



The 1926 Congregation Ohev Shalom synagogue on Church Street and Eola Drive.

A homecoming for Congregation Ohev Shalom's Centennial Gala Weekend

As Congregation Ohev Shalom gears up to celebrate its Centennial, the COS Gala Committee is seeking to reach out to former members and others who have fond memories of the congregation and may wish to join in the celebration of this milestone.

The COS Centennial Gala Weekend will be held Feb. 9–10, 2018. Observances of its 100th anniversary will be included in Shabbat services on those days, and the weekend celebration will culminate in a truly special gala on Saturday evening.

There are many ways to celebrate with members during this special weekend—members and friends are invited to come to one or all of the Gala Weekend activities. Here's an overview of just some of the memorable moments in store:

Friday Night Traditional Shabbat Dinner and Service

Enjoy a traditional, family-style Shabbat dinner (6 p.m.; \$36/adult, \$18/child (5–12 years), free for age 4 and under; dinner is included at some sponsorship levels). Followed by a special Erev Shabbat service (7:30 p.m.), featuring beautiful “throwback” melodies for the customary prayers to help recall the past, as well as other special Centennial tributes. A delicious Oneg Shabbat dessert buffet will follow the service.

Saturday Morning Shabbat Service and Kiddush Luncheon

The day begins with a special Centennial Shabbat morning service (9:30 a.m.). Everyone who has become a bar or bat mitzvah at Ohev Shalom will be honored

with a group aliyah. To participate, please send in your name and the year of your bar or bat mitzvah to Lisa Schwartz at lisaschwartz22@mac.com

Other meaningful tributes and recollections will make this a memorable Shabbat service not to be missed. An enjoyable dairy Kiddush luncheon will follow the service

Saturday Night Centennial Gala

The evening begins at 7 p.m. with cocktails, passed hors d'oeuvres, and a look at all the fabulous silent auction items.

New this year: Handheld mobile bidding will let you bid on special packages and exciting items while you chat with friends or enjoy dinner! Directions will

COS on page 15A

Five key moments in US-Israel relations in 2017

By Sean Savage
JNS.org

Love him or hate him, 2017 was a year dominated by President Donald Trump. The US-Israel relationship was no

stranger to that, ranging from Trump's visit to the Jewish state in May to his historic decision on Jerusalem in December. At the same time, some of this year's other major stories in the Israeli-American arena had little or nothing to do with Trump.

JNS takes a look back at the following five key moments in US-Israel relations during the past year:

Trump's policy changes on Jerusalem

On Dec. 6, Trump recognized Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and declared plans to eventually move the US Embassy in Israel to that city. The president called the policy changes “long overdue” and said recognition of Jerusalem as the capital is “obvious” given that all of Israel's government functions—from the Knesset to the prime minister's residence—are located there.

“This is nothing more or less than a recognition of reality,” said Trump. “It is also the right thing to do.”

Prime Minister Benjamin



Old City of Jerusalem illuminated with Israeli and US flags.

Netanyahu said Trump's decision reflects the “commitment to an ancient but enduring truth, to fulfilling his promises and to advancing peace.”

Trump's Israel trip

Trump made Israel one of his first visits abroad as president when he touched down in the Jewish state in late May to much pomp and circumstance. Trump's trip included the first visit to the Western Wall—one of Judaism's holiest sites—by a sitting American president.

The visit did not come without controversy. A US official's remark that the Western Wall is part of the West Bank and not Israel stirred Israeli-American tension before the White House disavowed the comments.

The Western Wall prayer controversy

The Israeli cabinet in June decided to freeze an agreement for a permanent egalitarian prayer section, jointly overseen by non-Orthodox Jewish groups, at the Western

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URJ not opposed to Jerusalem decision

By Rafael Medoff
JNS

The Reform movement has started to retreat from its opposition to the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Following President Donald Trump's recognition announcement, Union for Reform Judaism President Rabbi Rick Jacobs issued a statement on Dec. 6 expressing “serious concern” that the president's action “may well undercut the Administration's peace process efforts and risk destabilizing the region.” The URJ's opposition broke with the broad American Jewish communal support of the Jerusalem recognition.

But on Dec. 22, the URJ publicly denounced the United Nations for condemning Trump's recognition. The statement about the U.N. repeated some of the general language about Jerusalem from the Reform umbrella group's previous comments, but conspicuously omitted the earlier language about “serious concern” and “destabilizing the region.”

Asked by JNS whether the change in language indicated

a shift by the Reform movement from its Dec. 6 position, spokespeople for the URJ declined to comment.

Criticism of the URJ's opposition to the U.S. recognition has been bubbling up from within the Reform movement's ranks. The URJ's former president, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, wrote in the Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz on Dec. 19, “Jerusalem is and will remain the capital of Israel... it is comforting and gratifying when President Trump finally states what I know to be eternal and true.”

In addition, Yoffie pointed out, the Israeli political right was not the only camp to praise Trump's announcement. “So did the leaders of the Israeli center and center-left,” he noted. “Knesset opposition leader Isaac Herzog, Yesh Atid chair Yair Lapid, Zionist Union chair Avi Gabbay, and former foreign minister Tzipi Livni all applauded the President's words. When I am looking for guidance from Israel's political leaders, these are the people to whom I turn.”

“I want the Jewish world to know that [the URJ's] position

URJ on page 15A

More culture coming to the JCC

The Roth Family JCC of Greater Orlando is proud to announce the appointment of Leah Sandler as Cultural Arts coordinator. Sandler is no stranger to the JCC or the local Jewish community having attended the Richard S. Adler Early Childhood Learning Center and the Hebrew Day School (now Jewish Academy of Orlando). Sandler remained connected to the Jewish community as a teen, participating in Beit Ha'midrash, the community's once-per-week Jewish high school experience. In addition, Sandler attended services at Congregation Ohev Shalom with her mom and got her first job at the Heritage Florida Jewish News at 16 years old. Sandler's education has prepared her for her new position as she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from Rollins College, and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts (Philadelphia).

The goal of Sandler's position is to bring exciting and engaging arts-related events to the Orlando Jewish community. She will be not only managing and growing the J's current, successful arts programs such as the Jewish Film Festival and Jewish Book Festival, she will also be growing new and exciting cultural programs and opportunities for adults and teens too.

Sandler said, “I want to

help bring our community together and stimulate dialogue through thought-provoking programming. In addition, I want to help increase our Jewish community's engagement in local arts and culture while helping amplify the voices of contemporary Jewish creatives too.”

Sandler won't be tackling this program expansion by herself. She will be guiding the JCC's Cultural Arts Committee along with program-focused sub-committees to work on specific programs and events.

Sandler added, “I would love to speak with anyone in the Jewish community, as well as the greater Orlando community, about the kind of arts and culture events they would like to see happen at the J, and what they have enjoyed about JCC programming and events in the past! I am also very interested in getting to know artists, musicians, actors, writers and other creatives from within the community.”

Sandler can be reached at LeahS@orlandojcc.org or (407) 645-5933 X282.



Chanukah lights up seniors' faces



Volunteer Lee Goldberg happily serving latkes to Brookdale Lake Orienta residents Estelle and Charlotte.

What joy it was to play dreidel, sing songs, and eat latkes with seniors who may not have any other opportunity to this year.

"Chanukah has always been one of my favorite holidays. This past month my love for Chanukah was solidified. Seeing seniors' faces literally 'light' up when the familiar tunes they sang so many years ago were heard, brought such feelings of pleasure," stated Julie Levitt, program director for the Jewish Pavilion. Levitt planned over eight Chanukah celebrations for residents in senior facilities throughout the Altamonte Springs and Maitland vicinity.

Thanks in part to VITAS and Cornerstone Hospice, wonderful volunteers and supportive facilities, the Jewish Pavilion was able to create new memories around the menorah this year. Penny D'Agostino, Walter Goldstein, and the kindergartners from the Jewish Academy of Orlando entertained at various venues and brought such smiles to all.

The candles may have burned down, the dreidels may have stopped spinning but the internal happiness that was made will never be forgotten.



Kindergartners from the Jewish Academy of Orlando at Savannah Court in Maitland.

JFS Orlando receives largest gift in 40-year history

Toward the end of last month, Attorney Harold Scherr, personal representative for the Barry S. Goodman Revocable Trust, and Attorney Craig Pearlman, attorney for the Trust, presented a check to Eric Geboff, executive director of JFS Orlando. They wished the amount to be undisclosed. However, Geboff stated that it is the largest gift JFS has ever received.

"This check represents so much for our Agency and those we serve," said Geboff. "Many families in our com-

munities experienced financial challenges in 2017 and they turned to us for food, financial assistance, counseling and the many other resources we offer. Gifts like these allow us to continue to assist families in crisis in the Central Florida area." He added, "Mr. Goodman's decision to support the Agency with a legacy gift, indicates that community members can help JFS through charitable donations in their wills."

It is JFS Orlando's objective to address the well-being of all families in need in Central

Florida through a comprehensive range of programs and services. Supporting everyone, regardless of religion, race or culture, JFS provides social services and programs to families and children—particularly addressing the areas of hunger and homelessness.

The George Wolly Community Leadership Award will be presented posthumously to Barry Goodman at the Friends of JFS Orlando Brunch on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018 at the Heathrow Country Club. Tickets to the brunch are available by calling 407-644-7593 ext 227.

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It is almost Maj Madness time again

The 14th annual Maj Madness tournament is coming Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, from 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at The Roth Family JCC, and features four rounds of play following National Maj Jongg League rules of play, with great prizes for the winners.

A light breakfast, morning coffee and lunch is included in the tournament entry free. Participants who

are able are encouraged to bring a Mah Jongg set and/or table cover.

Register in person at the Registrar's desk or online by Jan. 21, 2018, at 12 p.m. All registrations received after this date will be placed on a waiting list.

For more information about the tournament, contact Marni S. Chepenik at 407-621-4056. The cost is \$36; \$30 for JCC members.

Come one, come all

All majestic princesses ages 4 and up, with their daddies, are invited to the 10th annual Princess Ball, a magical evening fit for royalty, on Jan. 20, 2018 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Held at The Roth Family JCC, there will be dancing, activities, and dessert. Dress is "royal attire."

RSVP by Jan. 18. RSVP's after this date are subject to availability and a \$10 late fee.

For more information, contact Amanda Dennis, 407-621-4049.

The cost is \$36 per couple; \$5 for each additional guest.

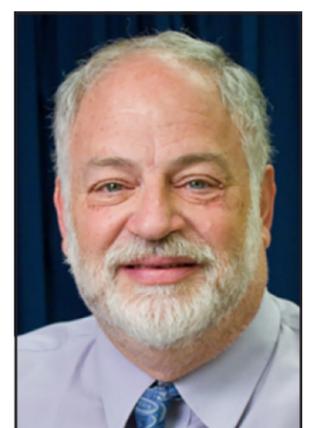
Special Weekend at Cong. Beth Am

Rabbi Merrill Shapiro returns to the Congregation Beth Ambima to lead Shabbat services on Friday night, 7:30 p.m., and Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m., January 12-13.

The community is invited to attend this special weekend.

Rabbi Shapiro, CBA's spiritual leader from 1986 to 2001, currently chairs the national board of trustees of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

For more information, please contact the CBA office at 407-862-3505 or shalom@congbetham.org.



Rabbi Merrill Shapiro

Arab states furious at Abbas over response to Trump



Omar Rashid/Flash90

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (l) meets with King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

**By Benjamin Kerstein
The Algemeiner**

Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt are incensed at Pales-

tinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas over his reaction to US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital,

according to Israeli media reports.

Israel Hayom quoted a Jordanian official as saying, "The Palestinians' efforts to sway public opinion have been a complete failure, and as a result, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has created a rift between us [the Arab world] and Trump. We are once again left with the demagogic, hollow and inflammatory rhetoric of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan."

Officials also expressed dismay at Abbas' attempts to punish the US on the international stage. Referring to the recent UN General Assembly attempt to annul the recognition move and declare it illegal, the Jordanian source stated, "Washington

has made its views clear and said it would take action against those nations that voted against it at the UN General Assembly last week. Now, when it is clear Trump is indeed going to punish those that voted against the US, most countries are trying to cut their losses."

The official added that Palestinian declarations that the US will no longer be part of the peace process and is not an honest broker, as well as attempts to internationalize the issue, have added to the Arab states' frustration with Abbas, especially on the part of Jordan. He also pointed to the lackluster protests from Palestinians despite daily incitement from the PA.

"We are very worried about

the Palestinians' actions over Jerusalem," he said. "Their efforts to shun the US from the peace process and their insistence on international intervention are a double-edged sword that could hurt first and foremost Jordan's status in Jerusalem and could bring about the exact opposite of the intended result. Many more countries could do what the US has done after seeing that the region has not been destabilized and only a few thousand protesters have taken to the streets."

In response, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt are reportedly freezing out the Palestinians and forming their own committee to deal with the issue. "The decision to establish this committee was, in effect, imposed on the Palestinian

Authority by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan in a move that was backed by the Arab League," the source noted. "This is a super committee that is headed by the secretary general of the Arab League, and it effectively puts the Arab League in charge of the policy on Jerusalem, taking it away from the Palestinians."

For his part, however, Abbas appears to be doubling down on his current strategy. The Times of Israel reported that Abbas has decided to cut off all diplomatic contacts with the US, including with the American Consulate in Jerusalem, which has served as an unofficial embassy to the PA.

According to the report, this amounts to "throwing away the key" to any relationship with the US.

Jewish prosecutor Alberto Nisman was murdered, Argentine federal judge rules



Alberto Nisman

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)—A federal judge in Argentina said that AMIA Jewish center bombing prosecutor Alberto Nisman was murdered.

It is the first time since Nisman's death in January 2015 that the case has officially been classified as murder. Others have said that Nisman committed suicide in the bathroom of his Buenos Aires apartment.

Judge Julian Ercolini on Tuesday in a 656-page ruling

said the gunshot that killed Jewish prosecutor Alberto Nisman "was not a suicide, and was brought about by a third party."

The decision also charged Diego Lagomarsino, a former employee of Nisman's, as an accessory to murder.

Following Nisman's death Lagomarsino said he went to the prosecutor's apartment to give him a "very old" .22 caliber pistol to protect himself after Nisman expressed fears that he

was being targeted by supporters of then-President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner.

Hours later, Nisman was found dead by a bullet from that gun fired at point-blank range above his right ear. Prior to Tuesday, Lagomarsino had been charged only with lending the pistol to Nisman. The judge also noted that Lagomarsino was the last known person to enter Nisman's apartment."

Nisman's body was found on Jan. 18, 2015, hours before he was to present evidence to Argentine lawmakers that Kirchner covered up Iran's role in the attack on the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires that left 85 dead and hundreds wounded.

Lagomarsino, an IT technician, will remain under surveillance with an electronic anklet. The judge also froze his bank accounts.

The judge on Tuesday also charged four police guards who were in charge of Nisman's safety with "aggravated concealment" and "failure to comply with the duties of a public official."

The investigation continues. When it concludes, Ercolini will present the case to a panel of three judges that will conduct a courtroom trial and arrive at a sentence.

200 percent increase in tourism to Samaria

By World Israel News

The Samaria area has recently seen a massive increase in tourism from around the globe, Israel's NRG news reported Thursday.

The biblical heartland has seen an increase of some 200 percent in incoming tourism, mostly from Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

Increased tourism from Sweden, Australia and the US is also noteworthy.

The local municipality explained that the sharp increase in tourism is the outcome of intensive efforts on its part to publicize the region's unique attractions and sites.

The Samaria Regional Council has also recently

signed a twin cities tourism agreement with the Hungarian resort town of Héviz.

Héviz is considered one of Europe's most popular resort destinations, mainly because of its natural thermal lake, the largest in Europe.

Speaking at the twin cities signing ceremony, Israeli Minister of Tourism Yariv Levin said that "cooperation between Israeli and Hungarian officials will contribute to tourism traffic to Israel, which this year hit an all-time high."

Tourism in Israel in general has skyrocketed in 2017. The country in November welcomed the three-millionth tourist to visit the Holy Land this year in a special ceremony at Ben Gurion Airport, setting

a new annual record at 3.6 million tourists to Israel.

According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, tourists from nations across the globe are arriving in greater numbers. For instance, there was a 76 percent increase in tourism from China during the first half of 2017, in comparison to that period in 2016. There were also dramatic increases in tourism from Russia and the US, the latter of which represents the largest source of incoming tourism for Israel.

With numbers such as these, the future looks bright for Israeli tourism.

"I am convinced that, with the correct activities, we will continue to see good results in the coming months," stated Levin in July.

3,633 North Americans immigrated to Israel in 2017

JERUSALEM (JTA)—With the arrival of a flight carrying 93 new immigrants, a total of 3,633 people from North America made aliyah in 2017, Nefesh B'Nefesh reported.

The group flight that landed at Ben Gurion International Airport on Wednesday included 15 future lone soldiers and a soon-to-be bride, according to the organization.

Nefesh B'Nefesh, in cooperation with Israel's Ministry of Aliyah and Integration,

The Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael and JNF-USA, helps facilitate aliyah—the Hebrew term for Jewish immigration to Israel—from North America and the United Kingdom.

Another 103 Americans and Canadians already living or studying in Israel made aliyah on Wednesday at the Nefesh B'Nefesh offices in Jerusalem.

Many of the 3,633 new immigrants arrived on 19 special aliyah flights from North

America, bringing 377 families with 677 children, and an additional 1,677 singles. The oldest immigrant in 2017 was 102, and the youngest five weeks old, according to Nefesh B'Nefesh. Most of the new immigrants settled in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ra'anana, and Netanya.

There were 3,676 immigrants from North America in 2016, and 3,782 in 2015.

Nearly 29,000 immigrants from around the world arrived in Israel in 2017.

**The family of
Joseph Hara Z"l**

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during Shiva

American leadership at the United Nations is back

By Jacob Millner

Time and time again, the Obama Administration took a back seat on the international stage. Whether it was the president's "red-lines" in Syria—crossed without consequence—the ill-conceived Iran nuclear deal, or the sad spectacle of last December's US vote to abstain, rather than veto, a one-sided, anti-Israel resolution in the UN Security Council, the Obama Administration's view of American foreign policy stood in sharp contrast to previous administrations.

The United Nations' obsession with Israel is nothing new. It is well known and well documented. The UN Human Rights Commission has passed more resolutions condemning Israel than all other nations combined. To this point, Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN

Watch, said in 2015, "Sadly, with members like China, Russia, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Venezuela and Qatar, the UNHRC today may possibly rank as a more corrupt international organization than FIFA."

Another UN agency, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has been renowned for its anti-Israel bias. In October 2016, Israel suspended ties with UNESCO after the cultural agency passed a resolution criticizing Israel as an "occupying power" and denying Jewish ties to the region's holy sites.

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat was outraged by the resolution. "Would UNESCO vote to deny the Christian connection to the Vatican? Or the Muslim connection to Mecca? The UNESCO vote claims there is no connection between the Jewish people and the Western

Wall. In fact, it is the UNESCO vote that has no connection to reality."

Recent UNESCO decisions have been equally devoid of reality. In May, on Israel's Independence Day no less, UNESCO again passed a resolution on "Occupied Palestine" that said Israel has no legal or historical rights anywhere in Jerusalem. In July, UNESCO declared the Old Town of Hebron and the Cave of the Patriarchs as a Palestinian World Heritage Site. In response, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin tweeted, "UNESCO seems intent on sprouting anti-Jewish lies, while it remains silent as the region's heritage is destroyed by brutal extremists."

The recent decision by President Trump to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital—American law since bipartisan passage of the 1995 Embassy Relocation Act—is a welcome reassertion of American global leadership at a critical time. No one personifies this resurgence more than America's ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley.

Following the president's speech, the U.N. Security Council met to consider a resolution calling for the dismissal of President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Ambassador Haley correctly utilized American veto power, stating, "The United States will not be told by any country where we can put our embassy. What we have witnessed here is an insult. It won't be forgotten. It is one more example of the UN doing more harm than good in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Ambassador Haley was right about the damage the UN has done to the prospects for peace.

Israel's enemies use the UN as a tool—not, as they would have us believe, to advance Palestinian rights, but to undermine Israel's very legitimacy as a Jewish state. Attempts to erase the eternal connection of Jews and Israel to the very birthplace of Judaism is not about Palestinian rights, but unmistakable evidence

UN on page 15A

Defining 'occupied' and the semantic battle for peace

By Jonathan S. Tobin
JNS

In a demonstration of how completely at odds his views are from those of the foreign policy establishment, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman reportedly asked the State Department to stop using the term "occupied territories" and instead refer to the "West Bank." According to accounts that have filtered out of Foggy Bottom, the State Department said no. But we are also told that after pressure "from above"—i.e. President Donald Trump, the current boss of everyone at State as well as Friedman—the issue has yet to be decided.

If this strikes you as a lot of bother about mere words, you're wrong. These words are part of a high-stakes battle to determine the outcome of the debate about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

For most observers, Friedman's request demonstrated anew that he was a bad choice for ambassador since he has a record of support for the Jewish presence in the West Bank. But Friedman is correct that using the term "occupied" isn't neutral. It backs up the Palestinian narrative that Israelis are alien colonists in territories where only Arabs should have rights. Israel's position is that the ultimate disposition of the West Bank or, to use the biblical as well as geographic term that was applied to the area before 1949, "Judea and Samaria," is a matter of dispute in which both sides have a legitimate argument. To call the territories Judea and Samaria is also a political statement, just like "occupied territories," that indicates siding with the idea that Israelis have a right to be there.

But the use of words as weapons can lead to a muddle. "West Bank" is itself geographic nonsense. It is a relic of the illegal Jordanian occupation of this area as well as the Old City of Jerusalem from 1949-1967. At that time, the Hashemite kingdom had two "banks," with an East—the area currently known as Jordan—as well as the West, which was taken by Israel during the Six-Day War.

Although Gaza functions as an independent Palestinian Hamas terror state, and much of the territory as well as most of the Arab population of the West Bank is governed by the Palestinian Authority (PA), the fact is Palestinians do consider themselves "occupied" by Israel since it exercises security control over the area. Many Israelis also want to rid

themselves of that burden, which brings their troops into contact with Palestinians in a way that further embitters both sides.

Only a minority of Israelis supports the settlement movement that wishes to hold on to all of the West Bank forever. A majority of Israelis would probably embrace a two-state solution that would mean giving up many but not all of the settlements. But after the last 25 years, during which the Jewish state has repeatedly traded land and gotten more terror instead of peace, a cross-party consensus now exists that deems further withdrawals foolhardy until the Palestinians give up a political culture rooted in hatred and rejectionism.

"Occupation" isn't the only semantic battle. Critics of President Trump's statement recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital dismissed it as mere words since the U.S. embassy isn't being moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem anytime soon. Trump's statement didn't preclude a two state solution or a re-division of Jerusalem in order for part of it to serve as the Palestinians' capital. Far from demonstrating U.S. favoritism to Israel, his was actually a neutral stance that acknowledged at least some of the city belongs to Israel. It is those who insist on "occupied" and in denying recognition of Jerusalem who are the ones showing favoritism, though not to Israel.

PA leader Mahmoud Abbas responded to Trump by denying that Jews have rights over any of Jerusalem. Though at times Abbas has spoken in support for peace, this stand reaffirmed the steady stream of PA propaganda that denies the legitimacy of a Jewish state no matter where its borders might be drawn. When push comes to shove, even Palestinian moderates still think of all of Israel, and not just the West Bank and Jerusalem, as "occupied" territory. That's not just symbolism or semantics. That's a prescription for endless conflict.

Seen in that light, what Trump and Friedman have said doesn't seem quite as outrageous as their detractors assert. Until the Palestinians are ready to concede that their century-old war on Zionism has been lost, the debate over whether the West Bank is disputed or occupied will be moot. As long as they think all land under Jewish control on either side of the 1967 lines is occupied, peace will remain a purely academic concept no matter which words are used.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS. Follow him on Twitter at: @jonathans_tobin.

Letter from Israel

The marginality of Jews

By Ira Sharkansky

Trump's speeches, and what has happened since, remind us once again about the marginality of Jews. Some may feel comfortable, and justly, given his realism about Jerusalem the Western Wall, and non-Israeli sources of problems throughout the Middle East. But Muslims, and Europeans, are rabid, or upset about what he has unleashed.

We are problems for ourselves and others. It's nothing new. There are signs in the histories told by the Hebrew Bible, Josephus, and much that has occurred since then. It's probably inevitable in the case of a small nation, divided geographically since ancient times, with a culture that accepts fierce argument, with claims of being at the center of God's mission. We've learned to cope, and to succeed. Marginality does not require submission and being satisfied. If we cry, we are doing it on the way to our banks and investment advisers, also likely to be Jews.

There is no need to recite the well-known record of the Jews, both in ancient and modern times, in suffering, accomplishments, and contributions.

For some decades, most if not all countries of the world have recognized that Jerusalem is the operational capital of Israel. Now the President of the United States, Russia, and a few others have said it out loud, but all of them with limitations and reservations. And the most important others have been insistent that it isn't time to make such an announcement, and won't be until they are satisfied about key diplomatic accomplishments that are elusive to the point of being impossible.

We are not, as we have never been, accepted as full citizens of the world with all the rights and privileges of others. But we are more secure than our adversaries, and living better than most of those who deny us full membership.

The condition isn't all that different from getting into elite colleges through the 1950s, with quotas and Jew spotters in the admissions offices, then being told that fraternities could have us eating in their dining rooms but not as full members.

Now Jewish students have to maneuver through faculty members and students who see Jews and Israel as undesirables. The greater portion of our pity should go to our adversaries. The hyperbolic responses to Trump's well crafted and balanced speeches has included not only outspoken rants by heads of Muslim countries that deal quietly with Israel, but Palestinian outbursts that qualify as declarations of war against Israel and the United States, with a virtual ending of any prospects for a peace process.

Declaring the US Vice President persona non grata? Perhaps the Palestinians have some powers we have not been able to perceive or imagine.

Israeli rightists, along with a fair number of us in the center and left are cheering. We can look forward to respite from the pressure to come up with something that will bring the Palestinians to the table.

Estimates are that Palestinians, Jordanians, and others are playing to their mobs, and don't want to upset their regimes by any

serious moves against Israel. Perhaps, but the rhetoric will incite individuals to seek martyrdom along with pensions for their families by taking a knife and going forward to kill a Jew. Gazan extremists have been sending missiles to southern Israel. So far none have created significant damage or injuries. A fair number haven't made it out of Gaza. The IDF has responded in its usual limited fashion, in hopes of avoiding escalation. But from both the West Bank and Gaza there is potential for yet another round of military operations that hurt us both, but them much more in terms of casualties and rubble.

It doesn't help to calm Palestinians on the margin of violence when their leaders describe as "cold-blooded murder of a brave freedom fighter" the shooting death of a man who attacked a policeman with a knife.

Even some confirmed leftists questioned the wisdom of Abbas' comments at a conference of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

"If there is no Palestinian state along the June 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital, there will not be peace in the region, in the territories or in the world."

What will come of Turkey's promise to open an Embassy for Palestine in East Jerusalem is anybody's guess.

There are Israeli politicians threatening their own varieties of extremism. The Defense Minister mentions every so often his idea of transferring swaths of Israel heavily populated with Arabs to Palestine, in exchange for Palestinian acceptance of Israel's annexation of West Bank settlements. A retired general who sees himself as Defense Minister in a Labor government has endorsed the idea of a Palestinian State, but threatens to push all Palestinians into Jordan if such a state is aggressive. Individual MKs from Likud and Jewish Home propose annexing the West Bank or substantial portions of it, while fuzzing on the issue of citizenship for the Palestinian residents. Once again there is a proposal to impose a death sentence on terrorists who murder.

We should expect, and hope, that Jewish sense will stop short of any moves that produce significantly more problems than benefits. If we've learned anything in 3,000 years of coping with our strengths and weaknesses, it should include the reluctance to push the goyim beyond where they are willing to go. We can take comfort in the marginality of Israeli politicians who are promoting craziness, as compared to the centrality of Arab politicians who are pounding the podiums and screeching what they are not going to accomplish.

No one should expect an end to this. It's a function of Jews' status in the eyes of others, and how we have learned to deal with ourselves and our surroundings. There are no guarantees. We cope with threats from outside, as well as arrogant and unrealistic insiders who demand that we do better, without bothering to compare what we've accomplished to the records of other societies, or taking account of our limited resources and continued rejections from those we are expected to bargain with.

It ain't perfect. Often it's not comfortable. But compared to the alternatives???

Comments welcome. Irashark@gmail.com.

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

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Europe's War Against the Jewish State

By **Caroline Glick**
www.carolineglick.com

Europe is the epicenter of the political war against Israel. Europe fights Israel on the streets of Europe, in the corridors of power in Brussels, other Western European capitals and the UN, and in Israel itself.

Europe's war against Israel is a passive-aggressive campaign fought and denied simultaneously. But in recent years, the mask has fallen over and over again.

In the days that have passed since US President Donald Trump's dramatic announcement that the US recognizes that Jerusalem is Israel's capital and is beginning to take concrete steps to move its embassy to the city, Europe's war against Israel has again become impossible to deny

or ignore. Europe's response to Trump's announcement has been extreme, violent and more outspoken than the response of the Arab world.

The EU-funded Palestinian Authority reacted to Trump's move by exhorting its subjects to riot and attack Israel.

Yassin Abu el-Qura heeded the call. Qura stabbed Asher Elmalich in the heart and critically wounded him. Elmalich was a security guard at Jerusalem's central bus station.

According to Channel 2, Qura is a member of a prominent family of Fatah members with close ties to the PA and its EU- and US-funded and trained security forces. His father is the commander of one of the security forces in Salfit, in Samaria. Two of his brothers are also PA security officers.

Around the same time Qura was stabbing Elmalich, the British government announced it was providing the PA with 20 million pounds in supplemental budgetary funding.

Qura's attack was notable because it took place against the backdrop of lackluster attendance at PA-organized protests. As former US Middle East mediator Aaron David Miller tweeted, the low attendance at these demonstrations, like the low attendance at anti-US and anti-Israel demonstrations in the Arab world is an "indication of how much the region has changed [in recent years] and the loss of centrality of [the] Palestinian issue. [The] Palestinian street is exhausted; the Arab street has disappeared."

But while the Arab street was indifferent to Trump's

declaration, the European street went berserk. Thousands of protesters assembled in London and Paris, in Berlin and Stockholm. They burned Israeli flags and called for the annihilation of Israel and the murder of Jews.

Physical attacks on Jews have been an integral component of the anti-Trump riots in Europe. A group of 20 rioters firebombed a synagogue in Gothenburg, Sweden, where Jewish children were holding a party. A man clad in a keffiyeh attacked a Jewish restaurant in Amsterdam with a club while screaming Allahu Akbar.

European officials have refused to call these attacks hate crimes. As they see it, attacks against Jews in the name of hatred for Israel are totally justified.

For instance, as The Jerusa-

lem Post's Benjamin Weinthal reported in January 2017, a German regional court found that perpetrators of a 2014 firebombing of a synagogue in Wuppertal had not committed a hate crime. Instead, the court ruled the Arab German perpetrators firebombed the synagogue as a result of their legitimate concern over Israel's military operations against Hamas terrorists in Operation Protective Edge.

They all received suspended jail terms.

And whereas the Europeans refuse to condemn anti-Semitic attacks launched in the name of rejection of Israel, they rapidly condemned Trump for accepting Israel's right to its capital city. Everyone who is everyone, including EU High Commissioner on Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini, French President

Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Theresa May and German Chancellor Angela Merkel slammed Trump for recognizing reality. They insisted he "endangered" prospects for peace and threatened to throw the region into "even darker times."

Then there are the anti-Israel campaigns that the EU and its member states wage against Israel in Israel. In the aftermath of Trump's declaration on Jerusalem, Israeli Arabs carried out violent riots in Wadi Ara, forcing the closure of sections of Highway 65 which connects Tiberias with central Israel. An Israeli girl was hospitalized after being wounded by rocks thrown at the passenger bus she was traveling in on Saturday night. A photogra-

Europe on page 15A

Palestinians must accept the reality of Israel as a Jewish state to achieve peace

By **Mitchell Bard**
Fox News

Nations around the world have condemned the US for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, saying the recent move by President Trump is an obstacle to an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement. But the real obstacle to peace is the stubborn refusal by Palestinian leaders to accept the reality of Israel as a permanent Jewish state in the historic homeland of the Jewish people.

This refusal to accept reality can be labeled Palestinian Derangement Syndrome. As long as Palestinian leaders continue to embrace it, they will not agree to a fair and realistic peace deal acceptable to any Israeli government. And as a result, ordinary Palestinians will suffer.

Every time the US makes demands of the Palestinians—to end terrorism, to stop paying terrorists in Israeli jails, to end efforts to circumvent negotiations by seeking U.N. recognition of a Palestinian state—the delusional Palestinian leaders threaten to stop talking to US officials.

Sure enough, the Palestinians did it again when they announced that President Mahmoud Abbas would not hold a scheduled meeting with Vice President Mike Pence after President Trump announced US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Most Palestinians are good people who would like to have normal lives—go to work, educate their children, live in peace. They would no doubt be happy if Israel disappeared tomorrow, but they've recon-

ciled themselves to living with Israelis.

So if it were up to them, the majority of Palestinians would probably agree to a compromise peace plan with Israel. But unfortunately, the Palestinian Authority is a dictatorship run by Abbas without public support and with little regard for his people.

A recent poll in the West Bank and Gaza, conducted by an independent Palestinian think tank, found that 67 percent of Palestinians want Abbas to resign.

It's true that the Palestinian people suffer deprivations because of Israel's policies and actions but these problems are self-inflicted because some Palestinians engage in terror that provokes Israeli countermeasures necessary to protect the safety of its people.

In the same way, the United States and many other nations have beefed up security after terrorist attacks.

Meanwhile, Abbas has prevented elections for a decade and denies his people most civil and political rights. Palestinians lack freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, women's rights and gay rights. Arabs in Israel have far more rights and freedoms than Arabs living in the West Bank and Gaza.

Sadly, no one cares. The international community, the UN, human rights groups, and pro-Palestinian advocates are silent when it comes to Palestinian abuses inflicted on their own people. They only care about Palestinians if some alleged abuse can be blamed on Israel.

President Obama was sympathetic to the Palestinian

cause. Yet Abbas ignored Obama administration entreaties not to go to the UN with Palestinian grievances. And Abbas refused to negotiate with Israel based on Obama administration initiatives.

Palestinians also continue to make demands upon Israel as if they are the dominant power in the relationship. They delude themselves when they act as though Israel has any reason to accept such unrealistic demands.

In reality, Palestinians have no choice but to make concessions or live under current conditions. Israelis do not want to maintain the status quo, but they can do so if given no choice by the Palestinians.

The belief that the international community will force Israel to surrender to Pales-

tinian demands is the latest manifestation of Palestinian Derangement Syndrome.

For decades, Palestinians have harbored the delusion that the Arab states cared about their cause and would drive the Jews into the sea on their behalf. But in truth, Arab leaders were interested in divvying up lands Palestinians claimed and for many years wanted to destroy Israel.

Fortunately, Arab armies were unable to defeat Israel in battle, though they tried repeatedly by attacking the Jewish State in war after war. And today Arab states are moving closer to Israel, as they recognize their mutual enemy is Iran and conclude that the Palestinian issue is irrelevant to their national interests.

Peace on page 15A

Bigoted bedfellows: American Muslim groups AMP and CAIR

By **Dr. Oren Litwin** and **Samantha Rose Mandeles**
JNS

On Dec. 8, American Muslims for Palestine held a protest in front of the White House, reacting to President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The featured speaker was Imam Omar Suleiman, who also led Friday prayers. Suleiman is a notorious bigot who has called homosexuality a "repugnant shameless sin," advocated for gender segregation and justified Islamic sex slavery.

Also speaking was the executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Nihad Awad. During Awad's remarks at the White House rally, he referred to Suleiman as an "eloquent... respected imam." Bad enough as this is, one might ask: What was Awad doing at an AMP event at all?

While AMP claims that it "stands against all forms of bigotry and racism," it has a long and varied history of promoting anti-Semitism. Just last month, AMP founder Hatem Bazian was rebuked

by his employer—University of California, Berkeley—for retweeting two vile anti-Semitic images that accuse "Ashke-Nazis" of rape, murder and organ trafficking. Nor, despite Bazian's protestations, is this out of character for him. He has a long history of anti-Semitic incitement.

This is not surprising. Among the figures addressing the shouting crowd at an AMP protest in New York was Sayel Kayed, the president of AMP New Jersey, who took the opportunity to proclaim, "Death to the peace accords!" This is consistent with past AMP events in which terrorists were lauded and peace with Israel denigrated as a goal.

Indeed, AMP's national director, Osama Abu-Irshaid, exemplifies such sentiments. Formerly of the (now-defunct) Hamas front organization Islamic Association for Palestine, Irshaid has gone on record as claiming that the Oslo peace process was a mistake because it assumed Israel's right to exist.

Worse, still, is Irshaid's open support of Gaza-ruling terrorist group Hamas. In a 2014 Facebook post, Irshaid applauded Hamas

violence against Israelis: "Hamas, whose youth have been renewed by its commitment to its precise principles for liberation [is] the one who believes in his Lord, is proud of Him and works for his cause and people."

In another post, Irshaid praised Hamas's "steadfastness and sacrifice," and claimed, "Gaza is victorious... The descendants of the Muslim David are rubbing the dust with the nose of the descendants of the Jewish Goliath [i.e. humiliating them]." He even commented, "Hamas smells the Zionist weakness and confusion."

Despite its staff's clear bigotry and anti-Semitism, when AMP hosted a press conference on the Jerusalem declaration in early December, CAIR had no trouble jumping on board for co-sponsorship. And Awad was willing to address the annual AMP conference (which ostensibly had the theme of "Education, Empowerment, Action") as a featured speaker—even though the conference included several alumni of defunct Muslim Brotherhood-linked organizations, including the IAP and the Holy Land Foundation for

Relief and Development. Both "charities" were shut down by the US government for providing material support to Hamas.

CAIR has long claimed to not only be the nation's pre-eminent Muslim civil rights

organization, but a benevolent force that fights for the civil rights of all peoples. Yet CAIR conveniently looks the other way when its partners issue calls for violence against Jews and the destruction of Israel. Which is it going to be?

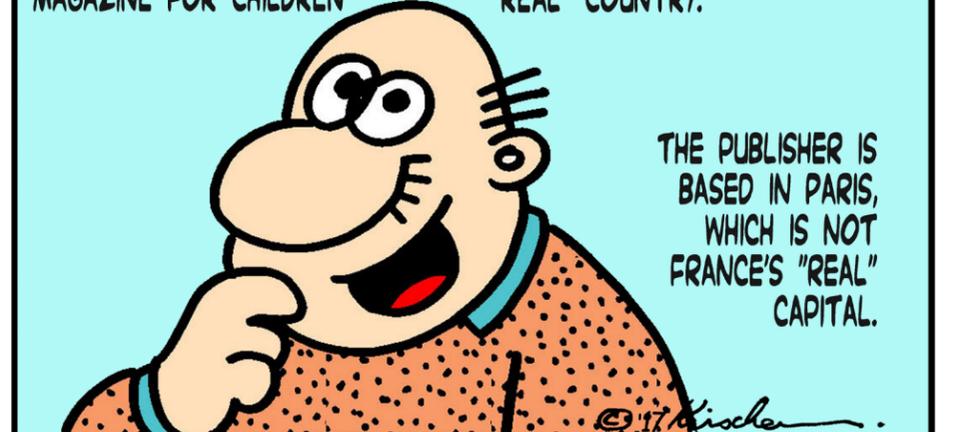
Dr. Oren Litwin is a research fellow with Islamist Watch, a project of the Middle East Forum.

Samantha Rose Mandeles is a coordinator at Islamist Watch. Follow her on Twitter: @SRMandeles.

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5:25 p.m.
JAN. 12
5:30 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, JANUARY 5

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Kehillah: A History of Jewish Life in Greater Orlando—Ongoing exhibit at the Orange County Regional History Center, 65 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, and will continue through Feb. 20, 2018.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8
 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.
 JOIN Orlando and SPARK—Join Evening Out with appetizers, drinks and a discussion about discovering life's purpose with Rabbi Ahron Hoch, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Tickets and location information, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/join-evening-out-tickets-41443566824

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

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.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.
 Congregation Beth Am—Rabbi Merrill Shapiro leads Shabbat services 7:30 p.m. and Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m. Information, 407-862-3505 or shalom@congbetham.org.

Applications for JSU Fellowship available now

JSU Fellowship is an innovative program in Central Florida where 12 teens get together Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8, and discuss the Jewish perspective on a variety of ethical and moral dilemmas. Teens will also have the opportunity to meet communal leaders and experts in a number of fields. Teens do not need to be in a JSU club to apply. JSU Fellowship is open to all Central Florida teens. Teens selected to be a JSU Fellow will receive a \$15 stipend for each session they attend. For more information, contact Daniel Nabatian at 516-426-8484 or dnabatian@JoinOrlando.org.

Surfs up at Resurf

On Jan. 15, teens from Central and South Florida are invited to travel to Daytona to build a youth surf center for underprivileged teens. No building experience is needed. For more information about this challenging event, and to reserve a spot, contact Daniel Nabatian at 516-426-8484 or dnabatian@JoinOrlando.org.

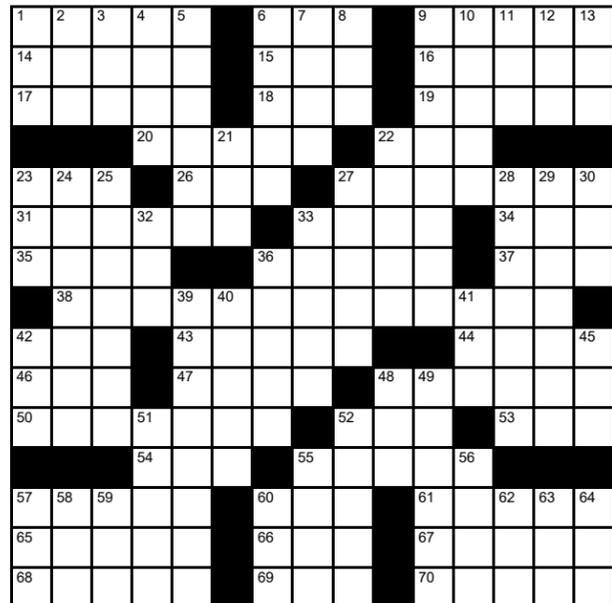
Quote of the Week

"Zionism is the civil rights and self-determination movement of the Jewish people."
 — Amanda Berman, civil rights attorney and co-founder of the Zioness Movement

Easy puzzle

"Musical Translation" by Yoni Glatt
koshercrosswords@gmail.com

- Across**
- "Emunah" (George Michael, 1987)
 - Son of Noah
 - "Dvash" (Bobby Goldsboro, 1968, and Mariah Carey, 1997)
 - Offspring
 - Priest that raised Samuel
 - Be a comedian
 - African soccer powerhouse
 - Lenient
 - Features for bison and lions
 - Doings of Haman and Hitler
 - "Star Wars" villain Kylo with temper issues
 - Shekels dispenser
 - BDS supporter Brian (musician)
 - "Maamin" (Cher, 1998)
 - Rules, as David
 - Former video format
 - Shtick
 - Computer or restaurant list
 - Gin's partner, often
 - End of BBYO's URL
 - Like each of the songs in this puzzle
 - Shmaltz, e.g.
 - Copycatting
 - Curvy HS math subject
 - 40, for Isaac when he got married
 - Saying Loshon Hara, worshipping idols, etc...
 - "Space ___" (David Bowie album)
 - "Kavod" (Aretha Franklin, 1967)
 - Word before Sinai or HaBayit
 - Dr. Hank ___ (the original Ant-Man)
 - Six-pack muscles
 - Matthew, in Madrid
 - Comic legend Radner
 - Kipah, essentially
 - Places
 - Warning before a bite, perhaps
 - Matterhorn, e.g.
 - Reason for a raise, maybe
 - "Malach" (Shaggy, 2000)
 - Foe of 22-Across
 - "Slicha" (Justin Bieber, 2015)
 - Volcanic spew
 - "...rose ___ rose..." (Gertrude Stein)
 - Rabbi Carlebach wrote many a fine one
 - "Shamayim" (Bryan Adams, 1984)
 - "Shalom" (Adele, 2015)
 - "Woe is me!"
 - Blend together
 - Yam ___ (The Dead Sea)
 - Saudi neighbor
 - Letter on a dreidel
 - Tel Aviv to Jerusalem dir.
 - "That's right!"
 - Walk-___ (surprise shul attendees)
 - Knot again
 - Tefillin location
 - Like the Mutant Ninja Turtles
 - There are 60 of them on a CBS news show
 - Goodman or Friedman
 - Vacation for the pompous?
 - Main school team
 - Some check one for blood
 - Paskez or Orbit product
 - People that are rude and crude
 - Council of ___, 1545-63
 - America's pastime
 - Like many Biblical films
 - "___ be my pleasure!"
 - Like the walk from Egypt to Jordan
 - Ball room?
 - Breakfast bit
 - "Chalomot" (Fleetwood Mac, 1977)
 - One in San Diego that plays 39-Down
 - "Sameach" (Pharrell Williams, 2013)
 - Adam was the first
 - Cookie since 1912 (and kosher since 1998)
 - Govt. property org.
 - Setting for TV's "Newhart"
 - Day 33 in the Omer
 - Israel's Better Place was a failed one (sadly)
 - Mistake an Amish person for a Hasid, e.g.
 - Basic need
 - Hog's home



See answers on page 14.

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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HQ Trivia host Scott Rogowsky dishes on his cringeworthy Bar Mitzvah



Scott Rogowsky hosting HQ Trivia

By Josefin Dolsten

NEWYORK (JTA)—Trivia is having a major moment—and that’s thanks, in large part, to Scott Rogowsky.

The Jewish comedian has played a huge role in the runaway success of HQ Trivia, the iPhone app turned massive phenomenon that now has some 500,000 people glued to their iPhones at 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. every weekday for a chance to feel smart and win money.

HQ Trivia is presented in the format of a game show—it’s hosted live by Rogowsky from New York twice a day. The app was created in August by Rus Yusupov and Colin Kroll, the founders of

video-sharing site Vine, and it works like this: At the appointed times, users take a stab at correctly answering 12 multiple choice questions (which start easy but rapidly become more difficult). Those who answer all 12 questions correctly split a pot of prize money, which typically ranges from \$1,500 to \$12,000.

During the game, Rogowsky—a chipper funnyman who lives in his hometown of Harrison, N.Y., and describes himself as being in his “exceedingly late 20s” (although according to some online sources he is in his 30s)—throws in plenty of jokes, puns and shout-outs to competitors, whom he affectionately refers to as “HQuties.”

Notably, Rogowsky is very vocal about his Jewish identity; live on HQ he’s referred to himself as the “Semitic Sajak” (that’s in reference to “Wheel of Fortune” host Pat Sajak) and the “Meshuggeneh Martindale” (as in Wink, the host of “Tic-Tac-Dough”). He has wished winners “mazal tov” and, on the first night of Chanukah, he wore a vibrant blue-and-white suit emblazoned with Stars of David.

(When he’s not doing HQ Trivia duties, Rogowsky has made Jews and Judaism part of his comedy career.)

In an email interview with JTA (in the form of—you guessed it—12 questions), Rogowsky got candid about

his experience hosting the game show, his Jewish background and his dating life. Oh, and he cracked a few jokes, too.

JTA: HQ Trivia launched in August. What have the last five months been like for you?

Rogowsky: For my first few months at HQ Trivia, my life was—for the most part—the same as it had always been. Even at temple during the High Holy Days, I was having to explain to people exactly what I was doing, trying to convince them to download the app. But in the short time since Thanksgiving—when HQ exploded—it has been a complete blur. I still haven’t fully caught my breath!

Would you have thought a year ago that you would be the host of a smartphone trivia show?

A year ago, I would have thought I’d be living in Spain by now, having quit comedy and begun a second career as an ESL teacher, dating a flamenco dancer, subsisting on Manchego and churros... Actually, I’d still like to do that.

Do you help pick the questions?

HQ Trivia has a team of writers who put together the stacks, then I go through them for final edits before each live game.

What’s your favorite HQ Trivia question so far?

“Which baseball player holds the Major League record for most total bases

in a single 9-inning game?” The answer is Shawn Green, and it’s my favorite because Shawn Green tweeted me his appreciation after that game. To find out that the greatest Jewish baseball player of my generation plays HQ Trivia is enough for me to retire on, frankly.

You are open about being Jewish on HQ Trivia. Has this led to any anti-Semitic harassment?

Much to my surprise, no! As with any social platform, there will always be trolls, but HQ Trivia has guidelines in place to ensure the chat vibes remain chill and family-friendly. As for tweets, I’ve had a few “you sucks” fired off at me, but, so far, not a single “get in the oven!” which is truly miraculous.

You have said you’re single and dating at the moment. Has being the HQ Trivia host led to date proposals from any nice Jewish girls or boys?

I’ve had my fair share of tweets, DMs, emails, Facebook Messages and friends trying to set me up with friends... which is all very flattering, but the bottom line is: I’m far too busy to care for myself right now—let alone another person! And with 9 p.m. ET live games, scheduled seven nights a week, my availability isn’t ideal for most nice Jewish girls.

What was the best Chanukah present you got this year?

I received a snazzy Chanu-

kah blazer from my pals at Shiny Threads. I wore it on HQ on the first night and I think it broke the Jewish Internet.

How would you describe your Jewish identity?

Sasha Cohen meets Sacha Baron Cohen at Zabar’s.

What’s your favorite thing about being Jewish?

Being interviewed by the JTA. You’re not going to see a profile of Jim Gaffigan in these pages! Also, the jokes.

Favorite Jewish joke?

It’s unprintable. But I’ll tell you my favorite publication-

friendly joke that I’ve written: My mother is a born-again Jew. She saw the light, and then she asked if she could be seated away from it.

Favorite Jewish holiday and why?

Tisha B’Av. Because whenever I’m home to visit my mother she says, “And when am I going to see you again? Next Tisha B’Av?”

Most cringeworthy Bar Mitzvah memory?

I cringe about the whole affair when I think about the fact that I looked closer to bris age than Bar Mitzvah...

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How Orthodox synagogues are trying to appeal to millennials



Rosalynne Sommer
From left to right, Yosef Rudolph, Sarah Rudolph, Yissachar Jerusalem, Gabrielle Jerusalem, and Daniel Asher are preparing to make candles at an event with the Young Leadership of Green Road Synagogue in Cleveland, Ohio, December 2016.

By Derek Kwiat

NEWYORK—Like so many happy accidents, it started with Purim.

Riva Preil, a physical therapist in her early 30s living in Manhattan, was recording a skit for her Orthodox synagogue's Purim spiel when the head of the events committee asked if she'd like to get more involved. The question took her by surprise.

"I never thought to do it," Preil said of taking a synagogue leadership role.

But at the urging of a friend she agreed. Soon, Preil organized a singles event. "Then I became addicted," she said.

Four years on, Preil runs the events committee at her shul, the Mount Sinai Jewish Center in Washington Heights, and sits on the synagogue board. She has been instrumental in making sure a different family from the congregation each week volunteers to host singles and those without a Shabbat meal.

"Shul shouldn't just be

about attending, praying, leaving," Preil said. "People can do that anywhere during the week. When it comes to Shabbat and holidays, people want more."

If synagogues are to succeed a generation from now, Orthodox lay leaders and rabbis say, they must get millennials involved. It's a challenge for every Jewish denomination, but in Orthodoxy it means pushing the boundaries of what synagogues do without pushing the boundaries of Jewish tradition.

What it comes down to, say community leaders, is getting millennials to take leadership roles and giving them the power to help shape synagogue life.

"The future of Orthodoxy depends on how our synagogues engage millennials," said Rabbi Yehuda Friedman, the Orthodox Union's associate director of synagogue services. "It's not just attending a synagogue, it's part of a wider, more holistic identity. If young Jews are not engaged in living an Orthodox lifestyle at this time in their lives, we will lose them."

Many synagogues have found that the best way to empower millennials is to hand them the keys. Across the country, young Orthodox Jews are organizing lay-led minyans, community Shabbat dinners, lectures, parties and an array of other things to help make their synagogues more welcoming for their generational peers.

"Just because you're Orthodox doesn't necessarily mean you're going to shul on a regular basis," said Tzvi Wolf, 24, chair of the committee for young professionals at B'nai David-Judea Congregation in Los Angeles. "For people in their 20s and 30s, if they're building a family or working long hours or in grad school, getting up to go to shul on a Shabbat morning might not be on the top of their list of priorities."

Without programming specifically geared toward them, millennials might view shul as a place for older people; millennial-organized programming gives them a sense of ownership, Wolf said. "Millennials want democracy in everything," observed Rabbi Hyim Shafner of Keshet Israel in Washington, D.C. "They grew up with the internet, they're used to having their voices heard. You have to be creative, do things out of the box."

Shafner, who has worked with young Jews for most of his career, including eight years at a Hillel in St. Louis, now leads a congregation comprised mostly of young people. Sometimes he teaches Torah in bars in his neighborhood, Georgetown

"They want a community that's more porous," Shafner said of young people. "There's what we do in shul, but there have to be things outside of shul as well."

In New York, Caleb Koffler, 24, a member of the young leadership committee of his synagogue, Manhattan's Jewish Center, organizes a monthly lecture series featuring expert guests on hot topics in Orthodoxy, from theology to the Jewish ethics of freezing eggs. The lectures usually take place at the synagogue, but Koffler feels it's important to have it somewhere else every so often to attract new people, so a few months ago he planned one for his apartment, supplemented by a large order of sushi.

The Jewish Center's Young Leadership Minyan regularly draws more than 200 young people on Saturday mornings. Though liturgically identical to the main service, the minyan's board designed it to better match the aesthetics and values of single Jews in their 20s and 30s.

"It starts later and the room is set up like a hall, not a shul," noted Alex Braunstein, 27, an immigration attorney and a member of the young leadership committee. "It's a smaller space. The rabbi stands in the middle in front of everyone to speak, and the women aren't sitting against the wall. They actually enter the space first, so the men have to go around them to get to their section."

Braunstein is in charge of organizing communal meals on Shabbat and holidays, a crucial part of millennial outreach in the Orthodox community. Having meals with friends she doesn't see the rest of the week is an important part of her Shabbat experience, she said.

The Green Road Synagogue in Cleveland is particularly aggressive in courting young Jews. The shul organizes activities like s'mores and tie-dye T-shirt making in the park for young families and "escape room"-style game nights and candle-making for young adults. A recent new family welcome event drew 150 people.

Rosalynne Sommer, 28,

who serves as co-chair of the synagogue's young leadership group, seeks out new people moving to town by keeping her ears open and monitoring Cleveland Jewish Facebook pages. Sommer first came to Cleveland fresh out of college six years ago and intended to stay just two years while getting her master's degree in social work, but she ended up staying.

"The community I met at Green Road Synagogue and the people there are a large reason I'm still in Cleveland," she said.

To make every newcomer feels as welcomed as she was, Sommer tries to ensure that all newcomers—whether they intend to join a synagogue or not—get several weeks' worth of Shabbat meal invitations and welcome gifts, plus information on synagogue events tailored to newcomers

"Cleveland is a booming city, especially for Orthodox Jews, and we want them all to have a warm welcome to the city and community," Sommer said.

Creating community must be the ultimate goal when engaging millennials, according to Shafner. "If you make it all about membership, that will turn them off," Shafner said. "They want a community that's embracing, they want a big family. They want to connect to people of all ages."

A synagogue can go a long way toward creating that family feel simply by having the right attitude, he said.

"When young people start coming, the community shouldn't say, 'Oh no, this is so new, what are they doing here?'" Shafner said. "But rather, 'All these young people could be anywhere and doing anything with their energy and they choose to be here. What a blessing!'"

This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with the Orthodox Union, the nation's largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization, dedicated to engaging and strengthening the Jewish community, and to serving as the voice of Orthodox Judaism in North America. This article was produced by JTA's native content team.



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Jewish Pavilion says 'thank you' to CERA

Community Education and Resource Affiliation, a networking group for people who work with seniors, supported the efforts of the Jewish Pavilion with a \$1,200 check. CERA awarded support to several nonprofit organizations that make the world a better place. They thanked the Jewish Pavilion for bringing companionship, resources to families and Jewish culture to our elders in long-term care.

Pictured are Chris Bouille, CERA president; Emily Newman, program director for the Jewish Pavilion; and Terry Lewis, treasurer of CERA.



Scene Around

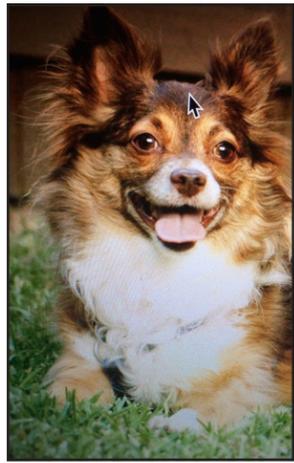
By Gloria Yousha—Call 407-657-9405 or gloriayousha@gmail.com

I love dogs...

But you knew that already. I recently found this little poem I wrote on the subject and dedicated it in memory of Aldo:

“Dogs are people too”
I love dogs, yes I do!
Life’s not full without one,
I love dogs, how about you?
They bring laughter and fun!
Cats are smart and cats are swell,
And they never drool,
But a dog is “man’s best friend”
That’s the golden rule!

(That’s not to mention the unconditional love they give us. I’ve had dogs all of my life... cats and birds too, but I couldn’t exist without a dog in my life. Just saying.)



Aldo

Our customs under question...

I read this in the latest edition of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) digest and pass it along to you in part:

“The circumcision (Brit Milah) of eight day old Jewish males is a 3,000 year old fundamental tenet of Jewish life.

The WJC notes with concern that an increasing number of European governments and parliaments have introduced legislation and regulations limiting practices such as nonmedical male circumcision, which is performed by Muslims and Jews, and stresses that all proposals to ban Brit Milah are unacceptable and constitute an infringement on the basic human right of freedom of religion and belief.

A fashion Icon...

Nov. 19, 1942, was the birthday of fashion designer CALVIN KLEIN.

Calvin Richard Klein is the son of FLORE (nee Stern), daughter of an immigrant from Austria and an American dentist, and LEO KLEIN, an immigrant from Hungary.

Calvin Klein is one of several design leaders raised in the Jewish immigrant community in the Bronx, New York City, along with RALPH



Calvin Klein

LAUREN whose real name was Ralph Lifshitz. He first gained recognition for his fashion designs after his first major showing in NYC Fashion Week.



Warren Vache



Allan Vache

A fairly new jazz venue...

On Tuesday, Jan. 16th, there will be a very special performance at a fairly new music venue, Blue Bamboo, 1905 Kentucky Avenue, Winter Park.

Our own ALAN ROCK calls it “A very special treat” (and he should know as he himself is a very talented musician as well as emcee at the Altamonte Chapel Jazz shows.)

WARREN and ALLAN VACHE will perform! Warren Vaché is a supremely accomplished, versatile and rare performer. He has been astounding audiences worldwide for decades with his superb cornet, trumpet and flugelhorn stylings. Through live performances and recordings, along with stage, screen, radio and television appearances, Warren conveys incredible warmth through his burnished tone and intelligent improvisations. Add to this Allan Vaché and his swinging clarinet and you have sets of music you don’t want to miss.

I can tell you that Allan is also superb. What a show!

JCC 39ers...

On Sunday, Jan. 28th, the 14th annual “maj madness” will take place.

(This is a Mah Jongg tournament. Wow, I haven’t played Mah Jongg for more than half a century and I forgot how!)

Join for this annual tournament, featuring four rounds of play following National Mah Jongg League rules of play, for great prizes!

Light breakfast, morning coffee and lunch is included in the tournament entry fee of \$36: \$30 for JCC members.

Participants who are able are encouraged to bring a Mah Jongg set and/or table cover.

The registration deadline is Sunday, Jan. 21st at noon.

For more information, call DALE PERREAULT, 407-808-9660 or JULIE LEVITT, 407-492-9890.

One for the road...

A man stormed into Moishe’s Bakery and confronted Moishe. “Do you know what happened to me?” he demanded. “I found a fly in the raisin bread I bought from you yesterday.” Moishe gave a palms-up shrug and replied, “Nu, so you’ll bring me the fly and I’ll give you a raisin.”

(Oy Gevalt!!!!)

US Ambassador Friedman: Stop using the term ‘Occupied Territories’



US Ambassador David Friedman

By Shimon Bar Lev United with Israel

United with Israel does not use the term ‘occupied’ when referring to areas controlled by Israel since June 1967. US Ambassador David Friedman apparently agrees.

Although many call the territories to the west of the Jordan River captured by Israel in the Six Day War the “West Bank,” United with Israel prefers to use the historically and geographically correct term ‘Judea and Samaria.’

‘Occupied’ is a loaded political phrase that indicates, just by its usage, that Israel is the occupier and not the legal sovereign in territories in the Land of Israel that were captured in the Six Day War in 1967. The ‘territories’ remain in dispute, and they have been the subject of a series of peace negotiations and a few partial agreements, including the Oslo Accords signed in 1995 between Israel and the Palestinians.

International legal expert Ambassador Alan Baker told United with Israel “Friedman is completely correct. The word ‘occupation’ refers to your army taking military

control over some other country’s sovereign territory. Israel has a unique historic connection to Judea and Samaria.” According to Baker, “The correct term should be ‘disputed territories.’”

State Department agrees to consider policy change

The State Department is refusing to adhere to Friedman’s request but has agreed to bring the issue up for consideration in the near future, Israel Radio reported. The development comes only weeks after President Donald Trump shifted decades of US policy by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. Even as he made the policy announcement, Trump went on to declare that the US remains committed to a comprehensive peace agreement and has not taken a position relating to the future and permanent recognized

borders between Israel and the Palestinians.

Friedman broke with decades of US policy when he recently used the words “alleged occupation” in conversation with The Jerusalem Post. The State Department was reportedly opposed to the ambassador’s choice of words and issued a statement saying that Friedman’s comment did not represent a change in US policy and there was no change in the status quo. US Middle East Envoy Jason Greenblatt apparently backed up Friedman’s position by saying that ‘settlements’ (Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria) are not an obstacle to peace.

The White House recently said that “unrestrained settlement activity does not advance the prospects for peace.” At the same time, the US has commented against calls for a settlement freeze.

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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.

Forget the oven: The best roast chicken is made in your crockpot



By Shannon Sarna

(The Nosh via JTA)—The crockpot has never been my favorite kitchen gadget. I know people love their crockpots and their instant pots, but there have been limited things I have made in a crockpot that I loved, or actually found more convenient. When I am dinner prepping for busy weeks, I typically don't make long-simmering meals that require my attention but rather just throw a bunch of stuff in the oven.

But on a recent Friday that was going to be particularly harried—with baby swim class, errands and a doctor appointment—I decided to try my hand at throwing an entire chicken in a crockpot. I first read this guide from The Kitchen and watched its short video, which I found really helpful. Its tips included balling up some tin foil to raise the chicken up while cooking. You can also place the chicken under the broiler after cooking to crisp up the skin, but I didn't find this to be a necessary step to success.

I seasoned the chicken well and just plopped the bird in the crockpot. Off to swim class, the doctor and the supermarket we went, to arrive home to the most wonderful smell, and a perfectly cooked chicken. I threw together a salad and some rice, and had dinner ready for Friday night. The most surprising part of this process was how much I loved the tenderness of the chicken cooked in the crockpot—it was moist, cooked perfectly and pretty much fell right off the bone.

I have spent countless hours reading up on the best way to make a roast chicken—tweaking my recipe bit by bit over the years. But this easier, no-fuss method actually might be new favorite. If you really want to be a superhero, add some cut-up veggies and potatoes to the bottom of the pan for a simple, fast one-pot wonder. My own trick is to save the liquid and fat that collects at the bottom of the crockpot and use it to make fantastically crispy, fatty roast potatoes in the oven.

You can also use whatever spice mixture you prefer, add slices of lemon or orange, cloves of garlic, fresh herbs or some beer

to the bottom of the pan to season. But crockpot chicken is a fail-proof, fool-proof way to have delicious dinner ready for the busiest of days and the busiest of people. Or just if you're too lazy to turn on the oven.

Ingredients:

1 whole chicken
1 Tbsp paprika
1 tsp granulated garlic
1/2 tsp ground coriander
1/8 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp ground black pepper
2 Tbsp olive oil

Directions:

1. Mix herbs in a small bowl with 2 Tbsp olive oil.
2. Cover chicken all over with spice mixture, including inside the cavity and under the skin. You can let it marinate overnight if desired, but this isn't necessary.
3. Ball up three pieces of tin foil and place in bottom of crockpot. Place chicken on top of tin foil.
4. Set crockpot on high for 4 hours or low for 8 hours.
5. After chicken has finished cooking, cut into pieces and serve warm.

Shannon Sarna is the editor of *The Nosh*.

The Nosh food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at www.TheNosh.com.

Rabbinical student is explaining Judaism to Muslims—in Arabic

By Ben Sales

(JTA)—Is it true that Judaism doesn't accept converts? Is it true that Jews have to wash their hands before they pray? Is it true that Jews have historically killed their prophets?

These are just a few of the questions Elhanan Miller has heard over the years. A fluent Arabic speaker and former Arab affairs correspondent for the Times of Israel, Miller saw that many Muslims he knew didn't have a clear understanding of Jewish practices

and beliefs. So he decided to start teaching Muslims about Judaism, in a language and context they can relate to.

"Islam purports to tell Muslims about what Judaism is about," Miller, 36, told JTA. "But I think it's a value to Muslims to hear what Judaism is about from an actual believer."

That's the idea behind Miller's new project, "People of the Book," a series of short animated videos that explain Jewish faith and ritual in Arabic and compare them to

similar Muslim practices. It appears to be the first video series of its kind: an explanation of Judaism for Muslims in what, for many, is their native language. The first two videos have racked up hundreds of thousands of views on Facebook and Youtube.

The first video, released in July, compares keeping kosher with keeping halal. It explains that kashrut, like halal, forbids pork and has laws around slaughtering animals. But kashrut prohibits eating shellfish, for example,

while halal permits eating any creature of the sea.

A second video, released earlier this month, covers Jewish prayer (three times a day vs. five for Muslims, with less kneeling on the floor). Miller is planning more videos on clothing and modesty, Jewish conceptions of God and fasting in Judaism.

"There's a big overlap between Judaism and Islam in those specific areas," he said. "Islam has dietary laws like Judaism, and the structures of daily prayers at fixed times are similar in Judaism and Islam. I thought it would be good to start with the commonalities before going into the differences."

Miller is an observant Jew who born in Jerusalem to Canadian parents. He fell in love with Arabic when he began studying it in seventh grade, and continued using it during his service in the Israel Defense Forces and in college.

He earned a master's degree in Islamic studies from Hebrew University, and has been a journalist for eight years, doing much of his reporting on the Arab world. Miller also studies at Beit Midrash Har'el, a traditional egalitarian rabbinical school in Jerusalem. The school has shared links to his videos, and he sees bridging between the two religions as part of his rabbinic calling.

"I want to be a rabbi who

brings peace to the world," he said.

Miller started producing the videos after teaching Muslims about Judaism as part of the Shorashim project, which brings Jews from the West Bank settlement bloc of Gush Etzion together with their Palestinian neighbors. Together, they do joint activities, like shared meals and agricultural work. He figured the same lessons would interest a wider audience, which has proved true.

The videos take several weeks to produce together with two partners: an animator in Israel, and a native Arabic speaker who co-narrates the script.

There's one topic, however, that Miller isn't planning to tackle anytime soon: Israel. He may address Jerusalem, which is holy to Jews and Muslims, in a future video, but says that broaching sensitive issues could derail the larger project of promoting understanding.

"My aim is not to do Israeli hasbara," he said, using a Hebrew term for public relations. "I speak in these videos as a Jew more than an Israeli, because Israel is a contentious issue and I'm trying to build credibility and even sympathy with my followers."

To maintain that relationship between videos, Miller held a Facebook live session Thursday, in Arabic, about



Bruria Hammer

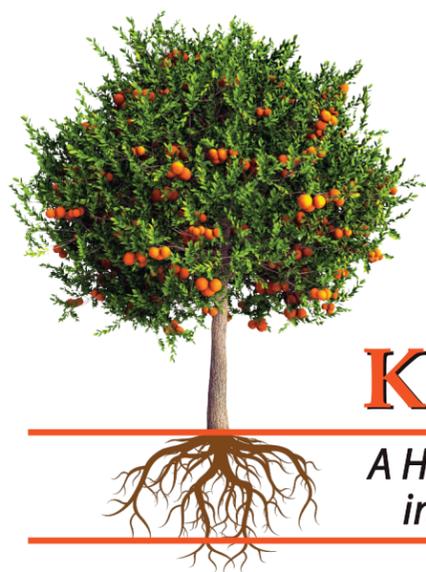
Elhanan Miller, a journalist and rabbinical student who speaks fluent Arabic, sees his videos as a way to bridge a religious divide.

Judaism in "ask me anything" form. The questions concerned everything from the status of Moses in both religions to how Jews view other faiths.

Of course, Jews have plenty of misconceptions about Islam as well, Miller said—like some who mistakenly think that Jews suffered more, historically, under Muslim rule than under Christian rule. But while he'd love to collaborate on a similar video series that explains Islam to Jews, he said that he—as a non-Muslim—is not the right person to lead that project.

"I don't see it as my job to explain Islam to Jews," he said. "It has to be someone from that faith."

Celebrating Community & Continuity



Ohav Shalom synagogue cornerstone, 1926

KEHILLAH

A History of Jewish Life in Greater Orlando

Photos courtesy of Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, originated by Marcia Jo Zenitz, LHD, Founding Executive Director



Kanner Store, 1905



Al Morrell, grove owner 1941

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Israel thanks NBA

By World Israel News

The National Basketball Association set up a new website for the 2018 All-Star Game in Los Angeles, allowing fans to vote for their favorite players. After voting, the fans are asked to identify which country they are from, picking from among a variety of choices that included both Israel and "Palestine—occupied territory."

Several fans discovered the listing when voting this week for Israeli NBA player Omri Casspi.

Regev: 'A gross and blatant interference'

"I view the inclusion of 'Occupied Palestine' in the list of countries appearing on your official website as legitimizing the division of the State of

Israel and as gross and blatant interference, in contrast to the official position of the American administration and the declarations of President Donald Trump, who just recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Therefore, I would like to express my disapproval and ask you to immediately act to remove 'Palestine—Occupied Territory' from the list of countries," Miri Regev, minister of Culture and Sport, said in a sharp letter to NBA Commissioner Adam Silver on Thursday.

The NBA complied with the request and the choice of "Palestine—occupied territory" was removed Thursday evening.

Kathy Behrens, the NBA's President of Social Responsi-

bility and the person who oversaw the league's Basketball without Borders program in Israel last summer, told Arutz Sheva that the listing had been placed by a third party. "We do not produce the country listings for NBA.com and as soon as we became aware of it, the site was updated. We apologize for this oversight, and have corrected it," she said.

NBA spokesman Michael Bass told Times of Israel, "We apologize for the errant listing. We do not produce the country listings for NBA.com and as soon as we became aware of it, the site was updated."

Regev thanked Silver on Friday for removing the language, reiterating that "Israel's lands are not occupied."

Iron Dome intercepts Gaza missiles; IDF strikes back

By World Israel News

Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system blocked two missiles fired into Israel shortly before noon on Friday. A third landed in a community bordering Gaza. No injuries were reported, but a building was damaged.

The Code Red alarms were sounded during a ceremony marking the would-be 24th

birthday of IDF soldier Oron Shaul, whose body has been held by Hamas in Gaza since Operation Protective Edge.

Before the incident, Oron's mother told the crowd, "We're here to mark his birthday. We've decided to come here so we can be as close to Oron as possible. Our message is one of peace, brotherhood and camaraderie. We're not here to lash

out at anyone. We just want Oron returned home," Ynet News reported.

Israeli intelligence believes the rockets fired in recent weeks were launched by terror groups other than Hamas.

Israel holds Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, responsible and retaliated in the early afternoon with a series of strikes targeting Hamas in northern Gaza.

OBITUARIES

ALAN M. KOHN

Alan M. Kohn, 87, a devoted husband, father, grandfather and NASA engineer for 30 years, died peacefully on Friday, Dec. 22nd at sunset. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Alan Kohn was born in Philadelphia, Penn., in the tumultuous year of 1929 on Dec. 28th to the late Betty Giltman and R. Reuben Kohn. He graduated from Penn State University in 1951, where he ran cross-country for the then national championship team. Alan then served in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant and communications officer for the 6th Fleet during the Korean War and served two additional years in the Reserves. He later went on to receive a Master of Science degree from Florida Institute of Technology.

In the words of Rabbi Kendall, "Alan was a brilliant man with biocular vision; one eye trained on this temporal world and one eye focused beyond the stars."

From a young age, he had a fascination with science

fiction and the future exploration of space. So, it was a dream come true when in 1961, President John F. Kennedy announced his intent to "put a man on the moon." That was the catalyst for his decision to move to Brevard County, home of the Kennedy Space Center, in 1962 with his wife and family.

Alan had a highly successful and fulfilling career at NASA specializing in ground support, base security and payload management. He witnessed the exploration of the boundaries of earth to the far reaches of space. While there, he received numerous awards for his exceptional work. He was passionate about the space program and its potential to preserve humanity.

His children often spoke of his encyclopedic knowledge. His love of opera, music, nature and learning were with him until the final weeks of his life. He loved Israel and his faith and was a lifelong student of Judaism and Torah.

After his retirement, activism became his career. Alan

was dedicated in his fight against injustice. When he was diagnosed with early Alzheimer's, he began in-depth research on ways to alleviate its effects in the hopes of helping all who suffer from this illness. Alan never tired of sharing his knowledge with others. He had a unique sense of humor and wit and was a great punster.

Alan is survived by his wife of 61 years, Shirley Felderstein Kohn, children, Michelle Kohn; Jay Kohn; and Donna Kohn-Snow; son-in-law, Leslie R. Berghash, M.D.; Michael S. Rubinoff, partner of Donna; and grandchildren Ilana Berghash, Edin Kohn and Golan Kohn. Alan will be sorely missed.

Memorial donations in memory of Alan can be made to the Jewish National Fund, online at www.jnf.org, or by mail to: Jewish National Fund, 78 Randall Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570; or to Temple Beit HaYam at 951 SE Monterey Commons Blvd., Stuart, FL 34996 or to a charity or organization of your choice.

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), 181 E. Mitchell Hammock, Oviedo, 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, 407-222-6393; 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 Elkcam 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

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This Jewish woman is creating the world's first vagina museum

By Cnaan Liphshiz

BIRMINGHAM, England (JTA)—Nine months after announcing that she is creating the world's first vagina museum, Florence Schechter is confident that she has heard every joke on the subject.

Schechter, a Jewish comedian and communications professional in her 20s, is preparing to open the museum in Brighton, 50 miles south of London. When the news broke in the spring, it caught the attention of Conan O'Brien, who quipped: It will be "the first museum where you enter through the gift shop."

The idea also blew up on social media. Twitter users advised Schechter to put up a sign saying "caution, slippery when wet" or install a knocker on the door because "no man will find the buzzer."

Even her father, the Russia-born klezmer musician Gregori Schechter, got in on the act: He complimented her on "hitting the G-spot" after The Independent profiled her efforts in March, she proudly told JTA.

But Schechter, who is currently recruiting trustees and scouting a location for the museum, is dead serious about her plan, she told the 30 or so people who came to see her talk about it on Wednesday at the Limmud Festival of Jewish learning in Birmingham. Schechter said she started working on

the museum after learning, in March, that Iceland has the world's only penis museum. She calls this a case of "inequality."

Now, the museum is "my whole life," she said. "I am now the vagina lady."

The denigrating jokes she's heard since announcing her plan in March have only strengthened her resolve. "They're funny until you realize the point is that vaginas are bad, which is pretty horrible," she said.

"The world absolutely needs a vagina museum," she added.

For now, though, the museum is little more than an idea that is being promoted, albeit with considerable success. There is a web site through which UK residents can purchase buttons sporting the museum's logo, and Schechter has been busy hosting events and giving talks. But she admits she is nowhere near collecting the necessary funds for opening a physical space, and doesn't imagine opening one before 2020.

When asked where she would find the funding, Schechter replied: "Oh, man, I wish I knew."

She quickly corrected herself—"Oh, woman, I wish I knew"—before settling on "person."

For now, though, she's thinking big. In the museum, Schechter plans to explore various perceived inequalities that are connected to

vaginas. First among those themes is female genital mutilation, or FGM—a custom prevalent in some Muslim communities, which has affected 200 million women, according to the United Nations.

"I want the museum to be part of fighting that," said Schechter.

She also noted that sex trafficking, sexual assault, gay rights and shaming campaigns online could be part of the museum.

"I want people to come in, see these issues and say, 'I have to do something, I've got to change this,'" she said.

Instead of looking to open the museum in the U.K.'s capital, Schechter has her sights on Brighton, a seaside town about 50 miles south of London. It's a "very progressive place," she noted. (In the June general elections, the local parliamentary candidate for the Green Party won slightly more than half the 57,687 votes cast at Brighton. Nationwide, the party won 1.6 percent of the vote.)

"People think that London is quite progressive, but because it's so multicultural, that means that there are certain communities that can really take offense at a Vagina Museum, and I don't want to, like, offend anyone when we're in the really early stages," she said.

Another hot-button issue that Schechter intends to tackle in the museum: The elevated exposure to sexual



Cnaan Liphshiz

Florence Schechter showcasing her museum idea at a Limmud Festival in Birmingham, England, Dec. 28, 2017.

diseases that affects women and girls from faith communities who engage in anal sex to in order preserve their hymens, Schechter said.

"These girls put themselves at risk without realizing it," she said. "Those are just the facts and we will make them known for them to make a decision."

The museum will also promote gay rights, said Schechter, who added that if she were living in one of the world's 12 countries with death penalties for gay people, "it would have been sentenced to death"

Other exhibits at the museum are less controversial.

Anatomical charts will be on display, to help fight widespread ignorance about the female reproductive organ. (In a 2014 survey in the United Kingdom, half of 1,000 women aged 26-35 couldn't point out the vagina on a medical drawing of the reproductive system. Half of 2,000 men couldn't find it either in a 2017 follow-up survey.) Other sections will be devoted to childbirth and contraception.

There will be touches of whimsy as well. For example, the café will feature vulva cupcakes—or cleft pastries with pink cream in the groove. An art sec-

tion will feature a sculpture made from plaster casts of 400 women's vulvas (it's a 2008 installation titled "The Great Wall of Vagina" and its aim is to start a debate on labial beauty standards dominated by the pornographic industry) and Georgia O'Keeffe's 1926 "Black Iris" painting.

O'Keeffe had consistently denied that her series of flower paintings, with deep and dark crevices, were in fact subversive vaginal artworks.

"I would love to have been there in the room when she denied this," Schechter said during her Limmud talk. "Do you think she was winking?"

The much-awaited grassroots, Zionist, progressive movement is here



Zioness Movement activists march at the Aug. 12 Chicago SlutWalk.

By Eliana Rudee
JNS

Salt and pepper, peanut butter and jelly, Zionism and progressivism.

Few question the inherent, irrefutable bond between the first two of those pairs, but civil rights attorney and co-founder of the Zioness Movement, Amanda Berman, argues that the latter is just as natural—and she has several thousand left-leaning Jews with strong Zionist identities backing her up on that sentiment.

The four-month-old Zioness Movement was born in a "watershed moment," several months after the inauguration of President Donald Trump. At the Aug. 12 Chicago SlutWalk, which aimed to dismantle rape culture, a group of 20 Zionist

progressive friends marched together in support of the rally. But similar to what occurred at the Chicago Dyke March in June, their support was met with a ban on Zionist "symbols of nationalism and oppression."

"It was one of those moments that exposed the fictitious line between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism," Berman told JNS.

On the same day, 800 miles away in Charlottesville, Va., neo-Nazis marched to "end Jewish influence in America," simultaneously threatening minority groups such as African-Americans, Muslims, LGBTQ individuals and Latinos.

"If that wasn't a moment to come together, I don't know what is," said Berman, who was "heartbroken" by the Chicago SlutWalk organiz-

ers' move to dictate which identities are and are not welcome in the progressive cause.

Berman felt attacked and ostracized when Palestinian activists wearing shirts that read "Palestine versus the world" were accepted at the SlutWalk, but her Jewish star was not.

"Palestinian activists were allowed to hold that identity, so why weren't we allowed to hold our identity as Zionist activists? Why such double standards, especially at a march for social justice?" asked Berman.

In October, 50 Zioness members took on the March for Racial Justice, hoping to activate and empower progressive Zionists in New York City, but they were met with a similar sentiment.

"We were told that we don't care about racial justice," Berman said. "That was heartbreaking because we care very much about these issues."

Zioness was created as a civil rights movement that seeks to undermine "bigotry, misogyny, and social and economic inequality," said Berman, who thinks there is nothing revolutionary about coming out as proud, progressive Zionists.

"It's the most natural alliance in the world," she said. "Zionism is the civil rights and self-determination movement of the Jewish people. It's not about Bibi (Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu), it's not about settlements and it's not about occupation. Zionism was a dream of the Jewish people for 3,000 years. Through millennia of oppression, persecution, exile and genocide, we have maintained our hope and dream that we would be able to have a state where we would be protected, and that the state would be in our historical homeland where we have been indigenous for 3,000 years."

She continued, "The manifestation of the Zionist dream is exactly what progressivism is about. It's fighting for your own civil rights and your own social justice, your own self-determination, your own right to equality, and to exist in safety and security—and progressivism is the same thing, it's making progress for all of those among us, equalizing the playing field, giving everyone the same opportunity."

Berman shared her hope that "all marginalized communities have same the opportunities to ultimately achieve success in their fight for social and racial justice the same way that the Jewish people did with international recognition of our homeland," and suggested that America could take a page from Israel's playbook as the "most progressive, pluralistic, multi-ethnic and multi-religious country in all of the Middle East." She added that Jews and Zion-

ists "must continue to fight for our rights and our state, which remain constantly under attack."

She spoke of the intersectionality of bigotries, noting, "When anti-Semitism runs rampant, other bigotries run rampant."

"We cannot allow anti-Semitism to go unchecked and expect that we can fight other bigotries at the same time. We have to fight it all together. There's a saying on the left that, 'I'm not free until we are all free,' and that's how Jewish communities sincerely feel," said Berman.

Until Jews "are included in the fight for social, economic and racial justice, and until we are not subjected to political litmus tests about our own self-determination and civil rights in the form of our state in our historic national homeland, none of us will be free," she said.

Berman pointed out that 74 percent of American Jews are registered Democrats and many of them care about sexism, racism, homophobia and yes, Israel. "But if young progressives are forced to choose between supporting social justice issues and their identities as Zionists, then we are going to be in big trouble," she said.

The response to the nascent Zioness Movement has been "unbelievably positive" and "humbling," said Berman.

Zioness member Gloria Einstein told JNS that in the

1970s, she "gave up practicing Judaism" and abandoned her loyalty to Israel "because that was expected of a progressive, anti-war, feminist woman. It was just not okay to be actively Jewish or to acknowledge any loyalty to Israel."

Einstein declared, "I will not do that anymore."

Einstein lamented the fact that although she thought that "so many progressive Jewish organizations reflected my progressive views and supported my Jewish identity," she was "badly wrong," giving the example of progressive Jewish organizations that honor Palestinian-American BDS activist Linda Sarsour for her coalition-building work with Jewish groups.

The same week that Einstein attended a workshop of one such progressive organization and felt "the heartbreak that progressive Jews face as one after another organization betrays them and demands that they give up Judaism," she learned of Zioness.

Berman described the emails she has received to thank her for filling the void in which institutional Jewish groups and community organizers were previously "scared to engage in this issue," and for giving progressive Zionists a political home. Women who fought in the feminist movement in the 1960s told her, "I have been waiting 50 years for this."

Now, it's finally here.

Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Israeli government OKs \$72 million anti-BDS project

(JTA)—Israel's government has approved a plan setting aside \$72 million to fighting the campaign to boycott Israel.

The plan would entail the largest monetary investment yet by Israel specifically toward combating the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign. It was announced last week to the cabinet ministers and approved as an executive order after none of them objected, the Ynet news site reported Friday.

It calls for setting up a not-for-profit organization whose board will be made up of government officials and donors from abroad, the report said. The board will oversee the first major "civil-society infrastructure servicing the State of Israel and the pro-Israel community in the fight against the de-legitimization of Israel," the notice sent to the ministers read.

The \$75 million budget will come partly from the Israeli government and partly from Jewish donors and communities abroad, the report said. It did not say when the new organization would become operational or even established formally.

But the initial funding to the tune of \$36 million will come from the budget of the ministry that includes Public Security, Strategic Affairs and Information. At least 10 Jewish philanthropists have pledged to at least match that sum, with some promising to give \$2 and \$3 to any dollar put in by the Israeli government beyond the initial funding, according to the report.

The organization envisaged by its creators would operate on a regular basis to counter pressure applied to artists, performers and commercial enterprises who seek to engage with Israel. But it would shift into high gear at sensitive periods such as fighting waves of terrorist attacks and anti-Israel votes at international forums.

The new organization's avenues for action would include public campaigns, lobbying, arranging for solidarity visits to Israel by opinion shapers, establishing new and social media presence and interacting with pro-Israel organization worldwide for coordinated action with a focus on Europe.

While such activities today formally fall under the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spinning off the nonprofit would allow

for quicker and more flexible action unconstrained by government bureaucracy and legal limitations on third party services. But the new organization will be subject to review by the state.

Israel says it succeeded in bid to withdraw from UNESCO by 2019, official says

(JTA)—Denying reports that Israel has missed the deadline for leaving UNESCO, its ambassador to the international body said it has successfully handed in its notice of departure effective 2019.

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay has agreed to view an email sent to her from the Israeli foreign ministry announcing the pullout effective before 2019, Carmel Shama-Hacohen was quoted as saying in an article published Friday by Haaretz.

It takes a year for the withdrawal to take effect.

Shama-Hacohen's statement followed previous reports that, despite announcing its intention to leave the organization for its bias against the Jewish state, Jerusalem did not give notice in time for the membership to end in 2019.

Shama-Hacohen conceded to Haaretz that he and his aide had arrived with a written notice at the Paris UNESCO building when it was closed for the holiday and manned only by security guards, who refused to sign that they had received the document.

Azoulay agreed to view the email notice as official, so that "Israel, which has done every effort to complete the pullout alongside the United States, may not find itself still a member of this unfortunate organization, which has been hijacked by the Arab states and Islam," Shama-Hacohen is quoted as saying.

In October, the United States announced that it would leave UNESCO, citing "continuing anti-Israel bias." Six years ago, the United States cut off more than \$80 million a year, about 22 percent of its entire budget for UNESCO, in reprisal for its acceptance of Palestine as a member. Israel also suspended its funding at that time.

Israel and the United States will remain as observer states of UNESCO, whose full name is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

In recent years, UNESCO has passed resolutions rejecting Israeli sovereignty over

Jerusalem, and placed the Cave of the Patriarchs and the Old City of Hebron in the State of Palestine on the list of world heritage sites in danger. It frequently refers to the Temple Mount only by its Arabic name, Al-Haram al-Sharif.

Between 2009-2014, UNESCO adopted 46 resolutions against Israel; 1 on Syria; and none on Iran, Sudan, North Korea, or any other country in the world.

In 2011, UNESCO elected Syria's regime headed by Bashar Assad to its human rights committee.

Jerry Seinfeld spotted at Tel Aviv's 'best' falafel shop

(JTA)—Hours after landing in Israel, the comedian Jerry Seinfeld was spotted at a well-known falafel eatery ahead of his two shows there.

Wearing a blue polo shirt and a New York Mets baseball cap, Seinfeld was photographed ordering food on Friday at Falafel Hakosem, an eatery situated half a mile east of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Israel's Channel 2's food critic earlier this year proclaimed the falafel joint the best of its kind in Tel Aviv, Ynet reported.

Seinfeld, one of the most famous Jewish comedians of all time, is scheduled to perform at Tel Aviv's Menorah Mivtachim Arena on Saturday night. He performed four sold-out shows in a row there during his previous visit to Israel in 2015.

In September, Seinfeld released a new comedy special on Netflix, titled "Jerry Before Seinfeld."

Portuguese official disappears with Jewish heritage money

(JTA)—Police in Portugal are searching for a local politician whom they suspect fled the country after pocketing \$130,000 earmarked for developing Jewish heritage sites.

Marco Baptista, who represents the Social Democratic Party in the eastern town of Covilha, dropped off the radar earlier this month after the money was transferred from the regional government's office for the development of Jewish heritage sites to his personal account based on documents that contained forgeries of signatures by other officials, the Correio da Manhã reported last week.

The money came from Portugal's Rede de Judiarias, a national network of sites connected to the Jewish population that had lived in Portugal

before the adoption in the 16th century by the royal house of the Inquisition—a church-led campaign of persecution of Jews and other non-Christians. Baptista was a consultant for the Rede de Judiarias.

Shortly after the money was transferred last month, the modem, router and a computer of the Rede de Judiarias' office in the nearby town of Belmonte went missing, leaving the institution without online access to its bank accounts and official correspondence. Technicians replaced the missing gear three days later—by which time both Baptista, 41, and the money were gone.

Relatives of Baptista offered to repay the money he is believed to have stolen and are cooperating with police's attempts to locate him, the ZAP news agency reported, as prosecutors prepare an indictment for fraud and theft.

Rabbi Elisha Salas, who is based in Belmonte and is consulted regularly on commemoration projects, told Jornal do Fundao that the Rede de Judiarias, which has so far declined to comment publicly on the affair, must divulge "the whole truth" about it.

Target recalls Jewish-themed 'Cards Against Humanity' game over offensive content

(JTA)—Target said it is recalling a Jewish-themed version of a card game that features offensive content.

The popular and intentionally offensive game, Cards Against Humanity, asks players to compete for the funniest or least appropriate answer to a fill-in-the-blank question.

Cards in the "Chosen People Pack" version were flagged on social media in recent days for prompts like "Can't you see, the Jews are behind everything—the banks, the media, even _____!" and an answer reading "Torturing Jews until they say they aren't Jews anymore."

Target is "aware of this extended card pack of the game Cards Against Humanity," a spokesperson wrote on Twitter Thursday evening, "and are in the process of removing it from our stores. We apologize for any disappointment as it is never our intention to offend our guests with the products we carry."

Target is the second-largest discount store retailer in the United States.

A "Jew Pack" set of cards is still available on the

game maker's web site. The game was developed by eight Chicago-area high school friends: Max Temkin, Josh Dillon, Daniel Dranove, Eli Halpern, Ben Hantoot, David Munk, David Pinsof and Eliot Weinstein.

"Cards Against Humanity is a party game for horrible people," reads the description of the game on its website. "Unlike most of the party games you've played before, Cards Against Humanity is as despicable and awkward as you and your friends."

ADL 'concerned' by spate of anti-Semitic, racist vandalism in Manhattan

(JTA)—The Anti-Defamation League expressed concern following recent incidents in Manhattan featuring vandalism and anti-Semitic graffiti.

The targets included three Upper East Side businesses, private apartments and other public spaces, ADL said Thursday citing reports. It included "explicit anti-Semitic symbols, as well as racist" ones ADL did not say when the incidents took place.

On Thursday, police released a photo of one slender man, who appears to be older than 50, whom police said is wanted for committing a pattern of aggravated harassment as a hate crime. He is believed to have placed stickers containing anti-gay, anti-black and anti-Semitic statements on three Madison Avenue stores since October, police said.

"This recent spate of hateful acts remind us that the fight against anti-Semitism is inextricably linked to the fight of all forms of hate, and therefore must be addressed in all our communities," said ADL New York Regional Director Evan R. Bernstein in a statement.

In the first three quarters of 2017, ADL tracked 167 incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism across New York State as well as a 92 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in New York City. In the recent findings, Manhattan surpassed other NYC boroughs receiving the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents.

Michael Oren calls for IDF to 'shoot to kill' suspected terrorists

(JTA)—Michael Oren tweeted that the Israel Defense Forces should "shoot to kill" suspected terrorists, rather than just "neutralize" them.

Oren, a former Israeli ambassador to the United States who serves as a deputy

minister in Israel's Knesset, made the call for extrajudicial killing while tweeting Wednesday about Omar al-Abed, who was convicted on the same day of murdering three Israelis in a July attack on the West Bank settlement of Halamish.

Oren tweeted that al-Abed, whose name he spelled differently, attacked medics after being "neutralized" by Israeli forces. Israel uses the term "neutralized" to describe a suspected terrorist who no longer poses a physical threat. Oren said that al-Abed "sat healthy and smiling in court" at his military court date Wednesday, despite having committed the attack.

Soldiers responding to terror attacks cannot determine if terrorists are neutralized, as the current open-fire order states. Soldiers are not doctors. But they must ensure that the terrorists pose no further threat. Though "neutralized," Al-Obeid attacked the medics treating him.

— Michael Oren (@DrMichaelOren) December 27, 2017

In July, Al-Abed entered a home in Halamish and stabbed three family members to death as they were eating Shabbat dinner. The military advocate general is seeking four consecutive life sentences for Al-Abed.

The question of when it is appropriate for soldiers to kill suspected terrorists became a divisive topic in Israel last year after Elor Azaria, an IDF medic, shot dead an alleged terrorist who was incapacitated and lying on the ground. Despite protests on Azaria's behalf, he was convicted of manslaughter in January and sentenced to 18 months in prison, later shortened to 14 months. Leading Israeli politicians, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have called for Azaria to be pardoned, but Israeli President Reuven Rivlin rejected the pardon requests in November.

Before becoming Israel's ambassador to the United States in 2009, Oren, who was born and raised in the United States, was a preeminent historian of the Middle East and Israel. He ended his term as ambassador in 2013 and was elected to Knesset two years later as part of the center-right Kulanu party.

Earlier this year, speaking about Azaria, Oren said the IDF's open-fire orders should be "clarified," but he did not explicitly call for "shoot to kill."

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Wall. The move by the Israeli government, which reneged on a January 2016 agreement, sparked a crisis between the government and Diaspora Jewry.

Israeli Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett admitted that "mistakes were made" by the government in its decision, but said the controversy largely resulted from a "campaign of misinformation claiming the [Western Wall] is being closed to Diaspora Jews... This is false."

A 'new sheriff in town' at the UN

Trump's Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley has been determined to change the culture of bias against Israel at the world body. At the AIPAC Policy Conference in March, Haley described herself as the "new sheriff in town" and vowed regarding anti-Israel elements that she would "kick them every single time" they display their bias.

Indeed, Haley has taken aim at UN bodies that have repeatedly and disproportionately targeted Israel, including

the Human Rights Council and the UNESCO cultural agency. In October, the US announced that it would pull out of UNESCO due to its "anti-Israel bias."

In the wake of Trump's announcement on Jerusalem, Haley blamed the world body for being the real obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peace and vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that called for the withdrawal of the US recognition of Jerusalem. When the same resolution was passed by the UN General Assembly, Haley said the vote "will be remem-

bered." Before the General Assembly vote, she said the US would be "taking names" of countries that supported the UN condemnation of Trump's Jerusalem move.

Haley's series of moves defending Israel at the UN came after the departing Obama administration in December 2016 refused to veto a Security Council resolution that condemned Israel's settlement policy and described eastern Jerusalem as "occupied Palestinian territory."

Advanced US-made fighter jets operational

Less than a year after

receiving its first nine F-35 stealth fighter jets from the US, the Israeli military declared the fleet of aircraft fully operational in early December.

"The announcement of the operationalization of the 'Adir' aircraft comes at a time in which the IAF is operating on a large scale on a number of fronts in a dynamic Middle East," said Israeli Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin.

Israel has agreed to purchase 50 of the F-35 jets from the US and was the first foreign country permitted to

acquire the advanced warplanes, at a cost of roughly \$100 million each.

Tal Inbar, who heads the space research center at the Israel-based Fisher Institute for Air and Space Strategic Studies, told JNS regarding the F-35 that the "technological jump of the plane compared to all other planes in the [Middle East] is enormous, but the jump in operational capabilities is no less important. The freedom of maneuver that the air force gets has been significantly strengthened."

COS

From page 1A

be provided for downloading an app on your smartphone to bid on silent auction items and keep tabs on those items while the auction remains open. You can also set up automatic bidding, name your top bid, and be notified when you are being outbid. No smartphone? No problem! Staff will be on hand to assist you with bidding.

Spectacular dishes such as Hand-Carved Prime Rib of Beef and a variety of ethnic delicacies will be served up

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Sponsorship opportunities: The Gala raises funds needed for Ohev Shalom's many excellent programs and services for children, families and adults. You can help by becoming a Centennial Gala Sponsor. In addition to tickets for the Gala, our sponsors receive a range of special benefits based on

sponsorship level. Reserve your sponsorship by Jan. 26, 2018, to be included in the Tribute Book. For more information, contact Nina Oppenheim at ninaopp@gmail.com, or click on the Gala Sponsorship Form link on the home page of the COS website, OhevShalom.org.

If you, or your family members or friends, have been members of COS at some point in its history or would like to join in celebrating this important milestone in Orlando's Jewish community, please contact us at 407-298-4650 or office@ohvshalom.org.



Shown here (l-r): Visions Reunion singers Amy Turner, Talia Osteen and Andra London.

URJ

From page 1A

is not my position, nor does it reflect the views of multitudes of, perhaps most, Reform Jews," Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch declared in a sermon at the Manhattan congregation he leads, the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue.

Hirsch, who was the executive director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America for 12 years and served as a tank commander in the Israeli military, strongly challenged the URJ's criticism of the timing of the Trump announcement.

"Now is the not the right time?" asked Hirsch, whose sermon was posted on YouTube. "Two-thousand years later and it is still not the right time?... There were critics who accused the civil rights movement of moving too quickly. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s response: 'The time is always ripe to do what is right.'"

In an interview with JNS, Hirsch said there was an "evolution" in the Reform movement's position between the organization's official statements on Dec. 6 and Dec. 22. In his view, the URJ

"is now supportive of what I believe should have been our position from the beginning." Hirsch said he believes his sermon and Yoffie's article "helped clarify, and legitimate, feelings and opinions that people [within the movement] already had."

Other prominent Reform rabbis agree. Rabbi John Moscowitz, rabbi emeritus of the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, told JNS he believes that Hirsch's public remarks "may have awakened many to the movement's misjudgment about Jerusalem."

Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin of

Temple Solel in Hollywood, Fla., said that at the URJ's recent national conference, he perceived a noticeable amount of grassroots support for the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem. "I heard many whispered and not-so-whispered conversations in the corridors of the URJ biennial," he told JNS. "An impressive number of rabbis and lay people support Jerusalem as Israel's capital, even if Trump said it...Whatever Trump's motives were for the proclamation, he spoke the truth."

Rabbis from other denomi-

nations told JNS that they are pleased at these developments.

"In many corners of the Jewish community today, the reflexive response to anything connected to Trump is: 'I'm against it,'" said Rabbi Neil Cooper of Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, a Conservative synagogue near Philadelphia. "One cannot help but wonder if the same reaction to this [Jerusalem] announcement would have been heard if it had come from President Obama rather than from President Trump. If the Reform movement has evolved beyond that

point, I think it is a positive change."

"The December 6 statement was consistent with the attitudes of those URJ leaders who sat down with Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, yet refused to join President Trump for a High Holy Day phone call," said Rabbi Pesach Lerner, president of the Coalition for Jewish Values, which represents several hundred Orthodox rabbis. "It's heartening that the pushback from other Reform leaders apparently forced a change of course."

UN

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of an agenda that is clearly anti-Israel and anti-Semitic.

These efforts have done significant harm to the peace process, appearing to justify

the Palestinian Authority's refusal to come to the negotiating table and providing little incentive for PA leaders to negotiate in good faith. And why should they, especially if their 'friends' at UN will

impose a 'favorable' solution that requires little or no compromise on their part?

Israel will never accept a solution that is imposed on it from the UN and the Palestinians are delusional if they

believe such tactics will yield them 'victory.' Real victory for both parties in the conflict can only be achieved through face-to-face bilateral talks that result in a permanent agreement.

Ambassador Haley's statements in defiance of one-sided anti-Israel resolutions is a signal that once again America will defend our allies. American leadership is back, and no matter what political

affiliation, every American should be pleased that we are no longer "leading from behind."

Jacob Millner is senior policy analyst for The Israel Project.

Europe

From page 5A

pher for Yediot Aharonot was attacked and his motorcycle was smashed while he tried to report on the riots.

The EU has invested tens of millions of dollars radicalizing the Israeli Arab community in recent years. Organizations including Adalah, Baldana, Massowa, Zohrot and the Negev Coexistence Forum have indoctrinated, urged and paid Israeli Arabs to abandon their Israeli identity, view themselves as Palestinians and reject Israel's right to exist.

Survey data shows that a growing majority of Israeli Arabs wish to integrate into the wider Israeli society. And yet, with effectively unlimited funding from European

governments, radical forces inside the Israeli Arab community have managed to intimidate their opponents into silence and incite their members to reject Israel.

This then brings us to the EU's role in subverting Israeli politics more generally. For the past several months, leftist political strategist and self-styled anti-corruption dragon slayer Eldad Yaniv has been leading a political campaign to demand that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu be indicted.

Yaniv's campaign has involved weekly demonstrations against Netanyahu, which are widely covered by the media.

Netanyahu's supporters allege Yaniv is manipulating the public by using unproved allegations of corruption to

diminish public support for the government in the service of the radical Left.

Demonstrations in Tel Aviv early last month bore out those allegations. Prominently displayed was a giant, brightly illuminated sign that read "BDS." Radical demonstrators called for Israel to be destroyed and vowed never to defend "Zionism."

According to an investigative report on the demonstration published in Israel Hayom, among the demonstrations' major financial backers and organizers are One Voice, a US-registered NGO that receives financial support from the EU, the British Muslim Organization and Labour Friends of Palestine. In other words, according to the report, the EU is funding

Israeli groups that are working openly to overthrow the democratically elected government of Israel.

Netanyahu visited Paris and Brussels to confront Europe's leaders and challenge their hostility toward Israel. He told his European hosts that their opposition to Trump's recognition of reality in respect to Jerusalem was indefensible. Far from harming the cause of peace, Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital advanced it. After all, there is no way a sustainable peace can be based on rejection of reality, he argued.

As the lukewarm responses Netanyahu received from the likes of Mogherini and Macron made clear, the Europeans behind the war against Israel have no intention of

permitting reality to get in their way.

They aren't waging their political war geared toward delegitimizing Israel internationally, even at the expense of their local Jewish communities, and subverting Israel's government domestically to advance peace. They are doing it because they think their interests are served by waging war against Israel.

Ahead of Netanyahu's trip to Europe and US Vice President Mike Pence's visit to Israel, the PA announced its leaders would boycott Pence in retaliation for Trump's recognition of Jerusalem. The Palestinian notion—supported by their Israeli far Left supporters—is that the EU should replace the US as the mediator.

During his meeting with Netanyahu, Macron rejected those suggestions. And that makes sense. Because even if he wanted to supplant the Americans, there is no chance he would succeed. Israel will never permit the Europeans to mediate anything. Their war against Israel internationally and inside of Israel itself has achieved one clear result. The Europeans have convinced Israelis not to trust them, not to admire them, and not to consider them friends.

Originally published in the *Jerusalem Post*.

Caroline Glick is the senior Middle East Fellow at the Center for Security Policy in Washington, DC, the deputy managing editor of *The Jerusalem Post* and a contributor to *The Jewish World Review*.

Peace

From page 5A

As a result, following President Trump's announcement accepting the reality that Jerusalem is Israel's capital, Arab leaders made perfunctory statements condemning the decision but did nothing. Muslims around the world did not answer Abbas's call for three days of rage. In fact, few Palestinians paid attention.

The Palestinians turned to terror many years ago in the delusional belief that they could bomb the Jews out of their homeland. But hijackings, suicide bombings, intifadas and ongoing attacks have not and will not succeed in improving the plight of the Palestinians. The violence

has only made things worse for them.

The entire Israeli public shifted rightward after the Israeli evacuation of Gaza, giving Palestinians control, because the Palestinians destroyed the land-for-peace formula by bombarding Israel with rockets. Most Israelis now demand concrete security guarantees before they withdraw from another inch of disputed land. Any nation in the world would demand such guarantees.

Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of Palestinian Derangement Syndrome is that Palestinians have convinced themselves that they do not have to compromise with Israel, because time is on their side.

The fertility rate of Jews is now higher than that of Palestinians; nevertheless, some Palestinians believe they will eventually outnumber Israeli Jews and somehow swallow up Israel.

Alternatively, some Palestinians hope that one or more countries in the region will obtain nuclear weapons and destroy Israel. The Iranians are the most likely to get a bomb, but if the nightmare of a successful nuclear attack on Israel ever became a reality, there's no question that many Palestinians as well as Israeli Jews would die.

The best hope for a cure for Palestinian Derangement Syndrome is a change in Palestinian leadership. Abbas

represents the last of the old guard, which psychologically cannot give up the dream of liberating all of "occupied Palestine"—meaning all of Israel, not just that lands Israel captured after it was attacked by Arab armies in the Six Day War in 1967.

If the Palestinians want to achieve independence, they will have to elect leaders committed to ending their suffering and to ending Palestinian Derangement Syndrome. This will require:

- Providing basic civil rights to the Palestinians under their authority.
- Entering face-to-face negotiations with Israel with realistic expectations.
- Demonstrating that they

are willing to live in peace beside the Jewish State.

- Recognizing that the 1949 armistice line that set the newly independent State of Israel's border after it defeated invading Arab armies will not be the border going forward.

- Accepting that Israel will never give up its ancient capital of Jerusalem.

- Understanding that Israel will not accept the Palestinian dream of a "right of return" for more than a fraction of the Palestinian refugees who fled Israel in the 1940s and their descendants born elsewhere in the last 70 years.

- Accepting that Israel will never withdraw from major settlement blocs in the West Bank.

- Giving up the idea that Israel can be pressured to accept their demands by outside parties through boycotts, U.N. resolutions or any other threats.

Ending Palestinian Derangement Syndrome will be not be easy. The delusions of the syndrome are older than most Palestinians alive today, taught to them since childhood. But at some point, Palestinians will have to accept reality if they truly wish to reach a mutually beneficial peace agreement with Israel.

Dr. Mitchell Bard is executive director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise and author/editor of 24 books including "The Arab Lobby" and the novel "After Anatevka: Tevye in Palestine."

Why Trump's Middle East negotiator is beating expectations



Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Jason Greenblatt, in gray shirt, visiting the Nahal Oz military base near the Gaza border, Aug. 30, 2017.

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Jason Greenblatt, President Donald Trump's chief Israeli-Palestinian negotiator, has an office just around the corner from the White House.

On his computer monitor is a Post-it note, inscribed with a quote from former Mossad chief Tamir Pardo: "At the end of the day, a peace agreement derives its strength from an understanding between peoples, not an accord between governments."

It's an appropriate message for Greenblatt, an affable Orthodox Jew who's been tasked by Trump with leading Israel and the Palestinians toward peaceful pastures. Given that the lawyer had no prior diplomatic experience, Greenblatt was considered an odd choice for the task, according to observers.

However, according to interlocutors and veteran Israeli-Arab negotiators, Greenblatt, who is about 50, has exceeded expectations. Many on all sides praise him for his investment in the people affected by the conflict—especially for his intensive, public engagement with populations largely overlooked by previous negotiators, such as settlers, the haredi Orthodox and Palestinian refugees.

In interviews with more than a dozen people who have met the special representative for international negotiations, one compliment comes up again and again: Greenblatt is a good listener. And that's a skill that may be essential to the job.

"Greenblatt has made a universally positive impres-

sion among Israelis and Palestinians as serious, creative, empathetic and dedicated to the cause of peace," said Daniel Shapiro, who was the Obama administration's ambassador to Israel. "They see him as possessing goodwill and a sense of realism about what peace looks like. He deserves the praise he has received for building those relationships of trust in a situation when the parties don't trust each other at all."

Greenblatt is one member of a team led by Trump's top adviser, Jared Kushner, who is married to his daughter, Ivanka. The team also includes David Friedman, the ambassador to Israel, and, until January, Dina Powell, a top National Security Council official who is stepping down. Both Friedman, who also is an Orthodox Jew, and Greenblatt worked for years as lawyers for Trump and the Trump Organization.

Yet despite all the goodwill toward Greenblatt, his seemingly altruistic efforts may wither in absence of an overarching political solution. After Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital earlier this month, the Palestinians have walked away—at least temporarily—from an American-led peace push.

In addition, while Israel applauded the Jerusalem recognition, its officials have expressed trepidation at others aspects of the Trump administration's emerging approach. For example, Greenblatt has welcomed Palestinian Authority attempts to assume control of the Gaza Strip—but Israel's government is concerned

that such control will also increase Hamas' influence.

Shapiro, who is now a fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies in Israel, said that Greenblatt "can only operate within the constraints of the policy he or she is tasked to carry out."

But what the policy is—and what constraints they come with—are not very discernible under the current administration.

"All we know is that the U.S. believes in peace, supports Palestinian economic development, opposes terror and recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital," Shapiro said. "Each of those positions is correct, but without an overarching framework of a policy goal and initiative focused on achieving a two-state solution to end the conflict, nothing ties those threads together, and there is little any envoy can do to advance toward that goal."

A White House official said that Trump's critics were missing the point: Whatever peace plan the administration advances should emerge organically from the people whom it would most affect.

"However the peace agreement shakes out at the end of the day will be in one in which the two societies are connected economically and otherwise," said the official, who requested anonymity in order to speak expansively about the Trump administration's peace efforts. "We can't do this from afar, we have to go there to see interactions, how the economics can work out, how business is conducted on the two sides."

Greenblatt's office did not agree to an interview.

In September, however, speaking at the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, the grouping of nations that are invested in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, Greenblatt put it this way: "Instead of working to impose a solution from the outside, we are giving the parties space to make their own decisions about their future," he said. "Instead of laying blame for the conflict at the feet of one party or the other, we are focused on implementing existing agreements and unlocking new areas of cooperation which benefit both Palestinians and Israelis."

Greenblatt already scored one success: a deal, signed in July, in which Israel sells water to the Palestinian Authority at reduced rates. The water will reach parched areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which is ruled by Hamas.

The agreement, forged at a time in which Israeli and Palestinian leadership barely speak to one another, earned Greenblatt kudos—from the Israelis, at least—for keeping away from hot-button issues that scuttled previous talks.

"When you focus on the issues—and not about history or background or personal emotions or other disturbing elements—the common denominator is much bigger than what separates us," Tzachi HaNegbi, the country's minister for regional development, said at the time.

The evidence shows, though, that Greenblatt does focus on emotional and personal elements—but only as a means of advancing commonalities.

Greenblatt's Twitter feed is a constant flow of amity. He posts photos of kosher meals he's received as the guest of the Palestinian Authority or the Saudi kingdom. He ran a series of photos featuring kids from Gaza who visited Washington under a youth exchange program—in one, he thanks the Israeli government for facilitating the group's travel. (The Palestine Liberation Organization envoy, Husam Zomlot, thanked Greenblatt for his intervention.) He wishes Jews, Muslims and Christians happy holidays at the appropriate times.

It's a friendly approach that has attracted investment in the peace process from actors who were wary of it in the past.

"Overall, the sense is, we're being spoken to," said

Elie Pieprz, the director of external affairs for the Yesha Council, the umbrella body for West Bank settlements. "The expectation is that for there to be genuine peace, you need to be speaking to people on all sides, not just a couple of leaders you gather in a hotel in Europe."

The Palestinian Authority, at least until the Jerusalem issue arose this month, also enthusiastically embraced Trump's approach, as expressed through Greenblatt, their most frequent interlocutor from the Trump administration.

Zomlot, the PLO envoy, turned down a request for an interview, but in previous briefings for reporters he expressed admiration for the intensity of Greenblatt's involvement. "They have traveled to the region, they have met with all parties, especially Mr. Greenblatt," he said at an August briefing.

"What I'm hearing is that he is primarily in listening mode, respectful of positions trying to understand where they're coming from, but also preparing for what appears to be big moves," said Jonathan Schanzer, the vice president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

"He understands the power of weakness of the Palestinian side," said Nimrod Novik, a former top Israeli negotiator under Labor governments and now the Israel Policy Forum's Israel fellow. "Which means once presented with a seemingly impossible position they can easily say no and become domestic heroes." Greenblatt understands, Novik said, that whatever formula emerges it must not be one that Palestinians reflexively reject.

Oded Revivi, the mayor of the settlement of Efrat, which maintains relations with three neighboring Palestinian villages, said Greenblatt was able to extrapolate from the details of that relationship to possible bigger picture solutions. "He's very interested in small details while remembering that he is representing the strongest country in the world, and he needs to think of the global matter and not just a small suburb of Jerusalem," he said.

Still, despite Greenblatt's efforts, there remains considerable frustration—if not anxiety—at the Trump administration's reluctance to outline a deal. At the same August briefing with reporters, Zomlot wondered

"where the hell they are going." Around the same time that Greenblatt was saying that Hamas-Palestinian Authority would work, if Hamas adheres to principles including the laying down of arms and recognizing Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fretted that the reconciliation could come at "the expense of our existence."

There may be obstacles closer to home as well. Interlocutors who have spent time with the negotiation team say that Friedman's politics tend to veer to the far right on the Israeli political spectrum. Friedman, speaking this week of Palestinian reaction to Trump's recognition of Jerusalem, told The Jerusalem Post that the Palestinian reaction to the recognition was "ugly" and "anti-Semitic."

One figure who met with the team notes that Greenblatt spent time at Yeshivat Har Etzion, a West Bank yeshiva noted for leaders who counseled engagement with the Palestinians. A source close to Greenblatt described his year there as "a very meaningful year of growth with great teachers, role models and friends."

Friedman, before becoming ambassador, was a backer of the more hardline Bet El yeshiva.

Kushner is facing legal woes as a special prosecutor investigates the Trump campaign's alleged collusion with Russia. He said in leaked remarks over the summer that he doesn't know if a deal is even possible.

But Kushner, speaking earlier this month at the Brookings Institution annual Saban Forum, which convenes Israeli and U.S. influencers, described a team that works together smoothly. "As this process has gone through, my team in particular, being three Orthodox Jews and a Coptic Egyptian [Powell], has tried very hard to do a lot of listening," he said.

A White House official said that the team is focused on reaching a deal—but the official added that there is also value in Greenblatt's confidence-building measures, in and of themselves.

The official added that Trump, who has had about 10 meetings with the team, was very attentive to progress toward reaching a peace deal.

"He's extremely engaged and interested and dedicated to making this a top priority," the official said.

Members of UN Security Council declare support for the return of two IDF soldiers, captured by Hamas

NEW YORK—On Friday, Dec. 22, Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honorable Irwin Cotler, addressed a special session of the United Nations Security Council on International Humanitarian Law and the repatriation of the remains of Hadar Goldin, abducted and murdered by Hamas in violation of a UN-mandated humanitarian ceasefire. Security Council Member nations—including

the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Russia, France, Italy, Sweden, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Senegal and Uruguay—expressed their solidarity with the Goldin family, and demanded the return of the remains of Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul. Additional guests of the session included emissaries from the missions of Japan, Peru and Israel. The nations stood side by side in calling for Hamas to return

the remains of two IDF soldiers it holds captive.

The historic hearing was co-hosted by The United States and Ukraine, in the face of what Cotler described as Hamas's "abiding disrespect and denunciation of the UN itself, its values, institutions, and norms."

"We are pleased by the significant number of delegations from around the world at the meeting, who highlighted that the refusal to repatriate

the remains of murdered soldiers is an egregious violation of the most fundamental principles of human rights and human dignity that underpin humanitarian law" said Cotler. "The next step is for this group to work with the Secretary-General and international organizations to secure the return of the remains, lest the international community itself indulge a culture of impunity in defiance of UN norms."

"As a mother, I am extremely grateful that this world body and these world leaders gave us their time to listen to my appeal," movingly expressed Dr. Leah Goldin, mother of slain soldier Hadar Goldin. "We believe the UN can compel Hamas to return my son and Oron Shaul's remains to their home for a proper burial."

Hadar Goldin was an Israeli Defense Forces soldier who was killed in August 2014,

and whose body is still held ransom by Hamas. Goldin was killed during a cease-fire from Operation Protective Edge, in which the IDF went into Gaza to destroy terror tunnels and missile launching sites. The cease-fire, brokered by the United Nations and the United States and agreed upon by both Israel and Hamas, handicapped Goldin's ability at the time of his ambush to return fire and defend himself.