



Compared to national norms, Jewish Academy students ahead of their peers

For the third straight year, students at the Jewish Academy of Orlando are performing at least two grade levels ahead of their peers nationwide. These results are based on the average total scores in each class.

The test scores, from April 2017, were taken using the nationally recognized Iowa Test of Basic Skills® (commonly known as the "Iowa Assessments.") The Iowa Assessment is a nationally

standardized achievement test for K-12 students, allowing schools to compare their students' scores to national norms in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science.

The Iowa Assessments rank the students' scores by grade level equivalents. As a general guide, a score of 7.9 for a 5th grader means the student is testing on an achievement continuum at a level equivalent to a 7th grader in their ninth

month, or also reads they are 2 years and 9 months ahead of their current grade level.

"We are always thrilled to see our students' scores, but we are not surprised," said Alan Rusonik, who is beginning his fourth year of Head of School. "Jewish Academy of Orlando has a history of ranking top in the nation."

A large number of private schools

Academy on page 15A

Sen. Lieberman speaks at AIPAC



Joseph Lieberman

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee is excited to announce that former U.S. Senator and vice-presidential candidate, Joseph Lieberman, will be speaking at their annual event on Nov. 7, at Congregation Ohev Shalom at 7 p.m.

Lieberman served as a senator from Connecticut from 1989 to 2013, and was a vice-presidential candidate

in 2000. He currently is a senior counsel at Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP. In this capacity, Lieberman applies the investigative skills he honed as United States senator and attorney general of Connecticut to represent clients in independent and internal investigations and advise them on a wide range of public policy, as well as strategic and regulatory issues.

AIPAC is a bipartisan organization of U.S. citizens committed solely to strengthening, protecting and promoting the U.S.-Israel relationship. There are many ways to get involved in your local pro-Israel community. For more information, please contact AIPAC's Orlando director, Jake Shapiro, at 954-382-6110 or jashapiro@aipac.org.

For more information and to purchase your event tickets, please visit www.aipac.org/oa. There is limited space available and tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Do you believe in magic?

By Christine DeSouza

Amy Schwartz Kimlat certainly does and it helped her to make a tough decision—to resign as marketing director of The Roth Family JCC. Her final day will be Nov. 10.

There is no doubt about it that on May 15, 2006, Kimlat brought a "magic" to the Maitland JCC and injected tons of motivation and inspiration into this community center.

"Marvin Friedman was the executive director who hired me," Kimlat recalled. "He joked with me at the time that he'd meet my request for a Mac computer to do my job if I agreed to stay for at least a decade. You can't say 'no' to Marvin!"

This was her first job after she graduated from the University of Central Florida. It was her dream job. She had prepared: Memorizing what it took to be qualified for a marketing director at a Jewish organization while she was working in the marketing office at UCF.

In her post to all her Facebook friends (more than 500 and counting) she put it this way: "The JCC was my personal canvas. ...I feel so lucky to have had this canvas on which to paint for so long, as new brushes and colors became available to me and the rest of the world."

"During Amy's 11+ years at The Roth Family JCC, she has had a lifetime of impact. Her talent has enabled us to



Amy Schwartz Kimlat

grow and develop in new and exciting ways," said Keith Dvorchik, CEO of The Roth Family JCC.

During her tenure at the JCC, she not only developed online marketing strategies for the JCC and the Richard S. Adler Early Childhood Learning Center, she also helped open and market the Southwest Orlando JCC. After the stress of three bomb threats to our JCC, she was instrumental in helping to raise more than \$400,000 during a 24-hour fundraiser—double the anticipated amount—and tripling the number of inquiries for preschool enrollment.

Magic on page 15A

100 Years of Jewish Philanthropy

By David Bornstein

An historical exhibition recounting more than 100 years of Jewish community life in Central Florida couldn't take place without honoring the machers and mensches of the community. The heavy hitters. The movers and shakers. The deep pockets. Or, in other words, the successful individuals who have made it a priority to give back as much, if not far more than they have received.

The criteria used to select these generous philantro-



In 1993, Harris Rosen adopted Tangelo Park, a poor, predominately African American neighborhood not far from the I-Drive tourist corridor that made him rich, 2011.

pists was simple and straightforward. Gifts to local agencies and organizations had to be single commitments of \$1 million or more. They could not be a cumulative giving record of more than \$1 million. They did not have to be gifts to Jewish organizations. Any \$1 million gift within the broad Central Florida community counted. Otherwise, there would be hundreds, if not thousands of individuals listed who have made charitable giving a lifetime commitment.

So who are some of these amazingly generous, and at times surprising individuals and families you'll come across at Kehillah: A History of Jewish Life in Greater Orlando?

First try to answer these questions:

1. Who has made the largest charitable gift in the history of Jewish Orlando AND Florida Hospital?

2. Who is as well known for her fashion statements as she is for her philanthropy?

3. Who has resurrected

poor neighborhoods, built Jewish community centers, and donated millions to earthquake relief?

4. Who bugged Central Florida so much he not only made millions, he gave millions back to his congregation, the University of Florida, the Dr. Phillips Center AND The Orlando Science Center?

5. Who made kids' dreams come true at a village that became a world?

Philanthropy on page 15A



Six great Jewish debates coming to Orlando

Chabad Centers of Metro Orlando will recount 2000 years of Jewish history through the lens of six epic debates that rocked the Jewish world and still resound powerfully today.

Beginning at the end

of October, at six locations throughout Orlando, Chabad will be offering a new six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), titled "Great Debates in Jewish History." Please visit www.myJLI.com for location, dates and times.

In commemoration of 70 years since archeologist Eleazar Sukenik purchased the first Dead Sea Scroll in November of 1957, the community is invited to examine

and unlock the stories of these ancient manuscripts and what their texts reveal about the heated dispute between the Dead Sea Sect and the Jewish establishment.

"Judaism welcomes debate and discourse," Rabbi Sholom Dubov of Chabad of Greater Orlando, told The Heritage. "This JLI course invites participants to gain fascinating insight into six mega-debates that have split the Jewish community throughout our history—and some of these matters continue to be debated today!"

Great Debates in Jewish History raises such questions as: Why were the authors of

the Dead Sea Scrolls opposed to rabbinic interpretation? What motivated the rebels at Masada? And what is the Jewish perspective on taking up arms in situations where defeat is inevitable? What role does nationalism play in Judaism? Are faith and reason mutually exclusive? What motivated the anti-Maimonideans in banning—and even burning—some of Maimonides's works? And is religion designed to be a private and personal experience, or one to be proudly paraded in the public domain?

"Our goal is to invite participants to seek out the rationale behind both sides of each debate—even sides they

may disagree with," explained Rabbi Mendy Bronstein, of Chabad of Altamonte Springs. "In doing so, we hope to unite the community around the very issues that have divided us for so long."

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information.

New fitness director comes on board at The Roth Family JCC

The Roth Family JCC has hired Tara Harris for the full-time appointment of as the Sports, Fitness & Aquatics director.

Harris is a longtime board member, parent, and advocate of the JCC, culminating in her 2017 win of The Roth Family JCC's Volunteer of the Year Award.

For more than a decade, Harris has worked tirelessly in support of the JCC's

programs, particularly in the Richard S. Adler Early Childhood Learning Center, J University after school program, Camp J, and teen programs. She has been a longtime avid user of the sports, fitness & aquatics programs, stepping in to oversee these programs on an interim basis throughout the summer. Tara has proven to be an effective manager of this department and is

positioned well to continue to grow these areas.

In her role, Harris will supervise the staff and contractors involved in day-to-day operations of our sports, fitness and aquatics programs and will play an instrumental role in hiring and supervising new full-time and part-time staff as these areas grow. She will be stepping down from her position on the board to accept this new professional position.

JFS Orlando hosts A Taste for Giving fundraiser

A Taste for Giving is a special evening of culinary delights, one-of-a-kind entertainment, unique prize opportunities, celebrity appearances and more. The event—to be held on Sunday, Oct. 22, from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. at Full Sail Live, located at 141 University Park Dr, Winter Park—will feature Chef Isabella Morgia Di Vicari of The Meatball Stoppe selecting ingredients inspired by items found in the Pearlman Emergency Food Pantry and transforming them into a culinary delight.

Grace Vasquez from 105.9

Sunny FM will serve as the evening's emcee.

Tickets are \$150 per person. For more information, contact Amanda Benedit at Amanda.benedit@jfsorlando.org or call 407-644-7593.

All proceeds from the event will go to support JFS Orlando programs.

JFS Orlando is a non-profit organization that provides vital, high-quality and innovative social services to people in need. For more information about the event, please visit www.atasteforgiving.org.



Grace Vasquez



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Great comedic entertainment at Men's Night Out



Dan Naturman

Dan Naturman is a stand-up comedian who sounds a lot like comedian Jon Lovitz. Howie Mandel on America's Got Talent said that if Jerry Seinfeld and Jon Lovitz had a child, it would be Naturman! He has that same brand of self-deprecating humor, tinged with grouchiness that makes him "every man's man."

That's a good reason to have him as the guest entertainment at the first Men's Night Out event on Nov. 2.

Naturman's comic content covers topics that range from

Internet dating to terrorism. That's a big stretch, but he manages to keep everyone in stitches with his repertoire that every man can identify with.

He began his comedy career in 2002 as a hardware store clerk in the TV show Bedford Springs. From there he launched into the talk show circuit—appearing on Jimmy Kimmel Live; Last Comic Standing; Late Night with Conan O'Brien; and The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson to name a few. He had Mandel and Howard

Stern howling with laughter on America's Got Talent in 2014, but was eliminated in the semi-final round.

"You are rock solid, have a good delivery—it's a home run!" said Howard Stern on the talent search show.

Men's Night Out is presented by Congregation Ohev Shalom, Temple Israel, Congregation of Reform Judaism, Congregation Beth Am and Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation in conjunction with JFGO. A "community driven" event, it is open to all the Jewish men in the community.

Besides the entertainment by Naturman, the men will enjoy a kosher prime rib dinner (or a vegetarian option) and top-shelf liquor open bar cocktail hour.

Men's Night Out will be held at COS, 613 Concourse Pkwy South, Maitland. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7 p.m.; and entertainment at 8 p.m.

Tickets and sponsorships are \$100 and available at www.orlandojewishfed.org/mno. More information can also be found at this web site.



Time for the annual Temple Israel Sisterhood bus trip

On Sunday, Nov. 5, Temple Israel Sisterhood, together with friends and community members, will head south to Pompano Beach for a day of adventure and camaraderie.

There will be bagels, snacks and water to nosh on, and a comedy video and movie to watch while driving down. It always makes for a very pleasant and fast ride. You can arrange to meet your south Florida family and friends at the Food Court, for additional enjoyment.

First stop will be the famous Festival Flea Market where everyone can shop 'till they drop. The second stop will be at Glick's Kosher Market in Delray Beach. It is exciting to see the terrific variety of Kosher Foods they have available for you to take home. You can stock up on your favorite things (don't forget to bring a cooler for refrigerated items).

The cost is \$45 per person and gentlemen are invited as well as ladies in the community to go with us. The bus will leave promptly at 8 a.m. from the parking lot at the Jewish Academy (behind the JCC on Maitland Avenue). Participants should arrive 30 minutes before departure to put away coolers and get settled in your seats. Approximate return time will be 8 p.m.

Call Phyllis Kamenoff at 407-389-0828 to make your reservation, if you would like to join us.

Schumer renews call for embassy move after Trump puts idea on hold

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer renewed his call for President Donald Trump to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem after the president said he wanted to wait to give his relaunched peace push a chance.

“President Trump’s recent comments suggest his inde-

cisiveness on the embassy’s relocation,” Schumer, D-N.Y., said Tuesday in an email to JTA. “As someone who strongly believes that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel, I am calling for the U.S. Embassy in Israel to be relocated to Jerusalem. Moving the embassy as soon as possible would appropriately

commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Jerusalem’s reunification and show the world that the U.S. definitively acknowledges Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.”

Trump in an interview last week with Mike Huckabee, a former Arkansas governor turned TV personality who is known for his pro-Israel

activism, said the time was not ripe to move the embassy.

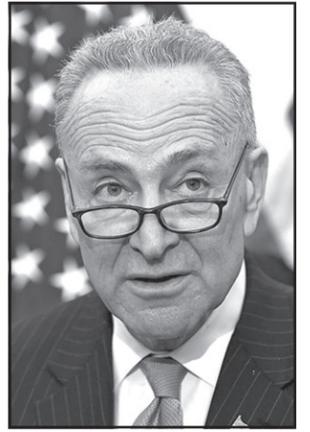
“I want to give that a shot before I even think about moving the embassy to Jerusalem,” Trump said, referring to his efforts to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Trump had promised while campaigning to move the embassy, but in June he waived a 1995 law mandating the move, as every president has done before him.

The Zionist Organization of America also decried Trump’s walk-back from his campaign pledge.

“While the ZOA under-

stands that President Trump has not yet made a final decision on the embassy move, the deferral of a decision to move the embassy in accordance with his pre-election pledges—pledges which were repeated by his spokesmen Jason Greenblatt and current Ambassador to Israel David Friedman just before the election and also by spokesmen Kellyanne Conway after his election—sends a message of weakness, and a message that the U.S. fears Palestinian violent reaction,” ZOA’s president, Morton Klein, said in a statement Monday.



Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer

Jewish camp in Northern California ravaged by forest fire

(JTA)—Much of a Reform Jewish summer camp has been wiped out by forest fires sweeping across Northern California.

The Union for Reform Judaism’s Camp Newman, an hour north of the San Francisco Bay, has been “mostly destroyed” by the fires burning in Sonoma and Napa counties, the camp posted on Facebook Tuesday evening. Camp staff have yet to be able to visit the area.

Camp is not in session, and everyone living at the campsite—along with its Torah scrolls—were rescued before the fires reached the camp.

At least 10 people have died in the forest fires that blazed

across the area Monday. Approximately 15 fires are burning in eight counties. Some 20,000 people have evacuated their homes and 1,500 buildings have been destroyed.

“As many of you may have heard, since 10 p.m. last night, forest fires have been burning in Sonoma and Napa counties,” the camp’s post read. “It is with tremendous shock and sadness that we share that the majority of the buildings at our beloved Camp Newman home have been destroyed.”

The camp moved to the site in 1997 and dedicated a \$4 million building last year, according to J., the Jewish

News of Northern California. It serves 1,400 children.

In a Facebook post, the camp advised area residents in need of water or power to visit a nearby Reform synagogue, Congregation Shomrei Torah.

“Most importantly, we take great comfort in knowing that all of our staff are safe,” the post said. “We are so grateful to the first responders and firefighters who attempted to save our camp buildings. We are keeping these heroic and hardworking people in our thoughts and prayers as they continue to work to protect the people and the places in our Camp Newman neighborhood, for whom we will continue to pray.”

More than 1 million Jews to take part in global Shabbat

(JNS.org)—A global observance of Shabbat with hundreds of special events being held in local Jewish communities around the world—including new events in Togo, Mozambique and Venezuela—is slated for Oct. 27-28.

Locally, Sarah Gittleston of SPARK/JOIN Orlando will be hosting a Challah Bake on Thursday, Oct. 26, at the JOIN House, 109 Water Oak Lane, Altamonte Springs. (Seats are limited to 30 participants, so pre-registration is required. If the event is sold out, please put yourself on the waitlist. Register at thechallahclub.eventbrite.com) Rabbi Gabi Gittleston of JOIN is encouraging people to create their own Shabbat experiences, using the Shabbat Project platform.

Please go to Shabbat.com to read more about the project.

The worldwide observance day, started by The Shabbat Project, brings Jews together to keep a single Shabbat. It began as a local South African event in 2013, initiated by South African Chief Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein, who proposed the idea of hosting a communal Shabbat experience.

“Over the past few years, it has been nothing short of thrilling and deeply inspiring to witness Jews come together across every conceivable divide—language, culture, ethnicity, geography, observance,” Goldstein said in a statement.

For the first time this year, the cities of Lome (Togo) and Maputo (Mozambique) are hosting Shabbat Proj-

ect events, as are Larnaca (Cyprus), Asuncion (Paraguay) and Venezuela. They are joined by nearly 160 cities in Israel and more than 500 cities in the U.S. A combined 1 million Jews in 1,152 cities in 95 countries are expected to take part in events this year, according to the Shabbat Project.

Sydney, Australia, will usher in Shabbat at an open-air musical event overlooking the Sydney Harbour Bridge. In Brazil, Recife’s Kahal Zur Israel synagogue—the oldest synagogue in the Americas, erected in 1636—is opening its doors for a series of events. The South African cities of Cape Town and Johannesburg are hosting “dark tisch,” a Friday night celebration held in total darkness.

U.S. withdraws from UNESCO

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Trump announced on Oct. 12 that the United States will withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization because of its anti-Israel bias. The withdrawal will take effect on Dec. 31, 2018 but the U.S. may remain involved as a nonmember observer state.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the U.S. decision to leave UNESCO “brave” and “moral.” He said he has instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to also prepare for Israel’s withdrawal.

UNESCO has a record of fostering anti-Semitism, including the decision to in-

clude Palestine as a member in 2011, though Israel and its allies are far outnumbered by Arab countries and their supporters. While the U.S. stopped funding UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member, the State Department has maintained a UNESCO office at its Paris headquarters and sought to weigh in on policy behind the scenes. The withdrawal means the U.S. will halt the debt it has run-up since it stopped funding the organization in 2011 to protest the admission of the Palestinian Authority as a full member. By the end of 2017, the unpaid U.S. bill will amount to \$550 million. The Trump administration’s

proposed budget for the next fiscal year contained no provision for the possibility that UNESCO funding restrictions might be lifted.

“UNESCO has a history of anti-Semitism and an irrational bias against Israel,” said Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel, president of Christians in Defense of Israel, and founder and president of Covenant Journey. “It is about time we withdrew. President Trump is sending the message that there are consequences for UNESCO’s actions. Finally, we have a president who will stand with Israel and who is willing to take action,” said Staver

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Breitbart, racists and the dirty work of laundering the 'alt-right'

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

NEWYORK (JTA)—Stephen Bannon, whose anti-globalist insurgency at Breitbart News was interrupted briefly by his tenure as chief adviser to the Leader of the Free World, has always been adamant that his right-wing news site and worldview is neither anti-Semitic nor racist.

When he referred to Breitbart as a “platform” for the “alt-right,” Bannon didn’t mean, he insisted, that he personally supported the white supremacists and racists who attached themselves to his “populist nationalist” movement.

“Are there some people that are anti-Semitic that are attracted? Maybe,” he told Mother Jones in July 2016, a month before he was tapped to lead Donald Trump’s presidential campaign. “But that’s just like, there are certain elements of the progressive left and the hard left that attract certain elements.”

Truth be told, the evidence that Breitbart News is anti-Semitic has always been

weak. Bannon and Breitbart often deal in tropes that set one’s anti-Semitism detectors a-tingling—mongering of global economic conspiracies, creepy talk about dangerous “elites”—but stop short of singling out Jews. And they can point to the site’s reliably pro-Israel reporting, which is often to the right of mainstream Jewish groups on some Israel issues.

It’s through that framing of Breitbart that I read the lengthy expose in BuzzFeed that purports to lay bare how one of Breitbart’s estwhile stars—the far-right provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos—sought the help and blessings of white nationalists and neo-Nazis while “laundering” their input and participation in the enterprise.

Based on emails and other documents obtained by BuzzFeed, the article features correspondence between Yiannopoulos and charmers like Andrew “weev” Auernheimer, described as a system administrator of the neo-

Nazi hub the Daily Stormer”; Devin Saucier, who “helps edit the online white nationalist magazine American Renaissance under the pseudonym Henry Wolff”; and Curtis Yarvin, purveyor of the fringe anti-democratic “neo-reactionary” movement who has argued that neither Nazism nor slavery were as bad as they have been depicted.

The documents show that Yiannopoulos sought input from all three men for an article he was writing that would explain the emerging alt-right to a general audience while staking Breitbart’s claim as the news site most congenial to its jumble of ideas. But they weren’t just interview subjects—Yiannopoulos and his co-author sent them drafts of the article for their approval, with the implicit understanding that while the published version would be “racially charged,” it would be careful to dissociate Breitbart’s version of the alt-right from the movement’s racist and anti-Semitic fellow travelers.

Published in March 2016, the resulting article, “An Establishment Conservative’s Guide to the Alt-Right,” was certainly racially charged: It describes the movement’s natural constituency as “mostly white, mostly male middle-American radicals, who are unapologetically embracing a new identity politics that prioritizes the interests of their own demographic.”

Yiannopoulos and his co-author are careful to distinguish the alt-right’s community of “the more reasonable white identitarians” from the “real racists and bigots” The latter, they explain, represents “old-school white

supremacy” and invokes Hitler as a role model. Members of the alt-right, by contrast, “focus more on building communities and lifestyles based around their values than plotting violent revolution.”

Feel better about the alt-right? They’re not Nazis and racists—they just want to preserve their white identity in the face of mass immigration and liberal political correctness. Or, as Yiannopoulos writes, “They want to build their homogeneous communities, sure—but they don’t want to commit any pogroms along the way.”

This, mind you, is the version of the article Bannon was happy to publish, as emails between him and Yiannopoulos attest. They indicate that Bannon considered Yiannopoulos a protege of sorts, calling the younger man a “war correspondent” in Bannon’s assault on the establishment and engineering his rise as a Yippie-ish nemesis of feminists, Muslims, Black Lives Matter activists, women in tech and “social justice warriors.”

It’s not clear how much Bannon knew—or wanted to know—about the ways the article was vetted by the very groups he says will be “washed out” of the alt-right. But it appears other editors at Breitbart made sure Yiannopoulos and his stable of writers and sources didn’t cross over from white identity politics to overt racism and anti-Semitism on its site. The documents obtained by BuzzFeed show Breitbart editor-in-chief Alex Marlow editing out of Yiannopoulos’s work what BuzzFeed

Breitbart on page 14A

New Trump pressure against settlements is worrisome

By Stephen M. Flatow
JNS.org

The Trump administration is pressuring Israel for further delays in the construction of Jewish homes in Judea and Samaria, according to apparently reliable media reports. If true, friends of Israel have good reason to be concerned.

Ynet, the news site of the Israeli daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, reported Sept. 25 that “at the request of the Trump administration,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has delayed a meeting of the government committee responsible for construction in the territories. The meeting is necessary to proceed with construction projects that are in various stages of completion.

The actual delay of the meeting is not the biggest problem, assuming that the meeting is held sometime in the weeks ahead. But the principle at stake is a very big problem.

The reason, according to Ynet, is that Trump administration envoys will be meeting soon with Palestinian Authority (PA) officials. In other words, the administration is falling into the old Obama-era pattern of trying to appease Palestinian leaders by demanding unilateral Israeli concessions.

This administration’s rhetoric on these issues is, of course, a welcome change from that of its predecessor. Friends of Israel appreciate the fact that the Trump administration has, for example, declined to embrace Palestinian statehood as the only solution to the conflict.

And clearly the administration has refrained from picking the kind of ugly public fights with Israel over Judea and Samaria construction that President Barack Obama and company were constantly provoking. But if public quarrels have simply been replaced with private pressure, that’s not really much of an improvement.

We all remember the Trump-Netanyahu press conference back on Feb. 15, when the president said, “I would like you to hold back on settlements for a little bit.” Many of us immediately asked: Why? Jewish settlements in the historic Jewish homeland are legal, peaceful, and deeply anchored in the Judeo-Christian heritage that is cherished by Israelis and Americans alike.

Moreover, settlements have nothing to do with the Israeli-Arab conflict. The Palestinians

and other Arabs were making war on Israel long before there were any settlements. They were waging that war before the Jewish state even existed. The idea that “holding back” on settlements would somehow promote peace is, to put it politely, nonsense. We expected the new administration would understand those basic facts.

And what exactly is “a little bit?” Weeks? Months? Years? How long should basic Jewish rights be “held back” in order to appease a PA regime that glorifies terrorists and incites its people to hatred and violence against Jews?

On March 31, there was more worrisome news. The Israeli daily Ha’aretz reported that Netanyahu told is security cabinet that in response to “the president’s requests,” Israel would “curb construction” in Judea and Samaria. Henceforth it would be restricted to “existing settlement boundaries or adjacent to them.”

An unnamed White House official confirmed to Ha’aretz that President Donald Trump is demanding that Israel take his “concerns into consideration.” The official said, “While the existence of settlements is not itself an impediment to peace, further unrestrained settlement activity does not help advance peace.”

The White House official is wrong. Accelerated Jewish construction in the territories would, in fact, help advance peace. It would send a message to the PA that it cannot succeed in terrorizing Israel into retreat and submission. It would force the PA to face the fact that Israel will not agree to the mass expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Jews from Judea and Samaria. And forcing the Palestinians to face reality is the only chance for making them give up their violence and extremism, and finally make peace with Israel.

The Trump administration’s pressure on Israel to restrict Judea and Samaria construction therefore is both wrong as a matter of principle, and harmful to the possibility of achieving authentic peace. Candidate Trump was right to criticize the Obama policy of publicly pressuring Israel; but if President Trump is continuing any of that policy behind closed doors, it’s just as bad.

Stephen M. Flatow, a vice president of the Religious Zionists of America, is an attorney in New Jersey. He is the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered in an Iranian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist attack in 1995.

Weinstein’s disgrace produces another nasty caricature

By Ben Cohen
JNS.org

Walking through central London last week, and with a spare half hour on my hands, I decided to pay a quick visit to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. Inside, I spent most of my time intently studying a painting that I could not recall having seen before: “The Philosopher,” a 1645 canvas by the Italian painter Salvator Rosa.

Rosa depicts a stern young man with flowing black locks and undistinguished clothing holding a stone tablet that bears the Latin inscription, “Aut tace aut loquere meliora silentio.” In English, it means, “Either be silent, or say something better than silence.”

Like any writer who spies a good quote, I made a note of this stoic and elegant maxim, resolving to use it when a suitable occasion arose. I didn’t expect that to happen just five days after I saw the painting, still less that I would invoke it in the context of a discussion centered on disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

But when a friend emailed me a link to a piece on Weinstein by Mark Oppenheimer, a writer for the Jewish magazine Tablet, the first thing that came into my head was Salvator Rosa’s maxim. This piece is an arch-example of why silence, in a philosophical sense, is sometimes necessary, and why excessive, ill-informed chatter steers us toward prejudice instead of reason.

Oppenheimer’s thesis, such as it is, states that Weinstein’s unwanted sexual advances upon women were indicative of—in the delightful phrase coined by Tablet’s editors—a “specifically Jewy perviness.” Unlike other serial offenders against women who are non-Jews, like Roger Ailes or Bill O’Reilly, Weinstein is said to display a particularly Jewish, and deeply pathetic, psychosexual neurosis. Whereas the no-nonsense gentiles do their business and then carry on, Weinstein is driven by a desire to perform for his victims, by committing sexual acts while they are compelled to watch.

Since Freud’s time, psychologists have debated why some humans are aroused by “exhibitionism,” with some arguing that its origins are entirely sexual, while others counter that non-sexual causes need to be taken into account. I don’t claim to be an expert on this literature, but I’d be very surprised if any of it links this particular sexual fetish to Jewish males specifically.

But none of that matters to Oppenheimer, who rests his entire case on Philip Roth’s 1967 novel, “Portnoy’s Complaint.” The pre-eminent text of delinquent Jewish sexual deviance, it’s

a novel that many of us, myself included, embraced during adolescence—amid warnings from our elders, largely ridiculed, that Roth’s creation, Alexander Portnoy, was a gift to the anti-Semites out there.

Writing as if he is the very first person to have made these sorts of connections, Oppenheimer provides a pedestrian account of Portnoy’s kinky dalliances with women both real and imagined and then stretches them to Weinstein. His message is simply this: Jewish men who engage in sexual harassment do so because they are burdened with a power that they can’t handle, and are therefore propelled into, as Oppenheimer says of Weinstein, a “revenge-tinged fantasy of having risen above his outer-borough, bridge-and-tunnel Semitic origins.” It is this collision of inner weakness and hunger for power that is, apparently, the Jewish element informing Weinstein’s deviance.

I don’t propose for a moment that this highly speculative, deeply silly theory is worthy of serious consideration. But if Oppenheimer has made a singular contribution with this offering, it is the addition of a new caricature—the “Jewy Perv”—to the gallery of Jewish sexual delinquency designed and maintained by anti-Semites.

A few weeks ago, I wrote in this column, in the wake of the neo-Nazi violence in Charlottesville, about an extraordinary outburst of sexual jealousy by white supremacist Christopher Cantwell, who railed against President Donald Trump for having “given his daughter to a Jew.” Jared Kushner. Oppenheimer’s portrait of Weinstein belongs firmly in this category of bigoted fantasy; but whereas for the Nazis, Jews (like blacks) are ruthless sexual exploiters of fair white women, in the universe of Brooklyn hipsters, Jews are motivated to do the same by a grasping, unpleasant psychic frailty.

I can’t quite decide which stereotype is worse, but at least Oppenheimer has now done what Cantwell will never do, by issuing an apology for his piece. To my mind, the apology doesn’t make much difference—the piece remains online, and the subsequent apology makes no mention of the old-school anti-Semitism Oppenheimer so joyously revived—but it’s something. The next time a prominent Jew becomes enmeshed in a public scandal about sex (or money, for that matter), perhaps he will heed Salvator Rosa’s maxim by keeping his mouth firmly shut.

Ben Cohen writes a weekly column for JNS.org on Jewish affairs and Middle Eastern politics. His writings have been published in Commentary, the New York Post, Haaretz, The Wall Street Journal and many other publications.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THIS PAGE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF HERITAGE MANAGEMENT.

☆ ☆ ☆ CENTRAL FLORIDA'S INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICE ☆ ☆ ☆ ISSN 0199-0721 Winner of 46 Press Awards	
	
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Beyond decertification: Stopping Iran's reign of terror

By Jonathan A. Greenblatt

In recent weeks, we have once again seen a flare up around the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), otherwise known as the Iran Deal, this time over whether President Trump will recertify the deal, as he is required to do every 90 days.

Two years later after the signing of the JCPOA, it almost feels like we are back where we started.

But we are not. Not at all. And that is the real issue.

Indeed, two years later, we can argue about Iranian compliance and inspections regimes. We can dither about

domestic political processes. But what we cannot argue about is the staggering loss of life in the Middle East, due to Iran's belligerence. What we cannot argue with is the ascendance of a hateful, violent ideology that literally assures further violence. What we cannot argue with is the creeping normalization of an abnormal regime whose values clash, not with Western values, but with human values.

And that is what we should be talking about—How do we stop Iran's reign of terror in its tracks.

ADL cares about how the international community engages with Iran, because of our century-old mission:

to fight anti-Semitism, promote Jewish security, and to secure justice and fair treatment for all.

In terms of loss of life, Iran is directly responsible for the prolonging of the Syrian Civil War that killed nearly half a million people and dislodged over 11 million people, the largest refugee crisis since World War II. The unrepentant support of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) for the brutal dictator Bashar Assad sustained a ruler who employed barrel bombs to murder his own citizens; who gassed dozens of people to death in a manner that evoked Saddam Hussein; whose troops committed horrific

human rights violations that spurred worldwide revulsion—except in Tehran where he was hailed as hero. Just last week, a senior Iranian parliamentary delegation visited Damascus and praised Assad for “defeat[ing] plans by the axis of America, the Zionist regime and their regional allies.”

It is inarguable that the Iranian regime single-handedly propped up a ruthless autocrat who literally has ground his own country to dust.

But this should not surprise us. Iranian-backed Shiite militias in Iraq used equally ruthless tactics to murder as many as 500 American servicemen de-

ployed to Iraq to help rebuild a broken nation. Iranian-backed Shiite militias in Yemen have used equally reprehensible tactics to wreak havoc on that country and spark a violent civil war. And Israeli officials believe that the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terror organization in Lebanon has gained control over elements of the country's military.

You don't need to be a social scientist to see a pattern.

But beyond the terror that Iran already has spread across the Middle East, it is undeniable that they promise to wreak even more violence in the years ahead. Iran continues to threaten to obliterate Israel, engages in

extreme anti-Americanism and anti-Israelism, refuses to surrender its belligerent ballistic missile program, is the world's foremost sponsor of terrorism, engages in state-sponsored anti-Semitism, and commits a litany of egregious human rights violations against Bahai and other vulnerable minority communities including women, LGBTQ, the press, bloggers and political activists. Each one of these offenses alone should compel us to action, but collectively it should shock all of us out of our complacency.

Should President Trump decide to decertify the

Greenblatt on page 15A

Why they keep leaving Jews out of the Holocaust

By Rafael Medoff

The Canadian government has announced that it will correct a memorial plaque at its new National Holocaust Monument, which spoke of the “millions of men, women and children during the Holocaust”—but neglected to mention Jews.

Unfortunately, Canadian Minister of Heritage Melanie Joly has compounded the original error, by announcing that the new plaque will acknowledge “the six million Jews, as well as the five million other victims, that were murdered during the Holocaust.”

But there is, in fact, no historical basis for that “five million” figure. Still, it keeps

cropping up, cited by people who apparently assume it's true just because a lot of other people keep saying it is.

After critics blasted the Trump administration for neglecting to mention Jews in its January 2017 statement on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, White House spokesperson Hope Hicks said that the administration was trying to be “inclusive of all those who suffered.” She then provided a link to a Huffington Post UK article titled “The Holocaust's Forgotten Victims: the 5 Million Non-Jewish People Killed by the Nazis.”

A busy White House spokesperson doesn't have time to start researching Holocaust statistics. Evi-

dently she assumed that a reputable news outlet would not run such an article without basic fact-checking. Also understandable. But she was mistaken.

The author of the article in question was Louise Ridley, an assistant news editor at HuffPost UK who specializes in “media, social affairs and gender,” according to her tag line. In the article, Ridley described some of the groups that were persecuted, in differing degrees, by the Nazis, such as gays, Roma (Gypsies) and the disabled. Her list also included “communists, Jehovah's Witnesses, trade unionists, and resistance fighters.” She also pointed out that the Nazis murdered several thousand priests,

and millions of Polish civilians and Soviet prisoners of war. In fact, the total number of non-Jews killed by the Hitler regime far surpasses five million.

But none of that was part of the Holocaust.

The Germans murdered a lot of innocent people, for a variety of reasons. But the only ones who were targeted for complete annihilation, and whom the Nazis hunted down, in country after country, for the sole purpose of murdering them, were the Jews.

The term “Holocaust” was coined to refer to that specific historical event.

Don't blame Louise Ridley or Hope Hicks for the confusion.

It was actually Simon Wiesenthal, the famed Nazi-hunter, who was first responsible for spreading the “five million” figure. Confronted many years ago by Holocaust historian Yehuda Bauer, Wiesenthal said that he invented the idea of “five million non-Jewish victims” because he thought it would help get non-Jews more interested in the Holocaust. One can understand Wiesenthal's concern. But he chose the wrong way to address it.

The President's Commission on the Holocaust, appointed by Jimmy Carter in 1978 and chaired by Elie Wiesel, specifically warned against “any attempt to dilute” the Jewish nature of

the Holocaust “in the name of misguided universalism.”

But the Wiesenthal formulation appealed to White House aides who liked the idea of making the Holocaust more ecumenical, even at the price of historical accuracy. As a result, Carter's October 1979 executive order establishing the US Holocaust Memorial Council—which then created the US Holocaust Memorial Museum—referred to the Holocaust as “the systematic and State-sponsored extermination of six million Jews and some five million other peoples by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II.”

Professor Walter Reich,

Medoff on page 15A

An anti-Semitic smear gets another hearing

By Jonathan S. Tobin
JNS.org

Last month, former CIA officer Valerie Plame crossed a line on social media even the mainstream liberal media couldn't ignore. Plame gained fame due to her unmasking at a time when her husband was a prominent critic of the George W. Bush administration's Iraq War policy. But her status as a liberal icon took a hit when she retweeted an anti-Semitic polemic that claimed Jews were responsible for pushing the U.S. into wars in the Middle East for Israel's sake. Plame defended the piece before eventually issuing a weasel-worded apology that further damaged her reputation.

But the interesting aspect of this incident was the way some critics of Israel sought to disassociate their slanders of supporters of the Jewish state from the sort of anti-Semitic invective Plame had promoted. The Washington Post's Molly Roberts whined that Plame's open hate discredited an otherwise reasonable argument about Israel and its friends playing the puppet master on unsuspecting Americans.

While almost all of the attention devoted to anti-Semitism in the weeks since the Charlottesville incident has been devoted to hate from neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan, Roberts was unhappy that the attention devoted to Plame changed the narrative to one about the “intolerant

left” and because it undermined her desire to have a debate about “the outsized role Israel plays in American foreign policy.”

But the problem is that those who single out Israel and its supporters in this fashion inevitably traffic in age-old anti-Semitic themes that cannot be disguised as scholarship or legitimate debate.

What Roberts seems to want is a rehashing of “The Israel Lobby” thesis promoted by authors John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt a decade ago. They claimed Israel and its supporters, especially the AIPAC lobby, were buying the votes of members of Congress to do Israel's bidding against the best interests of Americans.

As it happens, Walt resurfaced this week with an article in *The Forward* in which he claimed “history proved us right” in the authors' smears of the pro-Israel community. Pointing to the growing anti-Israel sentiment on the left, Walt thinks his stand is somehow vindicated.

But “The Israel Lobby” thesis was based on two big lies.

One was that in Walt and Mearsheimer's telling, the effort to impose the pro-Israel agenda on the nation was depicted as a conspiracy so vast that it contradicts the authors' premise that it was a minority manipulating a majority. Since most Americans support Israel and view it as a fellow democracy with common values under attack

by forces that opposed those principles, the claim that the Jewish tail was wagging the American dog is absurd.

Second, the nature of Walt and Mearsheimer's arguments hinged on anti-Semitic stereotypes about Jews buying influence or manipulating unsuspecting gentiles. The focus on the “lobby” as the greatest force in U.S. politics was also a distortion that ignored the work of other more powerful lobbies. Singling out Israel and its supporters in this manner betrayed an agenda that was built on prejudice, not a defense of American interests.

While Walt continues to deny the anti-Semitic nature of his work, it is telling that in his *Forward* article he cites, among other things, the rise of Jewish Voice for Peace, a group that engages in openly anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist incitement, as proof his stand was correct. He and Roberts ignore the reality of the conflict in which a Palestinian political culture rejects peace on any terms, while Israel's destruction is the only genuine obstacle to its resolution.

The context for this effort is important because while most Jews are still focused on President Donald Trump's wrongheaded comments about Charlottesville, the Democratic Party is becoming increasingly hostile to Israel. After eight years during which President Barack Obama's efforts to pressure Prime Minister Benjamin

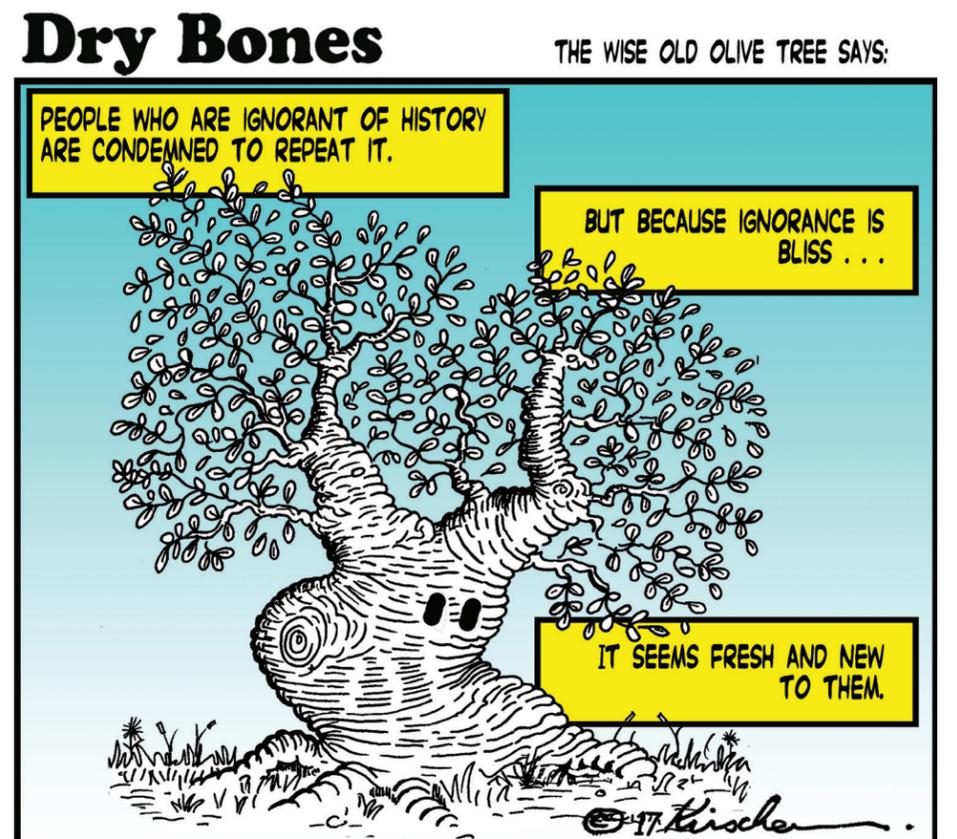
Netanyahu's government only worsened the conflict with the Palestinians, and his appeasement of Iran drove Sunni Arab states into the arms of the Israelis, talk of a suppressed debate about the Jewish state's disproportionate influence is ridiculous. But now that we have a president who, despite other obvious faults, isn't obsessed with the idea of “saving Israel from itself” or in em-

powering an Iranian regime that is as much of a threat to the U.S. and the Arab states as it is to Israel, as Obama was, it's unsurprising that some on the left want to revive this dishonest discussion.

In the 10 years since “The Israel Lobby” was first published, a rising tide of anti-Semitism has swept across the globe, fueled in part by smears of Israel and Jews like those

Walt helped spread. That is an indictment of his work, not a vindication. Those who want to besmirch Israel's supporters as undermining U.S. interests without being rightly labeled as anti-Semites are fooling no one.

Jonathan S. Tobin is opinion editor of *JNS.org* and a contributor to *National Review Online*. Follow him on Twitter at: @jonathans_tobin.



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What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT

OCT. 20
6:31 p.m.
OCT. 27
6:25 p.m.

For inclusion in the What's Happening Calendar, copy must be sent on separate sheet and clearly marked for Calendar. Submit copy via: e-mail (news@orlandoheritage.com); mail (P.O. Box 300742, Fern Park, FL 32730-0742); fax (407-831-0507); or drop it by the office (207 O'Brien Rd., Ste. 101, Fern Park) Deadline is Wednesday noon, 10 days prior to publication.

MORNING AND EVENING MINYANS (Call synagogue to confirm time.)

Chabad of South Orlando—Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. and 10 minutes before sunset; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 8:15 a.m., 407-354-3660.
 Congregation Ahavas Yisrael—Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m., 407-644-2500.
 Congregation Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Daytona—Monday, 8 a.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m., 904-672-9300.
 Congregation Ohev Shalom—Sunday, 9 a.m., 407-298-4650.
 GOBOR Community Minyan at Jewish Academy of Orlando—Monday - Friday, 7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
 Temple Israel—Sunday, 9 a.m., 407-647-3055.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

The Holocaust Center—Ongoing exhibits through Dec. 31: "The Profound Effect" for hours, contact Terrance Hunter at thunter@holocaustedu.org or call 407-628-0555.
 JFS Orlando—A Taste for Giving fundraiser, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. at Full Sail Live, 141 University Park Dr., Winter Park. Tickets: \$150 per person. Info: Amanda Benedit at Amanda.benedit@jfsorlando.org or call 407-644-7593.
 JCC 39ers — Cinema Sunday, with the film "The Boy in Blue," 2 p.m. in the Senior Lounge. Refreshments available.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

Israeli Folk Dancing—7:30-8:15 p.m. instruction, 8:15-10 p.m., requests. Cost: Free for JCC members, \$5 nonmembers. Info: 407-645-5933.

JCC 39ers—Match the Faces, 1 p.m. in the Senior Lounge. Bring a photo of yourself when you were young. Prizes for correct guesses.

Chabad of Greater Orlando—Open meeting about Medicare, 7 p.m. Ashley Bracha Leibowitz will talk about and answer all questions about Medicare and the open enrollment period. Info: Ruth Ort at 407-960-1080.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Jewish Family Services Orlando—Grief support group, 12:15 p.m., meets for 6 consecutive weeks. Info: 407-644-7593, ext. 247. Cost: \$5 per session. Requires registration.
 Holocaust Center —Panel discussion on Media, Ethics and the Law, 6 p.m., at the Orange County Regional History Center. For info: Terrance Hunter, thunter@holocaustedu.org

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Temple Israel—Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Neely, noon - 1 p.m. A parashat discussion class. Open to the public, no RSVP needed. Info: 407-647-3055.
 Learning & Lattes—Join other Orlando Jewish women for breakfast and discussion on "Being the Very Best You, Timeless Lessons from the weekly Torah Portion," 9:30 a.m. at the JOIN House, 109 Water Oak Lane, Altamonte Springs. Free of charge.
 Zionistas meeting—Alan Kornman will talk about his visit to Israel during the celebration of the reunification of Jerusalem, 7 p.m. at the Eastmonte Civic Center, 830 Magnolia Dr., Altamonte Springs. This meeting was cancelled previously due to Hurricane Irma. Info: Sandi Solomon, 407-575-9899.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

JFS Orlando—Coffee Connections, the last 2017 tour of the facilities! 8 a.m. at the George Wolly Center, 2100 Lee Road, Winter Park. Info: 407-644-7593.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

Got questions about Medicare?

On Monday evening, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. Chabad of Greater Orlando will have an open meeting about Medicare. Titled "Understanding All Aspects of Medicare," Ashley Bracha Leibowitz will talk about and answer all questions about the Medicare and the Open Enrollment period. This meeting will be beneficial to those who are about to join Medicare, have family who need to understand Medicare or are presently enrolled. Chabad of Greater Orlando is located at 708 Lake Howell Road. Any questions call Ruth Ort at 407-960-1080.

Quote of the Week

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity... It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."

— Albert Einstein

HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

"I'm lost without it!"

"It's inexcusable!"

"My week is not complete without it!"

"I can't live without it!"

"How in the world am I supposed to know what's going on?"

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Medium puzzle

"Channel Into" by Yoni Glatt
 koshercrosswords@gmail.com

Across

1. Rabbi Solomon bar Isaac, familiarly
6. "Matilda" star ___ Wilson
10. Went across the Kineret, perhaps
14. Sondra's husband on "The Cosby Show"
15. Parsha after Kedoshim
16. "Blackfish" subject
17. "This is only ___"
18. Many a City of David find
20. Classic Patinkin role
22. Devotion sites
23. "A Nightmare ___ Street"
25. Marvell work
26. Gal Gadot often gets them from strangers
29. 120, for Moses
34. Small poem or bouquet
35. Short pencils
37. Ed of "Up"
38. Famous partner of Paul
39. "Do not fear, ___ I am with you" (Gen. 26:24)
40. Joke response
42. Joe's lil bro, in the Bible
43. One of the Von Trapp girls
45. Month after Nisan
47. Mouth off to
48. "It's ___, Phil" (line from a Harold Ramis classic)
50. Lucky charm
52. Torah or Somayach
53. Exempt, rabbinically
55. Imprints often regretted later in life
59. China waves one
63. Former New York mayor
65. Joel's talent
66. In a bit
67. Cookie once labeled OU-DE
68. Where the Bnei Menashe hail from
69. Seeger who won a Grammy in 2011 with C Lanzbom
70. Ga. neighbor
71. Cast out

Down

1. One of many needed to print the Talmud
2. Kind of sax
3. "Frozen" animal
4. Class on the Maccabean revolt
5. Recite, as a psalm
6. One of Valor or Courage
7. Horowitz who directed the documentary "U.N. ME"
8. TV Friend
9. ___ Titus
10. Many who made Aliyah in the 90's
11. Small, brown bird
12. It's also spelled Akko
13. Giant of a Giant
19. The Sacrifice of Isaac, e.g.
21. Some questions
24. Bud Selig's former org.
26. Bombards with cyber-tref
27. Judaism source
28. One that's never won a championship in 24-Down
30. Fisher in "Now You See Me"
31. Jerusalem hotel once called The LaRome
32. "With Reagan: The Inside Story" author Edwin
33. "Heaven Can Wait" director Lubitsch
36. Companion of Thummim
39. Comprehend
41. Speak to the congregation
44. Shaded, like some 50's cars
46. "For sure"
47. Activity for one going through this puzzle's theme
49. 1950 Asimov classic
51. Dessert that sounds like dirt
54. Gaseous element #18
55. One of 16 in a cup: Abbr.
56. Ahava ingredient
57. Shofar sound
58. Like the Sinai
60. Put on board, as cargo
61. Licorice-flavored liqueur of Spain
62. Yom Kippur animal
64. Driver in "Star Wars" movies

See answers on page 14.

COS Men's Club held a joyous celebration for Howard Kaplan



Alan Rusonik, (r) coaches Jerry Leibman on the mitzvah of Lulav and Etrog.

Congregation Ohev Shalom's Men's Club celebrated the holiday of Sukkot with fun, music and fellowship by holding an event titled "A Celebration and So Long in the Sukkah," held on Sunday, Oct. 8, at Congregation Ohev Shalom. The family-styled event was open to all congregation members and the community as a way to celebrate the holiday and to help everyone perform God's command-

ment to be joyous during Sukkot. It was also a great time to give best wishes to Howard Kaplan, COS Men's Club's past co-president and his family, as they prepare to move to Birmingham, Alabama.

About 40 people came, including young people, singles, couples, seniors, and members of at least three different synagogues. Also in attendance were several Boy Scout leaders, includ-



Neal Blaher, (r) COS Men's Club co-president, presents Howard Kaplan, former co-president, a certificate of appreciation from the Men's Club.

ing the current president of Temple Israel, who came out to honor Kaplan, his long-time friend. Ed Danuff, president of Congregation Ohev Shalom, was also in attendance to help celebrate.

The program began with Hatikvah, played by a seven-member music group led by Robert Kaplan, son of the honoree and a graduate of Ohev's religious school and youth groups, and frequent participant in COS's weekly Shabbat services. His group played an outstanding combination of Klezmer and Jewish music throughout the event.

Bruce Hoffen, COS Men's

Club vice president of Membership, talked about how to help those in Puerto Rico whose lives have been ripped apart by Hurricane Maria. Desi Rotenberg, vice president of Social Action previewed a 1.8k (Chai) walkathon event in the planning stages, scheduled for Dec. 3rd that is intended to promote several causes, volunteerism and temple committees.

Alan Rusonik, Head of the Jewish Academy of Orlando and a COS Men's Club Board member, presented a Midrashic learning on the meaning of the Lulav and Etrog. Rusonik then

helped people in the Sukkah shake the Lulav and Etrog, one-on-one. Those who remained indoors listened to live music and to klezmer. A couple of the "wilder" ladies of Ohev Shalom came forward to dance to the Klezmer!

Following Robert Kaplan's rendition of the "camp" version of the Motzi, attendees were treated to a wonderful buffet dinner of baked salmon, kugel, vegetables, fruit, all prepared by three of Men's Club members. Dinner was followed by a moving presentation for Howard Kaplan. Bart Neuman, who shared

COS Men's Club presidency with Kaplan for the last two years, recognized Kaplan's well-known traits of always being positive, and truly being willing to do anything to help anyone. Kaplan was presented with a beautiful mezuzah made of Jerusalem stone for the Kaplan's new home in Alabama. He also received a framed certificate, stating: "In grateful appreciation to Howard Kaplan from his brothers at Ohev Shalom Men's Club for his many years of tireless and dedicated service."

The event ended with cake and coffee dessert and more music.



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'Brundibar' comes to the Orlando stage in November

For over a decade and a half, "Brundibar" was the performance that almost happened.

A large file folder, still held by the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center, documents the history. In 2001, Tess Wise, the Holocaust Center's founder and then-executive director, had a big vision: she was planning to bring an Israeli children's choir to Orlando to perform this historic opera. The contents of the folder reveal how it almost happened, and how it didn't. Emails and receipts show that the space was booked at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center. Press releases were sent to the Orlando Sentinel. Everything seemed in order, but things fell through, mostly because of finances; "Brundibar"

couldn't happen, not that year.

It would be 16 years before "Brundibar" would come to the Orlando stage, but this lost dream has been realized; in partnership with Opera Orlando and Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra, two of Orlando's cultural beacons, the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center is thrilled to host a performance of this powerful children's opera. The commemoration and performances will take place on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 2 p.m. at the Rosen Jewish Community Center at 11184 S. Apopka Vineland Rd., Orlando, FL 32836. A special talk from American composer Lori Laitman will be presented on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. at the Holocaust Center. Visi-

tors to the Thursday evening program will hear about not only the process of creating the composition, but about its significance.

Executive Director of the Holocaust Center, Pam Kancher, is extraordinarily grateful for this partnership. "We are thrilled to fulfill the dream of our founder and Holocaust Survivor, Tess Wise, by bringing 'Brundibar' to our community. We are so grateful for the significant partnership with Opera Orlando and the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras, without whom we would not be able to present this incredible project."

"Brundibar" was written by Czech composer Hans Krasa for a 1939 competition whose winner would never be declared. When Germany invaded the present-day Czech Republic, Krasa was imprisoned in Terezin. It was here that he decided to stage the unperformed opera, casting the camp's children in the roles. The opera tells the story of two children who must raise money to buy milk for their sick mother, but are repeatedly thwarted by Brundibar, the town bully. But through

teamwork and by standing up to injustice, they defeat Brundibar.

Terezin was considered the "model" camp; when the Red Cross, concerned that the concentration camps were not the "paradise" of Hitler's propaganda, visited the camp in June of 1944 they were treated to a performance of the opera. Brundibar, for those imprisoned in Terezin, became a metaphor for Hitler. Maybe that was not what Krasa had intended originally, but there, performed inside the concentration camp, when the children came together with their fists raised in the air as they marched against Brundibar in unison, the powerful metaphor was unmistakable. Even still, this proved to be too subtle for the audience of foreign dignitaries and Nazi officers who later celebrated its performance.

The opera was performed 55 times by the children in the camp. For them, the music and story were a source of inspiration and hope; it was a much-needed escape from the daily fears and suffering that came with surviving in the camp. It was not the only way

that children found escape. Vedem, Czech for "in the lead," was the project of about a hundred boys who lived in a single house of the camp. Featuring poetry, literary reviews, jokes, and essays, it was circulated in secret. The boys knew that its discovery would result in their death. It was never found, and miraculously, over 700 pages survived the war. In 2010, American composer Lori Laitman drew from the poetry written in the magazine, alongside contemporary libretto written by David Mason, to create an oratorio by the same name. Sung by a youth choir, Vedem is a story of resilience, resistance, and survival.

In memory of the children of Terezin, it is now a tradition for "Brundibar" to be performed by an all-youth cast. Through these performances, young artists will be able to explore the themes of inclusion, perseverance, and teamwork. Robin Jensen, Music and Education Director of Opera Orlando who will be preparing the Opera Orlando Youth Company for the performance, believes that this is an incredible way for the

company's aspiring young artists to learn about these powerful lessons from history and how they're still relevant.

"The performances of 'Brundibar' and Vedem will cause our cast to imagine themselves in the same situation as the children imprisoned in the concentration camp," explained Jensen. "They will be challenged by this but I'm confident that their hearts will grow while they gain a personal understanding of this once terrible reality. We're grateful to both the Holocaust Center and the Youth Orchestra for this collaboration and giving our company this opportunity."

The young orchestra players will also be given a chance to engage with the power of the music. "The FSYO Symphonic members and I are happy to be part of this project of remembrance and we're honored to use our talents to keep the voices of the original performers alive," said Hanrich Claassen, FSYO Symphonic Orchestra Conductor and Music Director.

For information about sponsorships and tickets, visit holocaustedu.org.

Bar Mitzvah

Charles Edward Lehr

Charles Edward Lehr, son of John T. Lehr and Katie Lehr of Winter Park, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah in October 2017 at Congregation Ohev Shalom in Maitland.

Charlie is in the seventh grade at Trinity Preparatory School where he plays baseball and percussion instruments.

Sharing in the family's simcha will be his sister, Hayden Lehr and grandmother, Mira Lehr.



Rosen College Career Fair lets students kick-off their futures

Every square foot of UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management's breezeway will be filled with booths and

employers when the Rosen College Career Fair kicks off on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 10 a.m. The twice a year career fair gives rookies in the hospitality industry and opportunity to join the big leagues as employers recruit on-site. This is a student-operated, professor-supervised event.

Hopeful draft picks will come professionally dressed, with portfolios in hand to hold resumes, cover letters, business cards and certificates for awards. The Career Fair is open to Rosen College students and

alumni, and for some this is signing day, the moment they find their dream career with the perfect employer. Among the employers at the career fair are hoteliers like The Breakers, Marriott Corporation, Rosen Hotels & Resorts, restaurant groups like Cracker Barrel, 4Rivers Smokehouse, Landry's and Red Lobster. And let's not forget the theme parks; the Walt Disney Company, Merlin Entertainment and Universal Orlando, come to campus to recruit the best for their teams. "The Rosen College Career

Fair allows our students to see what's out there for them in hospitality; entertainment, event management, health-care, travel and tourism, beverages and spirits, even the airlines and cruise industry often want a coveted place at this event," said Dr. Michelle Holm, the lecturer for the Career Fair class of students who conceive and execute the event. "We fully prep our students so that when they get that job, long-term placement and advancement is in their future."

Upon graduation, 97 percent of all Rosen College students have secured employment. The Career Fair begins at 10 a.m. and runs through 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, on the UCF Rosen College campus at 9907 Universal Blvd., Orlando, FL 32819. Career Fairs are held twice a year in the spring and fall so that graduating seniors, and other ambitious students, can plot their career moves before the semester ends.



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Scene Around

By Gloria Yousha—Call 407-657-9405 or gloriayousha@gmail.com

Jews and cancer...

I received this information from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) and pass it along to you in part:

"This is about the three cancers Jews need to worry about most, and how to reduce the risks." (As if Jews don't have enough to worry about.)

"Specifically, Jews are at elevated risk for three types of the disease: melanoma, breast cancer and ovarian cancer. The perils are particularly acute for Jewish women. The higher prevalence of these illnesses isn't spread evenly among all Jews. The genetic mutations that result in higher incidence of cancer are concentrated among Ashkenazim, Jews of European descent.

'Ashkenazim are a more homogenous population from a genetic point of view, whereas the Sephardim are much more diverse,' said Dr. EPHRAT LEVY-LAHAD, director of Medical Genetics Institute at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. But there is some hope. Susceptible populations can take certain precautions to reduce their risks. Recent medical advance have made early detection easier, significantly lowering the fatality rates from some cancers. And scientist are working on new approaches to fight these pernicious diseases, especially in Israel, where Ashkenazi Jews make up a larger proportion of the population than in any other country. Understanding risk factors and learning about preventative measures are key to improving cancer survival rates. Here's what you need to know:

Melanoma is the deadliest type of skin cancer. (What makes Jews more likely to get skin cancer than others?)

It's a combination of genetics and behavior, according to Dr. HARRIET KLUGER, a cancer researcher at Yale University. On the genetics side, Ashkenazi Jews are significantly more likely to have the BRCA-2 genetic mutation that some studies have linked to higher rates of melanoma. The other factor, Israel's abundant sunshine, (and Florida) exacerbates the problems of sun-sensitive Jews of European origin. That's why Arabs and Israeli Orthodox Jews, whose more conservative dress leaves less skin exposed than does typical secular attire, have a lower incidence of the cancer.

(Stay out of the sun, cover up more and have your skin tested once per year!)

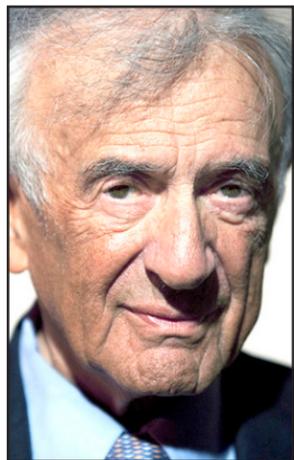
Breast cancer is already more common in developed, Western countries than elsewhere, likely because women who delay childbirth until later in life and have fewer children do not enjoy as much of the positive, cancer risk-reducing effects of the hormonal changes associated with childbirth. Ashkenazi Jews in particular have a significantly higher risk for breast cancer. They are about three times as likely as non-Ashkenazim to carry mutations in the BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 genes that lead to a very high chance of developing cancer. Based on family history, including on the father's side, the chances could be even higher.

(Get a mammogram at least once per year!)

Of the three 'Jewish' cancers, ovarian cancer is the deadliest. Linked to the two BRCA mutations common among Jews, ovarian cancer is both stubbornly difficult to detect early and has a very high late-stage mortality rates.

(Women should be screened for the mutations by age 30, so they know their risks.)

I suggest you show this article to your doctor and see what he has to say. I honestly don't have any particular knowledge



Elie Wiesel

on the subject of cancer and I plan to show this article to my doctor as well. It couldn't hurt!

Remembering Jewish history...

Sept. 30 was the birthday of Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel, noted Holocaust Survivor, award-winning novelist, journalist, human rights activist, and Nobel laureate. He died at his home in Manhattan on July 2, 2016. He was active in many causes, Jewish and non-Jewish.

"The whole world knew what was happening in the concentration camps but did nothing," he explained. "That is why I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation."

Learn and laugh...

There will be a Central Florida Jewish Book Festival on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the JCC.

Learn and Laugh with Jewish authors at the literary event of the year, co-presented by the Writer's Block Bookstore and The Roth Family JCC. There will be complimentary babysitting at the JCC for children 2-12; advanced registration is required and is done at the time tickets are purchased. General Admission (open seating) is \$10 per talk; VIP Reserved Seat in First 2 Rows, \$50 for all three talks, plus a meet-and-greet from 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. with the authors.

For more information, contact ROBBY ETZKIN, executive director, by phone at 407-621-4031 or by email at robbye@orlandojcc.org

Movies at the JCC...

On Sunday, Oct. 22, known as "Cinema Sundays," the JCC 39ers will be showing the film "The Boy in Blue," featuring



Robby Etzkin

Nicholas Cage and Christopher Plummer. The movie starts at 2 p.m. in the Senior Lounge of the JCC. Refreshments will be available.

Nicholas Cage and Christopher Plummer. The movie starts at 2 p.m. in the Senior Lounge of the JCC. Refreshments will be available.

More JCC 39ers...

On Monday, Oct. 23, at 1 p.m., there will be a program titled "Match The Faces." Those attending are asked to bring a photo of themselves (18 years or younger). There will be prizes for correct guesses.

(Although I was always a great beauty, I refuse to bring a photo... NO WAY! NO HOW!)

50 Plus FYI EXPO...

The 50 Plus FYI Network, Orange County Commission on Aging, Seminole County Triad and Senior Resource Alliance present the "50 PLUS FYI EXPO," hosted by the City of Winter Park, on Saturday, Oct. 21, (tomorrow) from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Winter Park Community Center, 721 W. New England Ave, Winter Park. Folks attending will have the chance to speak with experts about services and products for seniors.



Jacqueline Jones

The Company Players will perform, as will jazz legend JACQUELINE JONES and guitarist FRED P. HODES. There will be food trucks and door prizes. Admission is free and parking is free. Health screenings are free and there will be free seminars! (Wow, seniors! This sounds fantastic!)

Shout-Out...

DANIELLE CHASTEN, a shift manager at Panera Bread on Aloma Avenue, Winter Park, is simply the best! She makes every customer feel special... so special that I plan to return to Panera Bread again and again and again and...

One for the road...

Izzy is sitting in shul one Shabbes morning when he falls asleep and starts to snore. The shammes quickly comes over to him, taps him softly on his shoulder and says, "Please stop your snoring, Izzy, you're disturbing the others in the shul." "Now look here," says Izzy, "I always pay my shul subscription in full so I feel I have a right to do whatever I want." "Yes, I agree," replies the shammes, "but your snoring is keeping everybody else awake."

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The festival is produced by Enzian and the JCC of Greater Orlando as part of the Cultural Festival Circuit and is supported by United Arts of Central Florida with funds from the United Arts Campaign and by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Sudoku (see page 14 for solution)

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

A day of joy in the Sukkah at Kinneret

Everyone had fun when UCF Hillel students visited residents of Kinneret on Sunday, Oct. 8, to celebrate Sukkot.

"It was a joy and pleasure to see how happy this made the residents," said Sharon F. Weil, KCOA director of programming and development.

The students and residents built a pop-up sukkah; made tiny sukkahs; sang songs with a guitarist; and said the blessings over the etrog and lulav. All this while enjoying each other's company, laughing and sharing stories together.



Students and residents make tiny sukkahs and sing songs.



Students and Kinneret residents enjoy each other's company.

Meet 'The Trust' author at the Jewish Book Festival

"The Trust," By Ronald H. Balson, St. Martin's Press

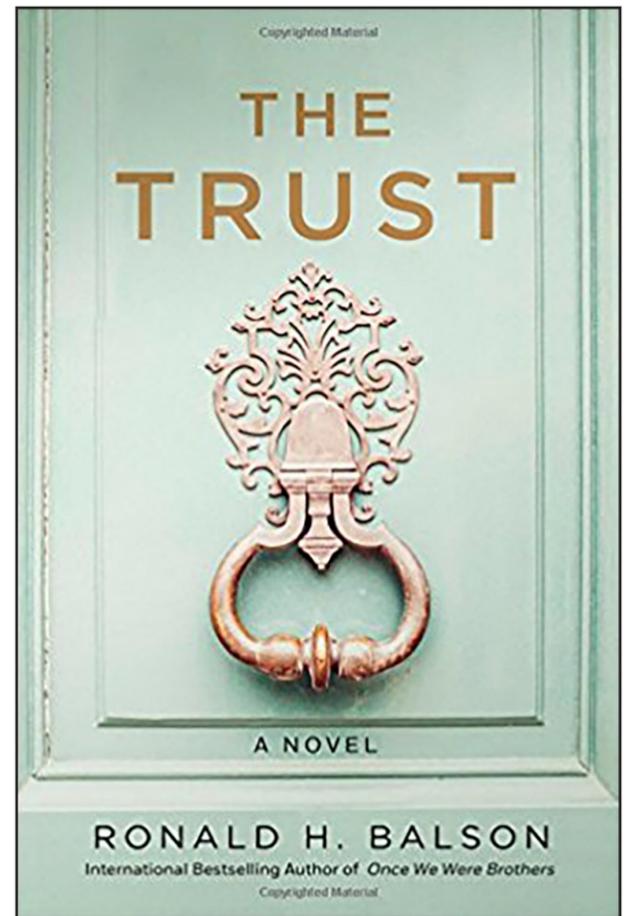
In 2013, Ronald H. Balson debuted his first novel, "Once We Were Brothers," an originally self-published title that reached great success and instantly became an international best seller. Over the course of just a few years, Balson would come to publish two more novels featuring the same compelling characters—lawyer Catherine Lockhart and private investigator Liam Taggart—and build a dedicated readership.

Balson's fourth novel, "The Trust," follows Liam Taggart as he returns to his childhood home in Ireland for his uncle's funeral, only to discover his uncle was murdered.

Sixteen years ago, Taggart left his native Ireland under bitter circumstances, closing the door, never planning to come back. Upon his return, he quickly learns that not only was his uncle shot to death, but he'd anticipated his own murder. In an astonishing last will and testament, Uncle Fergus has left his entire estate to a secret trust, directing that no distributions be made to any person until the killer is found.

Liam's stay in Ireland brings him into conflict with many troublesome memories from his past—the death of his parents, his service as an agent for the U.S. Government, the events leading up to the estrangement from his family, and the sudden and tragic end to his relationship with Annie Grossman, his former fiancée.

As his investigation draws Liam farther into the past, he realizes he must reopen doors long ago shut and locked. He must consider disparate sources and motives as he



comes to recognize that danger only increases with each day he spends in Ireland. The killer is not finished, and one-by-one, members of the Taggart family—including Liam's wife and child—realize that they too are at risk. Accepting the appointment as sole trustee of the Fergus Taggart Trust, Liam has stepped into the center of the firestorm.

A fast-paced murder mystery, "The Trust" is sure to keep you turning pages.

Those who attend the Central Florida Jewish Book Festival at The Roth Family JCC, can meet the author,

Ronald Balson and find out what inspires him for his suspenseful stories.

Jointly sponsored by the JCC and the Writer's Block Bookstore of Winter Park, the Festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 29 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Balson will speak from 11 a.m. – noon.

The tickets are \$10 per talk, with a VIP reserved ticket option of \$50, which includes seating in the first two rows of all three talks, plus a meet-and-greet from 2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m., and can be purchased at www.orlandojcc.org/bookfest.

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CARDINAL MONUMENTS

Wisconsin the latest state to introduce anti-BDS legislation

By Paul Miller
JNS.org

Two Republican state lawmakers in Wisconsin last week introduced legislation to prohibit businesses from engaging in boycotts of Israel as a condition of any state contract.

In recent years, more than 20 U.S. states have passed legislation condemning BDS or prohibiting government business with entities that boycott Israel, with additional states—including Wisconsin—expected to follow before the end of the year.

Released by State Sen. Leah Vukmir and State Rep. Dale Kooyenga, the bill is currently being circulated among both chambers for co-sponsors. The measure states that it "prohibits any state agency or other body in state government and any local governmental unit, including a special purpose district, from adopting a rule, ordinance, policy, or procedure that involves the state agency or local governmental unit in a boycott of Israel or a person doing business in Israel or in a territory under Israeli jurisdiction."

It also "requires contracts for materials, supplies, equipment, and services between state purchasing agents and nongovernmental entities to include a provision that the nongovernmental entity is not currently participating, or will not for the duration of the contract participate, in a prohibited boycott."

Vukmir said in a statement, "Boycotts of Israel must be fought because they do not just attack the Jewish state. This propaganda campaign is also the basis for newly emboldened and destructive anti-Semitic attitudes."

"Israel stands as the only democracy in the Middle East, offering a voice not only to the Jewish citizens of Israel, but to all citizens of Israel regardless of their age, race, sex or religion," Kooyenga said. "This bill demonstrates that Wisconsin is serious about standing with Israel, as our republic has since Israel's founding nearly 70 years ago."

Peggy Shapiro, Midwest director of the pro-Israel education organization StandWithUs, recalled that she "met wit Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch almost

two years ago, and she was adamant about protecting Israel—Wisconsin's relationship, and making sure... taxpayers were not complicit in acts of anti-Semitism."

"oday, tandWithUs is very proud to see Wisconsin engage in a bipartisan rejection of anti-Semitism and discrimination against Israel," Shapiro told the Haym Salomon Center.

Joining StandWithUs and other groups to advance anti-BDS legislation in Wisconsin is the self-described largest pro-Israel organization in the country, Christians United for Israel (CUFI). With the backing of its nearly 3.6 million members, the group's lobbying arm, the CUFI Action Fund, said it played a significant role in bringing this issue to the forefront.

"CUFI members across the country are fed up with BDS and excited to act to stop it," said CUFI board member David Brog. "In Wisconsin, our local leaders were able to join with the Jewish community to make a powerful pro-Israel team and secure the introduction

Wisconsin on page 15A

Julian Edelman's children's book gets a Jewish makeover

By Penny Schwartz

BOSTON (JTA)—If New England Patriots star Julian Edelman retires from the NFL anytime soon, he clearly has a promising second career as a Jewish children's book writer.

In front of about 400 children and their families Tuesday night at the Newton Centre flagship of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Boston, the 31-year-old wide receiver and Super Bowl hero read a special edition of a children's book he co-wrote last year.

Unsurprisingly Edelman, who has Jewish ancestry on his father's side and has identified as Jewish in recent years, was treated like a rock star.

"He's a really good receiver and I hope I like his book," Ilan Sherman Kadish, one of Edelman's many young fans in attendance, said before the player spoke.

The event was organized by PJ Library, the Massachusetts-based global Jewish children's book giveaway program supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in partnership with other philanthropists and local Jewish community organizations. Twenty-five thousand copies of Edelman's book, "Flying High," a semi-autobiographical story about an endearing squirrel named Jules who is determined to play football, are being mailed this week to 5-year-olds in Jewish homes across North America through the PJ Library program.

Before Edelman read his book, the audience was shown a video with footage from his rollicking visit to Israel in 2015 (which was co-sponsored by the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston). The crowd cheered loudly after the video as Edelman, wearing a brace from a pre-season knee injury that has kept him from playing this season, made his way onto the stage.



Etan Harmelech/Harold Grinspoon Foundation

One lucky fan had a fun encounter with Julian Edelman at a private reading of his book at the JCC of Greater Boston before the main event, Oct. 10, 2017.

Edelman said onstage that the story of Israel reminded him of his own struggles to push past those who overlooked him. He was picked in the seventh and final round of the 2009 draft by the Patriots and was not projected to succeed in the league. But he has notched over 400 career receptions, helped the team win two Super Bowls and become quarterback Tom Brady's favorite target.

"I fell in love with the people of Israel," Edelman said, noting his admiration for how the small country thrives despite being surrounded by unfriendly countries.

It's a theme he said he wanted to convey in a children's book, especially after the birth of his daughter, Lily, in November, to whom he dedicated the book.

The new PJ Library edition of "Flying High" includes extra material on the front and back flaps that emphasizes the story's Jewish content and values. There is also a new reference to Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism. The dedication page includes one of Herzl's most

famous quotes: "If you will it, it is no dream."

The quote shows up in illustrations throughout the story as its young squirrel protagonist trains hard and perseveres against his detractors—a group of animals that includes an eagle, a buffalo and a bear who ridicule him for being too weak, slow and small.

The idea for the quote came from the Israeli-born Assaf Swissa, Edelman's co-author. Edelman told JTA after the event that while the quote was not central to the original book, it turned out to be a good fit.

"It definitely has meaning for me," he said of the Herzl quote.

A second "Flying High" book is due out in November, in time for Chanukah, Swissa told JTA.

Edelman has become an object of Jewish fascination since he publicly identified himself as a member of the tribe in a 2013 interview on the NFL Network. He has tweeted about Jewish

Edelman on page 14A

OBITUARY

RABBI ARTHUR GRAE

Rabbi Arthur Grae of Leesburg, Fla., died suddenly after a short illness on the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah 5778, Friday, Sept. 22, 2017. He was 80 years old.

Arthur Grae received his Bachelor of Arts from Syracuse University in English literature (honors). He earned a juris doctor from New York University School of Law, and master of Law (Labor Law) from New York University School of Law. He graduated from the National Defense Language Institute Presidio of Monterey, California, as an official Chinese-Mandarin interpreter during his army service.

As an experienced lawyer in trial and appellate litigation in the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Court of Appeals, and Federal courts and the U.S. Supreme Court, he practiced labor law for 42 years representing public sector labor unions, trials and appeals, and Constitution

rights litigation in Federal court (Title 42, Section 1983 to declare governmental action unconstitutional as applied to clients).

Rabbi Arthur was ordained a modern rabbi, in July 2010 at age 72, by the Rabbinical Seminary International, Inc of New York. He was the rabbi of Congregation Ohr Chayim in Leesburg/Wildwood, Fla., and served as volunteer hospital chaplain at Leesburg Regional Medical Center, and at The Villages Regional Medical Center in The Villages, Fla. He also served as rabbi in the summer months at Beth Joseph, Tupper Lake, N.Y., near Saranac Lake.

Rabbi Arthur and his wife, Elaine, attended the 2014 Chevra Kadisha conference in Miami, Fla., and completed the Gamliel Institute's Chevra Kadisha courses 1 through 4 between 2013 through 2015. His Course 3 project included a unique interview about the Glasgow (Scotland)

Chevra Kadisha, including the Tahara house at Glenduffhill Cemetery.

Rabbi Arthur was a kind, compassionate man offering comfort to patients in the area hospitals, and good counsel to his congregants. He will be sorely missed.

He was laid to rest in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

He is mourned by his loving wife, Elaine; his son, Bill (Jackie); granddaughter, Lauren; his step-children—Avi Epstein (Tova), David Epstein (Kam), Diana Kay (Phillip); step-grandchildren —Aaron (Amanda), Marc, Leah, Linda (Adeel), Robert, James, Evelyn and Julie; and step-great-grandchildren, Mason and Ian Epstein and Lina Ahmad.

Elaine Grae thanks Rabbi Yossi Hecht (Chabad), who conducted the graveside service, and Terry Hensley and the staff of Beyers Funeral Home who were tasked with making the funeral arrangements.

Central Florida Synagogues

Orlando Weekday Morning Minyan (Conservative/Egalitarian), services Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m. (9 a.m.—national holidays); 2nd floor Chapel—Jewish Academy of Orlando; 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland. For information call 407-298-4650.

Celebration Jewish Congregation (R), services and holiday schedules shown at www.JewishCelebration.org; 407-566-9792.

Chabad Lubavitch of North Orlando (O), 1701 Markham Woods Road, Longwood, 407-636-5994, www.jewishorlando.com; services: Friday 7:00 p.m.; Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Chabad of Altamonte Springs (O), 414 Spring Valley Lane, Altamonte Springs, 407-280-0535; www.jewishaltamonte.com.

Chabad of South Orlando (O), 7347 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, 407-354-3660; www.jewishorlando.com; Shabbat services: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. and 10 minutes before sunset; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 8:15 a.m.

Chabad of the Space & Treasure Coasts (O), 1190 Highway A1A, Satellite Beach, 321-777-2770.

Congregation Ahavas Yisrael/Chabad (O), 708 Lake Howell Rd., Maitland, 407-644-2500; www.chabadorlando.org; services: Sunday, 9 a.m.; Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.; Shabbat services: Friday, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Family service, 4th Friday of the month.

Congregation Bet Chaim (R), 301 West State Road 434, Unit 319, Winter Springs, 407-830-7211; www.betchaim.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 8 p.m.

Congregation Beth Am (C), 3899 Sand Lake Road, Longwood, 407-862-3505; www.congbetham.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Congregation Beth El (C), 2185 Meadowlane Ave., West Melbourne, 321-779-0740; Shabbat services, 1st & 3rd Friday, 8 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.

Congregation Beth Emeth (R), 2205 Blue Sapphire Circle, Orlando, 407-855-0772; Shabbat service: monthly, 8 p.m.

Congregation Beth Israel (Rec), Collins Resource Center, Suite 303, 9401 S.R. 200, Ocala, 352-237-8277; bethisraelocala.org; Shabbat service, second Friday of the month, 8 p.m.

Congregation Beth Shalom (R-C), 315 North 13th St., Leesburg, 352-326-3692; www.bethshalomflorida.org; schedule of services on website.

Congregation Beth Shalom (Progressive Conservative), Orange City congregation holds services at 1308 E. Normandy Blvd., Deltona; 386-804-8283; www.mybethshalom.com; Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.

Congregation B'nai Torah (C), 403 N. Nova Rd., Ormond Beach, 32174, 386-672-1174; www.mybnaitorah.com; Shabbat services: Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.

Congregation Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Daytona (O), 1079 W. Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach, 386-672-9300; Shabbat services Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.

Congregation of Reform Judaism (R), 928 Malone Dr., Orlando, 407-645-0444; www.crjorlando.org; Shabbat services, 7 p.m. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Fridays; 6 p.m., 4th and 5th Fridays; Saturday: 10 a.m.

Congregation Mateh Chaim (R), P.O. Box 060847, Palm Bay, 32906, 321-768-6722.

Congregation Ohev Shalom (C), 613 Concourse Parkway South, Maitland, 407-298-4650; www.ohvshalom.org; Shabbat service, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Congregation Or Chayim (Rec), Leesburg, 352-326-8745; egrae@hotmail.com; services 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at Providence Independence of Wildwood.

Congregation Shalom Aleichem (R), 3501 Oak Pointe Blvd., Kissimmee, 407-935-0064; www.shalomaleichem.com; Shabbat service, 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, 8 p.m.

Congregation Shomer Yisrael (C), 5382 Hoffner Ave., Orlando, 407-227-1258, call for services and holiday schedules.

Congregation Sinai (C/R), 303A N. S.R. 27, Minneola; 352-243-5353; congregation-sinai.org; services: every Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Shabbat Service every Saturday, 10 a.m.

Orlando Torah Center (O), 8591 Banyan Blvd., Orlando; 347-456-6485; Shacharis-Shabbos 9 a.m.; Mon.—Thurs. 6:45 a.m.; Sun. and Legal Holidays 8 a.m.; Mincha/Maariv Please call for times.

Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation/Ohalei Rivka (C), 11200 S. Apopka-Vineland Rd., Orlando, 407-239-5444; Shabbat service, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Temple Beth El (R), 579 N. Nova Rd., Ormond Beach, 386-677-2484.

Temple Beth Shalom (R), P.O. Box 031233, Winter Haven, 813-324-2882.

Temple Beth Shalom (C), 40 Wellington Drive, Palm Coast, 386-445-3006; Shabbat service, Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.

Temple Beth Shalom (C), 5995 N. Wickham Rd. Melbourne, 321-254-6333; www.mytbs.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday: 9:30 a.m. Minyan, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, 10:00 a.m.

Temple Beth Shalom (R), 1109 N.E. 8th Ave., Ocala, 352-629-3587; Shabbat services: Friday, 8 p.m.; Torah study: Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

Temple B'nai Darom (R), 49 Banyan Course, Ocala, 352-624-0380; Friday Services 8 p.m.

Temple Israel (C), 50 S. Moss Rd., Winter Springs, 407-647-3055; www.tiflorida.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Temple Israel (R), 7350 Lake Andrew Drive, Melbourne, 321-631-9494.

Temple Israel (C), 579 N. Nova Road, Ormond Beach, 386-252-3097; Shabbat service, Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday: 10:30 a.m.

Temple Israel of DeLand (R), 1001 E. New York Ave., DeLand, 386-736-1646; www.templeisraelofdeland.org; Friday Shabbat service, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. followed by Torah study.

Temple Shalom (formerly New Jewish Congregation) (R), 13563 Country Road 101, Oxford, 352-748-1800; www.templeshalomcentralfl.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 7 p.m.; last Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m.

Temple Shalom of Deltona (R/C), 1785 Elkcarn Blvd., Deltona, 386-789-2202; www.shalomdeltona.org; Shabbat service; Saturday: 10 a.m.

Temple Shir Shalom (R) Services held at Temple Israel, 50 S. Moss Rd., Winter Springs, 407-366-3556, www.templeshirshalom.org; Shabbat services: three Fridays each month, 7:30 p.m.

Traditional Congregation of Mount Dora (T) Mount Dora, 352-735-4774; www.tcomd.org; Shabbat services: Saturday, 9:30 a.m. sharp.

(R) Reform (C) Conservative (O) Orthodox (Rec) Reconstructionist (T) Mehitsa

Three Supreme Court cases Jews are watching closely

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The Supreme Court is back in session with a full bench of nine justices, so expect more momentous decisions after nearly a year of caution.

Now that the high court is back to its previous equilibrium—four solid liberals, four solid conservatives and one wavering conservative—expect all eyes to be focused on the waverer, Anthony Kennedy.

And after a relatively quiet season, owing to the absence of a ninth justice following the death in February 2016 of Antonin Scalia, a conservative icon, Jewish groups are on alert as well. The new judge, Neil Gorsuch, appears to be comfortably slipping into Scalia's slot.

"So far, the Federalist Society would approve," said Marc Stern, the general counsel for the American Jewish Committee, referring to Gorsuch, who joined the court in April as its previous season, and the leading conservative legal group.

Presidents and their staffs now more closely vet judges, Stern said, and surprises are much less likely.

"The judges now have known tendencies, it's much more institutionalized," he said.

The return to a conservative majority, with Kennedy an occasional swing vote, worries liberal Jewish groups and heartens right-leaning

ones, mostly Orthodox—especially in the case of a baker who refused to sell a wedding cake to a gay couple. Civil liberties groups are also closely watching a case of what they see as gerrymandering by the Republican-led State Legislature in Wisconsin.

Here's a look at some of the cases and where Jewish groups are.

Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission

Jack Phillips, a Colorado baker, refused to bake a wedding cake for Charlie Craig and David Mullins in 2012, saying that to do so would violate his religious beliefs. The couple took him to the state's Civil Rights Commission, which ruled that he could not turn away gay couples. A state court upheld the ruling; now it's at the Supreme Court. Last month, a prominent ally joined Phillips: the Trump administration.

Jewish groups are filing friend-of-the-court briefs on both sides of the case, with an array of Orthodox groups siding with Phillips. The Anti-Defamation League and the Reform movement are siding with the couple.

ADL has already been involved with the case at the state level. In a statement to JTA, the group said it urged the court to "reject arguments that religious or moral disapproval is a legitimate basis for discrimination against minority groups."

The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, a group helmed by the father-daughter legal team of Nathan and Alyza Lewin that often represents Orthodox groups, is backing the baker. It cites in its amicus brief Talmudic prohibitions on assisting others in carrying out "avodah zarah," or prohibited acts.

"The personal duty to avoid meaningful participation in another person's religiously prohibited behavior is, under Jewish Law, a primary obligation and not merely a form of secondary observance," the brief says.

The Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel of America, which signed on to the Lewins' brief, have also joined other separate friend-of-the-court briefs in a reflection of the importance of the case for the Orthodox.

"For a religious minority community, the Masterpiece case is a big case," said Nathan Diament, the Orthodox Union's Washington director. "There's a way to balance religious liberty and LGBT rights that doesn't have to end in culture wars."

Oral arguments, the equivalent of tea leaves for Supreme Court watchers, have yet to take place, so it may be too early to speculate on how the court will split. One possible clue: Kennedy wrote the decision in 2015 that codified gay marriage as legal.

Gill v. Whitford

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg says this case, involving redistricting, is among the most important facing the court this session, and an array of Jewish civil liberties group that signed on to an amicus brief agree.

The case addresses redistricting by the Wisconsin State Legislature in 2011 that created a situation in which, the ADL said in a statement to JTA, "Republicans would be able to maintain a 54-seat majority (of the 99 Assembly seats) while only garnering 48 percent of the statewide vote, while Democrats would have to get 54 percent of the vote to capture a majority of the seats."

That poses a threat to American democracy, according to a brief filed on behalf of a number of civil liberties groups, three of them Jewish: the ADL, the American Jewish Committee and the National Council of Jewish Women.

"Severe partisan gerrymanders cannot be resolved by the democratic political process, because the very nature of the problem is that severe partisan gerrymanders subvert the democratic political process," the amicus brief reads. "Without this Court's intervention and setting of limits on severe partisan gerrymandering, our system will devolve into precisely what our Founders declared our independence from: government administered by

an entrenched ruling class, rather than by the consent of the people."

Stern of the AJC said a far-reaching ruling could finally crack the epidemic of gerrymandering, which has plagued Democratic-led states as well, like California and Maryland.

"It is the blockbuster case that will affect the nature of American democracy for the foreseeable future," he said.

Court watchers say the four liberal judges will likely remove redistricting powers from the legislature, while the four solid conservatives will uphold the legislature's right to go about its business without federal interference. Oral arguments took place last week, but Kennedy—the swing vote—did not show his hand.

International Refugee Assistance vs. Trump

This case addresses President Donald Trump's two executive orders earlier this year placing a temporary ban on entry to refugees and to citizens of six Muslim majority countries. Trump in September added Venezuela and North Korea—non-Muslim majority countries—to the travel ban. That led the court to remove the case from its schedule and ask the litigants to consider whether the case is now moot because the case for religious discrimination appears to have diminished.

The government is arguing

that the case is indeed no longer relevant. The plaintiffs, including HIAS, the leading immigration advocacy group in the Jewish community, say they still want their case in court, arguing that even if religious discrimination is no longer the issue, the status of refugees remains very much relevant.

In an amicus brief filed before the court's removal of the case, the ADL, the Reform movement and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the umbrella body for Jewish public policy groups, made the protection of refugees central to their arguments against the ban, in particular citing the tragic results of European Jews being turned away before the Holocaust.

"We turned our backs on the St. Louis, a ship with nearly 1,000 Jews fleeing Nazi Germany, condemning hundreds of them to their deaths; we passed laws that overtly excluded and discriminated against the Chinese; and we rounded up more than 100,000 Japanese Americans and interned them in prison camps in the 1940s," the brief says. "In each instance, when we later realized that we had strayed from our principles, we were left to apologize to the people who had suffered, or to their descendants, or to the memory of those who perished without descendants, in each case promising to learn from our mistakes and not to repeat them."

Kosher winery damaged as wildfires rage on in Northern California

By Sue Fishkoff

(J. The Jewish News of Northern California via JTA)—A kosher winery in Northern California sustained widespread damage from a wildfire still raging along the southern part of the Silverado Trail in Napa County.

Ernie Weir, owner of Hagafen Cellars, the North Bay's only kosher winery, said Wednesday that all employees are safe and the main winery building is intact, but that the fire destroyed fencing, all of the agricultural equipment, a guest house, nearly an acre of Cabernet Sauvignon vines and all of the property's trees.

"What this all will mean for vintage 2017 is yet to be determined," he wrote in an email. Weir said he is "reason-

ably certain" that the winery will be able to recover from the destruction "and continue" in business. The winery was founded in 1979.

As wildfires continue to rip through the North Bay Area, the Jewish community is reaching out to help those most affected by the devastation—including Jewish families who have been evacuated, some of whom have lost their homes.

There have been 17 confirmed deaths, dozens of injuries, and more than 2,000 homes and structures destroyed. The majority of the fatalities are from Sonoma County, where the city of Santa Rosa sustained heavy damage.

Rabbi Mendel Wolvovskiy of Chabad of Sonoma has

been fielding calls from members of his community and with his wife, Altie, has been visiting those affected. They are making the rounds of nearby shelters that are housing people displaced by the blaze and handing out home-cooked meals.

"There are people in our community who have lost their homes, who have lost everything they have," he told J. "We have been visiting with them, comforting them, seeing what they need, making sure everyone has proper housing."

"A lot of Jews live in the Fountaingrove neighborhood," he said, referring to an area of Santa Rosa that has been heavily damaged.

Congregation Beth Ami in Santa Rosa is canceling its



The scene at Hagafen Cellars after fires raging in Northern California burned land, vegetation and equipment, Oct. 10, 2017

Sukkot celebration planned for Wednesday evening, and instead will hold a healing service at 6 p.m. in the synagogue. Four member families have lost their homes in the fires, according to an email sent to the community.

The B'nai Israel Jewish Center in Petaluma is holding a joint Simchat Torah celebration Thursday at 6:30 p.m. with Congregation Ner Shalom of Cotati. In an email sent to the general community, Rabbi Ted Feldman of B'nai Israel noted that several Ner Shalom families have taken shelter in the B'nai Israel building, not knowing whether their homes are still standing.

"This is a good time to bring our communities together to celebrate Simchat

Torah and express our yearnings for healing in these difficult moments," he wrote. "Even if Simchat Torah has not been on your agenda, I would propose your participation as an opportunity to help find each other's strength as our community members struggle."

The Jewish institution most affected so far by the wildfires was the Reform movement's Camp Newman in Santa Rosa, where most of the buildings were reported destroyed on Monday afternoon. On Wednesday, the staff tried again to reach the property and assess the damage, but could not get near enough to tell.

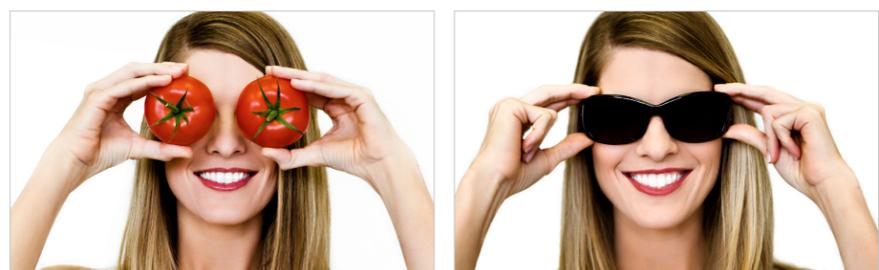
"We couldn't get within five miles of the property," said communications director

Alaina Yoakum. "The fires are still very active, and the roads are blocked."

This Friday night, a number of congregations in the Bay Area and Los Angeles will be holding what they are calling Camp Newman Pop-Up Shabbat services.

"We told the clergy we reached out to that it can be whatever they want it to be," Yoakum said. "Many will sing 'Hashkivenu,' which is about spreading a shelter of peace over us. I think that's so beautiful, a temporary shelter of peace over the community."

"It's a testament to the love in our community, their willingness to come together to support and help one another. I'm sure camp music will be playing this Friday in all corners of the Bay Area."



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Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Woody Allen clarifies remarks on Harvey Weinstein: 'He is a sad, sick man'

(JTA)—Filmmaker Woody Allen clarified his remarks about Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein made in an interview with the BBC.

"When I said I felt sad for Harvey Weinstein, I thought it was clear the meaning was because he is a sad, sick man," Allen said in a statement to Variety on Sunday night. "I was surprised it was treated differently. Lest there be any ambiguity, this statement clarifies my intention and feelings."

In the BBC interview published Sunday morning, Allen was quoted as saying, "The whole Harvey Weinstein thing is very sad for everybody involved. Tragic for the poor women that were involved, sad for Harvey that his life is so messed up."

"There's no winners in that, it's just very, very sad and tragic for those poor women that had to go through that."

Allen also expressed hope that the sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape accusations against Weinstein would not lead to a "witch hunt atmosphere ... where every guy in an office who winks at a woman is suddenly having to call a lawyer to defend himself. That's not right either."

Critics of the director's initial comments included actress Rose McGowan, one of the women accusing Weinstein of sexual assault, who described Allen as a "vile little worm."

Allen, who like Weinstein is Jewish, in the early 1990s was accused of abusing his daughter, Dylan Farrow, during a custody battle shortly after his separation from his wife, Mia Farrow. She divorced Allen after learning of his affair with her adopted daughter, Soon-Yi Previn, whom Allen married in 1997. The allegations were revived in 2013, when Dylan was 28.

Allen has long denied the abuse allegations.

Weinstein helped to revive Allen's career after the alleged sex abuse came to light, producing several of Allen's films, including the Academy Award-winning "Mighty Aphrodite."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which awards the Oscars, expelled Weinstein on Saturday in an emergency meeting. It was the first time in the body's 90-year history that it has ousted a member for unethical or potentially criminal behavior.

Western Wall dig uncovers ancient Roman theater

JERUSALEM (JTA)—An ancient Roman theater was uncovered during excavations of the Western Wall tunnels in Jerusalem.

The discovery of the 200-seat theater structure from the Roman period confirms historical writings that describe a theater near the Temple Mount, the Israel Antiquities Authority said in a statement Monday.

Excavations also uncovered eight stone courses, or layers of cut stone, the antiquities authority said.

The discoveries followed work to remove a 26-foot layer of earth under Wilson's Arch, the only intact, visible structure remaining from the Temple Mount compound of the Second Temple period. The arch served as a passageway for visitors entering the Temple Mount compound and the Temple An aqueduct also passed over the arch.

The excavations were undertaken with the intent to date the arch, according to the antiquities authority.

The structures were built following the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E., when Jerusalem became the Roman colony of Aelia Capitolina.

"From a research perspective, this is a sensational find," site excavators Joe Uziel, Tehillah Lieberman and Avi Solomon said in a statement. "The discovery was a real surprise. When we started excavating, our goal was to date Wilson's Arch. We did not imagine that a window would open for us onto the mystery of Jerusalem's lost theater."

The findings will be presented to the public at a conference at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem titled "New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and its Environs."

The Second Temple started in 530 BCE.

Islamic State claims responsibility for Sinai rocket attack on Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The Islamic State claimed responsibility for two rockets fired from the Sinai Peninsula at southern Israeli communities.

The terrorist group's official news agency, Amaq, said Monday that the long-range rockets fired the previous night were targeting Israeli Air Force jets flying in the area, Ynet reported.

There were no injuries or damage in the first attack from Sinai on Israel since May 23, when President Donald Trump was visiting the area.

"The fighters confronted Israeli jets that flew above the state and targeted the Eshkol compound with two Grad rockets," the statement said, according to Haaretz.

Eshkol refers to the Eshkol Regional Council located near the Gaza border.

The rockets triggered a Code Red alarm for Israeli communities near the border with Gaza.

The Islamic State also claimed responsibility on Sunday for attacks in northern Sinai that left six Egyptian soldiers dead.

Israel says it won't escalate tensions with Syria following retaliatory strike

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israeli airstrikes incapacitated a missile launcher deep in Syria that had fired toward Israeli military jets.

The Israel Defense Forces said "the incident is over and there is no intention of escalation" after its Air Force struck the launcher near Damascus on Sunday, rendering it inoperable. According to the IDF, the Syrian surface-to-air missile was fired that morning during a "routine flight" by the jets over Lebanon.

The fighter jets returned safely to their bases.

The IDF said the targeting of Israeli jets required retaliation.

"We see the Syrian regime as responsible for all the firing carried out from its territory, which is a clear Syrian provocation and we will not allow it," IDF spokesman Brig.- Gen. Ronen Manlis said. "We reserve the freedom of action, but for us the incident is over and there is no intention of escalation."

Israel reportedly updated Russia, an ally of Syria, about the attack and retaliatory strike as it was taking place.

Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu was scheduled to arrive for a planned visit to Israel later on Monday.

In the hours following the Israeli strike, the Syrian army warned of "dangerous consequences" for Israel's "repeated aggression." Syria said the planes it fired on had crossed into Syrian airspace. The IDF said the planes never left the airspace above Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also defended the strike on the missile launcher.

"Our policy is clear: If anyone attempts to harm us, we will harm them back," he said in a statement issued by his office. "Today they tried to hit our airplanes—we do not accept this. The Air Force acted precisely, quickly, and destroyed what had to be destroyed. We will continue to act as needed to protect Israel's security."

Trump bashes Schumer for not backing his Iran moves

WASHINGTON (JTA)—President Donald Trump chided Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, the senior Jewish lawmaker in Congress, for not backing his proposal to amend the Iran nuclear deal.

"Dem Senator Schumer hated the Iran deal made by President Obama, but now that I am involved, he is OK with it," Trump said Monday morning on Twitter. "Tell that to Israel, Chuck!"

Schumer, D-N.Y., is a leading pro-Israel voice in the U.S. Senate, calling himself a "guardian of Israel" because of his name, which is rooted in the Hebrew for guard.

On Friday evening, after Trump earlier in the day had asked Congress to effectively amend the 2015 nuclear deal, Schumer said on Twitter he favored preserving the deal. The senator also implicitly chided Trump for ignoring the counsel of top advisers who favor keeping it including Secretary of Defense James Mattis and the chairman of the Joint Military Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford.

"The @SenateDems agree with #SecDef Mattis and General Dunford," Schumer said. "We won't allow the Iran deal to be undone."

In 2015, Schumer voted against the deal, which trades sanctions relief for Iran's rollback of its nuclear program. But like virtually every other Democratic opponent at the time, he now adamantly supports preserving it, joining the others in saying the pact remains the best means

of building an international alliance to pressure Iran and pulling out of it would damage U.S. credibility.

In a statement to JTA following Trump's tweet attacking him, Schumer said that there were existing tools outside the deal to pressure Iran.

"President Trump's own Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Generals Mattis and Dunford, both said that it's in our national security interest to keep the JCPOA in place and I agree," he said. "I believe Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, will heed their recommendation. If the President is serious about countering Iran, his first step can be to implement the tough sanctions Congress passed in July and urge the House to pass the Hezbollah sanctions legislation that recently passed the Senate."

Trump wants Congress to mandate sanctions should Iran fail to meet conditions not covered in the deal. They include maintaining restrictions on enrichment past the deal's deadlines, which begin to kick in within the next decade, and allowing more ready access for inspectors to military facilities.

If Congress does not amend the agreement to Trump's liking, the president has said he will pull out of it. Other partners to the deal, including close U.S. allies in Europe, oppose amending the deal, instead favoring increased pressure on Iran outside the context of the deal.

Far-right party finishes second in Austrian elections

(JTA)—Jewish groups called on the head of the conservative People's Party in Austria to exclude the far-right Freedom Party from the new government coalition after the parties finished first and second in national elections.

Sebastian Kurz, the 31-year-old foreign minister and head of the center-right Austrian People's Party, or ÖVP, will become Europe's youngest leader.

With nearly all the results counted as of Monday morning, ÖVP won with 31.6 percent of the vote, to 27.4 percent for the Freedom Party, or FPÖ. The center-left Social Democrats of outgoing Chancellor Christian Kern was close behind with 26.7 percent.

The results appear to be a result of the refugee crisis in Europe. Kurz focused his campaign on the question of limiting migration, while the Freedom Party ran on a hardline anti-Islam platform. Austria accepted one of the highest proportions of refugees during the 2015 crisis.

The European Jewish Congress in its statement congratulating Kurz called on him to form a coalition of centrist parties and "not be beholden" to a party of the far right in his coalition.

"A party which has run on a platform of xenophobic intolerance and the targeting of immigrants must not be granted a seat at the governing table," said EJC's president, Dr. Moshe Kantor. World Jewish Congress

President Ronald Lauder, the U.S. ambassador to Austria in 1986-87, said in a statement: "It is sad and distressing that such a platform should receive more than a quarter of the vote and become the country's second party. It is still full of xenophobes and racists and is, mildly put, very ambiguous toward Austria's Nazi past."

Lauder called the election results "in many respects worse than Kurt Waldheim's election as president of Austria 30 years ago. Today's FPÖ is far beyond acceptable democratic limits."

Waldheim, also the former secretary-general of the United Nations, hid his complicity in Nazi war crimes, but it was exposed late in his career.

Lauder strongly warned against including the Freedom Party in any governing coalition.

"Like the AfD in Germany, the National Front in France, or Jobbik in Hungary, the FPÖ is an extremist party that panders to racists and anti-Semites and whips up feelings against minorities," Lauder said. "It is led by a man who in his youth expressed clear sympathies for the Nazis. In its present state, the FPÖ is not, and should not be, a party of government," he said.

Some 9,000 Jews live in Austria, according to the Jewish Virtual Library figures for 2016, making them about 0.1 percent of the country's population.

Israeli driver Alon Day races to first NASCAR championship

(JTA)—Israeli race car driver Alon Day has won his first NASCAR championship.

Day finished first in the standings in the auto racing group's European series, which ended Sunday with a race in Belgium. The Israeli was fourth in the race—he needed only to complete the first lap to take home the title after being well ahead in the rankings, The Times of Israel reported.

He had finished second and third in the European series standings the past two seasons.

"It is such an amazing feeling!" Day was quoted as saying in the Motorsport.com racing website. "We were trying so hard the past three years to win this title; we won so many races but never the championship."

Day, 25, who grew up in Ashdod, has done the bulk of his training on computer-screen simulators because Israel did not have a motor sport race track until this year.

Israel OKs housing for Jewish neighborhood in mostly Palestinian Hebron

JERUSALEM (JTA)—An Israeli planning committee approved the construction of an apartment complex in a Jewish neighborhood of Hebron, a mostly Palestinian West Bank city that has been the flashpoint in attacks against Jews.

The approval on Monday by the Civil Administration's Subcommittee for Licensing is the first for new Jewish housing in the city since 2002.

In Hebron, some 500 Jews live among 40,000 Palestin-

ians. The building will be constructed in the Beit Romano neighborhood, one of four Jewish neighborhoods in the city.

Hebron's Palestinian municipality is expected to appeal the decision and claim ownership of the land.

Peace Now claims the property was under Jewish ownership prior to 1948 and that after 1967, the Civil Administration leased the land to the Hebron Palestinian Municipality and it remained under protected tenancy. The liberal NGO argues that should continue, even though it was taken from the municipality in the 1980s to establish an Israeli military base.

Now that there is no longer a base on the land, the group says, it should revert to the municipality.

The subcommittee, a Defense Ministry panel that oversees construction activity in the West Bank, is set to approve hundreds more housing units throughout the West Bank during its meetings scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Hebron has seen a number of attacks on Jewish Israelis, most recently a rash of stabbing attempts by Palestinian teens last month and some car ramblings.

Ben Kingsley playing Adolf Eichmann in film about Nazi's capture by Israel

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (JTA)—Academy Award winner Ben Kingsley is in Buenos Aires filming a Hollywood movie about the capture of Adolf Eichmann by Israeli agents.

Kingsley, a British actor, is starring in "Operation Finale," which chronicles the notorious Nazi's life as Ricardo Klement living in the Argentine capital after World War II and the Mossad operation to capture him. Chris Weitz, a producer and writer known for "Rogue One" in the "Star Wars" series, is the director. Filming will last one more month in greater Buenos Aires area.

A Mossad unit led by Peter Malkin captured Eichmann in May 1960; he was executed in Israel in 1962. Malkin will be played by the Guatemalan-American actor Oscar Isaac. Matthew Orton wrote the screenplay. Tony Award winner Michael Aronov will play another Mossad agent, Zvi Aharoni.

Kingsley, who won an Oscar for his 1982 portrayal of Mahatma Gandhi, has played "Moses" for TV (1995); Itzhak Stern in "Schindler's List" (1993); Otto Frank for "Anne Frank" (2001); and Simon Wiesenthal in "Murderers Among Us" (1989).

"The Man Who Captured Eichmann," a 1996 film starring Robert Duvall, was based on the book "Eichman In My Hands" written by Malkin with Harry Stein.

Argentina was a haven for Nazi war criminals after World War II, including Joseph Mengele and Erich Priebke. One month ago the country presented to Israel tens of thousands of documents from the World War II era, some of them related to Nazi war criminals.

Meet the Orthodox firearms instructor who wants Jews to own guns

By Ben Sales

CHICAGO (JTA)—Three days after a gunman killed 59 people in Las Vegas, a post in a Facebook group for Chicago Jews displayed a blurry photo of survivors fleeing the bullets. Next to it was a flier advertising ChiDefense Firearm Training with a Hebrew phrase underneath denoting that the company is closed for Shabbat.

The post got a few “likes”—and plenty of hate. One commenter called it “vile and distasteful.” Another wrote sarcastically that it displayed “impeccable logic.” Another called for it to be taken down. It appears to have since been deleted.

But on the day the post appeared, the man behind the ad stood by it.

Jonathan Burstyn, an Orthodox gun safety instructor, apologized for any offense he caused but said that more than ever, Jews need to get armed.

“How many threats have there been on JCCs?” said Burstyn, 27, referring to the waves of bomb threats against Jewish community centers and day schools this year. “Is there ever an attack at an NRA convention or at a police station or at a gun store? No, because everyone’s heavily armed at these places.”

Burstyn, who goes by “Yoni,” grew up in this city’s Orthodox Jewish community and now trains members there to own, carry and fire guns. He became a certified firearms safety instructor in January and has since tutored 50 people, most of them Jewish men, to carry concealed

weapons. His trainees, he says, include a former Israeli soldier and an ex-KGB officer.

Burstyn’s love of guns is unshaken by the shooting in Las Vegas, where the shooter stockpiled 23 firearms, as well as any of the other many mass shootings in the United States. He is fluent in National Rifle Association talking points—from the “good guy with a gun” theory to a focus on Chicago, where strict weapons control has failed to stem a high homicide rate.

His gun advocacy also comes with a Jewish twist: Burstyn says the Second Amendment should be just as sacrosanct to Americans as Jewish law is to Orthodox Jews. In Burstyn’s reading, the Constitution is the American Torah and NRA President Wayne LaPierre is defender of the faith.

“The Torah is a timeless message,” Burstyn said. “Our founders who started this country knew better and entrusted us with this, just like Hashem entrusted us with the Torah—not to compare the two. Just like Orthodox Jews, we don’t reform the Torah. Wayne LaPierre is expressing faith in the Constitution.”

The son of a volunteer policeman, Burstyn grew up around guns and shot his first rifle at age 6—“a very invigorating experience,” he recalls. He lost interest in shooting until Illinois allowed concealed firearm carry in 2013. Burstyn obtained his license and began offering classes on Sundays. During the week he works at a nursing home, and on Saturdays he provides security for his synagogue.

Last week, standing at a shooting range in a baseball cap, protective glasses and earplugs, Burstyn fired his favorite everyday handgun—the Smith and Wesson M&P Shield—into the silhouette of a human body. His shots all landed within the target on the silhouette’s chest. The sound of bullets popped from the booths next door.

Burstyn believes gun ownership should come with rigorous training and safety. He says only well-balanced people should own guns, and his training course lasts 16 hours. It covers everything from how to breathe while shooting—inhale, shoot, exhale—to the laws concerning concealed carry and how to travel with a gun.

“When you’re carrying a gun, you’re a totally different person,” he said, describing the preferred temperament for gun owners. “There’s no such thing as road rage. There’s no such thing as getting upset. Your mind is calm. You’re steeled, you’re smooth. The best safety on a gun is the one between your ears—your mindset.”

While most American Jews lean left, Burstyn is not alone among Jewish gun advocates. There’s a group for them called Jews For The Preservation of Firearms Ownership. The Golani Rifle & Pistol Club serves observant Jews in the New York-New Jersey area. And Richard Feldman, a former NRA lobbyist, is now the head of the Independent Firearm Owners Association, which supports gun rights.

“I think it’s only incumbent on the Jewish people who believe in the slogan ‘Never again,’” Feldman told JTA regarding gun ownership. “Just because it hasn’t happened here doesn’t mean it couldn’t happen here. I’m not saying it’s going to happen soon, but once you give up your right to protect yourself, you don’t get it back very easily.”

The idea that guns could have mitigated the Holocaust has been disputed by scholars and Jewish groups including the Anti-Defamation League. Rabbi Menachem Creditor, founder of Rabbis Against Gun Violence,



Jonathan Burstyn, a Jewish gun instructor, at an NRA convention, August 2017.

noted data showing that having a gun at home increases the risk of injury.

“The best way to ensure Jewish safety and survival is to support measures for everyone’s safety and survival,” Creditor said. “That means reducing gun violence, not increasing your weapons stockpile.”

Burstyn’s gun advocacy

does have limits. He supports, for example, a ban on automatic weapons. But while he knows a gun owner probably couldn’t have stopped the Las Vegas shooting, the tragedy only strengthened his resolve to remain armed.

“Shabbat, Yom Kippur, I always carry,” he said. “Of course you want to carry a gun all the time.”

A new way to skinny-dip in style

By Jessica Halfin

The strict dedication it takes to become an Olympic-caliber athlete is astounding: years of practice and discipline, rising with the sun each day and putting in grueling effort. But athletes are human beings as well as national heroes, and they also like to have a little fun from time to time.

Professional Israeli swimmer Guy Barnea, 30, an Israeli record-holder and 2008 Olympian, is out to do just that. And he wants to take you along for the ride. It all started with a nude swimming photo shoot for Barnea’s men’s swimsuit line, Weekends At, which he created this year together with top Israeli clothing designers Ron Nadel and Dov Adar.

In light of this experience, they vowed to work toward giving everyone the chance to feel what it is like to swim naked in open water without



displaying your bod to the whole world.

Here’s how it works: You pay a small fee, enter a designated patch of cool ocean water, discreetly disrobe under the flowing waves, and hand your swimsuit to a nice young woman who promises to watch it for you (she even hangs the skivvies nicely on a floating rack). Then you get to swim, free as a bird (er, fish) just as nature intended.

Barnea sees a serious side to his project, as a social movement that encourages

people to bond with nature. The campaign is meant as a first step toward creating safe spaces to skinny-dip in crowded public areas.

He explains: “After that photo shoot, we decided that this is just a fun experience that everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy. I’ve been a swimmer my whole life and I have to tell you—naked swimming is something else.”

How can you help Barnea in his quest for discreet public freedom? You can join his Headstart fundraising

campaign, of course! But don’t confuse this with a ploy to make a quick buck.

“It’s important for me to emphasize: The goal of the project is not to make money, but to allow people to experience the most liberating and natural experience,” writes Barnea, who stripped down in 2015 for a Yedioth Ahronoth photo shoot of nude Israeli professional athletes.

Barnea even gives a little incentive in the name of the cause. Gifts for joining the campaign include anything from a free shirt to an invitation to join Barnea and his friends on a private yacht. Donate a mere \$142 and get a free swimming lesson with the Olympian himself—with swimsuits on, we presume.

All money raised for now will go toward purchasing and installing floating racks and pushing forward this social initiative on beaches across Israel.

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Breitbart

From page 4A

describes as “anti-Semitic and racist ideas and jokes.”

There are two ways to look at the evidence in the BuzzFeed story. The more charitable is to regard Bannon, Marlow and other Breitbart editors as gatekeepers trying to keep the loonies and bigots out of a movement they consider reasonable and well-intentioned. After all, as Bannon is known to ask, doesn’t the left work hard at keeping the communists and anarchists and anti-Zionists

out of its own mainstream? According to this reading, Bannon might be compared to William F. Buckley, who used his own platform at the National Review to purge the conservative movement of its anti-Semites and Birchers and other lunatics.

But the more apparent portrait is of a budding media empire that seems intent on growing its own market share, and political power, by court-ing some of the coarser and most hateful elements on the American right—or turning a blind eye to the staffers doing

the dirty work. It shows its one-time star literally seeking the approval of the farthest of the far right, even as he and they agree that Breitbart risks too much in acknowledging their influence.

That was the conclusion conservative blogger Ben Shapiro reached when he resigned from Breitbart in March 2016.

“Breitbart has become the alt-right go-to website, with Yiannopoulos pushing white ethno-nationalism as a legitimate response to political correctness, and the comment section turn-

ing into a cesspool for white supremacist meme-makers,” Shapiro wrote, referencing the “Establishment Conservative’s Guide.”

Earlier this year, Yiannopoulos resigned from Breitbart after a video emerged in which he seemed to condone pedophilia. Bannon is out of the White House and back at Breitbart, plotting what he calls a “day of reckoning” for the Republican establishment. When he left, President Trump wished him well, tweeting, “Fake News needs the competition!”

Edelman

From page 11A

holidays, wore an Israel pin during a game in 2014 and was named one of the best Jewish football players of all

time by the American Jewish Historical Society last year.

PJLibrary’s founder, Jewish businessman Harold Grinspoon, and his wife, Diane Troderman, both philanthro-

pists, attended Tuesday’s event along with their grandchildren and other members of their family.

Edelman is “an amazing guy. He’s a heimische guy.

He’s so real,” Grinspoon told JTA, using a Yiddish term meaning friendly and down to earth. “I love the [Flying High] story because it’s so true to who he is.”

Academy

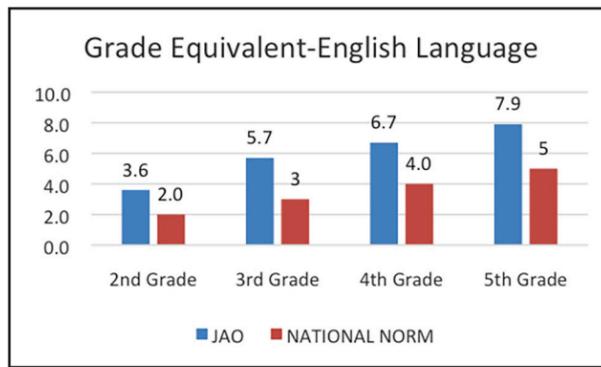
From page 1A

In various states utilize this test to measure grade-level performance. Further, the IOWA test instrument is often paired with an IQ instrument such as WISC®-IV or the CogAT® for entrance into gifted and talented programs and National Honor Society.

“We challenge every student to the best of their ability. Differentiated learning,” Rusonik explained, “adjusts learning, projects, homework and classwork to meet the

needs of each individual student. Through differentiated learning, our teachers may increase the speed at which a student covers the material. This could include opportunities for instruction years beyond their current grade level with advanced material.”

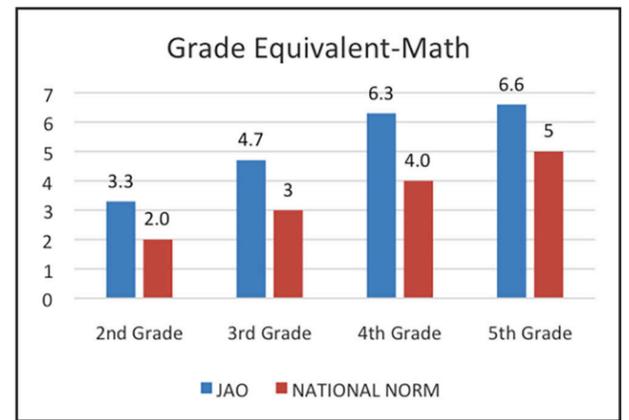
Teaching to the test is not the practice of the Jewish Academy of Orlando. “We use this test for a variety of reasons, one of which is to measure our student body performance against national norms. It also serves as one of many indicators teachers use to gauge how well students



have learned benchmarks at each grade level,” says Rusonik. “These tests also allow us to understand where

we need to refine and review our accelerated curriculum.”

To further support Jewish education and your local



Jewish day school, or for any questions, please contact Alan Rusonik, Head of School, at 407-647-0713.

Philanthropy

From page 1A

Other notable philanthropists whom you'll meet include:

Jeff and Rita Adler, who made the first \$1 million gift to Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando for the 2000 capital campaign to dedicate the JCC Early Childhood Learning Center. The Adlers have also made \$1 million gifts to Congregation Ohev Shalom and are major patrons of the Dr.

Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Marion and Joe Brechner, who endowed the University of Florida with the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information, Brechner Eminent Scholar and the Marion Brechner First Amendment Project, gifts totaling over \$3 million.

Jerry Roth, who has given generously to both The Roth Family JCC (named in his family's honor) and UCF.

Phil and Harvey Kobrin, brothers who donated part

of their grandparents' Maitland grove for construction of the Jewish Community Campus. Harvey and his late wife, Nancye, donated \$1 million to the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando, and more recently, the Kobrin Family Foundation gave a \$1 million gift to the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Of course this is not nearly a conclusive list. If you want to learn more about the many Jews who have helped make Greater Orlando the

thriving metropolis it is today, visit Kehillah: A History of Jewish Life in Greater Orlando, a collaborative exhibition presented by its host institution, the Orange County Regional History Center, and the Greater Orlando Jewish Community. The exhibit will be on display from Nov. 12, 2017 through Feb. 20, 2018.

Answers: 1. Alan Ginsburg 2. Harriett Lake 3. Harris Rosen 4. Chuck Steinmetz 5. Henri Landwirth.



The Florida Hospital Ginsburg Tower is one of many charitable contributions of Alan Ginsburg.

Magic

From page 1A

“Amy's legacy is not just her marketing impact. It's the thousands of children who have experienced the JCC's Richard S. Adler Early Childhood Learning Center and experienced Camp J,” added Dvorchik.

Also during this time, she married her soul mate, Kostya

Kimlat, and he is the reason she is leaving.

“My husband, Kostya Kimlat, is a professional magician and business speaker. He is invited to corporate and association conferences around the world to reveal the secrets that make magicians the ultimate masters of perception—so they can step into their customers' and clients'

minds. I've been assisting him more and more with his marketing and overall strategic thinking since we began dating in 2014,” she told the Heritage.

With her talent in marketing, Amy Kimlat is a tremendous help to him. What comes to mind are the words of the band Counting Crows, “Amy hit the atmosphere, Caught

herself a rockin' ride out of here.”

“Leaving the JCC will allow me to focus my mental energies on bringing his message to more people. I'll be focused on social media, client relations, and new business development,” she said.

Amy Kimlat shared that she will still be here in the community. Working with so

many volunteers, she realized that “you don't have to be an employee to make an impact.”

“We will still be living in Orlando—this is our community, where our networks, friends and immediate family all live,” she reassured. “I'm leaving the JCC professionally, but I know we will remain connected.”

“While I'm sad to lose

Amy as a staff member, I'm thrilled that she wants to remain an active part of The Roth Family JCC. Her DNA is a part of the JCC and now she'll have a chance to have a different impact,” Dvorchik stated.

But for now, she will be—to put it in her words—“taking this magic-carpet ride into a whole new world.”

Greenblatt

From page 5A

JCPOA, the spotlight will be on Congress to take action on Iran. This will provide an important opportunity to turn attention to the most urgent question—how do we stop Iran's reign of terror in its tracks. This can and should be done while ensuring the

JCPOA is fully enforced in collaboration with our allies in the international community. Steps Congress can take include:

International leadership to hold the Iranian regime responsible for its deplorable human rights record.

Targeting Iran's continued support for international terrorism, including arm-

ing and training Hezbollah. Sanctions against the IRGC are an important part of this effort.

Committing to working with world leaders to enact tougher sanctions on Iran's continued building and testing of their illicit ballistic missile program.

Engaging with Israel on the so-called Syrian cease-

fire, in order to more fully address Israel's security concerns regarding Iran's growing presence in Syria.

This does not mean taking steps that would derail the JCPOA. There are compelling security and diplomatic reasons, well-articulated by experts such as Amos Yadlin, that a reimposition of sanctions and an unraveling of

the deal would not only have a negative impact on America's international leadership and foreign affairs priorities, but could bring immediate threats from Iran.

But there is an opportunity now to reset the terms of this debate. We need to resist the call for war but launch a campaign for peace with Iran—and call on the

country to foster peace for its minorities, make peace with its neighbors, and support peace for the entire region. When Iran is prepared to take these steps, that will be a conversation worth certifying.

Jonathan A. Greenblatt is CEO and National Director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Medoff

From page 5A

former executive director of the US Holocaust Museum, has written the following:

would not run such an article without basic fact-checking. Also understandable. But she was mistaken.

The author of the article in question was Louise Ridley, an assistant news editor at HuffPost UK who specializes in “media, social affairs and gender,” according to her tag line. In the article, Ridley described some of the groups that were persecuted, in differing degrees, by the Nazis, such as gays, Roma (Gypsies) and the disabled. Her list also included “communists, Jehovah's Witnesses, trade

unionists, and resistance fighters.” She also pointed out that the Nazis murdered several thousand priests, and millions of Polish civilians and Soviet prisoners of war. In fact, the total number of non-Jews killed by the Hitler regime far surpasses five million.

But none of that was part of the Holocaust.

The Germans murdered a lot of innocent people, for a variety of reasons. But the only ones who were targeted for complete annihilation, and whom the Nazis hunted down, in country after country, for the sole purpose of murdering them, were the Jews.

The term “Holocaust” was

coined to refer to that specific historical event.

Don't blame Louise Ridley or Hope Hicks for the confusion.

It was actually Simon Wiesenthal, the famed Nazi-hunter, who was first responsible for spreading the “five million” figure. Confronted many years ago by Holocaust historian Yehuda Bauer, Wiesenthal said that he invented the idea of “five million non-Jewish victims” because he thought it would help get non-Jews more interested in the Holocaust. One can understand Wiesenthal's concern. But he chose the wrong way to address it.

The President's Commission on the Holocaust,

appointed by Jimmy Carter in 1978 and chaired by Elie Wiesel, specifically warned against “any attempt to dilute” the Jewish nature of the Holocaust “in the name of misguided universalism.”

But the Wiesenthal formulation appealed to White House aides who liked the idea of making the Holocaust more ecumenical, even at the price of historical accuracy. As a result, Carter's October 1979 executive order establishing the US Holocaust Memorial Council—which then created the US Holocaust Memorial Museum—referred to the Holocaust as “the systematic and State-sponsored extermination of six million Jews and some five million

other peoples by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II.”

Professor Walter Reich, former executive director of the US Holocaust Museum, has written the following:

And so the executive order... officially defined the Holocaust in a way that realized Wiesel's great fear—that the Holocaust would be defined as an event in which eleven million people, six million Jews and 5 million non-Jews, had been killed, and that the crucial distinction between the planned and systematic extermination of all Jews on racial grounds, and the killing of civilian non-Jews on, say, political grounds—in response to

resistance, or because of acts of collective reprisal or brutality—would be lost.

Simon Wiesenthal picked a number of non-Jewish victims that was high enough to seem substantial, but still a little less than the number of Jewish victims. He thought that this formulation would still keep Jews as the primary focus. Evidently he didn't realize how easy it would be for someone—even an American or Canadian government official—to slide down the slippery slope from “a Holocaust of Jews and non-Jews,” to a Holocaust without Jews at all.

It's just not that far from a Holocaust of everybody, to a Holocaust of nobody in particular.

Wisconsin

From page 10A

of a strong anti-BDS bill. We look forward to working with our partners to ensure that this bill becomes law and Wisconsin becomes

the 23rd state to stand up to BDS.”

The BDS campaign against the Jewish state began in 2005, claiming to be a form of “non-violent” resistance against Israel's so-called

“settler colonialism, apartheid and occupation over the Palestinian people.”

A study conducted last year by the anti-Semitism watchdog group AMCHA Initiative examined more

than 100 public and private colleges and universities from January to June of 2016. It found that 287 anti-Semitic incidents occurred at 64 schools, compared to 198 occurrences during the

same period the previous year, reflecting a 45-percent increase.

The study revealed a rapidly growing correlation between anti-Semitism and BDS activism.

Paul Miller is president of the Haym Salomon Center news and public policy group Haym Salomon Center. Follow him on Twitter: @pauliespoint and @salomon-center.

To save Yiddish theater, these Romanian actors abandoned their home

By Cnaan Liphshiz

BUCHAREST, Romania (JTA)—When the roof of the Jewish State Theater collapsed during a 2014 snowstorm, its director reluctantly knew it was finally time to abandon the century-old building in this capital city.

Maia Morgenstern did not take the decision lightly.

Following years of neglect by authorities, the Bucharest Jewish community had fought for decades to keep the storied theater afloat. The Jewish State Theater had been a major cultural institution for Central European Jews prior to the Holocaust. Later, during communism, it was the Romanian Jewish community's only independent institution.

The ornate theater downtown flooded severely following the storm, destroying the wiring.

"It was obvious we couldn't stay," Morgenstern, a well-known actress in Romania and the theater's director since 2012, recalled last month during an interview.

So they didn't. Morgenstern—who is best known internationally for playing Mary, the mother of Jesus, in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ"—and the theater's 20-some employees packed up the surviving sets, costumes and gear.

But the story of Bucharest's Jewish State Theater didn't end there. Instead, the Yiddish troupe's members leveraged their forced exile to raise awareness of the need to pre-

serve the four-story building.

How did they accomplish this?

"We just took the costumes and relocated across the street," Morgenstern said, gesturing toward an empty lot.

For weeks on end in early 2014, the performers put on free shows once or twice a day out in the open, in the freezing cold.

The actors' devotion and talent did not go unnoticed. Despite bone-chilling cold, the shows attracted media and spectators. That, in turn, drew attention to the theater's uncertain future, despite vague assurances from city officials that it would reopen at some point.

The increased exposure, Morgenstern said, put pressure on officials to solve the problem of the dilapidated theater, which was founded in the eastern Romanian city of Iasi and moved into the Bucharest building in 1941.

For example, the decision to perform outside the ruined theater did not sit well with the mayor's office, Morgenstern said.

"They asked twice if we don't mind to stop performing," she recalled.

But Morgenstern, 55, persisted, citing her employees' salaries, which are paid by the state. (Morgenstern earns about \$13,000 annually, a figure she revealed earlier this year to protest low wages in Romania's cultural sector.)

"So if we get paid, we need to perform," she said. "And if the state doesn't give us a theater, we'll perform in this field.

"It wasn't like we were protesting or anything," she added with a smile.

Immediately following the collapse, city officials told the media that the building would be repaired. Behind the scenes, however, a blame game was being played: Local officials and a contractor entrusted with preserving the building argued over each other's responsibility and that of the theater.

The sum required for restoring the theater, which was last renovated in 1956, was staggering at nearly \$3 million. It made a huge dent in the municipal budget, which is so overstretched that even celebrations of Romania's national day are canceled occasionally for lack of funds.

As city officials debated the problem, Morgenstern's team leveraged her celebrity status and the media's interest in the colorful spectacle outside the building to pressure City Hall.

"This show is meant to be a warning to public opinion, but also for the authorities," said a statement announcing the open-air production in February 2014 of "Mazl Tov... And Justice For All!"—a musical comedy about the role of humor in Jewish tradition featuring Yiddish and Romanian songs. "Do not let a theater with a unique tradition and identity disappear from Europe's cultural landscape because of carelessness."

And disappear it didn't. Last year, the Jewish State Theater—boasting a shiny new metal roof, reinforced foundations and a new wooden

floor—reopened in time to host Romania's first international Yiddish theater event, with troupes appearing from Canada, the United States, Israel and Germany.

City officials said they had worked tirelessly from the get-go to resolve the issue. While that may be true, Marcel Draghici, the theater's longtime executive producer, believes the outdoor performances "are part of the reason we reopened last year," he told JTA.

Putting on a major production in an empty and frozen field was certainly a challenge, added Draghici, who like most of the theater's employees is not Jewish.

"But, in a way," he said, "it felt like we were connecting to the old history of Jewish theater, which was often performed outside in shtetls, without theater houses."

The theater performs mostly in Yiddish now before a predominantly non-Jewish crowd. And while the actors take special language courses, they don't always understand the exact meaning of the words they recite on stage, several of them said.

Though speaking in Yiddish can lead to thespian complications, the language barrier was a boon during the communist dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu, who ruled Romania with an iron fist until his overthrow and execution in 1989.

"Because we were talking Yiddish on stage, we could say things that weren't allowed to be said in Romania,"



Nicolae Botezatu, sitting, with the rest of the cast of Romania's Jewish State Theater last year.

Rudi Rosenfeld, 75, a Jewish actor who has been involved in the theater since the late 1940s, told The New York Times earlier this year. "The audience had headphones on and our colleagues were translating into Romanian, but they would skip the sensitive parts."

Morgenstern was among several dozen Jews who gathered at the theater and stayed there during the chaotic days of the bloody revolt against Ceausescu in which security police killed dozens of protesters.

"It was my second home," she said. "We went there because it offered us a sense of safety."

The only time that Yiddish was not permitted at the theater was during World War II, when the pro-Nazi regime of Ion Antonescu allowed the institution to remain open, even as preparations were

made for the murder of half of Romania's Jewish population of 800,000.

Today, with Romania's post-Holocaust Jewish population at about 10,000, non-Jews account for the majority of the thousands of people who come to the Jewish State Theater to see its productions—a varied repertoire ranging from classics by Avrom Goldfadn and Sholem Aleichem to irreverent satires by the Israeli cinematographer Hillel Mittelputnik.

And though they don't speak a word of Yiddish, some of the regulars prefer performances in that language.

"I follow the subtitles in Romanian," said Elena Albu, a 23-year-old university student who comes to the theater at least twice a year. "But I prefer to go to the Yiddish productions because it's like reconnecting to the rich culture this city and country lost."

Celebrating Community & Continuity

Exhibition of 150 years

Nov 12, 2017 – Feb 20, 2018



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A History of Jewish Life
in Greater Orlando

RSVP necessary for Nov 12 Exhibition Opening at 3 pm

Please e-mail names of those attending to

kehillahcfl@gmail.com or call 407-298-4650

Dietary Laws Observed



ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL
HISTORY CENTER

65 East Central Blvd. Orlando, FL



Cornerstone for Ohev Shalom synagogue, 1926.



Groundbreaking for CLJ's annex building, 1957.