



The future looks bright for these Jewish Academy kindergarteners.

## Jewish Academy of Orlando opens its doors to students of all faiths

Just as it celebrates its 40th anniversary, the Jewish Academy of Orlando will open enrollment to students of all faiths offering the benefits of the independent school's academic and cultural excellence to the broader community.

Beginning in the January 2018-2019 term, enrollment will be open to families of all faiths and who seeks the independent school's STEM-focused initiatives. The Jewish Academy of Orlando is recognized for its service learning culture, smaller classrooms and personalized education.

Discussion about open enrollment

began last summer among the school's Board, and for four months the board members talked with parents and community leaders about becoming inclusive.

"We did our homework," said Head of School Alan Rusonik. He further explained that Jewish Day schools across the country have open enrollment and follow either a dual track curriculum, in which students can select a purely academic curriculum, or one track, in which all the students take all the same classes. The board agreed unanimously to be one track.

Rusonik told Heritage that this in no way affects or changes the mission, vision or values of the school. "They will remain the same—to provide academic excellence within a culture of Jewish values. Our goal is to produce excellent students who are filled with self-confidence and are comfortable with their Jewish identities."

"Our approach to education includes passion, mindfulness, pride, connecting and leadership—very clear objectives that are incorporated into our powerful curriculum," said Board member Robyn

Academy on page 15A

## Support for Israel among young evangelicals is solid but slipping

By Josefina Dolsten

NEW YORK (JTA)—A new study has some troubling news for Israel and its supporters, who have come to rely



Participants at CUFI's 2017 summit in Washington, D.C., July 17-18, 2017.

on the political and financial support of the 25 percent of Americans who identify as evangelical Christians.

"Older American evangelicals love Israel—but many younger evangelicals simply don't care," reads the summary of the study released last month by the Nashville-based evangelical research firm LifeWay Research.

And while the summary may overstate the case, the survey, underwritten by Cho-

sen People Ministries (which seeks Jewish converts to Christianity), shows that young evangelicals are less supportive and more ambivalent about the State of Israel than their older counterparts.

Though a majority of respondents aged 18-34 have a positive view of Israel, that number is lower than for all other age groups: 58 percent of millennials view the Jewish state positively, compared to 76 percent of those 65 or older.

The survey, which included 2,000 respondents and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.7 percent, also found that millennial evangelicals were the most likely to say they are unsure of how they see Israel, at 30 percent. That number was 16 percent for the group 65 and over.

That gap, though not as dramatic as the report's introduction would have it,

Support on page 15A

## Trump waives Iran sanctions

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—President Donald Trump waived nuclear sanctions against Iran for what the White House said was the final time under the current deal.

By the time the next waiver signing rolls around in 120 days, Trump wants a new deal in place that removes "sunset clauses" allowing Iran to resume enhanced enrichment of fissile material within a decade, three senior administration officials said Friday. Trump wants the bans to be permanent. "He wants to deny Iran access to nuclear weapons forever and not just for 10 years," one of the officials said.

The officials spoke Friday in a conference call for journalists on the condition they not be named.

The officials said Trump expected America's European allies who are also parties to the 2015 accord, which swapped sanctions relief for a rollback of Iran's nuclear program, to join with him in reworking the deal. He is also demanding a permanent end to Iran's enrichment of fissile material at a grade sufficient for weapons use. As it stands, Iran is currently allowed to enrich uranium to low grades unsuitable for weapons use.

In a statement later Friday Trump said those who do not work with him to amend the deal are effectively siding with Iran.

"I hereby call on key European countries to join with the United States in fixing significant flaws in the deal, countering Iranian aggression, and supporting the Iranian people," he said. "If other nations fail to act during this time, I will terminate our deal with Iran. Those who, for whatever reason, choose not to work with us will be siding with the Iranian regime's nuclear ambitions, and against the people of Iran and the peaceful nations of the world."

The officials notably did not say that Trump expected the other two nations party to the deal—Russia and China—to join in the revision of the deal. The three European nations that are party to the deal, France, Germany and Britain, have said that they do not want to reopen the deal unless all parties are agreed. Russia and China are adamantly opposed to renegotiating the deal, as is Iran.

Trump first called on the European nations to reopen the deal to modifications in October; there has been no sign that

Sanctions on page 15A

## Israel's blacklist of BDS groups

By Aryeh Savir  
 World Israel News

Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs has published a list of 20 anti-Israel organizations that actively support the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement and whose activists will be denied entry into the Jewish state.

"These organizations operate consistently against the State of Israel, while putting pressure on other organizations, institutions and countries to boycott Israel," the ministry stated. "The organizations' activities are carried out through a false propaganda campaign aimed at undermining Israel's legitimacy in the world."

Minister of Strategic Affairs Gilad Erdan stated that "the consolidation of the list is another step in our struggle against the incitement and lies of the boycott organizations. No country would allow visitors who come to harm the country to enter it, and certainly when the goal is to destroy Israel as a Jewish state."

He added that Israel has "moved from defense to offense, the boycott organizations should know that the

Jewish state will act against them and will not allow them to enter it to harm its citizens."

"These people take advantage of the law and our hospitality to act against Israel and slander the Land. I will act against this in every way," stated Interior Minister Aryeh Deri.

The BDS Movement attempts to delegitimize and isolate Israel in an effort to advance Palestinian interests. Many leaders of the campaign have publicly affirmed that they seek Israel's destruction.

In August 2016, Israel established an inter-ministerial team tasked with tracking down and deporting anti-Israel activists who come to the Jewish State for the purpose of harming the country. The team also works to prevent the future entry of activists who operate for the BDS movement.

Israel acted on its new directives for the first time at the end of 2016, denying

BDS on page 14A

# Happenings at JFS Orlando

## Coffee Connections at JFS Orlando returns Jan. 25

JFS Orlando invites the community to sip some coffee, nosh on a bagel and see/hear new and exciting developments at the facility. Learn about the positive impact JFS Orlando is having in the community.

There are new programs, new building enhancements, and new specialties.

Coffee Connections will be held throughout 2018 on the last Thursday of the month from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. (tour starting promptly at 8:15 a.m.) beginning this month. The tour is free.

RSVPs are requested by contacting Amanda Marchese at 407-644-7593, ext. 227 or by email to [Amanda.marchese@jfsorlando.org](mailto:Amanda.marchese@jfsorlando.org)

## Need to use a computer?

JFS Orlando's Computer Lab, funded in part by the Frances and Joseph Victor Fund at the Central Florida

Foundation, is open to the community. Those in need of assistance with a resume, job search, government benefit applications, Microsoft software or any online-based activity, call 407-644-7593 to schedule an appointment.

The Lab always needs volunteers. If interested in volunteering in the computer lab, contact Volunteer Coordinator Amanda Marchese for more information.

## Ways to contribute to JFS Orlando

### Amazon Smile

Did you know that just by choosing Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando as your charity beneficiary when making purchases on amazon.com, JFS Orlando will receive .5 percent of the purchase price on eligible items? Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) to learn how you can give the easy way.

### JFS Orlando Tribute Cards

For a minimum suggested donation of \$18, you can cheer up a neighbor, wish a happy birthday or provide your thanks by sending a customized greeting card.

## Monetary Gifts

For every dollar donated, JFS can purchase \$6 worth of food or pantry items. No donation is too small. Donations can be mailed to The George Wolly Center, 2100 Lee Rd., Ste. A, Winter Park, FL 32789 or by calling 407-644-7593.

## Food Donations

JFS Orlando puts food on the table for more than 76,000 Central Floridians each year. Donations of canned and non-perishable groceries that have not expired can be brought to the Pearlman Pantry during pantry hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon.

## Centerpieces for Tzedakah

If you're planning a wedding, baby shower, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or any special event, JFS Orlando's Centerpieces for Tzedakah would be a wonderful addition. Not only would you be enhancing your event and going, "green," but you would also be helping those in need. In Modern Hebrew, Tzedakah is the (Jewish) obligation to help those in need in our community. With

your support, JFS does this every day by providing food for the hungry.

The centerpieces are very easy to order, and each rental of \$200 provides 100 meals to those in need:

Two styles from which to choose:

- Wicker basket
- Trunk (3 available: small, medium or large)

All are filled with a representation of items offered in the JFS Pearlman Food Pantry. The baskets and trunks are wrapped in clear packaging and adorned with ribbon.

• Free pick-up and delivery to local event site

• 100% tax-deductible as donation to JFS Orlando

### Rental Fees:

• Minimum rental order is \$200

• Basket or carts - \$25 each

• Trunk - \$200

• Value Packages: 5 baskets + trunk - \$300; 10 baskets + trunk - \$350; 20 baskets + trunk - \$500

Please email/call Development Coordinator, Amanda Benedict, with any questions at [amanda.benedict@jfsorlando.org](mailto:amanda.benedict@jfsorlando.org) or 407-644-7593 x227.

# Celebrate Tu B'Shevat and Havdalah at Roth Family JCC

Experience a special community-wide Havdalah that will engage your five senses and learn more about the tradition of Havdalah at a Tu B'Shevat-Havdalah event, sponsored by The Roth Family JCC and The Israel American Council.

This gathering will take place on Saturday evening, Feb. 3 from 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. The Israeli professional band, The Magic Sabres, will provide entertainment, and a dairy dinner will be served. There will also be

Tu B'Shevat activities for children.

The cost: \$25 per family or \$10 per adult. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tu-bishvat-havdalah-tickets-41910240658>.



## Jewish-themed plays coming to Mad Cow Theatre

Laura Hodos, Cynthia Beckert and Matt Horohoe are in "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" at the Mad Cow Theatre in downtown Orlando from Jan. 19 through Feb. 18. The comedy about an Upper West Side Jewish housewife in the midst of a midlife crisis is one of several Mad Cow productions this season with Jewish characters front and center.

This summer, Mad Cow is producing "Bad Jews," a comedy about a fight over a family heirloom, and "Buyer & Cellar," a comedy about an out-of-work actor who finds a job curating Barbra Streisand's basement.

Mad Cow also is producing plays this season by two prominent Jewish playwrights: Arthur Miller's "A View from the Bridge" and Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes." Tickets are available at [www.madcowtheatre.com](http://www.madcowtheatre.com) or by calling 407-297-8788.

# Harry Potter Mania Event at Temple Israel



The Ministry of Magic is designing a personalized wand for every wizard attending the event.

Prepare your wands, cloaks and brooms for a magical afternoon at Hogwarts

Castle! In the afternoon of Jan. 28, from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Temple Israel in Winter

Springs will be transforming into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Participants will recreate the experience of attending as students, through hands-on classes on Potions, Charms, Care of Magical Creatures, Wand Making and even a Quidditch Tournament.

The planning committee, that calls itself, the Ministry of Magic, is making sure that every detail is in place, including a Sorting Ceremony, Shops at Diagon Alley, and some of the favorite Harry Potter favorite treats such as butter beer.

This is a family event open to the entire community. The cost is \$7 per person. For more information, please contact Temple Israel. Registration is online at: <https://www.tiflorida.org/harry-potter-mania/>.

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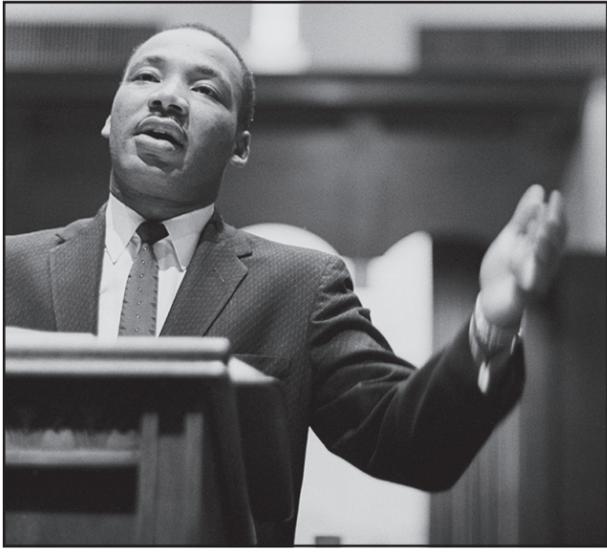
## Legacy Society forges ahead

The Jewish Pavilion Legacy Society Committee, under the leadership of Marty Glickstein, (left), has been in full force this year. They designed a planned-giving brochure and have secured 13 gifts to date. Upcoming plans include outreach to people age 70 1/2 and older who may benefit from Qualified Charitable Distributions from their IRAs.

For more information contact Nancy Ludin, CEO at 407-678-9363 [nancyludin@jewishpavilion.org](mailto:nancyludin@jewishpavilion.org)

Shown with Glickstein are Barry Kudlowitz and Jewish Pavilion Board President Paul Stenzler.

# What Martin Luther King Jr. learned on a visit to Jerusalem



Dozier Mobley/Getty Images

**The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preaching from his pulpit in 1960 at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga.**

**By Marc Schneier**

(JTA)—On Easter Sunday in 1959, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. rose in the pulpit of his Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, to deliver a sermon that focused on his just-completed

visit, with his wife, Coretta, to Jerusalem and its holy sites.

King's trip that month to eastern Jerusalem and the nearby cities of Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus and Jericho, all of which were then part of Jordan, came at the end of a month-long visit to India that

he wrote about extensively later in his autobiography.

However, little remains to us from his visit to Jerusalem, except for an audio recording and transcript of that late March sermon nearly six decades ago, which he titled "Pilgrimage to Non-Violence" and spoke movingly of walking in the footsteps of his two greatest inspirations, Mahatma Gandhi and Jesus. The sermon speaks of the deep impact of walking on the Via Dolorosa in the Old City, where Jesus was mocked and tormented, and how profoundly he connected Jesus' vision of peace, love and justice with his own struggle for justice for African-Americans.

King opened his sermon by lamenting that the two sides of Jerusalem—the Jordanian eastern part and the Israeli western part—were sealed off from each other and therefore he was unable to cross to the Israeli side.

"This city has been divided," King said. "And if on your visa it is revealed that you are going into any Arab nation, you

can only go to Israel without being able to... go back to an Arab country... So this was a strange feeling to go to the ancient city of God and see the tragedies of man's hate and his evil, which causes him to fight and live in conflict."

King told his congregants that when he came to the spot on the Via Dolorosa where Jesus stumbled under the weight of the cross, "The thing that I thought about at that moment was that ... it was a black man that picked it up for him and said, 'I will help you,' and took it on up to Calvary." Simon of Cyrene, who carried the cross, is often depicted as a black man.

"And I think we know today there is a struggle, a desperate struggle, going on in this world. Two-thirds of the people of the world are colored people... There is a struggle on the part of these people today to gain freedom and human dignity. And I think (that) one day, God will remember that it was a black man that helped His son in the darkest and most desolate moment of his life."

Invoking the parlous condition of African-Americans, most of whom were then still suffering under a regime of strict segregation and dire poverty, King said, "And so, this morning, let us not be disillusioned. Let us not lose faith. So often we've been crucified. We've been buried in numerous graves—the grave of economic insecurity, the grave of exploitation, the grave of oppression. We've watched justice trampled over and truth crucified. But I'm here to tell you this morning, Easter reminds us that it won't be like that all the way. It reminds us that God has a light that can shine amid all of the darkness."

King concluded, "Know that God has the universe in His hands. And because of that, segregation will die one day. Because of that, all of the lands of Africa will be free one day."

The civil rights leader never got the chance to visit Israel, including West Jerusalem and the Christian holy sites of Galilee. He was in the process

of planning such a trip, with the strong support of the government of Israel, in 1967, but canceled in the wake of the Six-Day War. King was assassinated the following year.

Nevertheless, we can take solace that King's powerful experience in 1959 gave him spiritual fortitude that helped sustain his leadership of the civil rights movement during the climactic struggles of the 1960s. Those struggles liberated African-Americans from more than 300 years of slavery and segregation, and finally changed America into a country that began to live up to the promise of its founding documents.

On this Martin Luther King Day 2018, let us—Jews, Christians, Muslims and all people of conscience—reflect upon King's only visit to Jerusalem in 1959.

*Rabbi Marc Schneier is president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and is the author of "Shared Dreams: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Jewish Community."*

## Netanyahu's Likud party votes unanimously for sovereignty in Judea and Samaria

**By Batya Jerenberg**  
World Israel News

In a victory for the Israeli right, over 1,000 members of the Likud party's Central Committee called unananimously Sunday evening for its representatives in government to formally an-

nex parts of Judea and Samaria and allow unlimited construction in the Jewish communities.

The resolution reads: "Fifty years after the liberation of Judea and Samaria, and with them Jerusalem, our eternal capital, the Likud Central Committee calls on Likud's

elected leaders to work to allow unhindered construction and to extend Israeli law and sovereignty in all the areas of liberated settlement in Judea and Samaria."

Not legally binding, but significant

The draft resolution was put forward by Shevach Stern

of the nationalist camp, who reminded the crowd that "this is not a legally binding resolution, but it binds our government morally and politically."

He also made a point of saying that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—who was not present—had already said 15 years ago that "there will be no Palestinian state west of the Jordan River." He was referring to the 2002 Likud convention, when a resolution was passed against the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria.

Although conspicuous by his absence, Netanyahu was mentioned positively by members of his cabinet, including Ze'ev Elkin, Minister of Jerusalem Affairs and Environmental Protection. He noted that the meeting was not taking place against the prime minister's will, insisting that Netanyahu has been outspoken about his views that all of Israel belongs to the Jewish people.

"This is our best chance" At the event, which lasted for over three hours, almost every speaker mentioned US President Donald Trump and his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Some merely thanked him, while others, such as Speaker of the Knesset Yuli Edelstein, marked it as a

potential jumping-off point. He declared, "Now it's up to us... Will it be only Jerusalem, or also Judea, Samaria, the Jordan Valley, etc.?"

Benny Kashriel, mayor of Maale Adumim, a city just east of the capital, stated firmly that "this is our best chance, with America behind us, and other countries growing closer. We have to bring the vote over sovereignty... to the Knesset."

The need to turn words into action was made by several committee members. "What happens after the vote?" asked Central Committee member Ze'ev Ben Yosef. "Will we really build everywhere? We must convince everyone we can, so this will actually be carried out."

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Hotovely received an especially fervent round of applause as she held up a rubber bracelet she received that evening with the words "The Likud is for Sovereignty" in Hebrew. "This blue bracelet is the correction for the orange bracelet of Gush Katif [against the disengagement from the Gaza Strip in 2005]. There will be no more evacuations," she stated. "Tonight we are making history."

"Sovereignty is our right" Gidon Sa'ar, previous num-

ber two in the party, and several others reminded the audience that under late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, the Knesset passed the Basic Law on Jerusalem in 1980, which stated that the city would remain the "complete and united capital of Israel," and applied sovereignty to the Golan Heights in 1981. Now is the time to strengthen the Jewish state's hold over all parts of the land and to prevent the destruction of Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, they said.

Speaker after speaker noted the historic character of the meeting and the need to end, in Edelstein's words, the "unbearable situation" according to which residents of Judea and Samaria are treated as second-class citizens, having all the obligations (i.e. paying taxes, serving in the army) but none of the rights (to build, for example) that those living in the pre-1967 borders enjoy. Over and over, the words "Sovereignty is our right" were heard.

It therefore came as no surprise when Minister of Welfare and Social Services Haim Katz, who chairs the Committee, announced the result of the vote—zero against, zero abstentions, and 100 percent in favor of sovereignty.

## Palestinians paid terrorists almost \$350 million in 2017



Miriam Alster/FLASH90

**Palestinian terrorist Yassin Abu al-Qar'a, who is eligible for a terror salary.**

**By World Israel News**

In 2017 alone, the Palestinian Authority (PA) compensated terrorists and their next of kin to the tune of more than \$347 million, reported Israel's Defense Ministry to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Tuesday, according to a report by the Jerusalem Post.

The figures came from the PA's own records, which also revealed a schedule of payments that increase significantly in proportion to the crime committed. Specifically, terrorists sentenced to three to five years in prison receive from the Palestinian government \$580 per month, which equals the average Palestinian income. The PA

pays terrorists sentenced to 20 years or more in prison over \$2,800 per month.

The PA supplements these base salaries with bonus payments for terrorists who also hold Israeli citizenship and those with children and spouses. Each additional box the terrorist can check off earns them an additional \$15 to \$120 dollars per month.

While Palestinians who commit the most serious crimes, such as murder, can clear around \$2,900 per month via their terror salary, the average working Israeli only makes \$2,700 in the same time period.

In response to this ongoing Palestinian policy, Knesset member Avigdor

Lieberman presented a bill to deduct terror salary totals from the funds Israel collects for the PA via various taxes and tariffs.

The bill mirrors US legislation called the Taylor Force Act, which conditions future American aid to the Palestinians on cessation of the terror salary system. The bill is currently working its way through the legislature with bipartisan support, clearing the House of Representatives and awaiting Senate action.

The Israeli version of the bill defines "terrorist" as any individual who has committed a security offense, regardless of whether a conviction was secured in court or whether the terrorist is still alive.



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# Win or lose, Iranians want regime change

By Ben Cohen  
JNS

For the first time in nearly a decade, one dares to believe that the Islamist clerics who have ruled Iran since 1979 will not be in power by the time the 40th anniversary of their revolution rolls around in 2019.

The nationwide protests are a direct challenge to the legitimacy of the Islamic Republic, as evidenced in the slogans chanted by the demonstrators. They are also a rude antidote to the thinking of much of the Western establishment, which still clings to the notion that the “reformers” with whom they negotiated the 2015 nuclear deal are the key to Iran’s future prosperity.

We are, it seems, a long way from President Barack Obama’s Nowruz message of 2009—the

first time an American leader referred officially to Iran as “The Islamic Republic of...” and the prelude to his abandonment of the Green Movement one year later. That is ironic, really, because the aspirational politics of the new protest wave in Iran have a distinctly Obama-esque flavor.

The vision being manifested on Iran’s streets would, in another context at least, sit very comfortably with the worldviews of American progressive Democrats or Europeans on the center-left. The protesters want state revenues to be spent on health, education and public infrastructure. They’ve had enough of corrupt, nepotistic government. They reject foreign wars outright—not primarily out of sympathy for the victims of the regime’s foreign adventures, but because the immediate demands of Hamas in Gaza or Hezbollah in Lebanon have

nothing to do with their immediate demands.

Most of all, they are cynical about the promises of their rulers, regarding the categories of “hardliners” and “moderates” that are so routine in Western thinking as lazy constructs intended to paper over the evermore visible cracks in the Shi’a Islamic state and its official doctrine of “velayat-e-faqih”—the guardianship of the jurists, a concept of the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

What is at stake here, therefore, is an entire system of rule. Most tyrants—Khomeini in Iran, Lenin in Russia, Hugo Chavez in Venezuela—believe themselves to be architects of new civilizations. By the time their revolutionary states start to rot—recent examples suggest their life span is anything from a decade to almost a century—those founding fathers generally are no longer around to see the full consequences.

And yet, when you consider the near-term options for Iran, it seems far more likely that the mullahs and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps security establishment will push the country onto an even more illiberal, bellicose path than it is that these demonstrations will triumph. Vast numbers of Iranians—those blurry figures we see whooping and cheering and chanting on the amateur video shared on social media—wish that the Islamic Republic would be buried. Sadly, that alone will not make it so.

Consider the experience of Iran’s close ally, Venezuela, whose people have made clear their rejection of the “Bolivarian socialism” instituted by Chavez in the heydays of high oil prices almost 20 years ago.

Chavez’s successor, Nicholas Maduro, has

imprisoned opposition leaders, attacked the free press, shut down the elected national assembly and replaced it with a tame impostor, and presided over a corruption-stained economic collapse that has resulted in malnutrition among the very same urban poor the Chavistas say they represent.

The depths of the misery that Venezuelans have become mired in were brutally illustrated on Christmas Eve in Caracas, when soldiers shot dead an 18-year-old pregnant woman in front of her husband. The couple had been standing in line with a larger group of people waiting to buy a scarce joint of pork—a traditional Venezuelan Christmas dish—who were ordered by the soldiers to disperse.

“This is how the murderous regime treats the people,” Venezuelan opposition lawmaker Delsa Solorzano tweeted after the shooting, expressing a sentiment that could have just as easily come from Iran. “The sorrow of this man, whose wife and baby-to-be were killed by a bullet from the state, is Venezuela’s sorrow.”

Venezuela is instructive for another reason—like Iran, it is another foreign crisis on which the Trump administration has completely reversed the policies of its predecessor. During the summer, President Donald Trump instituted stringent sanctions against several leading Venezuelan officials, accusing Maduro at the same time of running a “dictatorship.” Trump even suggested at one point that there might be a U.S. “military option” against Venezuela—though he later, probably wisely, backed off from that idea.

Venezuela will have reminded Trump and those around him that the overthrow of tyrants

Cohen on page 14A

## Panicky critics of Israel push fake ‘one state’ threat

By Stephen M. Flatow  
JNS

You know that critics of Israel are getting panicky when they start trotting out the old “one state” bogeyman.

“As a 2-State Solution Loses Steam, a 1-State Plan Gains Traction,” a New York Times headline announced on Jan. 5, above an article so palpably absurd that it can only reflect the mad panic among advocates of Palestinian statehood as they see their dream fading away. And the fact that The Times chose to make it page one news says a lot about the fearful mindset among the left-wing news media, Israel-bashing pundits and Jewish peace camp types.

The article was written by David M. Halbfinger, who became The Times’s Jerusalem bureau chief six months ago. Before taking up that position, Halbfinger served as one of the newspaper’s Hollywood correspondents and as its New York City metro political editor. It doesn’t sound like those previous posts prepared him very well for understanding Israel and the Palestinians.

On the other hand, sometimes it seems as if the only “qualification” The Times requires for someone to serve as its Jerusalem correspondent (or bureau chief) is the ability to come up with ways to harangue and smear Israel and to make Palestinians look sympathetic. That’s certainly what Halbfinger seemed to be up to with his “one state” declaration.

The basic idea is to threaten Israel: If you don’t agree to create an independent Palestinian state adjacent to your major cities and airports, then you’ll really be in trouble, because the Palestinians will demand that they become part of a single state with you Israelis, and then they will outnumber you, and then—poof!—no more Israel.

According to the “one state” idea that Palestinians are supposedly talking about, thinking about and considering, “the Palestinian movement should shift to a struggle for equal civil rights, including the freedom of movement, assembly and speech, and the right to vote in national elections.”

What Halbfinger forgot to mention is that Israel already gave the Palestinians all of those things—it’s only the Palestinian Authority (PA) that interferes with them. In 1995, then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pulled Israel’s forces out of the areas where 98 percent of the Palestinians live. As of 1995, Israel no longer determined the Palestinians’ freedom of move-

ment, assembly, speech or right to vote. They can move, assemble, speak and vote whenever the PA leadership lets them.

In fact, just last May, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians went to 461 polling stations, and chose the members of the 391 municipal and village councils in the PA-controlled portions of Judea and Samaria. A total of 3,489 council members were elected.

The only reason there has not been a Palestinian election for president is that the current occupant of that position, Mahmoud Abbas, won’t allow a presidential election. Why doesn’t Halbfinger write about Palestinians who are angry not at Israel, but at the fascist dictatorship under which they suffer? I think we all know the answer to that question.

Israelis laugh at the “one state” talk. Of course they would never accept a demand for one state with an Arab majority. It doesn’t matter how many clever slogans the Palestinians invent (with the help of their Western PR firms). It doesn’t matter how many critics of Israel shout phony accusations of “apartheid,” or how many attacks-disguised-as-news Halbfinger writes in The New York Times.

The “one state” threat is a cheap propaganda exercise whose only purpose is to try to scare Israelis and their American Jewish supporters. The irony is that it’s The New York Times and J Street who are the ones that are genuinely scared. They’re scared to death because their dream of setting up a Palestinian state a few miles from Tel Aviv is slipping away.

And they seemed so close! For eight years, they had an American president who really believed a Palestinian state would bring peace in our time. They turned the Democratic Party virtually into an advocate for the Palestinian cause. They pressured Israel to freeze all Jewish construction in the territories for 10 months.

But then democracy intervened. In 2013 and 2015, Israelis chose to re-elect a government that recognizes the deadly dangers of a Palestinian state and nine-mile-wide borders. In 2016, Americans elected a president whose party platform dropped its previous support for Palestinian statehood. The people—on both sides of the Atlantic—have spoken. All that Israel’s critics are left with is a bunch of stale slogans and pathetic scare tactics.

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

## Shipley speaks

Jim Shipley



### Fading memories

Some years ago, the French actor Robert Clary appeared on a television interview. He was famous for another television program—Hogan’s Heroes, a comical take on a prison camp in Germany during the Second World War. In the interview, Clary, for the first time, told the story of his experience with the Holocaust. How he, as a young Jewish actor in Paris was rounded up along with his Jewish neighbors and Jewish contemporaries by the Paris police and eventually sent to Buchenwald. The rest of his family was also taken to German Concentration Camps where they perished.

Clary said the two most startling things to him in his remembrance of the Holocaust was 1) that it was not the Nazis but French policemen who picked him up and 2) that when he came home and went back to some of his old haunts, the actors and actresses there greeted him warmly but never asked a single question of where he had been for four years. To these other French citizens it was as if the Holocaust never happened.

Statistics tell us that 13 Holocaust Survivors die every day. Clary himself is 91 years old. The wonderful work and incredible impact of The March of the Living leaves an indelible mark on those teenagers who attend. We have two granddaughters whose outlook has been permanently altered by the experience.

There are Holocaust Remembrance Centers all over the country and overseas as well. The Center here in Orlando is outstanding and its educational efforts on all forms of hatred and discrimination are effective and leave a deep impression on anyone who pays attention.

But: With statistics showing that less than 35 percent of our Millennials think of themselves as Jews first, with the loss of the Survivors, the question keeps arising: What is the future of the Jews?

I would guess the first time this question was asked was when Abram left the land of Ur to go to a new land. Certainly it was asked when the exodus to Babylon took place. And again after the Romans, and of course after the Holocaust.

And now, there is this tearing at our fabric by modern life, technologies and the ongoing debate (mostly in Israel) for the definition of JEW. Let’s start with this: Most religious organizations are not about the faith of the followers. They are about power. Martin Lu-

ther was so upset about the corruption of the Catholic Church he created what became in essence a new group of religions.

Today, that power flexes itself in Israel in the form of political parties. Shas—the strongest of the “Ultra” Religious parties holds incredible sway over the present government. Israel is a land of multiple political parties. What else would you expect in the land of the Jews.

Therefore a small, well-organized group is enough to create or tear down a government. Not that there’s anything wrong with that. It creates the need for coalition to get anything done—something that might indeed solve a number of our problems here.

In Israel, what you believe religiously is a political issue. The Orthodox Rabbinate determines who can marry who and “remain a Jew.” Now, there is a bill floating that would determine who is and who is not a “Jew.”

If there was ever anything more ridiculous than this bill—it might be some of the mostly overturned laws that allowed discrimination in the U.S. Who is a Jew? Ladies and gentlemen; members of the Knesset; learned rabbis—who or what is a Jew is predetermined.

Did we forget that we were a people for a thousand years before we became a religion? Our son Adam asked us: “A friend of mine had his DNA tested and found out he was 16 percent Jewish. What does that mean?”

We explained to him just that: We are a people. We have common DNA with all of the Jewish people. Sure, we have intermarried through the generations. More so now than ever. But in every one of us there is that “Pintela Yid” that is us no matter what we may say or do.

To all those Millennials that don’t celebrate or even may deny their Jewishness—it won’t help. You are. And there is much to be proud of there. What a history! What an impact on mankind!

So let the learned rabbis argue—they’ve been doing that for thousands of years. But a Jew is a Jew. No law can change that. If it is in your blood, your DNA—you are!

There are people who are “Jewish”—by choice through marriage or conversion. We do not want to argue about conversion techniques. But those of us who carry the DNA—we are Jews no matter what the learned rabbis say. Six million of us perished because we are what we are. You have Jewish DNA? Be damned proud of it.

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

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# Remembering Aharon Appelfeld, from charnel house to whorehouse to a home in Israel

By Thane Rosenbaum

NEW YORK (JTA)—Arguably the world's greatest writer of fiction about the world's foremost nonfiction atrocity, the Holocaust, died Thursday in Israel. Aharon Appelfeld, a Holocaust survivor himself and one of the icons of Israel's first generation, was 85. No writer captured and reclaimed the lost world of European Jewish life with as much imaginative intensity and heartfelt longing.

The author of over 40 books, written in Hebrew and translated around the world, he was the recipient of the State of Israel Prize for Literature in 1983, and a finalist for the Man Booker International

Prize in 2013. Like the surreal events that shaped him, however, Appelfeld was a writer of great elusiveness and paradox. While he was known as a Holocaust writer, a label he rejected, he was also a man, and a fiction writer, who was nearly impossible to categorize.

After all, he was orphaned at 8 years old when his mother was murdered by the Nazis and he and his father were sent to a concentration camp in what is now Ukraine. Separated from his father, Appelfeld did not realize until 20 years later that he, too, had survived. They miraculously reunited in Israel—a reunion he was never able, emotionally, to write about.

Everything else he experienced, however, he reimagined feverishly. No writer who survived the Holocaust, and whose memories inspired their writings, had been dealt such a vividly colorful and yet traumatizing childhood experience. Although a small boy, Appelfeld escaped from the camp and lived in small towns and the forests of the former Austrian-Hungarian Empire—creases in the geography of Romania, Transylvania and Bukovina. He lived among and was helped along by horse thieves, fortune-telling Gypsies, self-described witches and working-girl prostitutes. He became a shepherd and

a caretaker of lame horses. Later he worked as a cook for the Soviet army. All this before a bar mitzvah he was still too young to have and, given everything else, God would not have noticed.

A prostitute became his surrogate mother. Each night, he once told me, in a studio flat through the scrim of a hanging bedsheet that separated his tiny bed from the larger one of his caretaker, all made luminous by ambient light, he watched his guardian angel sexually satisfy her drunken clientele—the boy observing through the projected screen, hearing the moans and grunting sounds, seeing shadowy movements that ushered him into accelerated puberty.

In the upside-down world of the Nazis, this kindhearted prostitute became his Mother Theresa.

This was the degenerate world that he knew, and that had oddly raised and protected him. He was too young to appreciate that he had been given a choice between a death camp and a madhouse. His life was saved by the latter. Such indelibly sordid memories on the lam provided him with the gift of a grist few writers—Jewish or otherwise—could ever imagine.

Appelfeld's characters live out their days in advance of the oncoming devastation, seemingly oblivious to what lies ahead, naively focusing on trivial details instead of

the Nazi menace that would soon nearly erase all of Jewish life in Europe.

His writing was spare and allegorical; he was a teller of tales rather than a chronicler of the ungodly details of murder. He intentionally never wrote about the camps, gas chambers, killing fields or death marches. But he wrote poignantly about the aftermath, the hesitant, halting and improbable recovery of the survivors both in Europe and in Israel.

Arriving in Israel two years before its creation, he quickly learned Hebrew, which added to his survival kit of six other languages.

Appelfeld on page 15A

## Why Trump's Palestinian aid cut threat makes sense

By Jonathan S. Tobin  
JNS

We didn't need the publication of a new book filled with behind-the-scenes gossip to know that Donald Trump is an unconventional and, at times, inappropriate president. His use of Twitter provides many examples of this fact.

But amid another flurry of questionable tweets on Jan. 4, Trump also talked about threatening aid cuts to the Palestinian Authority (PA). Most of the mainstream media treated that idea as being as loopy as the latest exchange of insults with North Korea's dictator. But while it's easy to mock Trump's social media habits, this one made sense and showed that, not for the first time, the president's instinctual distrust of experts and the foreign policy establishment may have served him well.

The minuscule amount of the national budget that goes to foreign nations generally serves American interests. In the case of Israel, which is the largest recipient, almost all of the money it gets is spent in the U.S. It's also part of a strategic alliance in which America receives a great deal back in terms of intelligence and technology.

But not all foreign aid serves U.S. interests. The money sent to the Palestinians illustrates this painfully obvious conclusion. Yet despite the abundant proof that keeping it flowing is counterproductive, the so-called experts seeking to restrain Trump can't seem to grasp this fact.

Aid to the PA is seen as necessary to prop up the only available interlocutor for peace with Israel. We're also told that funding the PA is a necessary part of its security cooperation with Israel.

There are elements of truth to these assertions. If the PA were to collapse, that would likely lead to Israel having to reassert direct control of the West Bank rather than the current situation in which the overwhelming majority of Palestinians are governed by the corrupt Fatah party led by PA leader Mahmoud Abbas. But the PA's need for cash to prop up its kleptocracy is exactly why the U.S. should be using its financial leverage to make it clear to Abbas that a quarter century of his organization holding the U.S. hostage in this manner can't continue. Abbas's threats of dissolving the PA are bluffs that should have been called long ago.

The same is true of security cooperation. Abbas relies on Israel to ensure his survival against the plots of his Islamist rivals as much, if not more, than the Israelis

rely on the PA to help keep terror under control in the West Bank.

The PA also uses the hundreds of millions of dollars it gets from the U.S. to provide salaries and pensions to terrorists and their families. Congressional efforts to hinge U.S. aid to ending the PA's subsidies via the Taylor Force Act deserve the president's support.

The same is true about the massive American contributions to UNRWA, the United Nations refugee agency that is solely devoted to the Palestinians. While UNRWA is credited with feeding and educating Palestinians, its main role is in maintaining the Arab refugees as a stateless people to perpetuate an ongoing threat to Israel's existence. An equal number of Jews were forced to flee their homes in Arab and Muslim countries after 1948, but

they were absorbed in Israel and the West. Yet UNRWA has been part of the effort to prevent Palestinian Arabs from being absorbed elsewhere, thereby allowing them to cling to their dream of destroying the Jewish state. UNRWA's schools have courses and books that promote hatred of Israel and Jews. Just as outrageous is the fact that UNRWA employees are often involved with Palestinian terror organizations, and its schools and other facilities have been used to store Hamas weapons where they would presumably be safe from Israeli retaliation.

American governments have tolerated this situation because they felt there was no alternative. But whether or not it is because he isn't so versed in policy, and therefore is not burdened with the conventional wisdom that has made destructive programs

seem reasonable, Trump appears to be unwilling to keep throwing good money after bad.

You don't have to be a supporter of Trump or Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to understand that he is right to demand that if the Palestinians want U.S. money they must, at the very least, come back to the negotiating table and cease funding and fomenting terror.

It isn't so much a case of "America First" to demand that recipients of U.S. largesse cooperate with U.S. policy, as it is one of common sense. Whatever his other faults, Trump's insistence on this is neither foolish nor proof of his being unfit for office.

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

## The New York Times ignores Israel's protection of LGBT rights

By Tamar Sternthal  
JNS

The New York Times closed 2017 with a parting shot at Israel.

A Dec. 30 feature ("Coming Out in Lebanon") in The Times identifies Lebanon as perhaps the "one exception" in a region hostile to its gay, lesbian and transgender citizens. The article opens, "Throughout the Middle East, gay, lesbian and transgender people face formidable obstacles to living a life of openness and acceptance in conservative societies." But the newspaper insists, "If there is one exception, it has been Lebanon."

The article completely ignores Israel, the one Middle Eastern country in which consensual same-sex romantic/sexual activity is legal, according to the World Economic Forum. By every conceivable measure, Israel's LGBT citizens enjoy far greater rights and tolerance than their Lebanese counterparts.

Tel Aviv, which hosts an annual gay pride parade that attracts tens of thousands of international tourists, has been recognized as the best city in the world for LGBT individuals. In contrast,

Lebanon last year marked its first gay pride week, but there was no parade through the streets. Gays have openly served in Israel's military since 1993, and transgender soldiers are also welcome in the IDF.

A Pew Research Center survey unsurprisingly found that Israeli society is the most tolerant towards homosexuality in the Middle East. Forty percent of Israelis surveyed believe society should accept homosexuality; 47 percent disagree. In comparison, just 18 percent of Lebanese respondents favor acceptance of homosexuals, while 80 percent oppose it.

More striking is that Israel ranks an impressive seventh among all the countries in the world on the Gay Happiness Index. Lebanon ranks a dismal 99th. In response to communication from CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America), The Times corrected the story, and the amended piece now accurately refers to Lebanon as the most LGBT tolerant place in the Arab world, as opposed to the Middle East.

There's no possible journalistic justification for identifying Lebanon as the

Middle East's most LGBT tolerant country while completely ignoring Israel. But the gross misrepresentation is completely consistent with the paper's shoddy and biased Israel coverage. Examples from just the last several weeks abound.

For instance, last month, an editorial about President Donald Trump's Jerusalem announcement essentially ratified the 1948 cleansing of Jews from Jerusalem's Old City and other formerly Jewish neighborhoods in the capital. "East Jerusalem was exclusively Arab in 1967," stated The Times in its criticism of Jewish "settlements" in Jerusalem, ignoring that Jordan forcibly expelled the area's Jewish residents.

Last November, a Times travel piece whitewashed convicted terrorist Rasmia Odeh, who was found guilty of a 1969 supermarket bombing in Jerusalem in which two students were murdered, describing her merely as a "controversial Palestinian activist."

Also last November, a Times piece about the new Louvre Abu Dhabi museum's role as a "soft power" means "to promote the capital as a tolerant global city" com-

pletely ignored the recent Emirati ban on all Israeli symbols at the Grand Slam judo tournament. The paper reduced the government-imposed discrimination, which extended to the playing of the "Hatikvah" national anthem as medalist Tal Flicker stood at the podium, to the private

refusal of a "local judo athlete" to shake an Israeli's hand.

In its year-end campaign, The Times promises readers facts "in abundance" and urges them to "give the gift of understanding, with on the ground reporting from more than 140 countries." When it comes to The Times's Israel coverage,

readers should expect neither facts nor understanding.

Tamar Sternthal is director of the Israel office of the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA).

This column was originally published in the Hebrew-language edition of Israel Hayom.

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# What's Happening

## A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT

JAN. 19  
5:36 p.m.  
JAN. 26  
5:42 p.m.

### 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 19

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown  
 Temple Israel and Temple Shir Shalom—Artist-in-Residence weekend with Sam Glaser. Reform-style musical service and oneg, 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Temple Israel and Temple Shir Shalom—A Conservative-style musical service followed by kiddish and study with Sam Glaser on Saturday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. (no charge). A Gala Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Visit <tfiorida.org/artists-in-residence> for ticket information.  
 The Roth Family JCC—10th Annual Princess Ball, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. \$36 per couple (princess ages 4 and up); \$5 each additional guest. RSVPs after Jan. 8 subject to availability and \$10 late fee. Info: Amanda Dennis, 407-621-4049.

# HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

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"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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### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

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.  
 Temple Israel and Temple Shir Shalom—A free Family Concert with Sam Glaser, 12:30 p.m. JFGO's PJ Library—Tu B'Shevat family celebration at Oak Haven Farms, 32418 Avington Road in Sorrento, 11 a.m. Pick strawberries and enjoy family activities. Cost \$5. For more information, visit orlandojewishfed.org  
 The Holocaust Center—Film screening and Book Club discussion, 1 p.m. The film "Defiance" by Nechama Tec will be discussed. Book club discussion, 3:30 p.m.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Israeli Folk Dancing—7:30-8:15 p.m. instruction, 8:15-10 p.m., requests. Cost: Free for JCC members, \$5 nonmembers. Info: 407-645-5933.  
 JCC 39ers—Meet & Mingle Monday with Eliana D'Aguiar who will discuss nutrition for seniors, 1 p.m. at The Roth Family JCC.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

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.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

JFS Orlando—Coffee Connections, 8 a.m.-9 a.m., tour the facilities and enjoy coffee and a light breakfast. No charge, but reservations requested by contacting Amanda Marchese, Amanda.marchese@jfsorlando.org.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

## JFS Orlando wish list

To better serve the community, JFS Orlando appreciates donations of the following:  
 Can openers (Manual)  
 First Aid Kits  
 Gas Gift cards  
 Office supplies like sticky notes, highlighters, pens  
 Reusable and plastic shopping bags  
 Rubbermaid storage bins  
 Tissues

## Quote of the Week

"Some people like the Jews, and some do not. But no thoughtful man can deny the fact that they are, beyond any question, the most formidable and most remarkable race which has appeared in the world."

— Winston Churchill

### Medium puzzle "Luminaries" by Yoni Glatt koshercrosswords@gmail.com

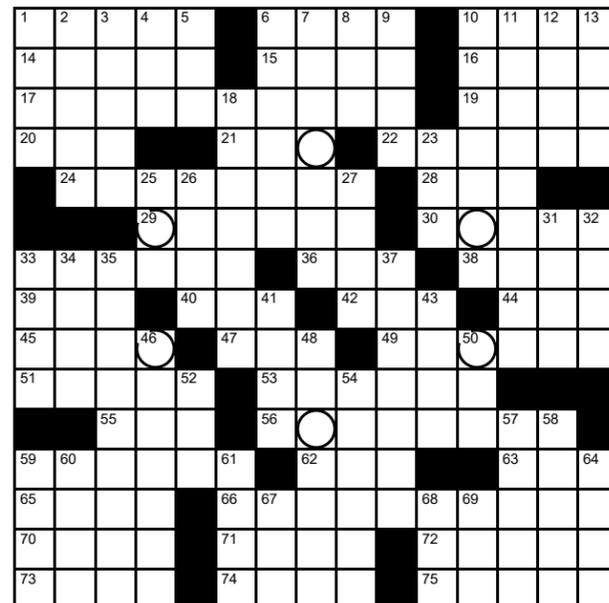
#### Across

1. Apple or tomato
6. Intensifies
10. Like an unclosed honey pot
14. End of a shoelace
15. Emperor whom the Talmud says became a proselyte
16. He played Kane's Wayne
17. Goldie Hawn's daughter
19. Sean Connery, for one
20. Holy Land abbr.
21. Daughter involved in a property dispute
22. Like lox
24. He's appeared many times with Rogen and Banks
28. "One sec," online
29. Candy-\_\_\_\_
30. Like Solomon as king, compared to his son
33. Friend of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
36. "Magniv!" (In the 1960's)
38. One is made on chametz
39. Adam's 930, e.g.
40. Anderson who often casts Jason Schwartzman
42. HaZikaron preceder
44. Mossad counterpart: Abbr.
45. Future tulip, say
47. Homeric exclamation
49. More likely to stay home from work
51. Belgian shoe
53. Sherpas, nationally
55. Persian, e.g.
56. Israel's most famous woman
59. "All in the Family" role
62. "Hawaii Five-0" actor Daniel \_\_\_\_ Kim
63. \_\_\_\_ L'Tzedek
65. Many millennia
66. The themers in this puzzle or what you get when you properly connect the two sets of circled ABCs
70. "E.T." transport
71. Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
72. Country where Modi is in
73. Chutzpah
74. Jacob's twelve
75. Makes like Haman

#### Down

1. "The Open Window" pen name
2. Audibly shocked
3. \_\_\_\_ Orthodox
4. Chabad capital?
5. Biblical suffix
6. Over \_\_\_\_ (sign-off)
7. \_\_\_\_ Kiddushin (wedding leader)
8. Where some athletes go
9. Jacob's twelve
10. Takes in, like the tribe of Simeon into Judah
11. His name reversed is a game
12. Soothing ointment
13. Abbr. after many a general's name
18. Lacking a G or an R
23. Deg. for Bloomberg
25. \_\_\_\_ A (Bruin's sch.)
26. '20s movie mogul
27. "Band of Brothers" event
31. First name behind "A Jew Today"
32. Stern (nautically)

33. Montreal Canadiens, familiarly
34. Mayim, in Spain
35. Living comic legend
37. Amounts of medicine
41. Zemer
43. Kunis of "Family Guy"
46. Ludlum's "Identity" and "Ultimatum"
48. Progress
50. Heroic Heston role
52. Friday letters that precede "F"
54. Area west of the Mississippi
57. Perform better than
58. A Jewfro or hazel eyes
59. Says loshon hara, perhaps
60. Princess who can fly through space (apparently)
61. "This is \_\_\_\_ for Superman!"
64. Levin and Glass
67. Rock genre
68. Jacob's was injured by an angel
69. 56-Across hosted it on Oct. 7, 2017



See answers on page 14.

# Reflections on 100 Years of Congregation Ohev Shalom



**Melanie Gluck**

For the past 100 years, Congregation Ohev Shalom has been important in the lives of many Orlando Jews, celebrating their milestones, comforting them when they are sick or in mourning, uplifting their spirits and serving as their community. As the observance of Ohev Shalom's centennial begins, the Centennial committee asked a few longtime or lifelong members what COS has meant to them.

#### Melanie Berman Gluck

Melanie's paternal grandparents, J. Barney and Thelma Berman, joined COS in the late 1930s and brought up their children there. Both of her parents, Ronald and Marilyn Berman, served on the COS Board, and were Men's Club and Sisterhood presidents. Melanie's baby naming was held at COS in 1968, followed over the years by her bat mitzvah and confirmation, and eventually her



**Irwin Feldman**

auftruf and wedding to Jack Gluck. Melanie and Jack have both served as COS trustees. Their three daughters were brought up at COS, and all three were madrichim in the Religious School following their bat mitzvah years.

"My parents were part of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Goddard location. When the Torahs were marched down the street to enter the synagogue, my mom was the first woman to carry a Torah into the synagogue," says Melanie. "I was raised in the synagogue and spent most weekends there, sometimes starting on Friday morning in the kitchen with my mom, then Friday night, Saturday morning, Sunday School—sometimes even Bingo on Sunday night! I always felt it was my 'house.' I remember how I felt when I gave my bat mitzvah speech. I was full of pride. One line in particular



**Denise Ganson**

was 'Maybe one day we will have a woman president of Ohev Shalom!'

"My mom was the volunteer caterer for many years. I remember the tuna fish molds she made, the egg salad Jewish Stars sprinkled with paprika. Ahhh, the Yom Kippur break fast! Now that was an incredible evening. We'd have these little cans of juices and two different types of herring. Eggs, bagels—all set up in the courtyard. The social hall was used for overflow seating. My dad cooked the Men's Club breakfasts, and he was known as Chef Bermanelli—he made a special omelet sauce for the eggs. He also headed up the installation of the playground.

"Rabbi Adler officiated at my baby naming and all of my other milestones, including my wedding. And then he was there for all my daughters' namings. To have that

continuity and connection was incredibly meaningful to me."

#### Irwin Feldman

Irwin and his wife, Rita, joined COS after moving to Orlando from New York in 1978, when Rabbi Rudolph Adler was the rabbi. They celebrated the bar mitzvah of their youngest son, Steven, at Ohev in 1980. Irwin has served on many committees and chaired several, and also served as the congregation's treasurer; he was honored as Chatan Torah on Simchat Torah in 2013. The couple's eldest son, Kenneth, currently serves on the COS Board of Trustees.

"Rita and I celebrated our 50th anniversary at COS in 2012. The congregation has been very kind to me over the years," Irwin says. "Rabbi Adler inspired me to learn more about Judaism than is found in the Tanakh. In 1991, I enrolled in his Talmud class, which started me on a 13-year journey to explore the complexity, beauty, and nuances of the Talmud. I continue to this day to learn more about our religion by attending classes conducted by Rabbi Rubinger and Rabbi Kay. In 1993, I chaired the 75th Anniversary Committee, which began a 25-year quest to learn more about COS's history. I rummaged through old COS files, meeting minutes, documents, court records, Orlando Jewish histories, newspaper articles, genealogy records, and interviews—which have

been compiled, chronologically, and reside in two file cabinets at Ohev."

#### Denise Ganson

Denise became a COS member at age 13, when she moved to Orlando in 1970 with her parents, Sidney and Adele Prince, and two brothers. Her grandfather, Marcus Prince, moved to Orlando some years later and also joined. Among the milestones she has celebrated at COS were her wedding, bat mitzvah observances for her two daughters, baby namings for her two granddaughters, and her parents' 50th anniversary. For nine years, she served the congregation's youth groups, first as Kadima adviser, then USY adviser, and then youth director.

"The most happy time I spent at Ohev was my time with the youth programs, first as a teenager with USY and then as an adviser," says Denise. "When I moved here, I was in the first graduating class at Lake Brantley, and we had a handful of Jewish students. And I came from New Jersey, so it was very different for me. My parents were great—they drove me to [the former COS location at] Church Street for USY. Going to convention and LTI [Leadership Training Institute, a regional USY program]—those bus trips were the best! We also did a lot of community service, had sleepovers at the J, and so much more. Dances, bowling and car washes are strong memories. It was

really special. Many of the kids I knew from USY, I still consider some of my closest friends to this day.

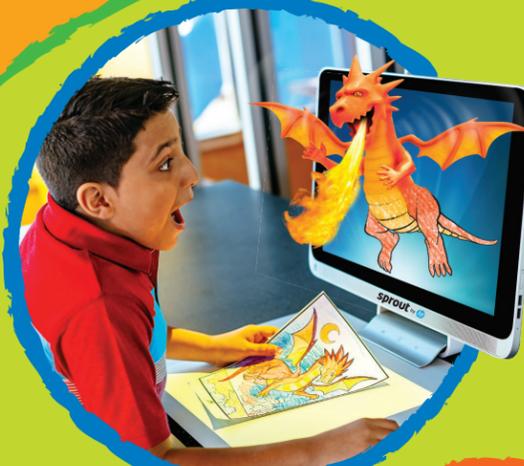
"Then I was involved in Ohev's youth programs for nine years as an adviser and then youth director. My oldest daughter was with me in the groups for about seven of those years. What I loved most about doing that was connecting with the kids. The kids would just come and sit with me and they would talk to me, and I just loved being part of their life. I really felt like I connected with a lot of them, and it was unbelievably special seeing them make the same kind of friendships that had been such an important part of my teens."

#### Join in the fun for Ohev Shalom's Centennial Gala Weekend

The members of the Centennial Committee invite former members and others who have a warm connection to COS to join in the celebration of this milestone! The festivities begin on Feb. 9th with a Traditional Shabbat Dinner followed by a special Friday Night Service and Oneg Shabbat. The Shabbat Morning Service on Feb. 10th will continue the special tributes and recollections, followed by a delicious Kid-dush Lunch. Then Saturday evening, the celebrations will extend in style with a Centennial Gala! Come to any or all of these meaningful events—more information is found on COS's website at [OhevShalom.org](http://OhevShalom.org), or call 407-298-4650.



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# Kinneret Council on Aging continues to enhance resident engagement



Residents enjoy "shopping" at the food pantry.

The Kinneret Council on Aging, a nonprofit agency that provides ongoing programs and services to residents of Kinneret Apartments, has announced additional activities and engagement as it continues to meet the changing needs of its residents.

KCOA continues to fund the popular twice-monthly food pantry, which provides a bountiful grocery bag to residents at no cost. Groceries include rice or pasta, a protein, canned goods as well as frozen

meats and fresh produce. This program offers an array of healthy foods to residents, many who enjoy cooking their own meals. Currently over 120 residents are participating in this program.

Recent events for residents included an outing to the Rosen JCC to enjoy the World's Fair event which featured entertainment and Chicago-style gourmet treats; a Friday night Shabbat Dinner with local Hillel students and a trip to the Jewish Pavilion Music

Festival. Our Be Happy, Be Healthy onsite program continues and offers opportunities for engagement through exercise, crafts, laughs and more.

The Nov. 2 Health Fair was a huge success with 35 exhibitors and over 160 Kinneret residents and seniors from the neighboring community in attendance. Participants were offered flu shots, blood pressure checks, information on wellness topics including personal hygiene, dental,



Residents benefit from the Health Fair held at Kinneret.

mental health counseling and more. All the above activities were provided at no charge to participants.

Community support following the hurricane came from the First United Methodist Church of Orlando, United Against Poverty, Boy Scout Troop 24 and Boone High School. Meals and food bags were delivered to Kinneret residents. "The outpouring of support and supplies was overwhelming," explained Sharon Weil,

Director of Programming and Development, Kinneret Council on Aging.

Residents have also enjoyed dinner parties, celebrated Sukkot with UCF Hillel students and were provided a brisket and turkey lunch prepared by a fellow resident along with a musical accompaniment.

"The enhanced activities better meet the health and well-being of our residents who continue to enjoy an active, independent lifestyle and offer additional opportunities

for engagement," explained Sharon Weil. "It is exciting and rewarding to see so many of our residents participating in the new activities," she continued.

Kinneret Apartments is a low-income independent living senior facility located in downtown Orlando. For information on the facility or to find out how you can donate to KCOA, please go to [www.kinneretapartments.com](http://www.kinneretapartments.com) or contact Sharon Weil at 407.425.4537 ext. 211.

## What to wear to a denim-clad affair



Fashion-forward Friends Board member Brenda Fisher Wetmore shares her bead encrusted jeans and stylish top.

By Pamela Ruben

Most women have that 'little black dress' that can be

dressed up or down for almost any affair. But what's appropriate to wear for an event that doesn't follow stereotypical

fashion expectations? If you have recently received an invitation to the Jewish Pavilion's 'Gems & Jeans Gala' taking place on Jan. 28th, you might be wondering, "What's a girl (or guy) to wear?"

"Anything goes," declares event co-chair, Marci Gaeser. At last year's gala, Marci wore glittery heels and tank top, with skinny jeans. She added, "Last year was our first 'Gems & Jeans' affair. The woman loved feeling glamorous while comfortable, and the men LOVED not having to wear tuxes."

Fashion-forward Friends Board member, Brenda Fisher Wetmore, shared that she will be wearing bead encrusted jeans, along with a black cut-out, cold shoulder blouse, capturing both 'gems & jeans' in her look.

Please join the Jewish Pavilion on Sunday, Jan. 28th, 5 p.m., at Sheraton Orlando North (Maitland) for their 'Gems and Jeans Gala', as they honor community 'gems,' Marian Bromberg and A.J. Kronenberg, for providing exemplary volunteer assistance to Orlando's elder-care community. Slip on your favorite pair of 'dressy' jeans, and the Pavilion will provide the sparkle, with an evening featuring gourmet dining, live music, and a silent auction, along with dazzling 'surprise' entertainment. All proceeds raised will benefit seniors served in more than 70 assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. Register now online at [www.jewish-pavilion.org](http://www.jewish-pavilion.org) or at <https://jpav.ticketspice.com/gala-2018>. Call 407-678-9363 for more information.



Shown here (l-r): Adam Littman with 2018 Gems & Jeans Gala co-chairs, Sharon Littman and Marci Gaeser, and Jeff Gaeser.



### Celebrating Tu B'Shevat and memories

On Monday night, Jan. 8, the teens from Congregation Ohev Shalom and adults from Village on the Green shared the lovely experience of a Tu B'Shevat seder while also discussing inspirations, hopes for the future and memories of the past. This Jewish Pavilion Inter-generational program was led by Amy Geboff, director of youth and family education, (standing second from right), and was made possible in part by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando.

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# Scene Around

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

**Deeply disturbing...**

I received the following letter from Ambassador RONALD S. LAUDER, of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and pass it along in part:

“Every day, it seems, we hear another report of an anti-Semitic attack, a Jewish cemetery desecrated, a Holocaust memorial vandalized, or anti-Jewish hate speech posted online.

Neo-Nazis and white nationalists are proudly marching in the streets of major cities across the United States and Europe, unafraid to express their hateful beliefs in public, the anti-Israel, and anti-Semitic Boycott, (BDS) movement continues its global efforts to delegitimize the Jewish state, governments in several European countries are trying to pass laws banning age-old rituals of kosher slaughter and male circumcision.”

(I repeat... deeply disturbing.)

“In order to respond effectively to these newest threats, the WJC must leverage its diplomatic strength and global advocacy as never before.”

(Let’s contact WJC at 212-894-4770 or <worldjewishcongress.org> to see how we can help.)

**Proud of Prada...**

The WJC recently commended the Italian high fashion women’s clothing and accessory brand Miu Miu for quickly responding to a request to remove from its collection items of clothing containing a yellow patch resembling the Star of David Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust.

The WJC contacted Prada, the owner of Miu Miu, to express its discomfort over the items and demanded their removal. The company responded with swift attention and said that the items had been removed effective immediately.



David Jericko

**Do you love Elvis?...**

Then don’t miss this performance!

The next gathering of the Congregation Ohev Shalom Seniors will take place on Sunday, Feb. 4th at 2 p.m. at the synagogue located at 613 Concourse Parkway South, in Maitland.

Well-known singer, DAVID JERICKO, will perform a fantastic tribute to Elvis, Neil Diamond and other famous musical artists from the Golden Oldies. (Okay... so I’m a “Golden Oldie.”)

David was born in Chicago and has a very strong musical theater background. He brings different looks and vocals from the 1950s and 60s. He also plays a mean guitar.

The audience is invited to sing along to such Elvis hits as “Don’t Be Cruel” (and be sure to wear your “Blue Suede Shoes.”)

Admission is still \$5, COS members; \$8, non-members. You are encouraged to bring friends.

After the show, their will be a complimentary nosh and kibbitz. (Yeah! My cookies!)

For further info, contact co-presidents, BERNY RAFF, 407-767-6763 or JERRY LEIBMAN, 407-694-0546.

**Do you love Daniel Kaminsky?...**

(Oh please! You know I mean Danny Kaye!)

On Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 31st-Feb. 1st, super-talented WESLEY SLADE, presents “A Tribute To Danny Kaye” at the Winter Park Playhouse Cabaret.

Wesley’s performance starts at 7:30 pm.



Wesley Slade



Danny Kaye

(This is a show I MUST see. After all, Danny Kaye was a nice Jewish Brooklyn boy. I am from Brooklyn and I’m a nice? Jewish girl.)

**Appreciation for a dedicated volunteer...**

This comes from NANCY LUDIN, CEO of the Jewish Pavilion about FAITH PARNET:

“Faith has been an enthused volunteer with the Jewish Pavilion for four years. She visits with seniors regularly, helps the program directors with events, and assists in the office once a week. She says, ‘I just love the feeling of connecting with my Jewish roots, and I get so much from volunteering with this organization. I love the people I get to work with.’ We are grateful for her energy and enthusiasm. Thank you Faith!”



Faith Parnet

**JCC 39ers...**

On Monday, Jan. 22nd, the Meet & Mingle Monday topic will be Nutrition for Seniors, presented by ELIANA D’AGUIAR.

The meeting takes place at the Maitland JCC and is followed by refreshments.

**One for the road...**

Arnold is doing very well at his job and gets promoted to Departmental Manager. As a result of his increased pay, he and his wife Leah decide to start their long-awaited family. But many months pass and there’s no sign of Leah getting pregnant, so they decide to visit doctor Levy.

When they enter doctor Levy’s room at the surgery, Leah explains to him that they have been desperately trying to start a family but were having no success. When he hears this, doctor Levy decides to examine Leah right away. So he says to Leah, “Could you please remove all the garments from below your waist and I’ll give you a quick check-over.” But Leah refuses. She points to Arnold and says to doctor Levy, “What, with him in the room watching?” “Aha,” says doctor Levy. “Arnold, I think I know what the problem is.”



can be purchased at the following locations:

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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.

## Trees—a poem for Tu B’Shevat

By Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth’s sweet flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.



# Father of 6 murdered in drive-by shooting terror attack



Fatal shooting attack in Samaria.

Maor Lavi/TPS

By Yona Schnitzer  
TPS

Shortly after 8 p.m., the Magen David Adom (MDA) radio received reports of a shooting attack, apparently from the victim, who had served as an MDA volunteer.

Paramedics from the town of Kedumim, a short drive from the scene of the attack, arrived on the scene and evacuated the victim to Meir Medical Centre in Kfar Saba, where his death was confirmed.

"I left Kedumim in an MDA ambulance, arriving quickly at the scene. I saw on the side of the road, by the safety railing,

a private vehicle with shooting markings on it," said MDA paramedic Elyashiv Reichenberg, the first to arrive on the scene. "There was a 35-year-old semi-conscious man in the driver seat with bullet wounds in his upper body."

MK Bezael Smotrich, a resident of Kedumim, was on Route 60 at the time of the shooting and stopped to administer first aid. He wrote on Twitter, "Jewish Blood is not worthless!" and called on Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman to put an end to Palestinian terrorism. "Instruct our security forces to act with an iron fist! Make it clear to the Palestinians that they will

pay a very heavy price for every attack like this."

Opposition Leader Yitzhak Herzog (Zionist Camp) pledged to find and punish the killers and sent condolences to the family of the victim.

"To our great sorrow, terrorism does not rest for even a minute. This time, the victim was a paramedic who dedicated his life to helping others, no matter who they were. We will not rest from our fight; we will find and punish [the killers]."

Shevach is survived by his wife and six children.

*\*With additional reporting by Andrew Friedman, Hillel Maier and Koby Richter.*

## Delta employees detail a pattern of anti-Semitic abuse at airline

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA)—It wasn't long after Nahum Amir began working for Delta Airlines as a mechanic that he says his manager started calling him "the Jewish guy." Then Amir says the manager accused him and other Jews of "killing kids in Gaza."

During the same period, Yaron Gilinsky was working as a Delta flight attendant on flights from New York to Tel Aviv. Except, he says, his non-Jewish co-workers would call it "Hell Aviv." Gilinsky remembers some, including managers, making fun of

haredi Orthodox Jews' beards and sidecurls. One non-Jewish fellow attendant called them "ugly Jews."

"At some point, it makes me feel ashamed and it makes me feel this person doesn't respect me," Gilinsky, 38, told JTA about his co-workers' comments. "I was brought into this company because I speak Hebrew. I was brought into this company to take care of the clients that support that flight, and here this person is talking very derogatorily and putting down my faith, my people, everything that I grew up on."

Amir, an Israeli-American,

and Gilinsky, who was born in Israel and lives in the United States, are each separately suing Delta in federal court for violating the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity. Gilinsky is in the process of formally joining a suit filed last week by four other Delta employees who also allege anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli discrimination. Amir's suit was filed Monday evening.

"I have been subjected to a hostile and threatening environment based on my race and ethnicity," Amir stated in a signed affidavit obtained by JTA.

The manager, whom Amir names as Azeem Narine, "continues to make jokes and comments about Jewish people, including about Jewish people chopping off part of his private areas."

Both suits were filed by Philadelphia lawyer Brian Mildeberg.

In a Jan 3 statement, Delta says it "strongly condemns the allegations of discrimination described in this suit and will defend itself vigorously against them. As a global airline that brings people across the world together every day, Delta values diversity in all aspects of its business and has zero tolerance for discrimination."

After six years of hearing anti-Semitic comments, Gilinsky was fired in September because, he says, he made a Jewish friend his travel companion. Flight attendants are allowed to designate a friend or family member as their travel companion, which allows the companion to fly standby at a reduced rate.

Gilinsky's travel companion is a friend he had met on a flight to Israel in 2013. Although they live in different states—Gilinsky in California, the friend in New York—they stayed in touch and met up in Israel. But Gilinsky says that Delta management, after questioning him about his friend, suspended him without pay and fired him two weeks later.

"Our relationship had been very good, and we had good communication with each other," he told JTA. "Almost every flight attendant I know has given their pass privileges to someone. It's part of our benefits."

Gilinsky is set to join other plaintiffs, some non-Jewish, who also complain that Delta suspended or fired them because they shared their travel benefits with Jews and Israelis. One plaintiff, Cynthia Fukelman, alleges that Delta fired her because she was an Israeli Jew. The lawsuit says Delta employees derided Jews for praying in-flight and requesting kosher food.

"Delta has encouraged and maintained an anti-Jewish, Hebrew and ethnic Israeli attitude among management," the lawsuit says, adding that Delta managers "operate under an express assumption that ethnic Jews and Israelis, as employees and passengers, cannot be trusted, are aggressive and inappropriate, and engage in what are deemed to be 'strange' behaviors."

That Delta flight attendants would be anti-Semitic is surprising, said Paula Kraft, the managing partner of the DaVinci Inflight Training Institute, which trains flight staff. Kraft said Delta takes particular care to train its crews in how to handle kosher food and the sensitivities involved in keeping kosher.

"Delta has good, specific and detailed training on kosher [food] for the Jewish passengers," Kraft said, adding that the attendants have "more understanding of why someone might demand that they have plastic utensils or why they're not going to eat off of the aircraft's china."

Amir won an award for his performance in 2014, and still works at Delta. He has complained to human resources about the anti-Semitic harassment. But he says management handled the incident inappropriately, asking Amir to recount the story in front of Narine, his manager, and suggest a punishment. He says Delta then refused to reprimand Narine for his statements, instead suggesting that Amir switch terminals.

After a six-month break, Amir says Narine resumed the anti-Semitic slurs, suggesting that haredi men's facial hair is fake and making derogatory comments about circumcision. Amir also claims Narine has subjected him to unsafe work conditions, in one instance demanding that Amir complete a 20-hour job in 90 minutes. Another time, Narine sent Amir to work alone in icy conditions.

In another instance, Amir claims Narine sent him to clean up and repair an overflowed toilet on a 777 jet, and said, "You have to clean all of the Jewish shit off of these planes."

"He was joking around and gyrating his hips," Amir said in the affidavit. "I fixed it because it is my job."



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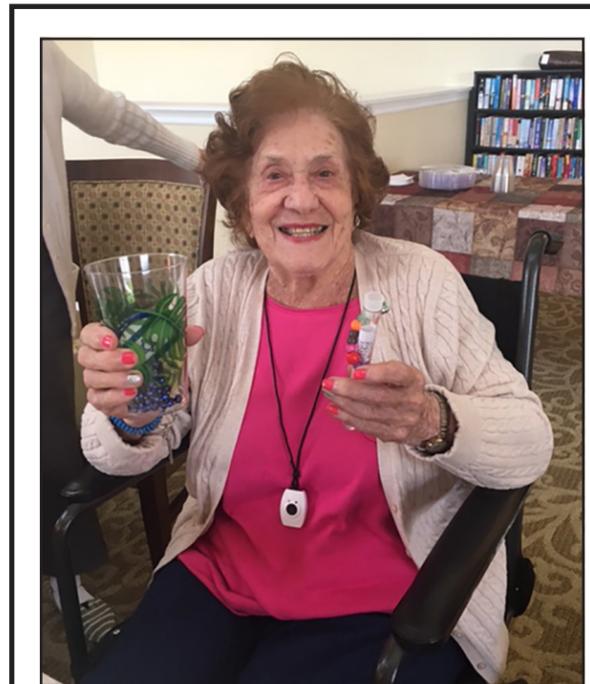


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### Handmade mezuzot for seniors

Congregation Ohev Shalom Youth and Families programming provided mezuzot for the residents of senior living communities. One recent Shabbat as the songs were sung, the blessings recited and sharing challah, the meaning of the mezzuzah was discussed amongst the group of 11 residents including one Jewish lady. Jackie was delighted to receive this handmade mezzuzah and immediately asked to have it posted on the doorway to her apartment.

Visit [jewishpavilion.org](http://jewishpavilion.org) to review the calendar of events and where you can become involved,

# No peace talks while Jerusalem is capital of Israel

By Ebin Sandler  
World Israel News

The Palestinians' head negotiator, Saeb Erekat, announced on Tuesday that any peace talks sponsored by the United States would be rejected until the Americans revoke their Dec. 6 recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Erekat made these remarks to the Voice of Palestine radio station, reported the Palestinian Authority's (PA) official Wafa news site, referring to any future US-proposed solutions or calls to restart the peace process as "unacceptable to the Palestinian leadership" until US President Donald Trump changes course on the US' Jerusalem declaration.

Erekat's comments are consistent with previous statements issued by PA President Mahmoud Abbas, who shortly after Trump's announcement declared that the US had effectively resigned from its historical role as the primary peace broker in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Abbas has also maintained that he refuses to meet with American officials.



Amir Levy/Flash90

*Palestinian chef negotiator Saeb Erekat.*

The PA response to the US also included lobbying for a United Nations (UN) vote condemning Trump's move, which was met by threats from the White House to significantly reduce funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which is the primary UN body responsible for pumping aid money into Gaza and Judea and Samaria, among other locations in the

Middle East with Palestinian populations.

Erekat explicitly referred to these threats on Tuesday, claiming that the Palestinians will not let the US dictate terms of future negotiations. He also reiterated the oft-cited PA position that any future deal must include Jerusalem, declaring, "There is no value to a Palestinian state without Jerusalem as its capital."

## OBITUARIES

### OPAL CLAIRE BENSON

Opal Benson, age 95, of Winter Park, passed away peacefully at her residence on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018, two weeks shy of her 96 birthday. She was a daughter of the late A.E. and Mary Alice Lowe Wilson, of Sarasota, and was born on Jan. 21, 1922. An accomplished and talented pianist, Opal graduated from Florida Southern University with a music major. She was married to the late Morrie Benson for 57 years when he passed away in 2002. For over 30 years Opal and her family traveled the world with her husband as an Air Force wife. While on many of the bases where they were stationed, Opal played the piano and was the director of the women's choir. In 1969, following Morrie's retirement, they relocated to Winter Park and joined the Congregation of Reform Judaism. At the same time, Opal became the music teacher at Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School for over a dozen years. Listed in Who's Who, she was also a patron of the arts in Central Florida for more than 40 years.

Opal is survived by her children, Boyd Lee Benson of Winter Park and Barbara Ann (William C.) Weaver of Orlando; and her grandson, Alexander M. Benson. She is also survived by her sister, Dorothy Gunn of Brandon.

A funeral service was held at Congregation of Reform Judaism with Rabbi Steven W. Engel and Cantor Jacqueline Rawiszser officiating. Interment followed at Glen Haven Memorial Park, Winter Park. In memory of Opal Claire Benson, the family requests contributions to the charity of your choice.

Arrangements entrusted to Beth Shalom Memorial Chapel, 640 Lee Road, Orlando 32810. 407-599-1180.

### ZVI CHAMU

*Written by Lenaya Rotklein, his daughter.*

Steve Chamu, Hebrew name Zvi, died Jan. 1, 2018, at the age of 65 from heart complications.

He is survived by his wife, Dawn, and his two daughters, Lenaya Ayelet Rotklein and Jauhleene Yafit Margaret Chamu; and his two granddaughters, Rafaeli and Ariella.

Zvi Chamu was born in Netanya, Israel to Eliahu and Tzila Hamou. Upon graduating high school, he joined the Israeli Defense Force, like all other Israelis. He became an officer in the IDF special forces where he served as a paratrooper and bodyguard. During his tenure as a bodyguard, he had the privilege of providing safety for Golda Meir, Henry Kissinger and First Lady of the U.S. Pat Nixon. He also served during the Yom Kippur War.

After leaving the IDF, he moved to Connecticut. In Connecticut, he served in the hospitality industry where he quickly worked his

way to upper management. Throughout the rest of his life, he was an entrepreneur. Most recently he served as CEO of ECO Global Corporation.

In its infancy, Chabad Lubavitch of North Orlando hosted Shabbat Services in various hotels in the Lake Mary area and the Sunday School was in the home of Rabbi Yanky and Chanshy Majesky. Steve and Dawn generously dedicated the Chamu Jewish Center in their office building for over four years allowing the community to grow to what it is today.

Chamu also initiated the project of Chabad North Orlando's first Torah scroll.

He loved cars, watches, sunglasses, and cooking. He loved people and lifted them up when they were down. He loved the Jewish Community and Israel. He loved his family with all of his heart and he will be missed.

Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 5, 2018 at the Ohav Shalom Cemetery with Rabbi Yanky Majesky officiating.



*Dawn and Steve Chamu are on the left, with Rabbi Yanky and Chanshy Majesky on the right, with the scribe Rabbi Chaim Pape at the ceremony to begin writing Lake Mary's first Sefer Torah.*

## 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](http://www.JewishCelebration.org); 407-566-9792.

**Chabad Lubavitch of North Orlando (O)**, 1701 Markham Woods Road, Longwood, 407-636-5994, [www.jewishorlando.com](http://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](http://www.jewishaltamonte.com).

**Chabad of South Orlando (O)**, 7347 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, 407-354-3660; [www.jewishorlando.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.betchaim.org); Shabbat services: Friday, 8 p.m.

**Congregation Beth Am (C)**, 3899 Sand Lake Road, Longwood, 407-862-3505; [www.congbetham.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Ohav Shalom (C)**, 613 Concourse Parkway South, Maitland, 407-298-4650; [www.ohavshalom.org](http://www.ohavshalom.org); Shabbat service, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

**Congregation Or Chayim (Rec)**, Leesburg, 352-326-8745; [egrae@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.templeshalomcentralfl.org); Shabbat services: Friday, 7 p.m.; last Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m.

**Temple Shalom of Deltona (R/C)**, 1785 Elkcarn Blvd., Deltona, 386-789-2202; [www.shalomdeltona.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.tcomd.org); Shabbat services: Saturday, 9:30 a.m. sharp.

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

# How this 31-year-old Londoner became Poland's best-known (and most controversial) Jew



Jonny Daniels (l) with Holocaust survivor Moshe Tirosh in 2015.

By Cnaan Liphshiz

MIEDZYRZEC PODLASKI, Poland (JTA)—In a snowy woods near the border with Belarus, Jonny Daniels pulls muddy fishing waders over the pants of his tailored business suit and grabs a shovel from the trunk of his car.

A London-born Israeli activist for Holocaust commemoration, Daniels, 31, had worn the suit for a meeting last year with Polish government officials in the country's east. And he put on the waders shortly after learning at that meeting of a village road made of Jewish headstones—which he then decided to salvage.

Both get-ups are “uniforms” that Daniels always has with him, he said while struggling to break the frozen ground to extract the headstone fragments. He later deposited the stones at a local Jewish cemetery as part of a commemoration project by the charity that Daniels established in 2014 called *From the Depths*.

“Though I admit I don’t usually wear them in layers. This is odd even for me,” he added.

Odd, perhaps, but nonetheless an appropriate demonstration of the tools that Daniels, a public relations specialist and former parliamentary aide in Israel’s Knesset, has used to become one of the best-known Jews in Poland just four years after moving here. It was through a mix of hard work, strategic alliances with some locals and Poland’s right-wing government, publicity stunts and an embrace of controversy.

Daniels’ first project in Poland was in 2014, when he brought over half the Knesset to the former death camp of Auschwitz using money from private donors. The following year he partnered with local

weightlifters to help move Jewish headstones, providing a colorful photo op for international media. And in early 2017, Daniels brought to Poland former NBA All-Star Ray Allen for meetings with Holocaust survivors and their rescuers.

Leveraging his exposure with local politicians—last month alone Daniels appeared on national television and the front pages of the left-leaning *Gazeta Wyborca* daily, as well as the conservative *Do Rzeczy* weekly—he has made some powerful allies, including Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki. Daniels hosted Morawiecki at events and even at his own home in Warsaw, where Daniels throws Shabbat dinners for politicians and journalists—often their first such experience in a country with only 6,000 Jews.

Daniels, who has helped restore hundreds of Jewish headstones and raised millions to honor saviors of Jews during the Holocaust, says his alliances and media profile are “helping Poles and Jews bridge their tragic history toward greater understanding that will reduce mutual suspicion and anti-Semitism.”

This goal, and the need to improve the “horrendous situation of Jewish burial sites” in Poland, were his motivation for becoming involved with fieldwork in Poland, said Daniels, whose family hails from the Eastern European nation. His grandfather fled the country for the United Kingdom after surviving a lynching.

“I felt, and I still feel, that it’s my duty. It’s almost as though I feel them calling out to me from their ruined graves,” Daniels said.

His successful outreach has earned Daniels praise and appreciation from many Poles, including some leaders of

Polish Jewry. In 2016, Daniels signed a general agreement of cooperation with the cultural group TSKZ, the country’s largest Jewish organization with 1,200 members. It was a major breakthrough for Daniels, who until that point had few allies within Poland’s Jewish community.

But his fame and coziness with the nationalist government—currently the European Union’s bête noire for its alleged inaction on racism, defanging of the Supreme Court and anti-abortion policies—also have exposed Daniels to scathing criticism, including by some leaders of the local Jewish community.

Among his most outspoken critics is the chief rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich, who is also a critic of the current government. In an interview for the *Daily Forward* in November, Schudrich said that some say Daniels is “engaged in the world’s oldest profession” for his ties to that government.

“He has become a supporter of the ultra-right wing,” the rabbi said of Daniels. “It’s the politicization of the Holocaust that is the most dangerous aspect of what he’s doing—and the politicization of history.”

Sergiusz Kowalski, a leader of B’nai B’rith Poland, called Daniels a “court Jew who’s trying his best to promote the anti-democratic propaganda and policies of the ruling Law and Justice party.” And Anna Chipczynska, the president of the Jewish Community of Warsaw, said “people find it ridiculous what he’s doing,” accusing him of trying to undermine the community’s elected representatives by meeting politicians on his own.

Even Daniels’ promotion of non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews in Poland has come under attack. Kowalski branded such efforts, which had the help of government officials, an “abuse of noble rescuers” to help the government show a “more civilized face” and to highlight positive behavior during the Holocaust at the expense of exploring dark chapters of complicity by other Poles.

Daniels said that “honoring rescuers is nonpartisan.” He denies having any sympathy for the Polish far right, whose activists often accuse him of being a Russian, American or Israeli spy working to undermine Polish sovereignty.

“My critics within the Jewish community perceive me inaccurately as a threat to their position,” he said, “so they attempt to slander me instead of cooperating. It’s regrettable.”

Israeli politicians, by contrast, have had no problem visiting Poland on trips organized by Daniels. They have included Ayoob Kara, the communications minister; Hilik Bar, the deputy Knesset speaker and secretary general of the Labor party; and Oren Hazan, a Likud lawmaker and provocateur.

Reacting to criticism over his ties to the current government, Daniels noted that he worked just as closely with the previous one. He said he criticizes Polish authorities



Jonny Daniels, foreground, and Robert Skrupa, a *From the Depths* volunteer, digging up fragments of Jewish headstones in eastern Poland, Jan. 29, 2015.

Cnaan Liphshiz

frequently for their handling of some Jewish gravesites, former Nazi concentration camps and failure to prevent illegal hate speech against Jews, including during a nationalist march in November. That month, Daniels filed a complaint with police against individuals who shouted anti-Semitic slogans at the Warsaw march.

Yet Daniels has himself trafficked in classic ultranationalist terminology during television interviews in Poland. In one interview in October with the TVP station, he linked the criticism of Poland by some Jews to a desire to make money off the Holocaust.

“There’s such a thing as the Holocaust industry. There are Jews—leftist Jews—benefiting from the Holocaust. That’s the truth,” he said. “The leftist Jewish media continue to attack Poland and portray Poland as a racist country. They earn from it. This helps them, for example, to get restitution.”

That sentiment may be offensive to many Jews in Poland and beyond, but it is nonetheless echoed by some of the most prominent figures in Poland’s fractious Jewish community—an environment that many members describe as toxic, rife with rumors, recriminations, allegations of corruption and deep personal animosities.

Artur Hofman, president of the TSKZ cultural group that is allied with Daniels, defended Daniels as someone doing “good work” but being attacked by the “leftist media” and Jewish community leaders. Hofman accused Chipczynska, the Warsaw Jewish leader, of waging a “political war” on the government by “exaggerating the country’s anti-Semitism problem” while mismanaging millions in restitution funds.

The alleged “political war” was a reference to a letter that Chipczynska co-authored last year to a senior politician. In an unprecedented act of protest by the Jewish com-

munity in post-communist Poland, the letter warned of rising threats to the Jewish community from ultranationalists and charged that the government is not doing enough to rein them in.

Countering Hofman’s claims, Chipczynska insisted it was an accurate observation born out of her responsibility to maintain the community’s security.

Daniels is also scrutinized for his work as a public relations consultant for the state-owned LOT airline, which is seen as a conflict of interest by several leaders of Polish Jewry, including Rabbi Haim Beliak of the Beit Polska group of Progressive Jewish communities in Poland.

Daniels counters by saying his work for “a firm that is purely a financial enterprise” has no bearing on his Jewish activism. He has refused calls by critics to reveal details about the funding sources for *From the Depths*, which he says does not receive “a single cent” from the Polish government.

“I am under no legal obligation to disclose this, so I don’t,” he said.

But to many of Daniels’ critics in Poland, the thorniest issue of all is his close relationship with a Catholic priest who for years headed a radio station that was one of the country’s main purveyors of anti-Semitic propaganda. In May, Daniels participated with Father Tadeusz Rydzyk in a show on Rydzyk’s infamous Radio Maryja station. Daniels even hosted the priest at one of his Shabbat dinners.

In 2007, Rydzyk said that “Jews were pushing the Polish government to pay exorbitant private property restitution claims,” and that Poland’s president was “in the pocket of the Jewish lobby.” Anna Azari, Israel’s ambassador to Poland, also hosted Rydzyk at her embassy in a move that infuriated some of her critics within the Jewish community.

Daniels’ relationship with Rydzyk prompted Laurence Weinbaum, an expert on

Poland and the global representative in Israel of the World Jewish Congress, to launch a withering attack on Daniels, calling him a “conman” in an op-ed published last month in *The Times of Israel* titled “In Poland, an anti-Semite, a conman and a useful idiot.”

Weinbaum argues that Rydzyk was using Daniels for a “charm offensive” in order to shed his image as an extremist. Weinbaum also called Daniels a “smooth-talking huckster with a yarmulke perched on his head” with an “insatiable appetite for self-aggrandizement, who seems to have sold his birthright for a bowl of Polish porridge.”

If this is true, Rydzyk apparently has paid in hard currency in the course of the transaction.

According to a November article published in Poland’s highbrow and left-leaning *Gazeta Wyborcza* newspaper—not a publication known for any great sympathy toward Rydzyk—his station sometime in the last year completely and abruptly abandoned the content that in 2008 prompted the U.S. State Department to call Radio Maryja “one of Europe’s most blatantly anti-Semitic media venues.”

Even critics of Daniels say he deserves credit for this change.

“We all knew Rydzyk and his radio station to be anti-Semitic, and none of us would agree to cooperate with Rydzyk,” said Klaudia Klimek, an opposition activist and head of the Krakow branch of the TSKZ cultural group. “Then Jonny came and behavior of radio changed. This is because of Jonny, for sure.”

Daniels is “maybe too close to the government,” Klimek said, adding that perhaps it was unavoidable because they are the ones in power. And the priest is “still an anti-Semite,” but that doesn’t matter, Klimek added, “when the interaction with Jonny means that radio station stopped spewing anti-Semitic poison to millions of listeners. Then the outcome is good.”

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# Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

## Alan Sagner, NJ developer who backed liberal and Jewish causes, is dead at 97

WHIPPANY, New Jersey (New Jersey Jewish News via JTA)—Alan Sagner, a former chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and a major benefactor of Jewish and liberal causes and the Democratic Party, died Jan. 3 at his home in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He was 97 years old.

A real estate developer and builder by profession, Sagner served as chairman of the Port Authority beginning in 1977, in an era when the regional transportation agency expanded rail service and modernized highways in the New York metropolitan area. It also facilitated the revitalization of New York's Times Square.

Sagner was a major donor to what is now the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, which serves the area, a former chair of its UJA Campaign, a key funder of JCC MetroWest in West Orange and a patron to several local Jewish agencies. He was also an early supporter of J Street, the liberal "pro-Israel, pro-peace" group.

A former chairman of the board of Newark Beth Israel Hospital, now Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, he stood firm in opposing an unsuccessful plan to relocate the city's premier hospital to the suburbs after the 1967 Newark riots.

Sagner and Martin Levin, his brother-in-law and partner, are credited with the development of the New Jersey suburb of Livingston, acquiring farmland and building homes to convert it into a bedroom community designed to entice Jews in Newark and East Orange to move to the suburbs.

"Alan had a vision that you could take Livingston, which at the time had no real Jewish population, and build subdivisions and houses," said David Mallach, a former executive director of the Community Relations Committee (CRC) of what was then United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey.

"They marketed it very successfully," said Mallach who is now executive vice chairman of the United Israel Appeal, a branch of The Jewish Federations of North America.

Beyond his deep concern for Jewish causes, Sagner was a strong advocate for progressive groups and Democratic political campaigns. His involvement began in 1960, when he joined the abortive campaign of Adlai Stevenson, who ran for his party's presidential nomination against Sen. John F. Kennedy.

But Sagner later found success in his efforts to elect Democrat Brendan Byrne, an underdog candidate, for New Jersey's governorship in 1973. Sagner was the campaign's finance chairman, and after Byrne's victory, he served as the new governor's commissioner of transportation, and was later his nominee to be chairman of the Port Authority.

Sagner was an investor in the left-of-center magazine, The Nation, and a founder of

the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in 1960.

Sagner's strong opposition to America's boycott of Cuba caused friction between him and some of his colleagues in his local Jewish community. After Cuban-American Robert Menendez was elected to the House of Representatives in 1992 and appointed to its Foreign Affairs Committee in 2006, the federation's CRC backed the future N.J. senator's denunciation of Castro.

"Sagner saw that and went ballistic," recalled Mallach. "It was definitely one of the more uncomfortable conversations I had during my period as the CRC director."

Sagner was born on Sept. 13, 1920, in Baltimore, where he attended public schools before graduating from the University of Maryland and obtaining a master's degree in history from Columbia University.

In 1945 he married Ruth Levin, the daughter of New Jersey real estate developer Maurice Levin. She died in 1995, and a year later he married Lenore Green Schottenstein. They divorced in 2006. Sagner also lived in South Orange before moving to Florida.

He is survived by his daughters, Deborah Sagner Buurma and Amy Sagner Pouliot; his son, John; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

## Lebanese designer takes Gal Gadot photo off Instagram after backlash

(JTA)—The fashion studio of the Lebanese designer Elie Saab deleted from Instagram a picture of Gal Gadot amid rebuke over its ties to the Israeli actress.

The image of Gadot, who starred in last year's action thriller "Wonder Woman," in a blue sash dress by Saab was accompanied by a description of the former Israel Defense Forces combat trainer as "flawless," the BBC on Friday reported.

Saab's Instagram post saw some people share their frustration that a former member of the Israeli army would be promoted by the designer.

Gadot was wearing the dress to the National Board of Review awards in New York Thursday, where she and director Patty Jenkins received the Spotlight Award for their work on "Wonder Woman."

The deleting of Saab's picture has drawn a mixed reaction on social media. While one user praised the decision to remove the post, another called the whole debacle "shameful."

"I love and respect Elie Saab, but is he really happy an Israeli actress wore a dress he designed?" asked one user, the Lebanese journalist Heba Bitar, on Twitter.

In 2017, her superhero blockbuster was banned from cinemas in Lebanon, among several other Arab countries amid protests over her casting as the title character and complaints by Islamists that it featured immodest images of women generally.

## 2 Palestinian teens reported killed in clashes with IDF

(JTA)—Two Palestinian teenagers were shot dead in

clashes with Israeli troops during riots in the West Bank and Gaza.

Amir Abd al-Hamid Abu Musaed, 16, was killed from a gunshot to the chest during clashes Friday alongside the Gaza Strip's border with Israel, the Palestinian Ma'an news agency reported.

Ali Omar Kino, also 16, was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at a Nablus hospital with a gunshot wound to his head, Ma'an also reported. He died in clashes that erupted in the Tel and Iraq Burin villages of southern Nablus in the northern West Bank.

In December, the Israel Security Agency documented a near tripling of terrorist attacks against Israelis last month, reaching a two-year high of 249 incidents.

The attacks in December resulted in no fatalities or major injuries to any of the intended victims. More than 90 percent of the incidents recorded in December involved the hurling of firebombs. Attacks from the Gaza Strip, including the launching of a total of 19 rockets into Israel, increased dramatically from November, when only one such incident was recorded.

The leap in the number of attacks corresponded with an uptick in terrorist activity following President Donald Trump's Dec. 6 declaration that the United States recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The December total of 249 incidents—a 296-percent rise over the 84 recorded in November—is also the sharpest monthly rise in attacks since 2014 at least.

## Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens probed on ex-lover's blackmail allegations

(JTA)—A St. Louis prosecutor said she'd investigate allegations that Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens threatened to blackmail a woman with whom he was having an affair.

Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner announced the probe Thursday, one day after Greitens admitted to having an extramarital affair but denied that he blackmailed the woman to keep it under wraps.

Greitens, a former Navy SEAL whose seven military awards include the Bronze Star, became the first Jewish governor of Missouri when he was elected in November 2016.

The affair, which happened in March 2015, before Greitens became governor, was first reported by St. Louis TV station KMOV.

The ex-husband of the woman with whom Greitens had the affair provided a secretly recorded tape of her confession to him, which included details of their first encounter. The woman, who met Greitens when she cut his hair, said that Greitens took a photo of her in a compromising position to use if she ever came forward about the affair.

The couple began divorce proceedings in March of 2016. By the November election, the man took to social media, to call Greitens a "homewrecker," according to KMOV.

"The serious allegations against" Greitens "are very troubling," said Gardner, the prosecutor, in a statement.

"After further consideration, I have decided to launch a formal investigation into the alleged actions of Governor Greitens."

The accuser's ex-husband said he came forward because he has been contacted numerous times by law enforcement authorities and the media and he wanted to get out in front of a story that he knew would become public.

Greitens and his wife, Sheena, issued a statement on Wednesday night, calling the affair a "deeply personal mistake" by Greitens that the couple dealt with "honestly and privately."

Greitens said the blackmail claims were "outrageous" and "false" in a statement.

## French Jews protest release of synagogue bombing suspect

(JTA)—French Jews protested the release of a man who was extradited from Canada on suspicion that he was involved in the 1980 bombing of a Paris synagogue.

CRIF, the umbrella group of French Jewish communities, said on Friday that it was "indignant" about the release of Hassan Diab, a Lebanese-Canadian academic accused in the 1980 bombing of the synagogue on Copernic Street, which killed four people. Diab has denied any connection to the act, which Israel and other Western countries believe was the work of terrorists from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Earlier this week a judge said the prosecution did not have enough "convincing" evidence on Diab and released him.

"CRIF calls on the public prosecution to appeal the release," a CRIF spokesperson wrote in a statement.

"This release without trial of the main suspect is an insult to the memory of the victims and adds to their relatives' pain," said CRIF President Francis Kalifat in the statement.

Separately, a lawmaker for the far-left France Insoumise party defended Marwan Barghouti, a Palestinian leader who is serving multiple life sentences in Israel for acts of terrorism.

Clémentine Autain said earlier this week in a television interview that Barghouti "is not a terrorist but an activist and political prisoner."

Barghouti, a military commander within the armed wing of the PLO during the second intifada, was sentenced by an Israeli court in 2004 to multiple life sentences for planning dozens of deadly terrorist attacks.

Speaking about Israel, she added in the interview with i24 News: "I think that today the policies of the Israeli government are in a state of radicalization and dangerous authoritarianism, it's a far-right government."

CRIF has accused the communist politician Jean-Luc Melenchon and other members of the Insoumise party of anti-Semitic rhetoric, calling that party "no better" than the far-right National Front party.

Melenchon has denied making any anti-Semitic statement, maintaining he is merely a critic of Israel's policies.

## Arkady Wajspapir, key figure in Sobibor Uprising, dies at 96

(JTA)—Arkady Wajspapir, a key figure in the 1943 uprising at the Sobibor death camp, died in Kiev at the age of 96.

Wajspapir killed at least one Nazi soldier during the uprising—the most bold and daring act by Jewish inmates, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

He died on Thursday, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia wrote in a statement about the Red Army veteran.

The uprising at the camp in eastern Poland broke out on Oct. 14, 1943. It got off the ground after the arrival of Sobibor of several Red Army veterans with combat experience, including Wajspapir and Aleksandr "Sasha" Aronovich Pechersky. The group had amassed weapons made from work tools and acted on a plan which included neutralizing guards and commanders at several crucial points that would allow for a mass escape.

The Sobibor Uprising, which took the German guards by utter surprise with tools whose use they authorized, is widely considered a symbol both of the courage of Jewish resistance fighters and the Nazis' complacency and confidence of their ability to prevent or suppress any actions by them.

Wajspapir was also one of four inmates who gave the signal for the uprising, in which 11 SS officers were killed and 300 inmates escaped.

Wajspapir was ordered to kill an SS soldier and a Ukrainian guard in the tailor workshop together with the Pole Jehuda Lerner.

Armed with axes, Wajspapir and Lerner, both severely emaciated, hid behind a curtain at the workshop in wait for SS officer Siegfried Graetschus, the leader of the Ukrainian guards. An hour into the ambush, Graetschus stopped at the door and tried on a coat that the tailors had made for him. "I stepped from behind the curtain, walked past the officer to the door, turned around and hit him on the head with the sharp edge of the axe," Wajspapir recalled in an interview in 1975 about the uprising.

Out of the inmates who fled the camp, only 53 escaped the search-and-destroy raids the Nazis carried out in retribution. Of those, only a handful are still alive today.

All of Wajspapir's immediate family was murdered in the Holocaust.

"We split up into groups and took off in different directions. Our group, consisting of eleven Soviet prisoners, went in the direction of the northeast," Wajspapir said of his escape, which ended when he joined resistance fighters. After the war he returned to Donetsk and resumed his profession of engineer.

"The memory of the courage demonstrated by Wajspapir and his comrades will live on for posterity and the Jewish community of Russia will continue to do every possible effort to make sure this happens," the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia wrote in a statement.

Later this month, the

Moscow Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center is scheduled to host an international symposium in memory of the uprising ahead of its 75th anniversary. Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to attend the event.

## Trump waives Iran sanctions, he says for the last time under the current deal

WASHINGTON (JTA)—President Donald Trump waived nuclear sanctions against Iran for what the White House said was the final time under the current deal.

By the time the next waiver signing rolls around in 120 days, Trump wants a new deal in place that removes "sunset clauses" allowing Iran to resume enhanced enrichment of fissile material within a decade, three senior administration officials said Friday. Trump wants the bans to be permanent. "He wants to deny Iran access to nuclear weapons forever and not just for 10 years," one of the officials said.

The officials spoke Friday in a conference call for journalists on the condition they not be named.

The officials said Trump expected America's European allies who are also parties to the 2015 accord, which swapped sanctions relief for a rollback of Iran's nuclear program, to join with him in reworking the deal. He is also demanding a permanent end to Iran's enrichment of fissile material at a grade sufficient for weapons use. As it stands, Iran is currently allowed to enrich uranium to low grades unsuitable for weapons use.

In a statement later Friday Trump said those who do not work with him to amend the deal are effectively siding with Iran.

"I hereby call on key European countries to join with the United States in fixing significant flaws in the deal, countering Iranian aggression, and supporting the Iranian people," he said. "If other nations fail to act during this time, I will terminate our deal with Iran. Those who, for whatever reason, choose not to work with us will be siding with the Iranian regime's nuclear ambitions, and against the people of Iran and the peaceful nations of the world."

The officials notably did not say that Trump expected the other two nations party to the deal—Russia and China—to join in the revision of the deal. The three European nations that are party to the deal, France, Germany and Britain, have said that they do not want to reopen the deal unless all parties are agreed. Russia and China are adamantly opposed to renegotiating the deal, as is Iran.

Trump first called on the European nations to reopen the deal to modifications in October; there has been no sign that any party to the deal outside Trump is willing to do so. The Europeans have said they are willing to consider enhancing sanctions outside the nuclear deal, for instance targeting Iran's missile program and human rights abuses.

Trump, the same day he

# Winter camping and fighting addiction at America's first Jewish wilderness therapy program



The wilderness therapy program will draw upon the support, strength and guidance that the Jewish tradition offers to those seeking to overcome adversity.

By Ben Harris

When Jory Hanselman was a high school student, she found herself struggling on multiple fronts. A family member was wrestling with addiction and mental illness. And two friends died suddenly, one from suicide and another from an overdose.

"I was in a place where I was really struggling to deal with that loss along with taking into consideration the secondary trauma of living in a home where mental illness and addiction were playing out in a very real way," Hanselman said.

To help her cope, her parents sent her to Utah to a program in wilderness therapy. The program employed an outdoors adventure-based approach to aid those facing a range of personal challenges, including substance abuse, addiction and mental illness.

"My identity as a Jew was

really central to how I experienced that program," Hanselman recalled. "I was there over Passover. And while I was there I really was impacted by this idea of leaving oppression, leaving these things that were holding me back and finding a path forward to my own self-liberation and being in a healthier, stronger place."

Beginning in late January, Hanselman will begin to offer other young Jewish adults the opportunity to address significant life challenges using the same strategies, albeit in a Jewish framework.

Hanselman is the director of BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy, a new program that its backers say will be the first Jewish one in the country and is one of only a handful of such programs that are not for profit. The program will be housed at Camp Ramah in the Rockies, an outdoor adventure Jewish summer camp located on a 360-acre

ranch in a national forest 90 minutes from Denver.

"When you go out into the wilderness, you just become open to all sorts of change," said Rabbi Eliav Bock, director of Ramah of the Rockies. "When you go into the wilderness, you strip away a lot of the noise we have around us—family, drugs, bad influences. You take somebody out of normal circumstances and force them to confront who they are as a person, what their core values are."

Participants in BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy will spend about half their time at the camp's base facility, where they will sleep in canvas tents and have access to trained therapists who will work with them on treatment plans. Base camp is also where the group will spend Shabbat.

The other half of their time at BaMidbar will be spent on excursions in the surrounding forests. The outings will

include several hours of hiking per day, morning prayer focused on mindfulness and meditation, preparing meals by an open fire, and the daily setting up and breaking down of camp sites. Participants will learn primitive skills like starting a fire from nothing but natural materials or making a flute out of aspen wood. And they will have time to work on their individual therapy assignments.

The Jewish component of BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy will bring elements of Jewish wisdom to bear on the challenges facing individuals in their own lives. Family relationships, for example, may be addressed through stories in Genesis, Hanselman said, like the conflict between Joseph and his brothers. The story of Nachshon ben Aminadav, the biblical figure who led the Jewish people into the Red Sea during the Exodus, is used to teach courage in the face of the unknown.

"This is a story that's really central to the philosophy behind the program, this idea that it's challenging to leave a difficult situation," Hanselman said. "For our students, it's about understanding that it doesn't take a character that's put on a pedestal to always be the one to create change. You have agency over the course of your life. Sometimes it takes walking out into the unknown without knowing what's before you and taking that step to make it where you need to go."

BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy emerged out of a conversation several years ago between Bock and Cliff Stockton, a veteran wilderness educator who teaches at Camp Ramah.

A resident of tiny Hagerman, Idaho, Stockton, 60, has spent decades working with troubled youth in wilderness settings and was struck by how many Jewish kids had gone through such programs.

"There are some wilderness programs out there that have almost 40 percent Jewish participation," Stockton said. "This is a huge need we weren't doing anything."

Though some programs have been willing to accommodate Jewish needs around kosher food and avoiding certain activities on Shabbat, that isn't always feasible. More significantly, many of these programs tap into spiritual themes, particularly Native American spirituality, which to those involved in the BaMidbar program seemed like a missed opportunity.

"Wilderness therapy programs rely heavily on Native American metaphor, storytelling and ritual to help students understand their wilderness experience in the context of a vision quest and rite of passage," Hanselman said.

"The Jewish tradition provides such powerful support, strength and guidance," she noted. "Why must we turn to other traditions to find rituals that help us mark and effect change, stories that speak to facing and overcoming adversity, and values that help us define our personal understanding of living well? Judaism speaks to that so strongly already."

Starting in late January, BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy will have 16 slots available for participants aged 18-26; they may stay as long as necessary. The program costs \$485 per day, which according to Bock

is on the cheaper end of the scale for such programs. With a typical stay in a wilderness therapy program averaging about 60 days, that amounts to approximately \$30,000 per residency.

Scholarships of up to \$200 per day are available for the Colorado program, which is partially supported by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. Bock is a veteran of the Schusterman Fellowship, a leadership program run by the Schusterman Foundation that is designed to help participants use Jewish organizational leadership to create transformational change in the world.

In its first year, BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy will break over the summer while Ramah overnight camp is in session to allow for tweaking and evaluation. But eventually the program will operate year-round, including during the chilly mountain winters that can see nighttime temperatures drop well below zero. Ramah will outfit all participants for the elements, providing heavy duty boots, sub-zero sleeping bags and other essential outdoor gear. In really cold weather, participants will sleep in teepees with a mobile wood stove for heat.

The first participants are scheduled to arrive near the end of January, with more to follow.

This article, sponsored by and produced in partnership with The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, is part of a series about how young Jews are transforming Jewish life in the 21st century. This article was produced by JTA's native content team.

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## Gal Gadot, Harvey Weinstein among top 10 most mispronounced words for 2017

(JTA)—The names Gal Gadot and Harvey Weinstein were among the top 10 mispronounced words of 2017, according to Babel Magazine. Gadot, who played Wonder Woman in the film by the

same name and in "Justice League," was fifth on the list put out by the magazine associated with the online language learning company. Her name is often mispronounced with a silent "t,"

according to Babel, which consulted with the British Institute of Verbatim Reporters, the U.S. Captioning Company and National Captioning Canada to ask their professional subtitlers about the consistently mispronounced words they noticed this year.

So, just for the record, Gadot is pronounced "gah-dott." No word on whether her first name is mispronounced—it is "gahl," not "gal" as in a girl.

Weinstein was 10th on the list. The disgraced Hollywood producer, who appeared frequently in the news in the latter half of 2017, pronounces his

name "wine-steen," which has led to debates among linguists who believe his name should be pronounced "wine-stine," rhyming with Einstein, the way it is frequently mispronounced.

Other words on the list include coulrophobia, pronounced "cool-ruh-foh-bee-ah," the term for a fear of clowns and definitely related to the film adaptation of Stephen King's "It," and fibromyalgia, pronounced "fai-broh-mai-ahl-jyah," a chronic illness with symptoms such as widespread muscular pain. Lady Gaga announced this year that she suffers from the disorder to raise awareness.

### BDS

From page 1A

entry to BDS activist Isabel Phiri, Associate general secretary for the World Council of Churches (WCC), because of her efforts to malign Israel and damage it through an economic boycott. Upon making that decision, Deri said that the authority given to him as a minister was intended specifically for dealing with visitors who arrive in Israel under a false pretense with the intention to encourage anti-Israel activity.

Following is the complete list of organizations whose activists will be denied entry to Israel.

- Europe**  
 AFPS (The Association France Palestine Solidarité)  
 BDS France  
 BDS Italy  
 ECCP (The European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine)  
 FOA (Friends of Al-Aqsa)

- IPSC (Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign)  
 Norge (The Palestine Committee of Norway) Palestina-komitee

- PGS (Palestine Solidarity Association in Sweden) Palestinagrupperna i Sverige  
 PSC (Palestine Solidarity Campaign)

- War on Want  
 BDS Kampagne  
**United States**  
 AFSC (American Friends Service Committee)  
 AMP (American Muslims for Palestine)  
 Code Pink  
 JVP (Jewish Voice for Peace)  
 NSJP (National Students for Justice in Palestine)  
 USCPR (US Campaign for Palestinian Rights)  
**Latin America**  
 BDS Chile  
**South Africa**  
 BDS South Africa  
**International**  
 BNC (BDS National Committee)

### Cohen

From page 4A

nies involves much more than targeted sanctions and words of condemnation—however encouraging those are. More broadly, recent history should also remind him that not every confrontation with tyranny ends in success; the final overthrow of communism in 1990 was preceded by bloody, tragic failures—Soviet troops marching into Budapest and Prague, the repression of the Solidarity labor union in Poland, to name but two

such events—in the decades before. Iran may be in the middle of a similar cycle of history, which is why the handful of world governments who regard the demise of the Islamic Republic as a desirable end need to stay the course, however long it may take.

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

## Academy

From page 1A

Eichenholz. "Opening enrollment to all families is inspired by the increasing parental demand we have experienced in recent years. And in this day and age, it just makes sense to be more inclusive."

The Jewish Academy of Orlando has placed significant focus on STEM-initiatives

including robotics, coding, and technology-engagement, and in an environment where students have significant hands-on learning from a highly skilled faculty. In addition to the school's dual language curriculum that includes Hebrew, the school has a state-of-the-art television studio and comprehensive media center.

Considered one of Maitland's hidden gems, the

Jewish Academy of Orlando is well-known for its high academic standards and student achievements. Two years ago, the school was recognized as one of the first in Orange County to provide kindergarten students with iPads as part of the Academy's sophisticated learning environment. Classes include individually issued laptops to students in fourth and fifth grades, classroom sets of

video iPods, and interactive Smart TVs in every classroom. Instructors utilize iPad educational applications to support curriculum in reading, math and science as well as for language instruction including and Hebrew.

"We incorporated academic lessons with advanced technology into the classroom long before any other school because it's critical that students are

digital natives. We know it's important to harness that intelligence as early as possible," said Rusonik. "Our curriculum is powerful because it deliberately prepares students to be successful in middle and high school and ultimately their entire learning future."

To learn more about our school, please attend our Open House on Thursday, February 1st at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about the Jewish Academy of Orlando or to arrange a tour, please contact Admissions Coordinator Amy Polacek at [apolacek@myjao.org](mailto:apolacek@myjao.org) or 407-647-0713.

The Jewish Academy of Orlando is located at 851 N. Maitland Avenue in Maitland Florida. For more information, please visit our website at [www.jewishacademyorlando.org](http://www.jewishacademyorlando.org).

## Support

From page 1A

could have significant policy implications.

With over 3.8 million members, Christians United for Israel is the country's largest pro-Israel group. And while predominantly Jewish groups such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee are influential, many liberal American Jews have become more critical of Israel in recent years as its government has turned more to the right and failed to make concessions to non-Orthodox denominations.

In 2012, CUFI noted a decline in support for Israel among younger Christians, said the group's founding director, David Brog.

That change was in part because millennial evangelicals are less likely to take the Bible literally, according to Brog. Evangelical support for Israel is often driven by theology.

"Once you're no longer

bound to Israel through a literal interpretation of the Bible, that means you're in play—you could be pro-Israel, you could be anti-Israel, depending on your view of the morality of the conflict," he told JTA.

Brog said he also found that there was "an industry of taking young Christian leaders on trips to the Middle East, where they were fed a really dishonest view of conflict." In a 2014 article, he cited the Telos Group, the Global Immersion Project and the Holy Land Trust as examples of organizations promoting what he called a pro-Palestinian or biased view of the conflict.

Josh Ahrens, CUFI's millennial outreach coordinator, said millennial support for Israel should not be taken for granted.

"We should be concerned by a tendency on the younger generation to be ambivalent toward Israel, and we would be

absolutely wrong to assume that as they get older they will just somehow come around to supporting Israel," he said.

Evangelicals support Israel for a variety of reasons, said Stephen Spector, a professor at Stony Brook University who has published a book about Christian Zionism.

Prophecies about Israel's role in the end of days play a role for some evangelicals, although it is far from the only reason, according to Spector. God's promise regarding the Jews in Genesis 12:3 ("I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse"), the belief that Jews are God's chosen people and the fact that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East are all central to evangelical support for the Jewish state.

"I think for most American evangelicals they just have the impression God loves the Jews, has chosen the Jews and they want to be on God's side," Spector told JTA.

Younger evangelicals are less likely to base their views of Israel on theology than older generations, said the Rev. Mae Cannon, the executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace, a coalition of 27 mostly liberal church denominations.

"While people 55 and older, their view toward Israel may be very theologically founded, if they're dispensationalists or Christian Zionists, these types of theologies are a little less prevalent or less overt in the millennial generation," Cannon told JTA. Dispensationalists believe that Israel as a nation will embrace Jesus in advance of the Second Coming.

Cannon said that while "a zero-sum game" attitude regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is common among older evangelicals, younger Christians are more open to nuanced views.

"I think millennials are some of the people who

have the potential to think outside that framework," she said.

Race also plays a part, said the Rev. Tony Campolo, a leader of the evangelical left and a former spiritual adviser to President Bill Clinton.

"Black people often identify with the Palestinians. Namely they see the Palestinians as a group of colored people oppressed by white domination," Campolo told JTA.

Indeed, the survey found that 50 percent of African-American evangelicals had a positive view of Israel—the lowest among all groups.

Many young white Christians are joining mega churches where pastors often preach a pro-Israel narrative, while black evangelical churches are increasingly identifying with the Palestinians over Israel, according to Campolo.

"There's a real split there," he said.

Sixty-two percent of the

LifeWay respondents were white, while 20 percent were black, 13 percent were Hispanic and 5 percent belonged to a different group. Many other surveys on evangelicals tend to poll white evangelicals as a separate group, noted Spector, saying that including non-whites may result in lower levels of support for Israel.

In 2014, CUFI launched the Israel Collective, an initiative targeting young Christians through short videos about Israel and trips to the country. Brog says it has been successful in swaying many young evangelicals.

"Some of the worst manifestations of this turn against Israel were quickly neutralized, which is great," he said. "But still at the end of the day you have a generation that's approaching the issue differently, that is really saying, 'before I choose which side I'm on, I want to know which side is more moral.'"

## Sanctions

From page 1A

any party to the deal outside Trump is willing to do so. The Europeans have said they are willing to consider enhancing sanctions outside the nuclear deal, for instance targeting Iran's missile program and human rights abuses.

Trump, the same day he

waived the nuclear sanctions, imposed new sanctions on Iran for its human rights abuses and its military adventurism.

Most prominent among the 14 individuals and entities named in the new sanctions was Sadegh Amoli Larijani, who heads Iran's judiciary and who is brother to the speaker

of the Iranian parliament. Other sanctions target suppliers of Iran's military and Iran's cybersecurity sector, which the administration officials said plays a central role in censorship in Iran.

Notably absent from the entities was Iran's Central Bank. The nuclear deal removed a number of sanctions

on the Central Bank, and there had been reports that Trump would impose new sanctions, albeit not for reasons related to Iran's nuclear development. Had he sanctioned the bank, there was speculation that Iran would view the deal as effectively abrogated.

Under U.S. law, U.S. businesses may not deal with Iran.

The sanctions, when they are in place, target third parties overseas that deal with Iran and have the effect—because of the reach of the U.S. dollar—of severely inhibiting trade with Iran.

Trump also wants Congress to impose new strictures on dealing with Iran, including a law that would explicitly tie

Iran's missile programs to its nuclear program. Trump has said that the nuclear deal, which he called the "worst deal in history," was flawed in part because it did not address missile development.

Congress has so far shown little interest in using legislation to undercut or change the current Iran nuclear deal.

## Appelfeld

From page 5A

Unlike the other notable Israeli fiction writers—A.B. Yehoshua, Amos Oz and David Grossman—Appelfeld wrote mostly about the impending dead and the broken remains of Jewish life before and after the Holocaust. Among Israeli society starting anew and glorifying the bronzed farmers and chiseled soldiers of the IDF, Appelfeld was admired, but regarded as a relic of a time the nation wished to forget, or at least gloss over. This

is one of the reasons why he was as widely read in the Diaspora as within Israel itself—a European writer displaced in the new Jewish homeland.

Which all made sense for other reasons of European symmetry. No one would have wished such a childhood on anyone, but fate cares little for what's fair, and Appelfeld was uniquely equipped to make fine use of so rich a legacy—and proximity to fellow men of European letters. Although younger by several years, he

grew up on the same street in Bukovina as the novelist-essayist Joseph Roth and the German poet Paul Celan, the latter also a Holocaust survivor. What a glittering literary address, an urban incubator of Jewish writing of the highest order. Three men of short stature, but giant Jews with outsized reputations, preordained to recall and retell.

Appelfeld was also linked to Celan in other ways. Along with Elie Wiesel and Imre Kertész, Appelfeld was among the few writers who survived

the Holocaust, wrote about the experience and didn't end his life by suicide. Each of the others—Celan, Primo Levi, Jerzy Kosinski, Piotr Rawicz, Jean Amery, Tadeusz Borowski and even Bruno Bettelheim—did. The only one to live and write in Israel, however, was Appelfeld. Perhaps his contributing role in the resurrection of his people enabled him to look beyond the nightmare and sidestep the trauma.

Over a decade ago, the literary scholar and Holocaust survivor Geoffrey Hart-

man invited me, Appelfeld and the American novelist E.L. Doctorow to speak at Yale University about the fictional and testimonial elements of Holocaust literature. (Yes, I did feel humbled and outmatched.) Appelfeld spoke about his use of fiction to conceal some truths while revealing perhaps far more profound emotional ones. Doctorow, cagily, approached the lectern and merely recited an inventory of personal artifacts the Nazis had confiscated from Jews as they first entered

the concentration camps: "shoes, eyeglasses, thimbles, coats, hats, wallets, scarves, prosthetics, teeth..."

Simple possessions, emblematic of a lost world. Cruelly taken away and forever gone.

And the more precious: Hartman died last year; Doctorow, the year before. And now Appelfeld, gone, too.

*Thane Rosenbaum is a novelist and the author of "The Golems of Gotham," "Second Hand Smoke," "Elijah Visible" and, most recently, "How Sweet It Is!"*

## JTA

From page 13A

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**Israeli consulate in Atlanta, 5 embassies to close next year**

(JTA)—Israel is closing its consulate in Atlanta and embassies in six other countries, citing budget cutbacks.

Also facing closure are the Israeli embassies in Ireland, Belarus, Eritrea, the Dominican Republic, the consulate in the Indian city of Bengaluru and an embassy in either Latvia or Lithuania, Yedioth Aharonoth reported Friday.

The cutbacks were blamed on a series of agreements that give envoys and local embassy employees pay raises to the tune of \$11.75 million. Staff staged demonstrations and even strikes in recent years to protest their wages and demand raises, arguing meager salaries—some as low as \$1,200 per month for career diplomats—were ulti-

mately compromising Israeli diplomacy's efforts.

Officials threatened to close 22 offices abroad out of Israel's total of 103 to justify the pay raises. But in negotiations between the foreign and finance ministries, the number was lowered to seven, to be closed down by 2022.

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also cut 50 employees by 2022, many of them through early retirement.

The treasury will allocate another \$51 million to help the foreign ministry compensate for the loss of seven offices abroad. This sum will come on top of \$24 million currently allocated toward

special projects and activities worldwide.

The bulk of the foreign ministry annual budget of \$470 million is spent on overhead, leaving meager funding for projects and special activities.

Hanan Godar, the head of the Foreign Ministry workers union, called the closings "an unfortunate decision that will reduce the ministry's ability to face international challenges." He accused the Ministry of Finance of "ignoring the urgent need" for more funding for the foreign ministry. Godar was a leader in the fight to obtain raises in salaries for foreign ministry employees.

# A Broadway veteran joins Amy Schumer in Steve Martin's Jewy new play



Matthew Murphy

From left, cast members of "Meteor Shower": Keegan-Michael Key, Jeremy Shamos, Amy Schumer and Laura Benanti.

By Steve North

NEW YORK (JTA)—It's a recurring theme in the ca-

reer of actor Jeremy Shamos: some less-than-extravagant characters.

In reviews for "Meteor Shower," the new Broadway comedy by Steve Martin, the entertainment website

Deadline.com says Shamos "is priceless as the zhlubbish Norm," who is the "mushy husband" to the character played by comedian Amy Schumer. And the Los Angeles Times calls Shamos "the strongest actor in the quartet," which in addition to Schumer features comedy star Keegan-Michael Key and Broadway powerhouse Laura Benanti, both well-known for TV roles.

The celebrated Schumer, who recently explored her Eastern European Jewish heritage on the PBS series "Finding Your Roots," and Shamos, the son of New York Jewish parents who were married in Manhattan's Temple Emanuel, bring an indefinable but unmistakable sense of Jewishness to their on-stage marriage, despite the lack of any references in the play to the couple's ethnicity.

In a story about "Meteor Shower," The New York Times notes, "Comedy of the type that sustained the commercial theater for decades—verbal and domestic, often involving Jews—has petered out as a genre." Martin's story of two very different kinds of couples revives that category of theater in a big, loud, and yes, Jewish way.

"Jewish humor is so successful and so much a part of the vocabulary of comedy," says Shamos, "that we almost don't recognize it as Borscht Belt kind of humor, or even older than the Borscht Belt. I think there's been a shying away from jokes that set each other up and knock each other down in that Neil Simon kind of way."

Shamos, 47, attributes that to what he called "an element of drama criticism that made it so [that] something that just goes for a laugh is sort of cheap."

In "Meteor Shower," however, he says "there's a story and a meaning, but it's OK if you take a couple of minutes to let something funny happen that's purely for the joy of laughing."

Shamos does deliver his share of outright jokes in the play, which takes place in Ojai, California, during a striking celestial event. When Norm is asked if stars are visible in that area, he replies, "Of course. They're out shopping every weekend!"

But most of the laughs he gets can't be followed by a rimshot. They're born of the intricate, hilarious interplay between Shamos and Schumer, along with one sight gag in particular that might best be described (without spoiling it) as a watershed moment.

Early in 2017, Shamos portrayed a very different kind of character, a Jewish studies professor, in the Roundabout Theatre Company's production of Steven Levenson's "If I Forget."

"It's an incredible play about the complications of being Jewish at the end of the last century," Shamos says. "If you look at the Jewish-American journey, it's a complicated time to be very religious because that feels sometimes like you're not living in the world of America. But if you live completely in the world of America and forget your Jewish traditions, then you're forsaking your religion in a way."

Shamos finds echoes of that in his own family's saga.

"Both of my parents were Reform enough that neither had a bar or bat mitzvah. We moved from New York to Denver, and my sister and I went to the kindergarten, Sunday school and Hebrew school of the Reform synagogue there, also named Temple Emanuel, and we had a bar and bat mitz-

vah. So we were more religious than our parents had been."

Shamos and his wife, actress Nina Hellman, have an 8-year-old son and a 10-year-old daughter. He says the family is "culturally Jewish, in terms of Passover and Hanukkah and things like that." The kids don't attend Hebrew school.

"Now that we have children, I don't know where we're going," he says.

Shamos knows, however, where his career is going, and that's in the right direction. He has had important TV roles in "Better Call Saul" and "Nurse Jackie" and played an actor who is memorably offed in the 2014 Oscar winner "Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)." Two reviews of "Meteor Shower" call him "Mr. Reliable" and "a Broadway reliable."

What does that mean to him?

"I'm like vanilla ice cream—good with any topping!" he says, laughing. "I consider it to be an honorable expression. Being reliable, especially in theater, means they can sit back and feel they're in good hands. That's a good thing."

And with four major talents on stage at once, the audience is in for a treat, especially when the unexpected occurs.

"We have had moments of cracking each other up. And in this show in particular, it seems like a real opportunity for something to happen," Shamos says. "One time the top of a martini shaker fell on the stage and rolled around, and Amy, who's the quickest person I've ever known, picked it up and said, 'Oh, it's heads; it's good luck!' which was completely random. That got a big laugh. The audience gets to see something they don't see on TV, which is a live moment."

The theatergoers also get a respite from real life during the play, Shamos says.

"Aside from the fact that they haven't thought about current politics and where the country's going, there's just a catharsis that comes from laughter and from people having the same experience in one room," he says. "I think when people come out of this show, they're completely refreshed."

Which is exactly, one might say, what's expected from a good shower.

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