/templeisaiahpalmsprings.

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. Services are held in the chapel during the summer months.

Temple Sinai's Avi Levine Religious School open to children irrespective of parents' membership at Temple Sinai.

Contact Talia Lizemer-Hawley, 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 2025

Most programs are on hiatus for the summer. Call the synagogue or organization to learn of any special programs being offered.

Sunday, August 3

10:00 – 11:30 AM (doors open 9:15 am) Congregation Beth Shalom program open to community. No fee. **M'Ma'amakin / "From the Depths"** – a Tisha B'Av Journey Through Jewish History and Culture. Special program will use mel-

ody, text, poetry and art from the destruction of the Temples through the October 7 Hamas Massacre. RSVP by calling 760-200-3636 and leaving a message.

HAR-EL MOVIE SERIES

Wednesday, August 20 "Keeping Up with the Steins". Optional no-Host Lunch 11:00 followed by Movie. Discussion follows screening. The Movie Series is free * Suggested contribution \$10.00. No

charge for the movie, popcorn and ice cream. To register email: mtzi-ontspd@aol.com. Location and gate code will be sent with confirmation. See ad page 13.

Monday, August 25

7:00 pm Sabra Hadassah Summer Study program. **Speaker: Lynda Zionts** "How/Where Do We Fit in All This Confusion?" Seating limited. Call Miriam Bent, 760-835-1022 to RSVP.

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

Knesset Bill Would Narrow Eligibility for Israel Citizenship

By Asaf Shalev, *The Forward*

Israel's governing coalition is considering a bill that would significantly restrict who's eligible for citizenship under the Law of Return, a foundational expression of Israel's identity as a Jewish state.

The bill would eliminate a clause in the law that extends the right of citizenship to individuals who are not considered Jewish under religious law but have at least one Jewish grandparent. An estimated 500,000 Israelis immigrated to the country since 1970 under this provision, which has become a source of contention within Israel and a point of friction with Jewish communities abroad.

A discussion on the bill is scheduled for Sunday at the Ministerial Committee on Legislation, which plays a critical gatekeeping role in Israel's legislative process. A vote by the committee to support the bill would mean it advances to parliament with the backing of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

The bill's author is Avi Maoz, the far-right lawmaker from the Noam party, who in



Avi Maoz, author of bill

March quit Netanyahu's coalition in protest of what he described as the government's failure to advance a sufficiently Orthodox and nationalist agenda. The ministerial committee is also set to review a bill by Maoz to ban discussion of LGBTQ issues in classrooms.

Maoz and his allies argue that expanded eligibility for immigration serves to dilute Israel's Jewish character.

"In its current form, the Law of Return allows even the grandson of a Jew to receive immigrant status and rights, even if he himself, and sometimes even his parents, are no longer Jewish," says an explanatory note attached to Maoz's bill. "This situation means that the law is being

exploited by many who have severed all ties with the Jewish people and its traditions, and in effect empties the law of its original intention, which was to open the country's gates to the Jews of the Diaspora."

Similar or identical bills have been introduced in recent years by other members of Netanyahu's government, including fellow Likud party lawmaker Shlomo Karhi, Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich and influential far-right politician Simcha Rothman, according to the explanatory note. Israel's haredi Orthodox parties, which are also part of Netanyahu's coalition, historically have opposed the "grandparent clause" as well.

Supporters of the grandparent clause say it upholds Israel's identity as a refuge for anyone with Jewish ancestry, especially those excluded by Orthodox definitions. The clause was added in 1970 partly in response to the Nazi Nuremberg Laws, which marked for persecution anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent.

Many also see the clause as critical for welcoming Jews from the former Soviet Union, where decades of suppression left many unable to meet religious definitions but still connected, often deeply, to their Jewish heritage.

Under traditional halacha, or Jewish law, a person is considered Jewish only if their

mother is Jewish, or if they formally convert to Judaism. Religious parties have also fought for years to reserve the authority for conversions to Orthodox rabbis.

In the Diaspora, there is strong support for maintaining the grandparent clause among major Jewish organizations and non-Orthodox movements, according to Stuart Weinblatt, a prominent Conservative rabbi and the chairman of the Zionist Rabbinic Coalition.

"I believe very strongly that issues such as security and borders should be decided by the sovereign democratically elected government of Israel, but there are other issues, which have an impact on Jewish peoplehood, which is worldwide, and it's important to consider the wider consequences," Weinblatt said.

He hopes those on the other side can come to see prospective immigrants as a boon to Israel rather than a threat, and find a way to embrace them despite the complications posed by religious law.

"There are people who have this connection to Judaism and the Jewish people, and instead of looking at closing the door, we should be welcoming them back into the fold, capitalizing on their desire to make their future in the homeland of the Jewish people," he said.



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2025/5786 HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES HELD AT MIZELL CENTER
760-766-3212 ■ beithaverimps@gmail.com.

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2025 Holocaust Poetry and Art Contest

By Leslie Pepper, Jewish Federation Director of Community Engagement



Leslie Pepper, Journalist Pamela Price, and Danny Labin, Jewish Federation CEO.



Community Holocaust Survivor Liaison / Temple Sinai Educator Talia Lizemer; Survivor Rickie Taras, Yom HaShoah Observance Co-Chair Stephanie Ross, and Journalist Pam Price.



Above: Poetry and Art Contest winners with Leslie Pepper, Jewish Federation Director of Community Engagement, and Dr. Gary Levin, Co-Chair of the 2025 Holocaust/Yom HaShoah program.

This year the Jewish Federation's Holocaust Poetry and Art Contest embraced the timely and powerful theme: "No Tolerance for Intolerance." This message clearly resonated with students across the Coachella Valley, inspiring nearly 100 heartfelt and thought-provoking submissions from public, private, and parochial schools. Each piece reflected a deeply personal response to the lessons of the Holocaust and the importance of standing up to

hate, bigotry, and injustice—reminders we need now more than ever.

This year, our Holocaust Poetry and Art Contest reached new heights, with participation from all three school districts as well as private and parochial schools across the Valley.

A distinguished panel of judges reviewed the entries, and it is our privilege to recognize the extraordinary students whose work rose to the top. These young artists and writers used their creativity, insight, and moral clarity to bring attention to the importance of remembrance and resistance. Their courage to speak out through their work is not only commendable, it is inspiring.

Art Contest – Middle School Division:

1st Place – Landon Zamora,
8th Grade (Teacher: Davis) – \$300

2nd Place – Savannah Orth,
7th Grade (Teacher: Faraci) – \$200
3rd Place – Katy Wang,
8th Grade (Teacher: Davis) – \$100

Poetry Contest – Middle School Division:

Andrew Nicasio Bowie
(Teacher: Davis) – \$300
Roseline Hernandez Corrales
(Teacher: Davis) – \$200
Emily Cisneros
(Teacher: Davis) – \$100

Poetry Contest – High School Division:

1st Place – Ruth Moss,
11th Grade (Teacher: Wise) – \$300
2nd Place – Micky Tracy,
12th Grade (Teacher: Wise) – \$200
3rd Place – Isabella Garcia,
11th Grade (Teacher: Wise) – \$100

To each of the student winners... What an extraordinary achievement. How proud you must be—and how proud you have made your families, your teachers, and your communities. In these times of profound social challenge, your work reminds us that even the youngest among us can be powerful agents of change. By standing up through your words and your art, you have shown that intolerance has no place in our world—and that justice, compassion, and courage will always have a voice. We thank you for raising that voice so beautifully.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the students who participated—and just as importantly, to the teachers who nurtured their voices. Your dedication to Holocaust education and your commitment to guiding your students through these difficult yet essential lessons are nothing short of remarkable.

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Memories from Community Yom HaShoah Observance

May 24, 2025

The Jewish community of the greater Coachella Valley came together to observe Yom HaShoah, remembering the Holocaust, at Temple Sinai on May 24, 2025. The special highlight of this year's observance was the screening of the stories of our local Holocaust survivors. For years they had been taking part in the annual observance, sharing readings and lighting candles in memory of those who perished, but

they were getting more frail and we saw their numbers diminish each year. Acting on a suggestion made to the Yom HaShoah Observance Committee, chaired by Dr. Gary Levin and Stephanie Ross, professional videos were made of our community's remaining survivors during the months preceding Yom HaShoah, and these screenings was the highlight at this year's observance.

Our community's new Jewish Federation Chief Executive Officer Danny Labin opened with words of welcome. The Keynote address was given by Mitchell Raff, author of "Little Boy, I Know Your Name," a 'Second Generation Memoir from Inherited Holocaust Trauma.' Participating in the program were Rabbis David Novak of Temple Sinai and JB Sacks of Congregation Beth



Shalom, along with Cantorial Soloist Ezra Yaron of Ahavat Achim. As in past years, musicians from Temple Sinai – Libby Smith, Becky Long and Cindy Brogan -- welcomed attendees upon entering and throughout the program with their beautiful music.



Federation CEO Danny Labin with Rabbis Ken Emert (Ahavat Achim) and Jules King (Desert Outreach)



Keynote Speaker Mitchell Raff and Yom HaShoah Co-chair Stephanie Ross



Cantorial Soloist Ezra Yaron (Ahavat Achim)



Jewish Federation of the Desert CEO Danny Labin



Women's Philanthropy Chair Fran Kaufman and Jewish Federation Director of Community Engagement/Liaison to Yom HaShoah Committee Leslie Pepper



Musicians Linny Smith, Becky Long and Cindy Brogan



Rabbi David Novak (Temple Sinai), JFS Executive Director Kraig Johnson, Rickie Taras, Yom HaShoah Co-chair Dr. Gary Levin, Jewish Federation CFO Alberto Tejero and Rabbi JB Sacks (Beth Shalom)



Community Liaison/Holocaust Survivors Talia Lizemer and JFS Executive Director Kraig Johnson





Jewish Federation of the Desert is a proud supporter of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life at five area college campuses: UC Riverside, University of Redlands, CA State University San Bernardino, Riverside Community College and College of the Desert.

The following article is by one of the student leaders at Hillel at UC Riverside.

Being a Jewish Student at UCR – A Perspective

By Jasmine Prilutsky, UCR Hillel Student Board Vice President

Since my Bat Mitzvah, I have found comfort and strength in the Magen David necklace I proudly wear around my neck. In moments of doubt, my pendant is clutched in my hands, where my fingers trace along its grooves and notches. Always untucked, my necklace has remained an external reminder of the values I hold dear, not just by me, but also by those who find themselves in my presence. Just as the little Jewish star necklace is inseparable to my image, my faith and pride have always been a crucial part of my Jewish identity.

Growing up in Burbank, California, an area with a very small Jewish population, I looked forward to a college experience where I



knew I'd be able to build and expand my Jewish network. What I didn't anticipate was the earth-shattering event that took place

during the first week of my freshman year at UC Riverside: the October 7th Massacre. I found myself questioning how my campus, a microcosmic representation of the world, could remain silent after such atrocities were committed against my people. This sense of injustice propelled me, and before I knew it, I had spurred the organization of a vigil honoring the lives of those lost and who will not soon be forgotten. Soon thereafter, I joined the Hillel student board and helped revive Chabad on Campus, for which I have now served two years as vice president. My college experience has been synonymous with Jewish student life, and continues to be one through which I can truly be myself and be a changemaker.

This past school year, I had the honor of serving as the UC Riverside representative for the Hillel International Israel Leadership Network. This opportunity enabled me to expand my Jewish network, and meet like-minded students who have shared similar experiences. A prominent event we participated in was our UC-wide Symbols of Jewish Resilience collaboration, where each campus contributed to an informative display on the same day intended to educate passersby. The most effective way to dispel hatred and ignorance is through education, so to best combat antisemitism, it's important we each do our part and foster productive discourse that will ensure a better world for future generations. This upcoming year, I was selected to serve as the Israel Leadership Network UC Cohort Trustee, a position through which I look forward to creating more educational opportunities geared to UCR campus.

In addition to my position as UC Cohort Trustee, I look forward to serving as UCR Hillel student board vice president this coming school year. Throughout my time at UCR, Hillel has remained my main community on campus; whether for a study break to catch up with friends, grab breakfast at our weekly Bagel Wednesday, or to attend a Dinner and Learn with an interesting speaker, I have felt the warm embrace of my Jewish community. Especially after the vicious antisemitism sentiments expressed on UC campuses these past two years, having a solid support system has been paramount. Instead of focusing on the hate and chaos promoted by anti-Israel protests and demonstrations, UC Riverside's small but mighty Jewish community has banded together to advocate for love, light, and understanding.

Since the harrowing events of 10/7, Jews around the world of all colors, backgrounds, and nationalities have sought to connect with one another. UCR's small-scale representation of the globe at large demonstrates this tenacity and impact, and signifies the importance of community.

Despite the fact that our existence as Jews is threatened each and every day, it is thanks to organizations such as Hillel that we have the resources to continue to flourish and showcase our presence. No chants of "From the River, to the Sea" or "Intifada revolution" will ever blot us out, no matter how loud. I continue to wear my Magen David confidently as a promise to stay true to my Jewish identity and heritage, and encourage all of my Jewish brothers and sisters to do the same. This is the Jewish story. We are here to stay. Am Yisrael Chai!

This is a defining moment for the Jewish people.

The General Assembly

November 16-18, 2025 | Washington, D.C.

The future of the Jewish people depends on what we do now. The 2025 General Assembly in Washington, D.C. is where our community's leaders will convene to learn about, engage in, and take action on the defining challenges of our time.

For more detailed information contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org

New York City Mayor Establishes First-of-Its-Kind Office to Combat Antisemitism

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced the creation of the Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism, the first office of its kind to be established in a major city in the US. The first task of the new mayoral office will be to immediately establish an inter-agency taskforce that will focus on tackling "all forms of antisemitism," which include monitoring court cases and outcomes in the justice system, cooperating with the New York City Law Department on cases to bring or join, and advising on executive orders to issue and legislation to propose to address antisemitism. The office will also liaise with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to take action against antisemitism, and it will have the authority to ensure that city-funded entities, taxpayer-funded organizations, and city agencies do not promote antisemitism.

"Anything funded by the city, there are rules and regulations of how you can contract with the city and behave when you contract with the city, and we're going to make sure that is taken care of in the proper way," Moshe Davis, the inaugural executive director of the Office to Combat Antisemitism, told *The Algemeiner*. He explained that the new office will make sure "that these [city-funded] agencies are not doing the wrong thing and if they are, and we have the legal ability, we are going to make sure they are not going to be able to continue doing that."

"By establishing the Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism, our administration is taking immediate and concrete steps to address antisemitism at every level of city life," Davis added during the press conference.

Adams made the announcement about the new initiative amid an unprecedented uptick in antisemitism in New York City and across the nation. In 2024, the NYPD reported that 54 percent of all hate crimes in New York City were against Jewish New Yorkers. During the first quarter of 2025, that number rose to 62 percent.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League's latest Audit of Antisemitic Incidents revealed a record number of 9,354 antisemitic incidents across the US in 2024. The highest number of



New York City Mayor Eric Adams announcing the formation of the Mayor's Office to Combat Antisemitism

incidents were in New York.

New York City has the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, and Jews make up 10 percent of the population, according to the mayor. New York has 960,000 Jewish residents.

Adams said it is "imperative" to address the increase in antisemitism in New York City.

"We can't move on with business as usual when we have a population in your city that is overwhelmingly being targeted merely because of their religion or way of life," Adams said on Tuesday at the press conference. He added that the new Office to Combat Antisemitism will help "send a very clear message in this city that antisemitism cannot live and most importantly cannot grow – cannot grow on our college campuses, cannot grow in our schools, in our work environments ... And let's be honest, it's not a Jewish issue. Any hate on a group is an issue that we should address. This administration will not remain silent while our Jewish brothers and sisters are targeted."

"As we continue to see the rising tide of antisemitism here at home, and across the country, this moment calls

for decisive action," the mayor further said in a released statement. "The Office to Combat Antisemitism ... will tackle antisemitism in all of its forms, working across city agencies to ensure Jewish New Yorkers are protected and can thrive here in the five boroughs. Antisemitism is an attack not only on Jewish New Yorkers, but on the very idea of New York City as a place where people from all backgrounds can live together."

Davis's first course of action as the executive director of the new office will be to form a commission of Jewish leaders from across the city to oversee and advise on the office's work. The mayor described Davis in a press statement as "a tireless advocate on behalf of Jewish New Yorkers, and he is exactly the right person to lead and build this office."

Davis joined the Adams administration in November 2022 as Jewish liaison in the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs. He formerly managed the city's first Jewish Advisory Council, which the mayor established in June 2023.

"Combating antisemitism requires a sledgehammer approach: coordinated,

unapologetic, and immediate," Davis said. "Mayor Adams has been a modern-day Maccabee, standing up for the Jewish community, and, with the establishment of this office, he is strengthening his resolve to ensure Jewish New Yorkers thrive in our city. I look forward to working closely with Mayor Eric Adams and First Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro to continue our forceful response against anti-Jewish hate and discrimination."

Davis was previously the rabbinic leader at the Manhattan Jewish Experience, a program for young Jewish professionals. He also founded New York Jews in Politics, an initiative that connects Jewish professionals who work in government, advocacy, and nonprofit sectors, and received his ordination from the Rabbinical Council of Jerusalem. As executive director of the Office to Combat Antisemitism, he will report directly to First Deputy Mayor Mastro.

"We are a city that will not tolerate antisemitism," Mastro said at the press conference on Tuesday.

"The rise in antisemitism in our city, in our country, and around the world is both alarming and intolerable," Mastro added in a released statement. "Today, Mayor Adams is taking a stand — that in the city with the largest Jewish population in the world — antisemitism is unacceptable, and we have to do more to address it. So, New York City will lead the way as the first major city in America to establish an office dedicated solely to combatting antisemitism."

New York City also has an Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, which was launched in 2019 and is still active, and the NYPD has a Hate Crime Task Force that addresses bias-motivated threats, harassment, discrimination, and violence throughout New York.

החכם THE SAGE I have a question for you ... ARE THE HIGH HOLY DAYS EARLY OR LATE THIS YEAR?

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To learn more about the Jewish Federation of the Desert, please visit: www.jfedps.org



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It's summer, it's hot, and nothing hits the spot like a fresh, crisp salad! Packed with seasonal ingredients and vibrant flavors, these salads are perfect for picnics, barbecues, or light meals on warm days. Try these delicious summer salad recipes and enjoy every cool, refreshing bite! Enjoy! *MHB*



Hearts of Palm Salad with Creamy Avocado Dressing

1 ripe avocado	4 scallions, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons mayonnaise made with olive oil	Kosher salt
Zest and juice of 1 lime	Freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil	Butter lettuce leaves or endive leaves
2 (14-ounce) cans hearts of palm, drained, rinsed, and sliced in ½-inch thick slices	Garnish: pomegranate seeds, chopped flat-leaf parsley
2 celery stalks, thinly sliced	

Pulse avocado, mayonnaise, lime zest and juice, and olive oil in a food processor or blender until it becomes a creamy and thick puree. Make ahead tip: place in a jar or covered container and store in the refrigerator for up to 2 days. Toss hearts of palm, celery, and scallions together in a bowl and season with salt and pepper. Divide hearts of palm mixture between lettuce cups and drizzle with avocado dressing. Garnish with pomegranate seeds and chopped flat-leaf parsley as desired.

Golden Couscous Salad

¼ cup olive oil, divided	½ cup chopped dried apricots
1 medium shallot, minced	¼ cup golden raisins
1 teaspoon cumin	¼ cup chopped unsalted cashews
1 teaspoon turmeric	1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
1 cup couscous	2 tablespoons minced fresh cilantro leaves
2 cups vegetable broth or water	2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 medium yellow bell pepper, chopped	1 teaspoon sugar
1 medium carrot, shredded or chopped	

In a large saucepan, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil over medium heat. Add shallot, cumin, turmeric, and couscous and stir until fragrant for about 2 minutes being careful not to burn. Stir in the broth. Bring to a boil, then remove from the heat, cover, and let stand for 10 minutes. Transfer the cooked couscous to a large bowl. Add the bell pepper, carrot, apricots, raisins, cashews, chickpeas, and cilantro. Toss gently to combine and set aside. In a small bowl, combine the remaining 3 tablespoons of oil with lemon juice and sugar, stirring to blend. Pour the dressing over the salad, toss gently to combine, and serve.

The Best Moroccan Carrot Salad

12 large carrots, peeled and trimmed	2 tsp sweet paprika
3 tsp sea salt or 1½ tsp table salt	2 tsp cumin
½ cup lemon juice	1 tsp sumac
4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil	1 cup chopped fresh cilantro or parsley

Slice the carrots into ¾" rounds (cut them in half lengthwise as you get to the thicker part. The goal is to have all the carrots be approximately the same size, so they can cook evenly). Place carrots in a medium size pot, add water so it covers about 2" above the carrots and the salt. Bring to a boil and reduce the heat slightly so they can keep boiling. Cook for 45 minutes or until the carrots are tender, but not mushy. Drain them well, transfer them to large bowl and immediately add the lemon juice, olive oil, paprika, cumin and sumac and toss well. Add the chopped cilantro or parsley, toss again and refrigerate until ready to serve. The carrot salad tastes better when prepared a day or two ahead of time.

Spring Lettuce with Pastrami Croutons & Balsamic Reduction

¼ cup + 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided	6 cups spring lettuce mix or favorite salad greens
1 pound chunk of pastrami, cubed	Kosher salt
1 cup good quality balsamic vinegar	Fresh cracked black pepper

Heat ¼ cup of oil in a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Using tongs and working in batches, fry the pastrami in a single layer until crisp and deep dark red, almost blackened, about 7 to 9 minutes. Drain on paper towels and cool slightly. Pour balsamic vinegar into a skillet that has preheated for a couple of minutes over medium-high heat. Bring the vinegar to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium and allow it to simmer, thicken and reduce. Stir or whisk the vinegar occasionally as it simmers to prevent burning. Remove the pan from the heat when the vinegar has reduced to about 1/3 of a cup and is syrupy. Allow the vinegar to sit a few minutes more; it will continue to thicken. Toss the greens with the remaining 3 tablespoons of olive oil in a large salad bowl. Crumble the pastrami into bits by hand or chop with a knife. Top the salad with the pastrami-fry. Drizzle with balsamic reduction and salt and pepper to taste. Serve any extra pastrami-fry in a dish on the side so people can add more if desired.

Tortellini Vegetable Salad

7-oz. cheese-filled tortellini, cooked and drained	1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
1 cup broccoli flowerets	1 cup zucchini chunks
1 cup mushroom slices	1/2 cup sliced pitted black olives

Dressing: 8 oz. Italian dressing & 2 Tablespoons Dijon mustard. Combine salad ingredients in a bowl. Mix salad dressing with mustard. Pour over salad. Refrigerate until well chilled, stirring occasionally. Serves 6.



Simchas

Mazel tov to **Dr. Sarah Sela**, head of Pediatric Gastroenterology at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, and Hazzan for Beit Haverim on weekends and holidays, for being honored by the hospital bestowing on her their prestigious



"You are Simply Better" Award on May 29th, an award rarely given! ... Mazel tov to Gail and Saul Jacobs on the birth of their great-grandson **David Shalom**, son of **Moishe and Hinda Rochel Muller** of Monsey, New York... Mazel Tov to **Rabbi Ashie & Sarah Denebeim** and their daughter, **Chana**, on their move

to Ridgewood, New Jersey, where they have begun serving as the Chabad Rabbi and Rebbetzin of the community.

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



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Friday, August 26	Vayelech	5:53 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Martin Aronson, Ella Brandt, Ephraim Glen Ezekiel, David Galve, Barry Gindoff, Dr. Adrian Graff-Radford, Cass Graff-Radford, Joann Kocen, Betsy Segal, Gladys Sherman, and Dr. Emanuel "Manny" Tward, *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



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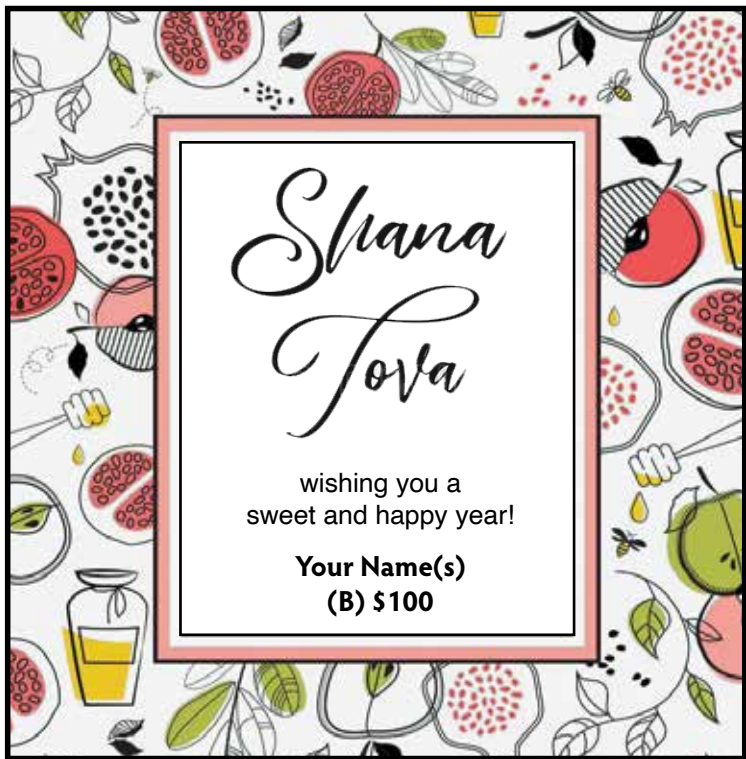
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