



Vice President Mike Pence prays at the Western Wall on Jan. 23, 2018. See other articles about the vice president's trip on page 3A.

Pence concludes Israel trip with 'inspiring' Western Wall visit

(JNS)—Vice President Mike Pence concluded his trip to Israel on Tuesday with a private visit to the Western Wall, one of the holiest sites in Judaism.

Pence arrived at the holy site with a black yarmulke on his head flanked by the Chief Rabbi of the Western Wall Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz and Director of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation Mordechai "Soli" Eliav.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and the Trump administration's international negotiations representative,

Jason Greenblatt, also accompanied the vice president.

"Here, right above us, on the Temple Mount, King Solomon built the Temple," said Rabinowitz as he approached the Western Wall with Pence. "We draw our strength from our deep connection to the land of the Bible and our commitment to the words of the Prophets."

Pence placed a note inside the wall and prayed, while his wife Karen prayed separately in the women's section at the holy site.

Upon his departure from the Western

Wall, Pence signed the official guest book, writing, "It is my great honor to pray here at this sacred place. God bless the Jewish people and God bless the state of Israel always." When approached by members of the media, Pence stated that the visit to the site was "very inspiring."

Earlier in the day, Pence met with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin. During the meeting, the vice president reiterated the Trump administration's position that U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital will lead to peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

JNF names Gould president-elect



Bruce K. Gould at Jewish National Fund's 2017 National Conference in South Florida.

The Jewish National Fund is pleased to announce that Bruce K. Gould has been appointed to the positions of president-Elect and vice president of Campaign for the National Board. This comes at critical time, as JNF's lay leadership and professional team are diligently working on the second half of its One Billion Dollar Road Map for the Next Decade campaign. He will continue to be instrumental in helping JNF connect communities across

the country to the people and land of Israel.

"My involvement and leadership in JNF began when I was a child and brought Tzedakah to Sunday School each week to place in the famous Blue Box to plant trees in Israel," said Gould. "I am a product of JNF's young leadership development program, and it is through such platforms that I now have the opportunity to lead the

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New director of the JCC preschool

The Roth Family JCC of Greater Orlando proudly announces the hiring of Melissa Youngblood as the next director of the Richard S. Adler Early Childhood Learning Center. Beginning June 1, Youngblood will take over direct oversight of the nationally-accredited preschool and will be accountable for all components of the school including the staff, facility, budget, curriculum, and programming. Her main responsibilities will be maintaining the high quality of education and staffing, increasing the visibility of the school within the community, and increasing preschool family involvement in all aspects of the JCC. Youngblood's vision is to see the school become a model for early childhood education not only for the Orlando area, but for the country.

in Nashville (that shared a campus with the local JCC), she got involved in many aspects of Jewish life and the community. She started a tikkun olam school club called Akiva Cares. Through this club she was able to connect with many Jewish agencies, paving the path towards her first JCC job as the director of Early Childhood at the Gordon JCC in Nashville. As the Early Childhood director in Nashville, Youngblood rebranded the program to increase enrollment and also raised funds, which contributed to the purchasing of a new playground and a remodel of the early childhood center. Following her tenure in Nashville, Youngblood became the director of Early Childhood at the JCC in Louisville, and is currently the director of Creative World School, in Estero, Fla., both moves due to relocation of her husband's employment.

"I would like to see the local universities use our campus as a teaching institution for all future early childhood educators," says Youngblood. "In order to achieve this goal, I want to fundraise to allow us to build a state-of-the-art, cutting-edge, research-supported Early Childhood Learning Center."

Youngblood is no stranger to the JCC and the role it can play in families' lives. During her first job teaching kindergarten at a Jewish day school

The JCC ran a national search to identify the best choice to take over running the school. CEO Keith Dvorchik stated "In Melissa Youngblood we have found

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World-Renowned speakers to add 'Spark' to Women's Retreat

By Dori Gerber

Ladies in the Central Florida area, mark your calendars for the second annual SPARK Women's Retreat set to ignite the light in you March 9-11, 2018, at the luxurious Reunion Resort. This year's

weekend-long event will be jam-packed with events to spark your Jewish soul, including a Shabbat experience and dinner, rejuvenating yoga and fitness classes, fun food demonstrations, a moving Havdalah, and a pumped-up party to celebrate all of the women attendees and their individual sparks, all while enjoying the scrumptious food by distinguished Kosher caterer, Shaika of Miami.

Those who attended last year's retreat have lasting memories. For example, Tracey Kagan had this to say: "The retreat was a life changing experience; the combination of being with 100 Jewish women, motivational guest speakers and delicious food lead me to make another life changing decision and apply for the trip to Israel all I can say it was the most unique and wonderful experience."

Perhaps, however, the most notable part of the weekend will be discussions led by world-renowned Jewish motivational speakers, Adrienne Gold and Ruchi Koval.

Betsy Cohen, who attended last year said, "Through a



Adrienne Gold

series of lectures and other events I was able to grow spiritually. The time spent at the retreat allowed me to meditate and re-define those things that are important to me in my Jewish life and provided me the ability to apply concepts learned and advise given into my daily life. I met new people, shared some experiences and listen to other's stories. I left the retreat with the personal satisfaction that I had achieved my goal... to learn to be a



Ruchi Koval

better person and continue to be proud to belong to the Orlando Jewish Community. I am looking forward to this year's retreat and reinforce my spiritual growth."

Adrienne Gold was a fixture on Canadian television for almost two decades, both as host of her own daily fashion and beauty program, and as a regular contributor on scores of others. After taking a 'life-changing' trip to Israel, she

Spark on page 15A



Consider high school in Israel—it's free!



Naale's outstanding Amana high school for girls, located in cool and calm Kfar Saba is one of the best Orthodox schools for girls in Israel.

By Christine DeSouza

In 1992, when Soviet Jewish parents were looking for ways to immigrate to Israel, a school was started by the Jewish Agency and the Israeli government that provided a way for Soviet youth to

study in Israel. That school is Naale Elite Academy. Since the program started 25 years ago, there have been 16,000 students and graduates from nearly 30 countries, including the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, South Africa, Australia and the former Soviet Union,

among others. At the end of August, 503 arrived to start 10th grade in Israel—74 of them from North America.

This isn't a one-year high school program (although if a student wishes to opt out at any time, they can). Students who participate in the Naale

program have the opportunity of a lifetime to spend their high school years learning Hebrew, connecting to their Jewish identity, discovering Israel, living among their peers in youth villages (sort of like college campuses) under supervision, and graduate with an internationally recognized high school diploma.

After graduation, they will be ready to move on to the next stage of their lives anywhere in the world with greater confidence, irreplaceable life-skills, and the internationally recognized Israeli 'Bagrut' matriculation.

Sending your children away to study abroad is usually an extremely expensive endeavor. However, with the exception of only two payments—a one-time nonrefundable scholarship application fee of \$600 and an additional \$600 upon acceptance, the Naale Elite Academy is completely free. This includes full airfare to Israel at the beginning of the program, tuition, room and board, off-campus travel expenses, special trips, spending money, health insurance and laundry services is fully funded by the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Scholarships are based on average or above average academic ability and psychological tests. According to Chaim Meyers, director for the Western World Region, students are screened for their social skills, emotional stability and independence for their age.

"There are a lot of challenges to living in a foreign country, away from family," Meyers stated. "Some students aren't mature enough."

Einat Cohen-Nissan Glen, Southern United States representative, stated that the program has a 75 percent acceptance rate, and a 90 percent start-to-finish rating because of the screening.

How does it work?

Students in either ninth or 10th grade start the program in an intensive Hebrew ulpan.



Students from Na'ale Shaalvim enjoy a BBQ with their madrich and his family.

They learn to speak, read and write Hebrew. Those who excel in their Hebrew studies can enter mainstream Israeli classes or choose to be in English-speaking classes. After finishing the Hebrew course, they move on to studying the core academic subjects and electives. In addition to academic studies, a wide range of activities, including clubs, volunteer work, music, sports, films, etc.

As there are many aspects to Jewish identity, there are eight schools across Israel in the Naale Elite program:

- Mosenson in Hod Hasharon offers a well-rounded education. It is coed.

- Nahalal (Anieres) is affiliated with Technion University and the program centers around science, technology, engineering and math. Many students who graduate from Anieres continue their education at Technion University (under scholarship).

- Amana is a yeshiva high school for girls. It is a religious school in Kfar Saba.

- Shaalvim is the yeshiva high school for boys offering academic and religious education.

- Beit Chana, located in Tzfat, is designed for the daughters of shlichim and

offers a Kodesh curriculum with advanced studies in Nigleh and Chassidus.

- Beit Chaya Mushka is a Chabad high school for girls geared toward daughters of Hebrew speaking shlichim and is located in Kiryat Shmuel.

- Ayanot is a coed youth village based on values of tolerance, equality and social involvement. In addition to its core subjects, students focus on arts, music and agriculture. It is located in Nes Tziona.

- Dror Elite Academy is located in Jerusalem. It is a coed observant high school with a pluralistic approach. The program emphasizes text studies, social acceptance and an understanding of many forms of Jewish expression.

Registration can be done online. Upcoming screening for Florida residents is held in Miami on Feb. 18, and on June 13.

For more information about Naale Elite Academy, visit <naale-elite-academy.com> Einat Cohen-Nissan Glen, the Southern U.S. Representative, can also answer any questions you may have. She can be reached at 1+561-236-0666 or naale.susa@gmail.com.

Jewish Pavilion honors its Pearl's with Couture creation

By Pamela Ruben

The Jewish Pavilion's *Pearls of the Pavilion luncheon will take on a whole new luster when it is held at the home of Jewelry Designer Gay Harrison of Gay Harrison Handcrafted Couture Jewelry. Harrison is generously opening her Longwood home for the occasion, which takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 20th. Following a gourmet luncheon, the acclaimed designer will offer a sneak peak of her 2018 Spring Collection, along with a sparkling discussion of upcoming trends in jewelry.

"We are so appreciative to our Pearls and to Gay Harrison for their contribution to our elder community. Pearls of the Pavilion will receive a strand of beautiful hand-knotted freshwater peacock pearls for being such a jewel to us over the years," commented Nancy Ludin, Jewish Pavilion executive director.

*Jewish Pavilion Pearls are women who have donated a \$500 minimum payable throughout the membership year, September-August. Your current or future "Pearl" pledge can be made in installments and will be honored with a gift to you. The Jewish Pavilion appreciates and welcomes all levels of donation. To find out more about becoming a Pearl of the Pavilion and attending the luncheon, call Jewish Pavilion Executive Director Nancy Ludin at 407-678-9363 or email: NancyLudin@jewishpavilion.org. The Jewish Pavilion en-



Miriam Josephs and Elise Schilowitz at Pearl Luncheon 2017.



Pearls by Gay Harrison

hances the lives of residents in independent, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities throughout Central Florida by providing visitation, Shabbat services, holiday festivities, inter-generational celebrations, musical programs and educational courses. Our staff

and volunteers visit seniors in over seventy independent, assisted living and long-term care facilities, helping ensure that no senior in our community grows old all alone. Learn more, volunteer, or make a donation at <http://www.jewishpavilion.org>.

TOP completes 2017 stronger than ever

The Tampa Orlando Pinellas Jewish Foundation ended 2017 with assets supporting the Jewish and greater non-profit communities approaching \$50 million, a number that includes a portfolio of \$3.7m in Israel Bonds and investment performance net of fees of 9.57 percent.

"The past 12 months mark a banner year for the Foundation and its donors as we together embarked on an expansion program to bring our philanthropic and investment management services to organizations and families outside central Florida where

no Jewish Foundation currently exists," noted Emilie Socash, TOP's executive director. TOP also successfully completed a two-year legacy program with the nationally recognized Harold Grinspoon Foundation, yielding over 400 new legacy commitments with an estimated future value of more than \$15m. The Life & Legacy program further ensures and protects the financial strength and stability of the local Jewish community, a parallel to the mission of the Foundation. "The beauty of creating legacy gifts, an investment in our

next generations, is that they provide the permanent financial resources to protect and sustain the Jewish community in the midst of a rapidly changing world," remarked Jeffrey Herman, TOP Jewish Foundation President."

Of the nearly \$50m in assets at TOP, approximately 40 percent—or \$20m—are held in endowments. An additional 28 percent are invested for Jewish agencies and synagogues throughout Tampa, Orlando, Pinellas and Gainesville, the newest community to join

TOP on page 14A

JFS Orlando open house and ribbon-cutting for new wing

JFS Orlando is proud to announce the opening of its expanded counseling wing. Since inception, JFS Orlando has provided more than 50,000 counseling

sessions. The counseling, growth and development program provide individual, couples, family and group mental health counseling in a trusting,

reassuring and healing atmosphere.

The opening/ribbon cutting of the added wing will be held Thursday, Feb. 22 from 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

Vice President Pence's address at a special session of Knesset

Vice President Mike Pence on Monday addressed the Knesset, Israel's parliament, affirming the US' support for the Jewish state, for Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and for Israel's security.

The following are excerpts from his speech:

...I am here to convey a simple message from the heart of the American people: America stands with Israel.

We stand with Israel because your cause is our cause, your values are our values, and your fight is our fight. We stand with Israel because we believe in right over wrong, in good over evil, and in liberty over tyranny.

We stand with Israel because that's what Americans have always done, and so has it been since my country's earliest days...

In the story of the Jews, we've always seen the story of America. It is the story of an exodus, a journey from persecution to freedom, a story that shows the power of faith and the promise of hope.

My country's very first settlers also saw themselves as pilgrims, sent by Providence, to build a new Promised Land. The songs and stories of the people of Israel were their anthems, and they faithfully taught them to their children, and do to this day. And our founders, as others have said, turned to the wisdom of the Hebrew Bible for direction, guidance, and inspiration.

America's first President, George Washington, wrote with favor to "the children of the stock of Abraham." Our second President, John Adams, declared that the Jews, in his words, "have done more to civilize man than any other nation."

And your story inspired my forebears to create what our

16th President called a "new birth of freedom." And down through the generations, the American people became fierce advocates of the Jewish people's aspiration to return to the land of your forefathers to claim your own new birth of freedom in your beloved homeland.

The Jewish people held fast to a promise through all the ages, written so long ago, that "even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens," from there He would gather and bring you back to the land which your fathers possessed.

Through a 2,000-year exile, the longest of any people, anywhere, through conquests and expulsions, inquisitions and pogroms, the Jewish people held on to this promise, and they held on to it through the longest and darkest of nights. A night that Elie Wiesel proclaimed "seven times sealed." A night that transformed the small faces of children into smoke under a silent sky. A night that consumed the faith of so many and that challenges the faith of so many still.

And tomorrow, when I stand with my wife at Yad Vashem to honor the 6 million Jewish martyrs of the Holocaust, we will marvel at the faith and resilience of your people, who just three years after walking beneath the shadow of death, rose up from the ashes to resurrect yourselves, to reclaim a Jewish future, and to rebuild the Jewish state.

And this April, we will mark the day when the Jewish people answered that ancient question—can a country be born in a day, can a nation be born in a moment?—as the State of Israel celebrates the 70th anniversary of its birth.

As you prepare to com-

memorate this historic milestone, I say, along with the good people of Israel, here and around the world: Shehecheyanu, v'kiyimanu, v'higiyanu la'z'man ha'zeh.

Seventy years ago, the United States was proud to be the first nation in the world to recognize the State of Israel. But as you well know, the work we began on that day was left unfinished, for while the United States recognized your nation, one administration after another refused to recognize your capital.

But just last month, President Donald Trump made history. He righted a 70-year wrong...

The Jewish people's unbreakable bond to this sacred city reaches back more than 3,000 years. It was here, in Jerusalem, on Mount Moriah, that Abraham offered his son, Isaac, and was credited with righteousness for his faith in God.

It was here, in Jerusalem, that King David consecrated the capital of the Kingdom of Israel. And since its rebirth, the modern State of Israel has called this city the seat of its government.

Jerusalem is Israel's capital. And, as such, President Trump has directed the State Department to immediately begin preparations to move the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In the weeks ahead, our administration will advance its plan to open the United States Embassy in Jerusalem, and that United States Embassy will open before the end of next year.

Our President made his decision, in his words, "in the best interests of the United States." But he also made it clear that we believe that his decision is in the best interests

of peace. By finally recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the United States has chosen fact over fiction. And fact is the only true foundation for a just and lasting peace.

Under President Trump, the United States of America remains fully committed to achieve a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

In announcing his decision on Jerusalem, the President also called, in his words, "on all parties to maintain the status quo at Jerusalem's holy sites, including at the Temple Mount, also known as the Haram al-Sharif." And he made it clear that we're not taking a position on any final status issues, including the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem or the resolution of contested borders.

And President Trump reaffirmed that, if both sides agree, the United States of America will support a two-state solution...

Now, we recognize that peace will require compromise, but you can be confident in this: The United States of America will never compromise the safety and security of the State of Israel. Any peace agreement must guarantee Israel's ability to defend itself by itself...

Over the past two days, I've traveled to Egypt and Jordan, two nations with whom Israel has long enjoyed the fruits of peace. I spoke with America's great friends, President Al Sisi of Egypt, and King Abdullah of Jordan, about the courage of their predecessors who forged an end to conflict with Israel in their time.

And those two leaders prove every day that trust and confidence can be a reality among the great nations who call these ancient lands home. In my time with those leaders, and with your Prime Minister, we discussed the remarkable transformation that is taking place across the Middle East today, and the need to forge a new era of cooperation in our day and age.

The winds of change can already be witnessed across the Middle East. Longstanding enemies are becoming partners. Old foes are finding new ground for cooperation. And the descendants of Isaac

and Ishmael are coming together in common cause as never before...

Radical Islamic terrorism knows no borders—targeting America, Israel, nations across the Middle East, and the wider world. It respects no creed—stealing the lives of Jews, Christians, and especially Muslims. And radical Islamic terrorism understands no reality other than brute force.

Together with our allies, we will continue to bring the full force of our might to drive radical Islamic terrorism from the face of the Earth.

I'm pleased to report that, thanks to the courage of our armed forces and our allies, at this very moment ISIS is on the run, their capital has fallen, their so-called caliphate has crumbled. And you can be assured we will not rest, we will not relent, until we hunt down and destroy ISIS at its source, so it can no longer threaten our people, our allies, or our very way of life...

As President Trump made clear in Saudi Arabia, we will continue to stand with our allies and stand up to our enemies. We will work with all of our partners to starve, in his words, "terrorists of their territory, their funding, and the false allure of their craven ideology."

We will also support faith leaders in this region and across the world, as they teach their disciples to practice love, not hate. And we will help persecuted peoples, who have suffered so much at the hands of ISIS and other terrorist groups...

The United States has already committed more than \$110 million to assist Christian and other religious minorities across the wider Middle East. And we urge our allies—here in Israel, in Europe, and across the world—to join us in this cause. Let's work together to restore the rich splendor of religious diversity across the Middle East, so that all faiths may once again flourish in the lands where they were born.

As we work to defeat the scourge of terrorism, and give aid to those who have suffered at its hands, we must also be resolved and vigilant to prevent old adversaries from gaining any new ground.



Vice President Mike Pence at the Knesset.

To that end, the United States will continue to work with Israel, and with nations across the world, to confront the leading state sponsor of terror—the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As the world has seen once again, the brutal regime in Iran is merely a brutal dictatorship that seeks to dominate its citizens and deny them of their most fundamental rights. History has proven, those who dominate their own people rarely stop there. And increasingly, we see Iran seeking to dominate the wider Arab world.

That dangerous regime sows chaos across the region. Last year alone, even as its citizens cried out for help with basic necessities, Iran devoted more than \$4 billion to malign activities in Syria, Lebanon, and elsewhere across the region. It has supported terrorist groups that even now sit on Israel's doorstep. And worst of all, the Iranian regime has pursued a clandestine nuclear program, and at this very hour is developing advanced ballistic missiles. Two-and-a-half years ago, the previous administration in America signed a deal with Iran that merely delays the day when that regime can acquire a nuclear weapon. The Iran nuclear deal is a disaster, and the United States of America will no longer certify this ill-conceived agreement.

At President Trump's direction, we're working to enact effective and lasting restraints on Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Earlier this

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Fifth annual Kosher Halftime Show during Super Bowl

NEW YORK—On Feb. 4 millions of people will gather around the world to watch the Philadelphia Eagles and the New England Patriots play in Super Bowl LII. One of America's favorite annual events is the Halftime Show and this year is no exception. As Justin Timberlake takes the stage in Minnesota, the Nachum Segal Network (NSN) will be kicking off its fifth annual "Kosher Halftime Show." The Kosher Halftime Show will give Jewish music fans and their families around the world a wholesome Jewish music experience. The show will include the ever-popular singer Ohad and social media influencer Meir Kay. It will be recorded at the Wilf Children's Hospital at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

NSN's "Kosher Halftime Show will again include unique commercials. This year's spots are from Yeshiva University, One Israel Fund and Carmel Wineries.

The show, hosted by Segal, debuts on nachumsegal.com at 8 p.m. ET Feb. 4. Follow along on social media #KHS2018.

The program is sponsored by American Committee for



Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, The Rothenberg Law Firm LLP, Steinreich Communications, FDD Productions and Meir Kay.

The Nachum Segal Network is committed to providing motivating, essential and timely content to an international Jewish audience on a daily basis. The principles of its founder, Nachum Segal, guide the network and its staff by providing quality programming that appeals

to a sophisticated and informed audience. Nachum Segal's uses the network as a platform to show unity, support and care for Jews throughout the world. NSN proudly features content that is dedicated to family values and that encourages a life committed to spiritual growth and the love of Israel. For more information and live coverage visit: www.nachumsegal.com and download the NSN App.

Mike Pence got help from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on his Knesset speech

(JTA)—Former British chief rabbi Jonathan Sacks met with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence to help him frame religious and historical elements of his speech before Israel's Knesset.

Sacks and Pence met in New York for 90 minutes prior to Pence's departure for a two-day visit to Israel, part of trip that also included Egypt and Jordan, the Times of Israel reported.

Pence sought Sacks' guidance on the sections of the speech, which dealt with the historical connection between the Jews and Israel. He was not paid for the consultation.

The meeting "centered around how best to frame elements of the speech—in particular the biblical and historical connection between

the Jewish people and the land of Israel, and the American and Jewish stories," Sacks' spokesman Dan Sacker said in a statement.

"Rabbi Sacks provided input and editorial suggestions on various drafts throughout the writing process," an unnamed source with knowledge of the speech-writing process told the Times of Israel.

Pence has been accused of shaping his political views on Israel through the lens of his Evangelical Christian outlook.

His Knesset speech earlier this week included passages from the Bible and alluded to biblical history. It also highlighted the Jewish people's connection to Israel.

Sacks served as Britain's chief rabbi for 22 years until



Former chief rabbi Jonathan Sacks.

2013 and now holds the title emeritus chief rabbi. He was named a life peer, giving him the title of Lord, in 2009.

Jewish men need to talk about #MeToo

By Daniel Brenner

(JTA)—Like a lot of other Jewish men, I have been quietly keeping a scorecard of the number of Jewish men in the #MeToo headlines.

Harvey Weinstein, Dustin Hoffman, Jeffrey Tambor, Mark Halperin, Leon Wieseltier, James Toback, Israel Horowitz, Al Franken, James Levine, Jeremy Privin, Woody Allen, Brett Ratner, Michael Oreskes, Bruce Weber—all have been accused in one way or another of sexual assault or harassment, primarily in the workplace. Let's not forget that Anthony Weiner is currently in a cell in a federal penitentiary in Massachusetts for sending obscene material to a minor and Rabbi Barry Freundel will be spending the next five years behind bars for videotaping women as they prepared for a ritual bath. The list is even longer, and as the list has grown, so has the quiet shame that many Jewish men are feeling.

Inclusion and the Jewish group that demonizes Jews

By Jonathan S. Tobin
JNS.org

The issue the organized Jewish world has struggled most with in recent years is how to keep communal peace at a time when the debate over Israel has become increasingly polarized. The result is a dialogue of the deaf that diminishes the community. That's why I'm a firm believer in listening and reading opposing views. I know the differences between my positions and those of liberal friends are often arguments within the family about how to strengthen the Israel we all love.

As a general rule, I don't back efforts to exclude those with views that differ from mine. Even in the case of the left-wing J Street lobby, whose platform I find to be, at best, irrelevant, and at worst, potentially dangerous, I don't support denying it the right to be heard at communal forums. Anyone who supports Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state—as J Street's leaders say they do—deserves a place at the table.

But while inclusion is an important value, it is not the only one, let alone the most important. This is why Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) doesn't deserve to be included. It should instead serve as a warning of the consequences of granting legitimacy to forces willing to spread anti-Semitic canards in order to advance their campaign against Israel.

J Street's perspective is still essentially Zionist, albeit of the left-wing variety that thinks the Jewish state will be saved by failed land-for-peace deals. But JVP, which is stealing J Street's thunder on college campuses because it opposes Zionism, is an open supporter of the BDS movement that seeks to wage economic warfare on Israel. It claims to be agnostic about whether a Jewish state should exist, though in practice, it is clearly an opponent even of an Israel that would be forced back to the pre-1967 lines.

Support for BDS should be a red line that Jews should never cross. One need only listen to the voices of JVP's partners like Students for Justice in Palestine—the primary engine of BDS propaganda—to realize that their goal is to eradicate the Jewish state, not shift its borders to bring peace. JVP has long been in league with hate groups that target Jewish students. The fact that at its most recent national conference, those in

When Larry David opened his latest monologue on "Saturday Night Live" by joking about the "very disturbing pattern" of Jewish men among the accused, he was slammed by the Anti-Defamation League for being both "offensive" and "insensitive" and got an earful from the Twitter-verse. When Mark Oppenheimer wrote in Tablet magazine that Weinstein is a "deeply Jewish kind of pervert," he had to follow up quickly with a public apology for implying that there was a unique type of Jewish sexual perversion.

Most Jewish men I have spoken with have explained the long list of Jewish men in the headlines by saying something like "This is not a problem with Jewish men, it is a problem with men. And since there are many Jewish men who are in entertainment, media and politics, the number seems inflated."

In many respects, I agree with this argument. And I certainly do not want to join the group of Jew haters (like those at the Daily

attendance cheered a convicted Palestinian terrorist murderer was just one more proof of their ill intent.

But recently, JVP has started to engage in anti-Semitic invective in its own right. Its "Deadly Exchange" campaign opposes initiatives that promote joint training programs between U.S. police and Israeli security forces. Yet their attempt to isolate Israel isn't limited to opposing cooperation between the two allies on issues of mutual concern. JVP is blaming not only Israeli security experts, but also American Jews who back these useful exchanges for the deaths of black Americans who have been killed by the police.

Many Jews were shocked when the Black Lives Matter movement adopted an anti-Israel platform. But it was part of the same intersectional mindset that causes some left-wing LGBT organizers to ostracize gay Jews from pride parades or anti-Trump resistance groups to tell Jewish liberals that they must drop support for Zionism if they want to join.

But what JVP is doing with "Deadly Exchange" is to assert that it is the Jews who are enabling racist police to murder defenseless African-Americans. Leave aside that much of the BLM agenda is based on myths such as the one about the incident in Ferguson, Missouri. What happened there was correctly ruled a justified shooting rather than murder, but JVP blames it on the fact that years before the death of Michael Brown, Ferguson's police chief took part in a trip to Israel. The main point here is that by claiming blacks are being murdered because of Israel and its Jewish supporters, JVP is engaging in a new version of the old anti-Semitic blood libel.

While the communal tent should be as large as possible, there is no place in it for those who not only work for Israel's destruction, but encourage hatred against Jews. Some of those who venerate inclusion have been ready to treat JVP as just another Jewish group with a point of view that deserves respect. Yet just as we deny legitimacy to hate groups that make no secret of their prejudice, an organization that would stoop to this sort of vile anti-Semitic smear deserves to be ostracized by all people of good will.

Jonathan S. Tobin is opinion editor of JNS.org and a contributing writer for National Review. Follow him on Twitter at: @jonathans_tobin.

Stormer) who accuse Jews of sexual deviance, violence and perversion.

Yet I think that many Jewish men are avoiding a tough conversation that we should be having: an internal, community-focused dialogue about the intersection of sex, sexuality and power in the lives of Jewish men. And if we do not ask if there are specific Jewish ways that men have been taught about sexuality and power, we will be unable to come up with specific Jewish ways to address them.

Growing up, traditional Jewish religious boundaries offered me one vision of how I should view the "opposite sex." Comic films and novels written by Jewish men shaped my adolescent view of sexuality as a clash between male desire and female demurral (see Allen, Woody; Brooks, Mel; Roth, Philip; Simon, Neil). As cisgendered straight Jewish teen males in summer camp and in youth group settings, we were taught by our rabbis and teachers that sex is only holy in marriage (and a "double mitzvah" on the Sabbath). At the same time, we learned from the general culture and each other that a man should make the first moves, dominate sexually, take "no" as "maybe" and brag to our friends about how far around the bases we could get.

Like many males, we had no idea what good sexual communication looked like and nobody to teach us. It goes without saying that many of us did damage to others as we had our first sexual encounters.

Few of the messages we received are unique to Jews or Judaism. But just as we take credit as a community for the ways Jews and Judaism do good in the world, we need to own the ways we fall short.

Now, both as a father of teen boys and a teen girl, and as a Jewish educator who trains Jewish men to mentor teen boys in 150 Jewish institutions, I feel obligated to work toward not only better communication but a better sex

ethic in general, for Jews and expressed in a Jewish vocabulary. And to advance that work, I sense that two conversations are necessary.

The first conversation is one that I will be having with the Jewish men in my life. These include rabbis, educators, family members, friends and my own sons. In this conversation we will need to ask:

What are the cultural, religious and communal factors that influence how we as Jewish men think about sex and sexuality?

What messages do we as Jewish men give one another about what is "right" and "wrong" in terms of sexual activity?

What is our responsibility when we suspect that another man is behaving inappropriately or abusing his power?

What role do we play in helping those who have been victims of abuse?

How might the fantasies we have been presented about sex contribute to harassment and abuse?

And, most important, what can we do to help create a more equitable and safe environment for everyone?

Wrestling with these questions will help us, as men, to respond in positive ways to the challenges that #MeToo has revealed. But men cannot simply engage in a conversation and then pat themselves on the back.

Men have a responsibility to work with people of all genders to bring about cultural change. In the Jewish community, that means that men who lead, work within or serve on the boards of Jewish institutions should be advocating for clear policies regarding sexual harassment across all levels of the organization. They should learn to watch out for common signs of harassment and abuse, and encourage efforts that make for safer workplaces and volunteer organizations.

Brenner on page 15A



Everywhere

Dangerous trends in our democratic society

By Mel Pearlman

After the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, the country entered into a period of patriotic and political unity that it had not experienced since World War II and the decade that followed. The 1960s and 1970s were periods of political tension over a disputed war in Vietnam, civil rights for African Americans and equal rights for women. Although great progress was made, much is still left to be done on these issues and a host of other issues that currently confront our American society.

In periods of political and social change controversy is always present. Public debate in such times becomes passionate and often spills out into the streets in the form of public protests. All of this is healthy expression in our democratic society as long as violence is avoided and truthful discourse is conducted in a civil manner.

I should make it clear that when I speak of patriotic unity I am not speaking of blind nationalism or American isolationism. Both can be inimical to American interests and national security and distract us from the many imperfections and inequalities that continue to exist in our society; and block our path on our national journey to a more perfect union.

Unfortunately, this has not been the pathway to progress in the last few years. Over the past decade the United States has experienced much upheaval in its political discourse and civility, not only in the halls of Congress and academia, but also in our own living rooms, across the kitchen table and in conversations with family and friends.

Social media, which could be a great contributor to the debate on public issues has become a "safe" platform for insults, unjustified labeling, lies, name calling, and retreating to extreme positions both left and right on the political spectrum. Posts have become exercises in re-enforcing one's own opinion and totally rejecting any contrary point of view. This irresponsible use of technology has further removed us from ever solving the issues and divisions that exist in our society. Our "smart" phones have really been put to "dumb" use.

The press and electronic media have also failed in providing objective news coverage on important public issues. When a news channel is only attracting a viewing audience with a specific identifiable view as being leftist or rightist, that news channel has failed in its role (protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States), in a democracy to inform and dispense information to the public on an objective basis and to clearly differentiate news from opinion. It is a sad commentary that NGOs such as CAMERA have to exist to point out prejudice in news reporting.

The Jewish community has not been immune to these shortcomings. The mean-spirited division in our national Jewish community represents a danger to our well-being and security as it relates to our place in American society, in our political strength, and in Israel's security and international position. This is not to say we should all be of one-mind; that is not the Jewish way. However, reason, civility and respective discourse has always been the Talmudic way to address issues in our community; and if we are to continue to be "a light unto the nations", we should practice this standard among ourselves and demonstrate this standard here in our own country to our fellow citizens.

If you wish to comment or respond to any of the contents herein you can reach me at melpearlman322@gmail.com. Please do so in a rational, thoughtful, respectful and civil manner. If you wish to respond by ranting and raving, please go into your bathroom, lock the door and shout your brains out.

Mel Pearlman has been practicing law in Central Florida for the past 45 years. He has served as president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando; on the District VII Mental Health Board, as Special Prosecutor for the City of Winter Park, Florida; and on the Board of Directors of the Central Florida Research and Development Authority. He was a charter member of the Board of Directors and served as the first Vice President of the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Central Florida, as well as its first pro-bono legal counsel.

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

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Iranian brutality, European cowardice, US leadership

By Joshua S. Block

In March 1979, shortly after the mullahs grabbed power and dragged Iran into theocratic dictatorship, destructive wars and terrorism, Iranian women took to the streets to protest the forced hijab. "Freedom is not eastern, not western, it is universal," they chanted.

Almost 40 years later, the Iranian people are still fighting the same tyrants. In the struggle for freedom, you would expect an institution like the European Union, defined by the universal character of liberty and democracy, to stand in solidarity with the oppressed against their oppressors. So far Europe has sent the opposite message.

"We are not going to sustain political and economic relations with a country engaged in the brutal oppression of peaceful protesters," are the words Federica Mogherini, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, never uttered. Instead, she remained silent for six days.

When she finally broke her silence, Mogherini's message was tainted by moral myopia. "We expect all concerned to refrain from violence," she said, after Iranian security forces had already killed at least 22 people and incarcerated more than 3,000. The EU statement echoed earlier ambiguous messages from the British, German, French and Swedish governments.

The EU's cowardly reaction

contrasts with the strong response from the United States. Lawmakers from the left and right of the political spectrum—everyone from President Donald Trump and Marco Rubio to Bernie Sanders and Bob Menendez—responded to the call for freedom in Iran.

Last week, Mogherini invited Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, to Brussels for more discussions on the Iran nuclear deal. And that's the crux of the matter: the anti-democratic effect the agreement is having on world affairs.

Sweden's representative to the United Nations put it bluntly, after the US had called for an emergency session in the Security Council.

"Human rights violations in Iran must be separated from [the Iran nuclear deal]," he said.

Compromised by the prospect of lucrative business deals with Iran and the delusion that President Rouhani is an agent of change, Europe has lost its way. Instead of safeguarding the Iranian people, they protected the nuclear accord and boycotted efforts by the Trump administration to hold the regime in Tehran accountable for their unspeakable crimes.

It is not without reason that protesters across Iran call for an end to the mullah's military adventurism and sponsorship of terror. "We don't want the Islamic Republic," they chant, "Leave Syria, leave Gaza, leave

Lebanon." They fight a regime that asserts theocratic domination through worldwide terrorist acts and hegemonic wars in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen without any regard for losses.

Europe's unwillingness to clip Iran's wings of terror and oppression makes America's leadership more critical. Not for the first time has Washington been at odds with European governments since Trump was elected president. Whether the historical announcement to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, or courageous efforts to confront blatant anti-Semitism at the United Nations, America has sometimes stood proudest when it has stood alone.

Building on its tough line on the nuclear accord and the terror designation of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, America can lead the way again.

The IRGC controls most of the country's economy and the Quds Force, the IRGC's foreign espionage and paramilitary wing, spearheads the Islamic Republic's foreign operations. Yet European leaders encourage companies to invest in Iran, thus funding the IRGC and the Islamic Republic's illicit activities.

By linking the regime's treatment of its people to economic and political engagement, America can hit

Block on page 15A

Countering BDS from the ground up

By Jacob Millner

States across the country—from Rhode Island to California, from Texas to Minnesota—have passed important anti-BDS legislation. To date, 24 states have joined the movement to reject hate, proudly standing up and saying, those who discriminate against the Jewish state are not welcome to do business in our state.

This legislative process is one that has taken off over the past two years. The first states to pass these laws were Illinois and South Carolina, in 2015. For the most part, in blue states and red states, on the east coast, west coast, and in middle America, these bills have passed by either unanimous votes or by extremely

wide margins, indicating a strong bipartisan consensus.

We are now entering a new year, and a new election cycle—all 435 seats in the US House of Representatives, a third of the Senate, and 36 governorships are up for grabs. Additionally, there are numerous statewide offices, secretaries or state, attorneys general, and more to be decided in November.

State legislators are a ripe repository—think of a farm system—for those seeking higher political office. It is a main breeding ground for future leaders who will ultimately determine the next generation of legislation and policy.

Now that anti-BDS legislation is law in almost half the states we have a good baseline

by which to examine several candidates running in the 2018 mid-term elections.

American state legislators and governors, Democrat and Republican alike, understand that BDS is a hateful movement focused not on human rights, but on the destruction of Israel. Taking a stand against BDS must be applauded. We should also be tracking those running for higher office who did not vote in favor of these anti-discriminatory bills.

Remember, these bills call out BDS efforts directed at Israel for what they are—a form of economic hate, warfare, and discrimination aimed at the lone Jewish state in the world. While states, foreign countries, and world leaders have rightly decided that BDS

is hate, and support efforts to marginalize this discriminatory movement, some have not had the moral courage stand up.

Take for example, Rep. Stacie Abrams, in Georgia. Rep. Abrams a leading Democratic contender in that state, voted against the successful anti-BDS legislative effort that became law in 2016. Rep. Abrams' opposition to anti-BDS legislation clearly raised some eyebrows, and she has been criticized by her vote.

Since then she issued a statement stating, "...However, I am now aware that my vote on SB 327 has led to questions about my fidelity to the existence and legitimacy of Israel. Let me be clear: I unequivocally support a two-

state solution as the path to resolution of the Israel and Palestinian conflict, with Israel as the national homeland for the Jewish people. Moreover, I reject the demonization and de-legitimization of Israel represented by the BDS narrative and campaign...

As a candidate for governor, I commit to pursue the actions recommended by ADL to counter the BDS's anti-Semitic narrative: know the facts; study and distribute materials on why efforts to isolate and demonize Israel are wrong; get involved and share my personal connection to Israel; gather and publicize public statements that oppose these campaigns and organize or support local initiatives to promote Israeli goods. More importantly, I will proudly

continue my efforts to center Georgia as a staunch political ally, economic partner and moral defender of the state of Israel."

There are more examples of legislators across the country who may soon find themselves in Congress or in the Governor's mansion. Citizens of all backgrounds should be following their candidates to make sure that they support anti-discriminatory legislation. If they voted, no, why?

Boycotting Israel for political purposes is unfair and creates a double standard, which the U.S. State Department has deemed anti-Semitism. Of course, there is legitimate criticism of Israel, its government, and its policies.

Millner on page 15A

Abbas has a problem with women

By Stephen M. Flatow
JNS.org

Why is it that every time a female US government official says something that the Palestinian Authority (PA) doesn't like, PA leaders respond by making a disparaging remark related to the fact that she is a woman?

In his bizarre, two-hour rant before the Palestinian Central Council on Jan. 14, PA President Mahmoud Abbas declared that US Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, "wears high heels not for elegance but to use to hit anyone who attacks Israel."

When Condoleezza Rice was national security advisor, an official PA newspaper, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, called her (on June 23, 2002) "the dark complexioned lady," "the Black Lady" and "this pitiful woman." On Nov. 3 of that year, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida railed against Rice for "her loose way of sitting, when she puts one leg on top of the other." The writer then alluded to Bill Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Another official PA newspaper, Al-Ayyam, referred to Rice (on June 22, 2003) as a "black widow," a "single black lady" and a "black raven," and patronizingly compared her to African-American supermodel Naomi Campbell.

And the PA's problem with women is not limited to Republicans. In its Oct. 3, 1997

issue, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's editor in chief denounced Arab leaders whom, he said, "would have sung love songs" to then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "were it not for her advanced age and the fact that she has passed her prime."

I wonder if the PA's disturbing obsession with the physical appearance of these female US officials is a reflection of the anti-woman culture that the PA fosters in Palestinian society.

According to Amnesty International, women and girls living under PA rule during the past year "continued to face discrimination in law and in practice, and were inadequately protected against sexual and other violence, including so-called 'honour' killings."

"Honor killings" are homicides in which men murder female relatives whom they suspect of violating Islamic fundamentalist morals, such as premarital relations, dressing "provocatively" or being seen in the company of an unauthorized boyfriend. According to The Washington Post, even when the PA imprisons such killers, "pardons and suspended sentences are common."

The Palestinian women's rights group TAM reported that 18 Palestinian Arab women were murdered in "honor killings" in 2016. But the PA's Palestinian Public

Prosecutor's Office claims that there were "only" nine such killings.

Human Rights Watch reports that the PA "still allows rapists to escape punishment." It notes that during the past year, "women seeking marriage and divorce suffered discrimination." For example, PA courts "required Muslim women to obtain a male relative's consent to marry and to obtain the husband's consent to divorce, except in limited cases."

The Times of Israel reported last year that when the PA set up its legal system, it decided to include Article 99 of Jordanian Penal Code No. 16 of 1960, "which grants judges the ability to dramatically reduce sentences if the case has 'extenuating circumstances'... [which] allows men who murder, assault and rape women in the Palestinian territories to receive significantly reduced sentences... [I]n the majority of other such cases in Jordan and the Palestinian territories, the 'extenuating circumstances' the judges cited to lighten the sentences were that the family dropped charges against the defendants—who are part of the family—saying it was an honor killing."

The United Nations has a division called "UN Women." Its website reports: "There are no specific laws or provisions in the [PA-ruled territories] that protect women against

domestic violence and sexual violence." The PA's penal code "contains discriminatory provisions for women in relation to rape, adultery, and sexual violence committed in marriage." Women who report rape "risk being criminalized for 'adultery.'" According to UN Women, 30 percent of women in the PA areas "have been subjected to a form of violence within the household," and 65 percent of them "preferred to remain silent."

Little things also reveal a

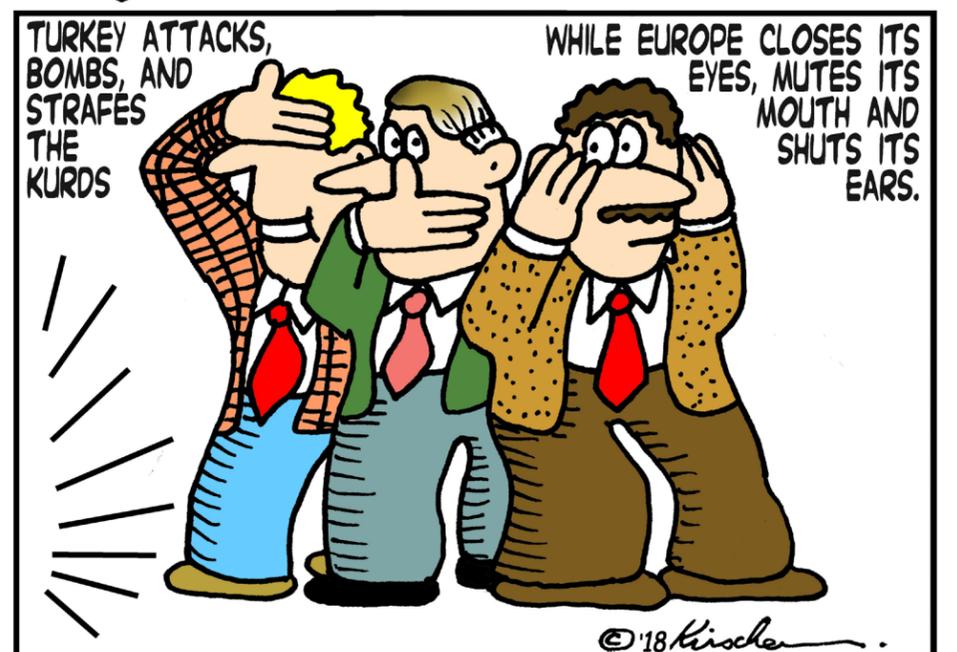
lot. Palestinian women candidates who ran for office in the last PA municipal elections were prevented by the PA from putting their own names on the ballots. The PA authorities listed them only as "sister of" or "the wife of."

If that happened under any other government in the world, many Jewish "progressives"—including J Street, Jewish Voice for Peace and all the rest—would be screaming in protest. But many aren't actively speaking up against

this now. So yes, Mahmoud Abbas has a problem with women—and some of Abbas' Jewish cheerleaders have a problem of their own: they're in denial.

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

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What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT

FEB. 2
5:48 p.m.
FEB. 9
5:53 p.m.

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

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

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

The Roth Family JCC—Special community Havdalah experience with music by The Magic Sabras and food by "Sage," 6:30 p.m. Cost: adults, \$10; families, \$25.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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.
 Congregation Ohev Shalom Seniors—Tribute to Elvis performance by well-known singer David Jericko, 2 p.m. at the synagogue. Cost: members, \$5; guests, \$8. Info: Berny Raff, 407-767-6763 or Jerry Leibman, 407-694-0546.
 Chabad-Lubavitch of Greater Orlando—For the ladies, "Spa for the Mind, Body & Soul," with guest speaker Molly Resnick, 3:30 p.m. at the Alford Inn, 300 East New England Ave., Winter Park. Info and to RSVP, go to www.chabadorlando.org or phone 407-529-5966.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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 and Mingle Mondays, "Stick Schtick," presented by Claire Mercer, 1 p.m.
 Zionistas meeting—Natalie Sopinsky, director of Community Development, One Israel Fund, will discuss the topic, "Judea and Samaria: The truth you won't learn from the media," 7 p.m. This meeting is free and open to the public. For information and location, contact Sandi Solomon at sansolomon@hotmail.com

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

JLI Teens—Course on 'Living your Dreams,' 7 p.m.—8 p.m. at the Roth Family JCC Youth Room. Second session: Money. Info: Rabbi Eddy, 407-435-6950.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Temple Israel—Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Neely, noon—1 p.m. A parashat discussion class. Open to the public, no RSVP needed. Info: 407-647-3055.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.
 Congregation Beth Sholom—Celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Karen Allen, 7 p.m. The synagogue is located at 315 North 13th St., Leesburg.

Congregation Beth Sholom February additional events

Saturday, Feb. 24th Shabbat Morning Purim Service led by Rabbi Karen Allen, at 10 a.m. Purim songs will be sung throughout the service, and will read the Megillah at the end of the service. A Kiddush will follow the service. The synagogue is located at 315 North 13th St. in Leesburg, with the entrance on Center Street. More information is available on the synagogue website: <http://bethsholomflorida.org> or by calling the synagogue at 352-326-3692.
 On Sunday, Feb. 25th, Rabbi Karen Allen of Congregation Beth Sholom and Zoriy Zinger, a former soloist in the Russian Symphony Orchestra, will present a wonderful concert of well-known musical and vocal selections from classical to modern favorites at Pennbrooke Fairways, 501 State Road 44, Leesburg 34748. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by contacting Cookie Wright at 352-324-1139. More information is available at the Synagogue's website: bethsholomflorida.org.

Quote of the Week

"Every Jew, no matter how insignificant, is engaged in some decisive and immediate pursuit of a goal. It is the most perpetual people of the earth."
 — Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Easy puzzle

"Groundhog Day" by Yoni Glatt
koshercrosswords@gmail.com

Across

1. "Shalom"
6. ___ Shalom
10. ___ Shalom
14. David's oldest brother
15. Basic rhyme scheme
16. A written reminder
17. The Romans laid one on Jerusalem
18. Rav Yosef of note
19. Kill, biblically
20. Mount Sinai CAT
22. 4, on a phone keypad
24. "Shalom, ___" - Bill Clinton
28. "Shalom"
32. Yom Kippur tractate
33. ___ many words
36. Says Shalom, perhaps
37. Starting point?
38. American desert
40. ___A (March Madness org.)
41. Like the experience of Phil Connors in "Groundhog Day"...or several of this puzzle's clues
44. 2016 Oscar winner Mahershala
46. Nadal of tennis
47. 1993 Tom Cruise-Sydney Pollack legal thriller, with "The"
50. Chocolate source
52. "Got it"
53. OU-D sandwich cookie
54. "___ Shalom"
56. "Shalom ___"
58. Guitarist Paul
59. Letter after epsilon
61. Actress Fisher who converted to Judaism
64. Band whose members are Este, Danielle, and Alana
66. English 101 subject
71. King after Jotham
72. Yeshiva Boys Choir member
73. Outfitters clothing brand
74. ___ Shalom
75. Shalom ___ Tower
76. Shalom

Down

1. "For ___ a jolly ..."
2. Samuel's High Priest teacher
3. One might be said for peace in the family
4. ___ B'Omer
5. Having a lot to lose?
6. Southern Jerusalem neighborhood
7. "Voice of Israel" author Abba
8. Black gunk no good for lighting shabbat candles
9. Streaming app for Simon's "The Wire"
10. Short NFL kick
11. Note after fa
12. El Al announcement, for short
13. "Shalom"
21. Peninsula in 2014 headlines with Russia
23. Prefix before -pathic
24. Larry David's show, initially
25. ___ HaSharon, Israel
26. Where Trump is the leader
27. Weather ___
28. Hairy chin look
29. Hellenistic Jewish scribe
30. Initials of Jewish schools in Jerusalem, Miami, and Denver
31. ___ Einai
34. Unsuitable
35. LaBeouf, and others
39. Most repellent
42. Look into
43. Spielberg ships
44. Home coolers, briefly
45. "Well, ___-di-dahl!"
48. "Man on the Moon" band
49. A Stoooge
51. On fire
55. Kind of korban
57. Wolf down
59. Last pasta, alphabetically
60. Parsha after Kedoshim and before BeHar
61. Actor McKellen who played a Nazi in "Apt Pupil"
62. Her
63. Restroom, for short
65. Drink in Jerusalem?
67. "Able was I ___ ..."
68. Adam Silver's sports org.
69. RBI fly by Green or Greenberg
70. Tel Aviv to Tsfat Dir.

See answers on page 14.

HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

"I'm lost without it!"

"It's inexcusable!"

"My week is not complete without it!"

"I can't live without it!"

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

These are some of the comments we receive from readers when they miss an issue of *Heritage Florida Jewish News*.

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At this Holocaust museum, you can speak with holograms of survivors



Ron Gould

Aaron Elster standing in front of his hologram.

By Ellen Braunstein

SKOKIE, Ill. (JTA)—In an otherwise darkened theater, viewers gasped when they saw what appeared to be a seated 83-year-old man wearing a light green button-down shirt and khaki pants.

Aaron Elster of Chicago seemed to be answering questions about his unbelievable escape from the Sokolov ghetto in Poland as a 10-year-old. Elster was forced to hide in a dark, filthy attic for two years during World War II.

“Why didn’t your sisters run away with you [from the ghetto]?” asked Suri Johnson, 11, of Wisconsin. A docent repeated the question into a microphone.

“It was an impossibility,” Elster responded. “There were hundreds of people guarded by Ukrainian soldiers with rifles ... There was no way they could have run. I crawled behind the people on my stomach. They didn’t see me.”

The testimony was remarkable, moving. But Elster wasn’t in the room. Instead

the audience was interacting with a holographic image of the Holocaust survivor that was created two years before.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, located in this suburb about 15 miles north of Chicago, is the first to permanently showcase the New Dimensions in Testimony oral history project, which has created holographic images from extensive interviews of 15 Holocaust survivors shown on rotation. Seven of the survivors are from Chicago.

The images are produced by the University of Southern California’s Institute for Creative Technologies, along with the USC Shoah Foundation—a nonprofit that famed director Steven Spielberg founded in 1994 to preserve Holocaust and other genocide survivor testimonies. The museum’s new \$5 million center, titled Take A Stand, opened in October.

(The images currently on display are technically not true holograms—they are the product of two-dimensional technology and the Pepper’s ghost illusion technique—but are still vivid.)

At the Illinois museum, visitors can find the holographic displays in a theater dedicated to the exhibit. Before any conversation happens, viewers are shown a five-minute introductory video narrated by the featured survivor. After the video, which tells the

survivor’s individual story, the image leans forward and says, “But I have so much more to tell you. Now I’d like you to ask me questions.” Then it switches to interactive mode.

The hologram of each survivor can conceivably answer thousands of questions. Much like Apple’s Siri technology, the voice-recognition system responds to audience questions by picking up on key words.

After asking her question, Suri Johnson told JTA that she found the experience very “cool,” partly because she had no idea how it worked.

“It enables the most life-like conversational opportunity that you can possibly imagine,” said the museum’s CEO, Susan Abrams.

The project was envisioned by Heather Maio, the managing director of Conscience Display, which specializes in exhibition design and interactive storytelling. Her company typically creates realistic combat scenes, complete with visuals and dialogue, for military personnel to drill with.

Maio, who is married to Stephen Smith, executive director of the USC Shoah Foundation, thought an exhibit that allowed people to casually walk up to Holocaust survivors and ask them questions could create a powerful experience.

“This kind of visual imagery and interactivity will be the norm for the next generation,

and that’s what we’re preparing for,” Smith said.

The project took a toll on Elster, an insurance agency owner who has lived in Chicago since 1947. He had to fly to Los Angeles two years ago for a grueling week of interviews, in which he wore the same clothes every day and sat still in a chair for hours at a time under bright lights and cameras, answering difficult questions—2,000 in all—that brought up a painful past.

“It was very emotional. I cried initially and I don’t take to crying,” Elster said of the first time he saw his testimony played back for him.

Smith said the project could have been successful even if each survivor were asked fewer questions. But the comprehensiveness of each testimony gave each testimony extra character depth.

“If you were just going to ask the question, ‘where were you born, or what camps were you in, or what did you feel like when you were liberated,’ we could do that quite easily in 200 questions,” Smith said. “But the point to which they say, ‘So tell me about the psychological consequences of slave labor,’ or something like that, then you have a more nuanced question, for which [the holographic display] has an answer.”

Elster, now 85, is quite pleased with the final product, and is confident his testimony will resonate with younger

generations. On its own, the Illinois Holocaust museum, the third largest in the world and created partly in response to an attempt by neo-Nazis to march in this heavily Jewish suburb in the late 1970s, welcomes 60,000 students and educators annually.

“As survivors, we’re concerned and afraid that our pain, our loss, our surviving will be forgotten or homogenized,” he said. “They’ve created something that’s going to live on much after we’re gone.”

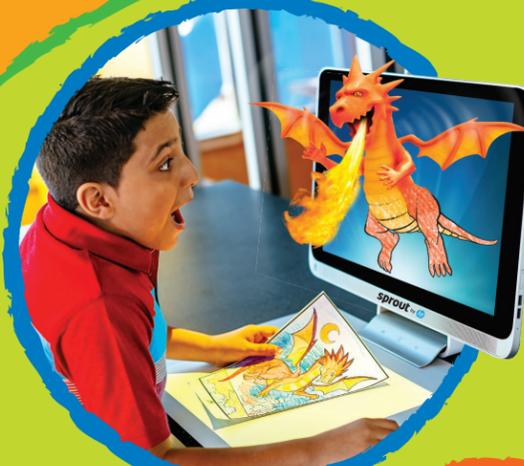
A New York Times documentary about the project, called “116 Cameras” and making the rounds of film festivals, shows the space-age contraption in which they film the survivors.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City began piloting the project in July. Its two holograms will be on display for the public through April.

Additional pilots, open to the public, are being tested at the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre in Toronto and the Holocaust Museum in Houston. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., ended its pilot on Labor Day after several months. The Candles Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Terre Haute, Indiana, also has piloted the project and plans to install a permanent display that will open this fall.



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Mike Pence's faith drives his support for Israel—does it drive Mideast policy?



Lior Mizrahi/Getty Images

Vice President Mike Pence (l) seen with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during an official welcome ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, Jan. 22, 2018.

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—When Mike Pence moved to Washington earlier this year, he and his wife took with them a framed phrase they had for years hung over their fireplace in their Indiana home, and then over the fireplace in the governor's mansion in that state.

Now it hangs over the mantle at the vice president's residence at the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. The words, from the Book of Jeremiah, read: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope, and a future."

The "you" is the people of Israel, and Pence, an evangelical Christian, makes that clear when he addresses pro-Israel audiences. "They're words to which my family has repaired to as generations of Americans have done so throughout our history, and the people of Israel through all their storied history have clung," Pence said last August at the annual confer-

ence of Christians United for Israel.

Pence took that message to Israel this week on a trip ostensibly aimed in part at reviving the prospects for Israeli-Palestinian peace. He is seen as a key Trump administration figure when it comes to Israel policy and reportedly helped nudge the president to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Pence's first visit to Israel as vice president led some to ask to what degree are his views, and the administration's policies, shaped by the brand of evangelical Christianity that invests his faith?

Pence, a convert to evangelical Christianity from Roman Catholicism, has spooked some liberals with his insistence on rooting his pro-Israel bona fides in faith as much as realpolitik considerations of the United States' national security. Their fear is that a messianic outlook might run riot over one of the most delicate dilemmas facing successive U.S. governments, namely stability in the Middle East.

"Trump has handed Israel policy to Evangelicals," The Forward's Jane Eisner wrote last week in an editorial as Pence headed to Israel. "That's terrifying." Like many liberals, she worries that policy will be driven by evangelical beliefs that certain conditions—like Jewish control over the West Bank and sovereignty in Jerusalem—fulfill biblical prophecies.

Republicans and conservatives say that it is reductive to believe that Pence shapes his views solely according to the tenets of his faith.

"They always highlight the fact that he's an evangelical, as if that's a pejorative when in fact [Pence and other evangelicals] are motivated first and foremost by shared values with Israel," said Matt Brooks, the director of the Republican Jewish Coalition, who has known Pence for years. "And not just by the shared values, but the important efforts of collectively standing up to threats of Iran, pushing back on ISIS, and on radical Islam, or whether it's being a critical democratic foundation in a

very dangerous place. There are so many places where U.S. and Israel's interests intersect."

Pence began his speech to the Knesset by outlining the shared values Brooks described.

"We stand with Israel because your cause is our cause, your values are our values, and your fight is our fight," he said. "We stand with Israel because we believe in right over wrong, in good over evil, and in liberty over tyranny."

But he quickly pivoted to depict support of Israel as both biblical (Deuteronomy 30:4, to be exact) and rooted in an American strain of Christianity.

"Down through the generations, the American people became fierce advocates of the Jewish people's aspiration to return to the land of your forefathers, to claim your own new birth of freedom in your beloved homeland," he said to applause. "The Jewish people held fast to a promise through all the ages, written so long ago, that 'even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens,' from there He would gather and bring you back to the land which your fathers possessed."

Pastor John Hagee, the founder of Christians United for Israel, described a natural trajectory for evangelical supporters of Israel from biblical belief to the more practical modern reasons for supporting the state.

"The promises of the Hebrew Bible are the foundation of Christian Zionism, but our motivations for supporting Israel do not end there," he told JTA in an email. "We see in Israel a democracy that shares Western values and is a force for stability in the Middle East. While standing with Israel is a biblical mandate, it is also a moral imperative and in the national security interests of the US. I am confident that all three of these considerations

inform the Vice President's approach to the Middle East and I believe that is perfectly appropriate."

Pence has since the outset of his political career made it clear that his support for Israel is first grounded in biblical precepts. "My support for Israel stems largely from my personal faith," he told Congressional Quarterly in 2002, a year after he was first elected to Congress. "God promises Abraham, 'those who bless you, I will bless, and those who curse you, I will curse.'"

Sarah Posner, a journalist who for years has tracked evangelicals, said Pence's faith seemed to be preeminent in his consideration of Israel. "I don't think he is thinking about that in terms of shared democracy or not shared democracy, he's thinking about it providential terms, that these missions are God's plans for Israel," said Posner, a reporting fellow at The Nation Institute's Investigative Fund.

It's hard not to see Pence's belief as an impetus driving Trump's recognition of Jerusalem, said Daniel Seidemann, an Israeli expert on Jerusalem who advocates for including all the city's sects and groupings in considering its permanent status.

"It would be fine for him to have those beliefs, if he weren't the vice president and shaping policy," Seidemann told JTA. "Jerusalem has been witnessing over the last 20 years the ascendancy of faith communities that weaponize religion."

Pence proudly stood with Trump in the White House when the president announced the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and he appears to have accelerated the planned move of the U.S. embassy. Trump last week said it would take at least three years to move the embassy, but Pence in Israel this week said it would be in place before 2019 is out.

"The United States decided

to go through these hollow gestures on Jerusalem rather than advancing its own interests and the interests of Israel and the Palestinians by engaging in a sober attempt to resolve the issue," Seidemann said.

Pence's trip, by including only Jewish sites and skipping meetings with other faith leaders, was contributing to the weaponization, Seidemann said.

Christian faith leaders declined to meet with Pence during his visits to Egypt and Israel; various reports framed their objections as a reaction to policies they feared put religious imperatives before meeting the needs of Arabs in the region, including the Christian minority.

Mae Elise Cannon, the director of Churches for Middle East Peace, an umbrella group that includes most of the Christian denominations in Israel and the West Bank, told JTA that local Christians were wary of how Pence framed his support for Israel as a matter of Christian faith.

"They didn't meet with him because they don't view him as an honest broker or an unbiased broker," she said.

Still, some conservatives charge liberals with weaponizing religion, and using Pence's faith as a way to discredit otherwise normative policies.

"That vast numbers of Americans are inspired by the Bible to support Jewish rights in their ancient homeland isn't so much a function of the left-right conflict as it is an integral part of the nation's political culture," wrote Jonathan Tobin, a former executive editor of Commentary and current editor in chief of JNS.org. "Those turned off by Pence's rhetoric need to ask what exactly it is about a desire to respect Jewish rights and demand that Palestinians give up their century-old war on Zionism that annoys them so much."

Jewish journalist confronting Trump's immigration allies

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA)—During a combative news conference in early August, White House adviser Stephen Miller told reporters that the United States should prioritize immigrants who speak English.

"Does the applicant speak English?" Miller asked, describing a bill to reduce the overall number of immigrants and reform immigration requirements. "Can they support themselves and their families financially? Do they have a skill that will add to the U.S. economy?"

But if English proficiency had been an immigration requirement a century ago, Miller's own great-grandmother may not have been allowed into the country.

That's what journalist Jennifer Mendelsohn discovered that same day while working on a new project she calls Resistance Genealogy. Using public records and genealogical websites like Ancestry.com, Mendelsohn wants to show immigration hard-liners

their own immigrant family trees.

"When you do genealogy, you're constantly confronted with the reality of our immigrant past," Mendelsohn told JTA. "It appears from some of the attitudes and stances that people are taking publicly that they're forgetting that."

In Miller's case, Mendelsohn tracked down his great-grandmother's line item in the 1910 census. The entry noted that four years after arriving in the United States, she spoke only Yiddish, not English.

Mendelsohn has performed similar searches for the immigrant forbears of a handful of President Donald Trump's advisers and supporters, seeking hard data to support the idea that America is a nation of immigrants. She's found out about Fox News host Tucker Carlson's great-great-grandfather, conservative pundit Tomi Lahren's great-great-grandfather and U.S. Rep. Steve King's grandmother, who arrived in the United States from Germany at age

4. ("We can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies," the Iowa Republican tweeted in March.)

On Jan. 9, Dan Scavino, the White House director of social media, called for an end to "chain migration," which refers to immigrants bringing their relatives to live in the United States. But Mendelsohn discovered that the practice had brought Scavino's great-grandfather, Gildo, to the country.

"So Dan. Let's say Victor Scavino arrives from Canelli, Italy, in 1904, then brother Hector in 1905, brother Gildo in 1912, sister Esther in 1913, & sister Clotilde and their father Giuseppe in 1916, and they live together in NY," Mendelsohn tweeted, listing his family members. "Do you think that would count as chain migration?"

In recent days, with Congress and the White House locked in a bitter battle over a federal funding bill and the children of undocumented immigrants, Mendelsohn published her research in

Politico, was interviewed on MSNBC and was cited in Breitbart News.

Miller did not respond to a JTA request for comment. But he says the reforms he's advocating would preserve blue-collar jobs for American workers while making sure the people who arrive on America's shores will contribute to the country.

"We want to have an immigration system that takes care of the people who are coming here and the people who are already living here by having standards, by having a real clear requirement that you should be able to support yourself financially, by making sure that employers can pay a living wage," he said at the August news conference.

Mendelsohn, a freelance journalist from Baltimore, has been an amateur genealogist for years, mostly focusing on her own family, friends and adoptees seeking their biological parents. She calls her own family's genealogy a "classic Eastern European Jewish immigrant story," and

disputes the idea that people need to have skills in order to be welcomed into the United States.

Only one of her grandparents was born in America, and the others came as unskilled immigrants. (Her brother, the classicist Daniel Mendelsohn, wrote about their extended family in his 2006 memoir, "The Lost: The Search for Six of Six Million.") Now, she says, two of those immigrants' great-grandchildren have doctorates.

"I grew up exquisitely aware that we were proud and patriotic Americans, but we came from other places," she said. "We came here seeking more opportunity and were allowed to have that opportunity. I feel it's my obligation to remind other people that that's what happens when you let the kind of immigrants people are looking down on now into this country."

To trace the family trees, Mendelsohn first finds the names of public figures' immediate families, then takes those names to search data-

bases for obituaries of grandparents, great-grandparents and other relatives. She then uses paid services to track down birth, death and marriage certificates, and also searches public census data from 1940 and earlier. Censuses before that year contain personal data on nearly every person in the country.

"If you know your grandparents were Ida and Hyman Cohen and they lived in Milwaukee, it will pop up [and] it will show you their addresses, their ages, their places of birth," she said.

Mendelsohn hasn't heard back from any of the officials she's researched, and doesn't expect to. But she's still tracing their lineages. On Sunday, she posted a revelation from one of the genealogical sites she uses.

"Stephen Miller is your fourth cousin thrice removed's husband's great nephew's wife's second cousin twice removed," it read.

"Oh sh*t," she tweeted. "Does this mean I have to invite him for Passover?"



Scene Around

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

How upsetting...

I read this not too long ago in the World Jewish Congress (WJC) digest and pass it along to you:

“As reported recently by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, two kippah-wearing brothers were allegedly forced to drive off a main road near Paris, France, by another vehicle carrying several men yelling “Dirty Jews, you’re going to die.”

Once stopped, the brothers were surrounded by the men and others who emerged from a nearby hookah café. Both were beaten ruthlessly, while their attackers threatened to kill them if they moved. The incident ended with one brother having his finger sawed off by an assailant.

The brothers, whose father is a Jewish leader in Bondy, were later hospitalized in what was described as a state of shock.

They described their attackers as men having a Middle Eastern appearance.”

(If my mother was alive, she would respond “Thank goodness they survived! I respond “Oy Gevalt!”)

Again, I repeat: Oy Gevalt!...

And once again, I pass along something I read recently:

“Hamza bin Laden, a son of the al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden, has urged Muslims and followers of the terrorist network to carry out attacks on Jewish targets around the world.

In a 10-minute video, the 29-year-old bin Laden urges ‘Muslims in America, the West and occupied Palestine’ to carry out the attacks where they are. The video includes clips of terrorist attacks that have been perpetrated around the world, including in Israel.

Bin Laden states it is not necessary for Muslims to travel to Syria and join the Islamic State there. ‘Know that inflicting punishment on Jews and crusaders where you are present is more vexing and severe for the enemy,’ he says in the video, adding that U.S. and NATO targets were also appropriate in case there are no Jewish targets.

(What’s that old saying? “There’s no place like home.”? Stay alert everywhere these days, please.)

Shalom Pam Ruben...

This was sent by the Jewish Pavilion staff. I pass it along:



Pam Ruben

“The Jewish Pavilion expresses their thanks to PAM RUBEN who served as their Marketing Director for the past three years. Pam arrived at her position with a wealth of experience having served on the Friend Board for several years as the Publicity Chair. Special thanks to Pam Ruben for authoring “A Guide For Caregiving of the Jewish Elderly,” a training manual for Activities Directors as well as an introduction to Jewish culture.

During her tenure, Pam participated in a grant writing course at the Edyth Bush Institute of Philanthropy and was the only student ever to

receive a grant after simply writing a warm letter of inquiry (\$10,000). Pam continued her grant writing successes through-

out the years. ‘Pam is best known for her compassion and sense of humor which shines through all of her stories’ said NANCY LUDIN, CEO of the Jewish Pavilion. ‘She was able to write about people and capture their true essence. Ludin adds, ‘Pam could always find a good story. We would all attend an event together, but Pam was able to observe a minor event and ascertain its story-telling significance. Pam had an excellent relationship with our staff, volunteers, seniors, sponsors and friends of the media. We will truly miss her. She has promised to maintain her affinity with the Jewish Pavilion and we welcome her future involvement.’”

A reminder...

Okay... I reminded you three times! (The performance will be worth it, believe me!)

On Sunday, Feb. 4th, starting at 2 p.m. (sharp), the Congregation Ohev Shalom Seniors will meet at the synagogue, 613 Concourse Parkway South, Maitland, for a fantastic tribute to Elvis and other famous musical artists. DAVID JERICKO, a terrific singer and musician will entertain all who attend and his show will be followed by my cookies! (Oops, I meant to say refreshments of all kinds. DON’T NOBODY TOUCH MY COOKIES!)

The cost is \$5, members; \$8, guests. All are invited. For details and directions, phone co-presidents, BERNY RAFF, 407-767-6763 or JERRY LEIBMAN, 407-694-0546.

Wow, this sounds great... RELAXATION...

An evening of relaxation, depth, beauty & spirituality for the Jewish woman, will take place at the Alford Inn, 300 East New England Avenue, Winter Park, on Sunday, Feb. 4th, beginning at 3:30 p.m. The event is a project of Chabad-Lubavitch of Greater Orlando, and is called Spa for the Mind, Body & Soul.

Guest speaker at the luxurious event will be MOLLY RESNICK, a former NBC TV Producer, high profiles, secular Israeli and charismatic speaker. She will give an entertaining account of how she found her way back to her ancestral roots. Her captivating story “Showbiz to Shabbat” is a thought-provoking tale that has inspired audiences worldwide.

For further information and to RSVP, go to www.chabad-orlando.org or phone 407-529-5966.

JCC 39ers Meet & Mingle Mondays...

On Monday, Feb. 5th in the JCC Senior Lounge at 1 p.m., CLAIRE MERCER will present “Stick Shtick.”

(I don’t know what it is but it sounds like fun!)

One for the road...

Max has been a confirmed atheist ever since he left University. But now that he is approaching his 60th birthday, spiritual issues start to become part of his life and he decides to ‘become’ a Jew again. The next shabbes,



Molly Resnick

Scene Around on page 14A

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A poll shows support for Israel among Democrats is sliding—but experts say the truth is more complex

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA)—The share of Democrats who sympathize more with Israel than the Palestinians is falling fast, while Republican sympathy for Israel over the Palestinians is spiking.

So says a new poll by the Pew Research Center. But experts are divided on what it means, and whether pro-Israel activists, and Democrats, should be worried. Do the results indicate that Democrats are abandoning Israel en masse? Is it another sign of political polarization, which makes it harder for one party to support an issue associated with the other?

Or, as some analysts suggest, was it a badly worded question?

The Pew poll, released Tuesday, shows that partisan polarization around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is starker than ever in the United States. While 79 percent of Republicans sympathize more with Israel than with the Palestinians, that number is only 27 percent for Democrats. Twenty-five percent of Democrats sympathized more with the Palestinians, while only nine percent of Republicans did. Overall, 46 percent of Americans sympathize more with Israel, and 19 percent with the Palestinians.

Since 2001, the share of Republicans who sympathize with Israel has increased 29

percentage points, from 50 percent to 79 percent, says Pew. Over the same period, the share of Democrats sympathizing more with Israel has declined 11 points, from 38 percent to 27 percent.

As recently as two years ago, 43 percent of Democrats sympathized more with Israel. And the drop for Israel this year is especially steep among liberal Democrats: 35 percent said they sympathized more with the Palestinians—nearly double the 19 percent who sympathize more with Israel.

The worriers see this as another crack in the bipartisan support that Israel has long enjoyed in the United States.

"The numbers are worrying for anyone like me that cares about the U.S.-Israel relationship," Dennis Ross, a former American peace negotiator for presidents of both parties, wrote in an email to JTA. "Israel has been and must remain not a Democratic or Republican issue but an American issue. That is a challenge now, especially with the attitudes of the progressive side of the Democratic Party, the alienation of the majority of the Jewish community from the Trump administration, and the administration's strong symbolic support for Israel."

The trend, according to one theory, was exacerbated by eight years of feuding between President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which,

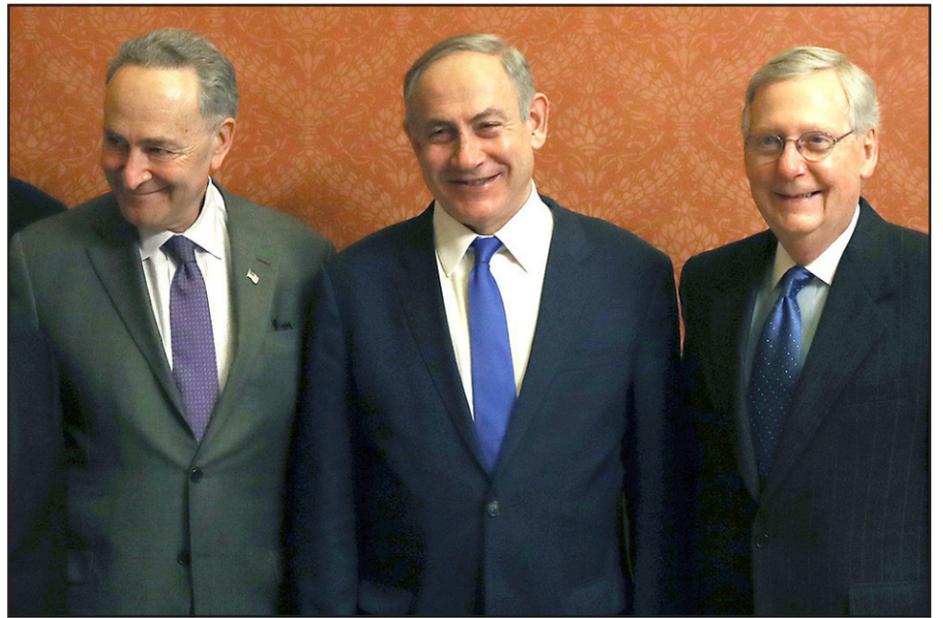
according to whom you ask, showed either that Democrats couldn't be trusted on Israel or that Netanyahu stumbled in associating Israel so closely with the Republican side.

It continues with the current love fest between Netanyahu and President Donald Trump, who had a typically warm meeting Thursday in Davos, Switzerland. A solidly right-wing government in Jerusalem, another theory goes, makes it harder for liberal Democrats to warm up to a country they once solidly supported.

With an increasingly diverse coalition underpinning the Democrats' base, Israel needs to make its case as a liberal and open society, said Jason Isaacson, the American Jewish Committee's associate executive director for policy. That has become harder, he said, as the peace process has frozen and the government in Israel has shifted further to the right.

"It's a reminder that it's essential for Israel and friends of Israel to make the case for Israel's openness and liberalism and devotion to justice and yearning for peace," Isaacson said. "I recognize that the messages of a government [in Israel] can have an effect on how that message takes hold on particular constituencies in the United States."

Republican Jewish activists, meanwhile, are saying the poll proves what they've



Mark Wilson/Getty Images

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, center, flocked by Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer on his left and Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell on his right at the U.S. Capitol, Feb. 17, 2017.

long asserted: that Republicans are the only party that's truly pro-Israel. Republicans have celebrated Trump's opposition to the Iran nuclear agreement—brokered by Obama and reviled by Netanyahu—as well as his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence both enjoyed the warmest of welcomes on their trips to Israel.

"Support for Israel is strong and growing in the Republican Party, while it is declining among Democrats," Republican Jewish Coalition President Matt Brooks said in a statement. "We saw the Democrats' views on Israel implemented by the Obama administration, which put 'daylight' between the U.S. and our chief ally, Israel, while pursuing a disastrous Middle East policy."

Previous administrations also sought to be "honest brokers" in the Middle East, and Democrats like to argue that under Obama the level of U.S. funding and cooperation provided to Israel was unprecedented. But Republicans assert that the Iran deal was a disaster for Israel and that Obama's pressure on Netanyahu was relentless, culminating in his decision, in the last days of his presidency, to allow the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution condemning Israeli settlement construction.

But other experts say shifting sympathies in the conflict are a symptom of political polarization, not of Democratic opposition to Israel. Democrats "are increasingly conflating their feelings about Israel with their feelings about Trump, associating Israel with the American president," wrote Michael Kaplow, the policy director of the Israel Policy Forum, in the Forward.

Trump has cast himself as vociferously pro-Israel, so for some Democrats, coldness toward Israel is one more way to protest a president whose policies they abhor, says Rabbi Jack Moline, former president of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

Pew's polling has shown increasing polarization overall between Americans of the two parties. A December poll found 86 percent of Americans feel there is strong or very strong

conflict between Republicans and Democrats, and the share of Democrats and Republicans who have very unfavorable opinions of the other party has doubled since the 1990s.

"I think this is not a sudden surge of sympathy for Palestinians," Moline said. "I think that's always been there. I don't think it's an abandonment of Israel by anybody. I think that what this is is one of the pieces of fallout from the very ugly divisiveness on all matters in this country."

Recent polls show that a vast majority of Americans do support Israel. According to a February 2017 Gallup poll, 71 percent of Americans view Israel favorably, a number that has stayed relatively constant for the past 15 years. The differences in the Gallup poll among Republicans (81 percent), Independents (70) and Democrats (61) aren't as dramatic as the Pew poll.

Resolutions and legislation favoring Israel routinely pass Congress and the Senate with little to no opposition. A vote recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital passed the Senate 90-0, months before Trump issued his own recognition. Among the 18 states that have passed laws against the boycott Israel movement, half are blue states, half are red.

"There remains broad, bipartisan support in Congress for the US-Israel relationship, because strengthening that relationship serves American interests," Marshall Wittman, the spokesman for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, wrote JTA in an email. "That support is demonstrated regularly in consistent, bipartisan votes on pro-Israel initiatives."

Wittman's predecessor, Josh Block, told JTA that support for Israel remains robust among Democrats, and that anti-Israel feeling represents a group that is still on the party's extreme. He noted numbers from the same Pew poll showing that support for Israel is still high across ethnic groups and religious denominations.

"There's been a legitimate effort of people on the far fringe of the Democratic party... to poison and undermine the legitimacy of Jewish pride and support for Israel,"

Block, now the CEO of The Israel Project, told JTA. "The reality is the vast majority of Americans and the vast majority of Democrats identify Israel as one of our closest allies in the world. They see Israel as a free, open, democratic society."

Polls showing broad support for Israel led some observers to criticize the way Pew framed the question. Most Americans, said Tamara Cofman Wittes, a senior fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution, don't take a side in the conflict, and that option wasn't given in the Pew poll. A poll conducted by the University of Maryland found that 59 percent of Americans don't want the government to favor either Israelis or Palestinians. Broken down by party, 77 percent of Democrats said Trump should lean toward neither side in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, compared to 38 percent of Republicans. Only 9 percent of Democrats wanted Trump to lean toward the Palestinians.

Pew's question "pushes the answers to be more polarized than they may in fact be," Wittes said of the Pew survey. "I don't think this poll tells you anything useful about American support for Israel. One should not take away from this public opinion data the conclusion that there are whole segments of Americans that are getting more hostile to Israel, and I should write them off."

Still, there are unmistakable signs that there are more Democrats willing to criticize Israel, especially its current government, than Republicans. In both 2012 and 2016, Democrats faced pressure from pro-Palestinian delegates to alter their party platform's planks on Israel. In 2012, boilerplate references to Jerusalem as Israel's capital were dropped from the platform but later restored. And in 2016, the party altered its platform to reflect Palestinian aspirations but rejected language calling for Israel to end its occupation of the West Bank and settlement activity.

James Zogby, who was the chair of the Democratic National Committee's Resolu-

Poll on page 15A



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Brandeis receives \$8.4 million from a man who visited once

(JTA)—Brandeis University has received an \$8.4 million bequest gift for social justice initiatives from a man who visited the Boston-area campus one time.

The university announced the gift from Seymour Bluestone on Tuesday. Bluestone, a former rehabilitation doctor who lived in Clearwater, Florida, felt a strong connection to the university's social justice values, died in September at 96.

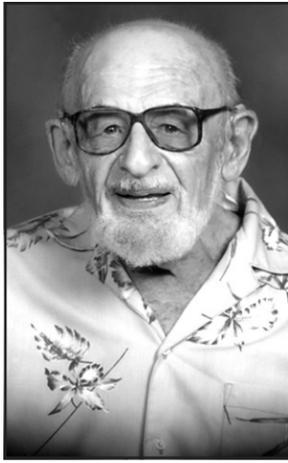
Bluestone began making small gifts to Brandeis in the 1990s at the request of family friends. He visited the campus in 2000, where he learned about a number of the school's programs. Over lunch, he and Laurence Simon, the founding director of the Sustainable International Development program at the university's Heller School for Social Policy and Management, began a discussion about poverty and other global issues that remained with him.

In 2001, Bluestone cre-

ated the Jesse F. and Dora H. Bluestone Scholarship in memory of his parents to support students in the Sustainable International Development program, along with the Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program. Bluestone's bequest will provide financial aid for up to five students in the Sustainable International Development program in future years, and support research and program development in the Center for Global Development and Sustainability, also at the Heller School. The gift also will help students enrolled in the Kraft program.

In its 50th year, the transitional year program prepares students from poorly funded high schools for a competitive liberal arts curriculum through a combination of small classes, rigorous academics and strong academic support.

Bluestone, a Brooklyn native, graduated from Cornell and the New York Univer-



Seymour Bluestone

sity School of Medicine. He served as a medical officer in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1945 to 1947, reaching the rank of captain. Later he held a number of medical positions, including serving for 10 years as director of the New York State Rehabilitation Hospital, where he expanded medical and research services, and promoted staff education.

Israel slams Abbas for Holocaust-denying speech

By Aryeh Savir
World Israel News

Israel's leadership took Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas to task on Monday over his hate-filled speech in which he denied Israel's right to exist and wished President Donald Trump that his "house should be destroyed."

Abbas on Sunday rejected Israel as a Western "colonial project that has nothing to do with Judaism."

"Colonialism created Israel to perform a certain function. It is a colonial project that has nothing to do with Judaism, but rather used the Jews as a tool under the slogan of the Promised Land," said Abbas.

Providing a warped version of history, he also suggested that European Jewry chose to remain in their home countries during the Holocaust rather than emigrating.

"The Jews did not want to emigrate even with murder and slaughter. Even during the Holocaust, they did not emigrate. By 1948, Jews in Palestine were no more than 640,000, most of them from Europe," he said.

Netanyahu: Abbas has torn off his mask

In a statement from India, where he is currently visiting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "I heard what Abu Mazen [aka Abbas] said. He has revealed the truth. He has torn off the mask and shown to the public the simple truth that I have been working to instill for many long years: The root of the conflict between us and the Palestinians is their steadfast refusal to recognize the Jewish state in any borders whatsoever."

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin condemned Abbas for the remarks, which provided

justification for dubbing him a Holocaust denier.

"What we heard yesterday from Mahmoud Abbas was terrible. He returned back to the ideas he expressed decades ago, when they were no less terrible," Rivlin charged.

"To say Israel is the result of a Western conspiracy to settle Jews in land belonging to Arab populations? To say that that the Jewish people has no connection with the Land of Israel? He forgot many things, and said exactly the things that led him to be accused years ago of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial," he declared.

Abbas' attitude is "precisely what blocks us. In his words he is rejecting our return to our homeland, even though Abu Mazen [Abbas] knows very well that the Quran itself recognizes the Land of Israel as our land.

"Without this basic recognition we will not be able to build trust and move forward" in any kind of peace plan, Rivlin said.

PA leader 'lost his senses'

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman said that Abbas has "lost his senses."

Liberman told IDF Radio that Abbas' address symbolizes his rejection of peace negotiations and opting instead for a confrontation with both Israel and the US.

Indeed, Abbas also lashed out at Trump over recent

policy moves, such as recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Referring to the US president, Abbas uttered the Arabic phrase Yekhreb Beitak, literally translated as "May your house be demolished."

Israeli Education Minister Naftali Bennett said the speech's content represented Abbas' swan song.

"Abu Mazen is at the end of his road, toward the end of his rule and the end of his life," he told IDF Radio of the 83-year-old ailing Palestinian leader. "There appears to be no Palestinian partner and it is unlikely there will be."

Danon demands condemnation from UN chief

Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon wrote to Secretary General António Guterres demanding the condemnation of Abbas' speech.

"It is unfortunate that, with his latest statements, Abbas has yet again responded negatively to serious initiatives for dialogue by Israel, the United States and other members of the international community," Danon stated. "The hateful words of the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, which seem to question the very right of a United Nations member-state to exist, are completely unacceptable and must be unequivocally condemned."

Central Florida Synagogues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congregation Bet Chaim (R), 181 E. Mitchell Hammock, Oviedo, 407-830-7211; www.betchaim.org; Shabbat services: Friday, 8 p.m.

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

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

Congregation Beth Emeth (R), 2205 Blue Sapphire Circle, Orlando, 407-222-6393; Shabbat service: monthly, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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In Austrian jail, Holocaust historian indicts the country for how it handles looted Jewish property



Cnaan Liphshiz

Stephan Templ outside a building in Vienna which he claimed from the Austrian state, Oct. 27, 2014.

By Cnaan Liphshiz

VIENNA (JTA)—If Stephan Templ's trial and imprisonment in Austria were meant to silence his criticism of the country's Holocaust restitution system, then his prosecution was clearly a failure.

Templ is an Austrian-Jewish historian of the Holocaust who has written critically about his country since 1995.

In 2015, he was sent to jail for nearly a year on controversial fraud charges tied to his family's own claim for compensation—and spent his time in prison diving even deeper into his area of expertise.

The result is a new book that for the first time chronicles how modern-day Austria gave its seal of approval for flawed restitution practices that were overseen by former Nazis. Those practices, Templ shows, in essence validated Nazi-era policies that were used to rob Austrian Jews of what little compensation they sought to receive for vast assets that they had been forced to sell to Aryans.

"The wrongly imprisoned experience a special kind of frustration: Your thoughts get into a cycle about where you are and who put you there," Templ, 57, told JTA. His sentence was decried as a miscarriage of justice by dozens of leading Holocaust historians.

Templ was convicted of fraud for not listing an aunt on his survivor mother's restitution claim, which he filled out for her. Neither Templ nor his mother wrote that they were the only claimants to the property. Austria has no law requiring restitution applicants to list other relatives. In previous official correspondence about the

claim, Templ did list his aunt, which he argues means he had indeed informed the Republic of Austria of her existence.

The 75 historians, including Americans Deborah Lipstadt and Michael Berenbaum, suggested in a joint statement that Templ's prosecution looked like a vendetta by the Austrian judiciary, which the Freedom Barometer index of 2016 ranked as the least independent in Western Europe.

The Anti-Defamation League also protested Templ's sentence, as did the human rights lawyer Robert Amsterdam and Stuart Eizenstat, a former U.S. deputy secretary of the Treasury who helped set up Austria's restitution system.

Efraim Zuroff, Eastern Europe director for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, told JTA about the case: "It looks like revenge, like they wanted to get back at him for his criticism. I'm not a jurist but it looks like an injustice." Templ currently is facing a civil libel suit by Claire Fritsch, a legal adviser to the restitution authority who served as the main witness in his criminal court case. She claims she was libeled by his defense team's attempts to undermine her testimony.

In Templ's English-language book—which is titled "Austria's Living Ghost" and is scheduled for publication online ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27—he examines the work of Austria's Arbitration Panel for In Rem Restitution, a body set up in 2002 to review the restitution work done immediately after World War II on properties that in 2001 were in the state's possession.

Until the 1990s, Austria had claimed that it was principally a victim, not a perpetrator, of

Nazism. No one has been convicted of Nazi war crimes in Austria in more than 35 years, according to the Simon Wiesenthal Center. And whereas people with a Nazi past were removed from positions of influence in neighboring Germany, in Austria they were allowed to serve as judges, teachers and even restitution officials. (Walther Kastner, for example, was a former Nazi official who was entrusted with advising on restitution issues in the 1940s.)

Austria even had a former Nazi, Kurt Waldheim, as president until 1992—the year that Austrian officials began to drop the victim attitude, which is now described as a "myth" on official Austrian government websites.

But that myth has had far-reaching implications for Austria, said Templ, who in 2001 led groups around Vienna on tours of stolen Jewish property. He pointed out building after building, using a loudspeaker to name the families whose ancestors bought the assets for a fraction of their true worth from Jews fleeing for their lives.

"The lack of de-Nazification is the reason Austria now has in government, for the second time already, a party that was founded by an SS officer," he said of the far-right Freedom Party, which joined the coalition last month.

Austria's victim myth also tainted how the Austrian state handled the return of Jews from concentration camps, prosecuted Nazi war criminals and settled restitution issues. Concerns about this process led to a 2002 review by the Arbitration Panel, as part of a restitution treaty that Austria signed with the United States in 2001.

Thanks to the treaty, Aus-

tria has paid at least \$670 million in compensation. But even that may have been the tip of the iceberg in a country that had at least 200,000 Jews before the Holocaust, many of them wealthy.

Templ's research shows that out of nearly 2,000 restitution cases handled in the 1940s and 1950s, the Arbitration Panel reopened and declared unjust a total of only nine cases. It intervened in another 18 cases that had not been the subject of a claim, he said.

"This seemed to me like an astonishingly low number, considering the prevalence of injustice that went on in 1940s and 1950s restitution," Templ said.

Take, for instance, the case of Anna Freud, the daughter of the famed Viennese psychoanalyst. Following her claim for restitution for a handsome estate that the Nazis stole from her family in 1938, she received in the 1950s a sum equivalent to \$80, Templ's research shows. However, that property was not reviewed in 2002, because the estate was privately owned and therefore not in the purview of the Arbitration Panel on state-held properties.

"So in prison, I set out to review for myself the claims that the Arbitration Panel had reviewed before me," Templ, a bespectacled intellectual with a wry sense of humor and a passion for carpentry, said during a rare visit to Vienna (following his release from prison in 2015, Templ is spending most of his time in his Prague home, in what he terms self-exile).

The findings, he said, surprised even him. One case deemed fair by the Arbitration Panel involved an apartment building in Vienna's Alserbach Street owned by the Stiansny family. The Aryan buyers paid only 38 percent of its real worth in 1939. Of that sum, the Nazi state stole 80 percent through

racist "emigration taxes" devised to defund Jewish sellers. The other 20 percent went to a frozen account and from there to the coffers of the Third Reich, his research shows. In 1951, Austrian restitution officials declined to return the "emigration taxes" to the Stiansny family, essentially validating their extraction.

Yet the Arbitration Panel in its 2014 review stated that it "cannot conclude that the settlement reached in 1951 represents an extreme injustice." In so doing, Templ writes, "the Panel confirms the injustice."

Leopold Stiansny died in Prague on Nov. 20, 1939. His wife, Martha Stiansny, was murdered in Auschwitz. Three of their close relatives were murdered by 1945.

Among the dozens of reviews flagged by Templ is a 2012 case concerning the sale of a forest 45 miles southwest of Vienna by the Hartenstein family. It too was not found to be "an extreme injustice," even though the family by 1957 received less than half of the land's value, according to the panel. Templ's research suggests they only got 10 percent of the property's real value.

"I expect that now that I've been jailed, my criticism of Austria will be seen as a vendetta," Templ said. "And I guess I have an agenda—but the numbers and the facts do not, and they tell a story that is much bigger and more important than my own."

Queried by JTA on these cases, Josef Aicher, chairman of the Arbitration Panel for In Rem Restitution, stood by his organization's findings.

"To assess 'extreme injustice' the Arbitration Panel has developed a complex case law," he wrote, based on "restrictions on freedom of contract and discrepancy in value: The more the two criteria are pronounced, the more likely it is that an extreme injustice exists."

He added that the Arbitration Panel has so far issued 138 recommendations for restitution with an estimated total value of \$59 million. According to Templ, all these recommendations pertain to only seven assets.

Citing independent appraisals, Aicher said that "virtually all real estate that had been confiscated by the state was restituted in its entirety after the war" as well as 60 percent of the properties sold under duress.

Crunching these numbers allowed Templ to find purpose and calm his nerves in prison, he said. But it wasn't easy.

On a rare afternoon off from prison—Templ served time in a medium-security facility that allowed some inmates brief day passes—he "suddenly became very aggressive" toward a friend who came to visit him.

"When you see that life goes on while you're stuck there, it releases some anger in you," he said.

On one of his first days in prison, a longtime prisoner showed him around the place, he recalled. "When we reached the showers, he told me: These showers aren't for you because they have water coming out"—a remark Templ believes was an anti-Semitic reference to Nazi gas chambers. Another prisoner harassed him with reference to Israel, he said.

But the troubles stopped when Muslim Chechen inmates, who are known for their ruthlessness and mob connections, discovered he could speak Russian and could therefore help them with German-language correspondence, he said. "As soon as the other inmates saw me hanging out with the Chechens, suddenly the behavior toward me changed."

Asked whether he considers himself a victim, Templ said: "Judge for yourself. Victim is a word with considerable resonance in modern-day Austria. And a little bit of irony, too."

Connie Sawyer, oldest working actress in Hollywood, dies at 105

(JTA)—Stage, film and television actress Connie Sawyer, nicknamed "The Clown Princess of Comedy," has died at 105.

Sawyer, who changed her name from Rosie Cohen, was considered the oldest working actress in Hollywood and oldest member of the Screen Actors Guild and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at the time of her death. She had over 140 acting credits, mostly for small roles.

Sawyer died on Monday at her home at the Motion Picture & Television Fund's retirement community in Woodland Hills, California.

Her credits include: "The Way West," "Ada," "The Man in the Glass Booth," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "Hawaii Five-O," "Dynasty," "Murder, She Wrote," "Archie Bunker's Place," "Home Improvement," "Seinfeld," "Will & Grace," "ER," "The Office," "How I Met Your Mother" and "Ray Donovan."

She more recently played James Franco's grandmother in "Pineapple Express" (2008) and the Oldest Woman in the World on "New Girl."

She played the wife of one of the couples interviewed in documentary-style in Rob Reiner's "When Harry Met Sally" (1989), but told an interviewer she wanted the role of the woman in the delicatessen who says, "I'll have what she's having" after Meg Ryan's fake orgasm, according to the Hollywood Reporter. The role went to Reiner's mother.

She earned her first movie role at the age of 50 appearing opposite Frank Sinatra and Edward G. Robinson. Sinatra had insisted she get the part after appearing with her in a Broadway play.

She was born in 1912 in Colorado to Orthodox Jewish parents. Her father Samuel and her mother Dora were immigrants from Romania.



Connie Sawyer

The family moved to Oakland, California when she was 7. At the age of 19 she moved to New York, performing in nightclubs and vaudeville, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

She wrote the book, "I Never Wanted to Be a Star—and I Wasn't," about her experiences in Hollywood.

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Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Western Wall rabbi apologizes to female reporter for discriminatory treatment during Pence visit

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The rabbi of the Western Wall sent a letter of apology to the editor of the Israeli business daily Globes for the discriminatory treatment of one of its reporters during Vice President Mike Pence's visit to the site last week.

Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovich, writing to Globes editor-in-chief Naama Sikuler, said "I want to express my regret for the anguish suffered by your newspaper's diplomatic correspondent," Tal Schneider.

He also said he would "be very happy to set a meeting and visit to the Western Wall soon. The invitation is for you and whoever else you want to bring with you."

Sikuler received the letter on Monday.

Schneider had threatened to file a lawsuit against Rabinovich over the segregation of female reporters and photographers from their male counterparts during Pence's visit. On a podium erected for the journalists in the Western Wall plaza, the women were required to stand behind the men.

The women finally removed a tarp and stood on chairs so they could see over their male colleagues. The site had been closed to worshippers during the visit.

Following the incident, which was widely covered in the media, Globes sent a letter of protest to Rabinovich, requesting different arrangements for future events.

Rabinovich sent copies of the letter to the U.S. ambassador to Israel, David Friedman; the director general of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, Solly Eliav; and the Western Wall media director, Johanna Bisraor.

Globes also sent a letter to Friedman on the issue but has yet to receive a response.

During President Donald Trump's visit in May, male and female journalists stood separately but had equal access.

While I am waiting for @globes to translate the article to E – let me update that my chief executive editor @naamasik received the following "sorrow for the aggravation from Kotel Chief Rabbi Rabinovitch cc: @jacobkornbluh @JakeTurx @kampeas @reglash https://t.co/7dR6iKJkPB pic.twitter.com/4Yl5t8TgUt

Leonard Cohen and Carrie Fisher win posthumous Grammy Awards

(JTA)—After more than a dozen albums and a little more than a year after his death, singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen won his first Grammy.

Cohen posthumously won the award for best rock performance at Sunday night's Grammy Awards in New York City.

The winning tune is the title track from his final album, "You Want It Darker," which was released 19 days before his death in the fall of 2016. The song also happens to be one of Cohen's most Jewish performances, including Hebrew phrases ("Hineni, hineni," or "Here I am") and chants from the choir of the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue in Montreal, Cohen's hometown.

Cohen was not the only Jewish performer to earn a posthumous Grammy: Actress Carrie Fisher won best spoken word album for "The Princess Diarist," the audiobook version of her memoir released just weeks before her sudden death at 60 in December 2016. Fisher portrayed Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" series.

There were other Jewish moments, too. Singer-songwriter Lisa Loeb won best children's album for "Feel What U Feel," her fourth record of children's music, and Jewish composer Justin Hurwitz won best soundtrack for visual media for his work on the Oscar-winning film "La La Land."

During the show, the Jewish actor and singer Ben Platt performed a touching tribute to 21-time Grammy winner Leonard Bernstein. Platt, who originated the role of the title character in the Broadway hit "Dear Evan Hansen," performed "Somewhere" from Bernstein's "West Side Story." The album "Leonard Bernstein—The Composer," won a Grammy for best historical album.

Blaze Bernstein's alleged killer belonged to violent neo-Nazi group

(JTA)—The 20-year-old former classmate of Jewish college student Blaze Bernstein, charged in his murder, belonged to an extremist neo-Nazi group.

Samuel Woodward is an "avowed Nazi" and a member of Atomwaffen Division, an extremist neo-Nazi group, the ProPublica news website reported.

Woodward was charged with murder in a complaint filed earlier this month in Orange County Superior Court. He is being held in the county jail in lieu of a \$2 million bail. The felony murder charge includes a sentence enhancement for using a knife. He will be arraigned on Friday and has not yet entered a plea.

Woodward was arrested after crime lab technicians determined that blood found on a sleeping bag in his possession belonged to Bernstein. The murder weapon reportedly has not been found. It is believed that Bernstein was pursuing a romantic relationship with Woodward, and that Bernstein kissed Woodward in the hours before the murder, which Woodward rebuffed, the affidavit said. Bernstein had been visiting his parents' home in Lake Forest while on winter break from the University of Pennsylvania. His body was discovered in a shallow grave in Borrego Park on Jan. 9, a week after he went missing from there.

ProPublica, a non-profit investigative news website, cited three people with "detailed knowledge" of Woodward's recent past who said Woodward was a member of the Atomwaffen Division, an armed Fascist group with the ultimate aim of overthrowing the U.S. government through the use of terrorism and guerrilla warfare. Two of the sources are Woodward's friends, the third is a former member of the group.

Atomwaffen started in 2015 and is estimated to have about 80 members scattered around the country in small cells.

Woodward joined the organization in early 2016 and later traveled to Texas to attend Atomwaffen meetings and a three-day training camp, which involved instruction in firearms, hand-to-hand combat, camping and survival skills, ProPublica reported citing the former member.

Social media posts and chats shared with ProPublica by Woodward's friends show that he openly described himself as a "National Socialist" or Nazi. He "was as anti-Semitic as you can get," one of the sources told ProPublica.

Atomwaffen was connected to a double homicide in December in Virginia when a 17-year-old boy allegedly shot and killed his girlfriend's parents after they convinced her not to see him anymore calling him an "outspoken neo-Nazi."

The teen killed Buckley Kuhn-Fricker and Scott Fricker, and shot himself, but survived. He reportedly was an avid fan of Atomwaffen, the Huffington Post reported.

Pence's Holocaust remembrance tweet angers some with 'Christ imagery'

(JTA)—Vice President Mike Pence's tweet to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day has angered some Jews who have accused him of using the terms of his evangelical Christian faith to honor the victims.

The tweet posted Saturday included a short video clip showing Pence and his wife, Karen, laying a memorial wreath in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance.

"A few days ago, Karen & I paid our respects at Yad Vashem to honor the 6 million Jewish martyrs of the Holocaust who 3 years after walking beneath the shadow of death, rose up from the ashes to resurrect themselves to reclaim a Jewish future," the vice president's tweet said.

A few days ago, Karen & I paid our respects at Yad Vashem to honor the 6 million Jewish martyrs of the Holocaust who 3 years after walking beneath the shadow of death, rose up from the ashes to resurrect themselves to reclaim a Jewish future. #HolocaustRemembranceDay #NeverAgain pic.twitter.com/67UuClCYI2

Critics pointed to the use of the terms "martyrs" and "resurrect," calling them "Christ imagery" and a "Jesus analogy."

"Resurrect themselves"? Pence dishonors the memories of the 6 million by co-opting them for the political agenda of his evangelical base," Harvard law professor Lawrence Tribe tweeted.

Journalist Matthew Yglesias, who is Jewish, tweeted, "I really thought last year's thing where they left out the Jews was a Holocaust Remembrance Day low point but Pence has taken this to new places in an amazing way."

Central to Christian theology is the belief that Jesus was resurrected three days after his martyrdom by the Romans. But Israeli leaders have also used "resurrection" and "martyr" imagery in their statements about the Holocaust, Haaretz pointed out. In 2017, speaking with Holocaust survivors, Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu referred to "the story of our people climbing back from the pit of death—this is our story of rebirth."

Pence returned last week from a visit to Jordan, Egypt and Israel.

Israel and Poland to open 'immediate dialogue' over Polish death camps legislation

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel and Poland will open an "immediate dialogue" over legislation that would criminalize the use of the term "Polish death camps."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Polish counterpart, Mateusz Morawiecki, spoke on Sunday evening by phone and "agreed that teams from the two countries would open an immediate dialogue in order to try to reach understandings regarding the legislation," Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

The Israeli team will be headed by Foreign Ministry Director General Yuval Rotem, according to Haaretz.

Hours after the Prime Minister's Office released its statement, Polish government spokeswoman Joanna Kopciska said in a tweet that it "was agreed that there will be a dialogue between the teams of both countries. However the conversation will not concern sovereign decisions of the Polish parliament."

The legislation passed on Friday by the Polish parliament's lower house, or Sejm, now will be taken up by the Senate. It must also be approved by the president. It is designed to make it clear that Nazi Germany is responsible for the crimes against humanity that took place in the camps.

On Sunday, Israel's Foreign Ministry summoned Poland's deputy ambassador for a "clarification discussion" about the Polish legislation. Ministry officials expressed Israel's opposition to the bill at the meeting.

Netanyahu on Sunday said that Israel's ambassador in Warsaw spoke with the Polish prime minister about the legislation on Saturday night during a memorial ceremony at Auschwitz.

Also Sunday, Poland's president, Andrzej Duda, said in a statement that he would carefully review the legislation.

"Everyone whose personal memory or historical research speaks the truth about the crimes and shameful behavior that occurred in the past with the participation of Poles has full right to this truth," he said.

Several Israeli lawmakers and Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial came out against the legislation.

The legislation calls for prison sentences of up to three years. It contains a provision excluding scholarly or academic works.

Netanyahu, Putin to discuss Iran after Moscow Holocaust commemoration event

MOSCOW (JTA)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made firm statements about Iran before leaving for Russia to discuss the Islamic Republic with one of its key allies, President Vladimir Putin.

In Russia, Netanyahu said

in a statement published Monday morning that he will discuss with Putin "Iran's effort to turn Lebanon into one giant missile site, a site for precision missiles against the State of Israel, which we will not tolerate."

Netanyahu, who has traveled to Russia to meet with Putin six times in the past two years, said he and Putin "meet periodically in order to ensure the military coordination between the Israel Defense Forces and the Russian forces in Syria; as of today this has succeeded and it is important that it continue to succeed."

Also on the agenda, Netanyahu said, is "Iran's relentless efforts to establish a military presence in Syria, which we strongly oppose and are also taking action against."

Russia is a military ally of Bashar Assad, Syria's president, and of the Iranian regime, with which it conducts major arms deals. Russia is also an important trading partner of Israel and maintains good relations with the Jewish state.

In Moscow, Netanyahu is scheduled to visit the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center with Putin. The museum is hosting an event in memory of the Sobibor Uprising ahead of its 75th anniversary.

Last month, Netanyahu in a speech drew parallels between Nazi Germany and Iran.

Noting "some important differences" between the two entities, Netanyahu said that "both regimes do have two important things in common. One, a ruthless commitment to impose tyranny and terror. And second, a ruthless commitment to murder Jews."

One of the most famous acts of resistance by Jews against the Nazis during the Holocaust, the Sobibor Uprising was launched after the arrival to the death camp in north-eastern Poland of several Red Army veterans with combat experience. The prisoners killed 11 SS officers and freed 300 inmates, though only a few dozen escaped without being caught immediately after the uprising.

Descendants of survivors from Sobibor, Red Army veterans and Russian Jewish leaders are expected to attend the event at the Jewish museum, an award-winning institution that was established in 2012.

NJ man gets transplant after photo of 'In Need of Kidney' T-shirt goes viral

(JTA)—A New Jersey man who sought a kidney by wearing a T-shirt at Disney World with the request and his cell phone number received a donation from a stranger.

He wore a T-shirt every day during a week-long vacation at Disney World last summer that read: "In Need of Kidney. O Positive," which also provided his cell phone number. A woman took a photograph of Leibowitz's shirt and posted it on Facebook, where it reportedly went viral.

Leibowitz, who had been on a list for a donor kidney for four years and was told that there would be a seven- to 10-year wait, said the Facebook photo lead to calls, voicemails and text messages from dozens of strangers.

"I got my doubts sometimes about humanity, but the fact

that I got so many calls, it brought tears to my eyes," he told the Associated Press.

Four potential donors came to New York for additional testing, which led to one match, which was a perfect match.

Richie Sully of Indiana told the New York Daily News the day after his donor surgery on Thursday that what he did "is really not a big deal," and that he would do it again if he could. He has visited Leibowitz every day since he was discharged on Friday, according to People magazine. Leibowitz is scheduled to be discharged on Monday.

"I just saw a father that wanted to spend more time with his kids," Sully told the AP. He said the voicemail he left after seeing Leibowitz's T-shirt was "Hi, my name is Richie. I saw your post and I'm O positive. I have an extra kidney and you are more than welcome to it."

The two men became fast friends on Sully's several visits to New York ahead of the surgery. The men and their families plan to visit Disney World together after Leibowitz is fully healed.

Ex-London mayor Ken Livingstone on Iran TV repeats claim that Hitler backed Zionism

(JTA)—Former London mayor Ken Livingstone, appearing on Iranian state television to discuss the topic "Has the Holocaust been exploited to oppress others?," repeated his claim that Hitler worked with the Zionist movement to convince Jews to move to Israel.

Livingstone appeared on the Press TV show on Saturday, which was observed as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The show, which was aired on Press TV's YouTube channel, invited callers to offer their opinions. Several repeated anti-Semitic rhetoric and praised Hitler. One caller asserted that Hitler was "fantastic" for Israel, since "If it wasn't for Hitler, there would be no Israel."

At the same time, host Roshan Muhammed Salih talked about how the Holocaust has become an "industry." He also said, "I don't know if 6 million died or 4 million or 2 million died... no point arguing over figures is there Ken?" Livingstone responded that there is "no credible alternative" to the 6 million figure.

Livingstone, 71, was suspended for a year from Britain's Labour Party in April for an April 2016 interview with BBC radio in which he said, "Let's remember when Hitler won his election in 1932, his policy then was that Jews should be moved to Israel. He was supporting Zionism."

CST condemns Ken Livingstone appearing on Iranian Press TV's sick #HMD2018 programme, disgusting tone epitomised by presenter, "I don't know if 6 million died or four million or two million died... no point arguing over figures is there Ken?" (Ken, "no credible alternative" to 6). **In UN debate over 1994 genocide, Israel backs Rwanda despite US objections**

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel

JTA

From page 13A

supported a U.N. resolution, opposed by the United States and the European Union, that changes the name of the international remembrance day for the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

The April 7 remembrance day, previously known as the Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda, will focus solely on the murder of some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis by members of the Hutu-majority government. The amendment was approved on Friday in the General Assembly by consensus. It will be known now as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

Rwanda's ambassador to the United Nations, Valentine Rugwabiza, told the General Assembly that the new name clarifies that the genocide was carried out "against the Tutsi." But the United States and the EU objected that, in the words of Kelley Currie, the

U.S. representative to the U.N. Economic and Social Council, the new name "does not fully capture the magnitude of the genocide and of the violence committed against other groups."

In addition to the Tutsis slaughtered, another 50,000 or more Hutu who tried to help the Tutsi also were killed during the massacres that year in a 100-day period from April to July.

Israel was the only Western-allied country to co-sponsor the resolution. The United States expressed its objections but did not intervene.

Israeli reporter Barak Ravid, citing unnamed senior officials in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, reported that Israel supported the resolution over U.S. objections as part of an understanding with Rwandan President Paul Kagame, whose cooperation Jerusalem is seeking in deporting African asylum seekers from Israel to Rwanda. Kagame, a Tutsi, fought in the rebellion against the Hutu government that precipitated the massacres.

Kagame and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Thursday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and discussed a range of issues, including expanding cooperation between Israel and Rwanda, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Regarding the migrant issue, Netanyahu "agreed with President Kagame, who made clear that he would only accept a process that fully complies with international law," the statement said.

Israel's support of the resolution, which downplays the number of Hutu deaths in the Rwandan massacre, comes as Israel has raised objections to legislation in Poland making it illegal to refer to "Polish death camps." Israeli government officials, while agreeing that the death camps in Poland were created and run by the Nazis, have warned that the law could lead to "whitewashing" the history of the Holocaust and the complicity of some Poles in the genocide against Jews.

Israeli interior minister says a third country has agreed to take African migrants

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel's interior minister told a Knesset committee that there is a third country that has agreed to take African migrants who will be expelled from Israel.

On Monday, Aryeh Deri told the Internal Affairs and Environmental Protection Committee that there was "unequivocal assent with a third country over forced expulsion," though he did not name the country, Ynet reported.

It is widely believed to be Rwanda or Uganda, despite denials by those governments.

"I take responsibility for saying this, despite the news from the last few days, that everything is being done with full agreement of the third-party country, which knows everything to the last detail," Deri said.

The committee meeting was called to discuss the public outcry against the plan to

deport thousands of African migrants who entered the country illegally, according to Ynet.

Israeli rabbis, doctors, pilots and Holocaust survivors have come out against the deportations.

Deri said his office will draw a distinction between Africans who came to Israel seeking work and refugees who came from war zones seeking sanctuary. He said anyone who submitted requests for asylum by Dec. 31, 2017, and whose request has not yet been processed, will not be deported, including mothers, children and families.

Most young African migrants who did not arrive with children did not submit requests for asylum, Deri said. Israel has begun to deport them to a third country.

A total of 14,700 asylum requests were submitted in 2017, Deri told the committee—7,700 from Ukrainians, 906 from Sudanese and the rest from other countries.

Several lawmakers were

ejected from the committee meeting as the debate on the expulsions became heated. As she was being ejected, Tamar Zandberg of the liberal Meretz party shouted at members of the right-wing Likud, "You're friends with Nazis."

Later she told reporters, "I stand by my assertion that the ruling party's ties to anti-Semitic and Nazi parties in Europe are a disgrace to the State of Israel and to its government."

Israel's Cabinet earlier this month approved a plan and the budget to deport thousands of migrants from Sudan and Eritrea.

Prior to that, the Population and Immigration Authority notified migrants from Sudan and Eritrea that as of Jan. 1, they must return to their own countries or to a third nation or be sent to Holot Prison until they are deported.

According to the government plan, migrants who choose to leave by March 31 will receive a payment of \$3,500 as well as free airfare and other incentives, according to reports.

JNF

From page 1A

fundraising campaign of one of the nation's largest Jewish nonprofit organizations."

In 1996, Gould took a trip to Israel with Jewish National Fund that forever changed him and set him on a path to do everything he could to further the organization's mission. Since that trip, designed as a future leader's mission, he has served as President of the Orlando Campaign Cabinet, Florida Zone President, Chairman of the Florida Zone, National Vice President of Zones and Regions, Assistant Treasurer of JNF, Assistant Vice President of Campaign and Major Gifts Chairman. This impressive list of roles has perfectly instilled Gould

with the knowledge and drive to take on the position of President of Jewish National Fund at the end of current President Dr. Sol Lizerbram's tenure.

"Bruce is an incredible example of how philanthropy and leadership development is a marathon, not a sprint," said JNF CEO Russell F. Robinson. "It has been amazing to watch him grow as a leader within Jewish National Fund. His dedication and passion for Israel is immeasurable and I am thrilled to have him as our President-Elect and Vice President of Campaign."

Gould is also on JNF's Boruchin Fund Committee and is the Chair of Development, and member, of the Alexander Muss High School

in Israel Board, JNF's flagship study abroad program. In addition to his work with JNF, Gould has served on many philanthropic boards, including the Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando, the Holocaust Memorial and Education Center of Orlando, Touro Law Center's Foundation Board of Trustees, New York University Law School's Dean Council, and the University of Central Florida's Foundation Board.

"My parents, along with my brother, have chosen to concentrate on educational endeavors to help the next generation who can't otherwise afford it, better themselves," said Gould. "A large part of my involvement in JNF centers on engagement and

educating the next generation on the importance of our heritage and passing on our Jewish legacy to our children."

Along with his family, he has established numerous scholarships, including nursing scholarships at Seminole State College, University of Central Florida, Adventist University School of Nursing and a Faculty Scholarship at the Adventist University School of Nursing. The Gould family has also endowed chairs and named libraries at educational institutions both in the United States and Israel.

"My family has always had a charitable heart and my passion for Israel and the Jewish people was instilled in me by the examples they set," said Gould. "It was Jewish National

Fund that showed me how I could become an impact philanthropist, even at a young age, and play a part in building our homeland."

He created The Gould Legacy Society to help JNF establish a permanent endowment. Bruce recently had the privilege of dedicating the Bruce K. Gould Amphitheater and the new Commemoration Hall to honor those who gave their lives in the battle for Jerusalem at Ammunition Hill, a centerpiece of JNF's initiative to preserve Israel's historic sites.

"I feel that Jewish National Fund is the only organization that has a direct connection to the land and people of Israel," said Gould. "I am thrilled to assume the role of President

after Dr. Lizerbram and lead the organization to bigger and more profound challenges as it continues to build the land of Israel for generations to come."

Gould is an attorney and was a principal of Gould Publications Inc., a family-owned publishing business specializing in law books and treatises for the legal and law enforcement communities. He is an avid long distance cyclist and has helped raise money and awareness for the Arava Institute in the Negev through the JNF Israel Ride initiative.

To learn more about JNF's One Billion Dollar Roadmap for the Next Decade campaign and connect with Bruce K. Gould, please do so via bgould@jnf.org.

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JCC

From page 1A

a bright, energetic and passionate new leader for our preschool. I am so excited by her knowledge, passion and experience, and her new ideas for us. In addition, she will be a parent of two children in the preschool bringing a dual view to the position."

JCC Board President Todd Haber raves about Young-

blood, stating "Her ideas and passion excite me about the future of our preschool. I can't wait to see her ideas turned into action."

Youngblood is most excited about coming back to the JCC, a place she calls home. She is excited to put down some roots, call Orlando home, and for her children to grow up here receiving the values and sense

of community, which comes from being part of such a wonderful institution. She considers her three children her biggest accomplishment and is excited that her twin three year-olds will be in the early childhood learning center that she will soon direct.

Youngblood holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education and a master's degree in Special

Education with an emphasis on emotional and behavior disorders, both from Vanderbilt University. Youngblood is married to her husband, John, and has three children—her son, 7, and twin 3-year-old daughters. Families will get the opportunity to meet Melissa, beginning with current preschool families at registration that began Monday, Jan. 22.

TOP

From page 2A

TOP as a result of its expansion program. The remaining 32 percent are held in over 250 donor-advised funds for individuals and families throughout Central Florida and a handful of other states. From all TOP funds, TOP distributed 1,822 grants totaling \$7.4m supporting both Jewish and secular causes throughout the country and around the globe.

"Our level of reach continues to grow as we work with donors and supported organizations in a truly global fashion," Socash remarked, "and yet we maintain our commitment to making giving easier and developing the personal, one-on-one relationships that all of our donors and community partners have come to expect."

TOP's asset base grew 6

percent from 2016 due to the confidence of donors in using TOP as their primary charitable investment partner as well as strong growth in market performance.

"With due diligence and careful oversight, the Investment Committee has ensured that charitable dollars are invested for the maximum return given the market conditions. Our goal is to grow the Foundation to \$100m in the next five years. We are confident that with the proper investment and management decisions, the communities who choose TOP will continue to be bolstered by the Foundation", remarked Al Schiff, vice president of TOP's investment committee. Six years ago, TOP selected investment manager, Goldman Sachs, and adopted a new forward-thinking investment policy with a strict anti-terror

and now anti-BDS preventative screening approach. As a result, TOP's primary investment pool (called the "Balanced Pool") has yielded a 9.57 percent return net of fees.

"In a nutshell, a donor who had given \$10,000 to TOP last year would now have \$957 more to give to charity in their fund. Considering larger gifts in funds that total \$100,000 or greater, the ability to give

more is that much greater!" noted Socash.

To further serve the interests of savvy philanthropists, TOP added an additional investment pool comprised of strictly equities, allowing for further customization of the risk tolerance (and return) of funds. To learn more about TOP, visit topjewishfoundation.org or email Ellen@topjewishfoundation.org.

Scene Around

From page 9A

Max goes to shul for the first time in nearly 40 years. He enjoys the occasion and even listens attentively to the rabbi's sermon, especially the bit at the end when the rabbi announces that his sermon next week would be about the great flood. At the end of the service, Max goes over to the rabbi and says, "Rabbi, I really enjoyed the service. Unfortunately I won't be able to attend next week. But please don't think I will be shirking my duties—I can be as charitable as the next man. So please put me down for \$20 for the flood victims."

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9	8	2	4	1	5	6	7	3

Spark

From page 1A

found herself captivated by the spiritual wisdom of Judaism, and wanted to share that wisdom, much as she shared her passion for fashion. She is now a trip leader for the Momentum Israel trip through the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project and, each year, shares her wit and wisdom with hundreds of women from around the globe.

Ruchi Koval is the co-founder and director of the Jewish Family Experience, a congregation and Sunday school in Cleveland, Ohio. She is also a certified parenting coach, motivational speaker, musician, and author of the book "Conversations with G-d."

"We are so blessed to have Adrienne and Ruchi speaking at this year's retreat," said SPARK Director Sarah Gittleman. "These two women have so much knowledge and inspiration between the two of them. I know the ladies

who attend this year's event will leave feeling empowered and with a stronger sense of self, thanks to the messages that both Adrienne and Ruchi will share."

SPARK is the women's division of JOIN—Jewish Outreach Initiative in Orlando—and strives to engage, enlighten, educate, enrich, and empower the Jewish women in the Orlando area. Its mission is simple: Inspire a woman, you inspire her family, you strengthen the community.

"Having a true Shabbat experience with 100 other women who all came together to learn, grow, and rejuvenate with and from each other created a spark inside of me to become the best possible version of the person I already am," said Rachel Slavkin after last year's retreat. "The ruach (spirit) that pervaded the entire weekend has helped to reinforce my love and pride of Judaism and has helped to carry me through the year."

The stronger and more

empowered women feel about Judaism, the more thriving the Orlando Jewish community becomes.

Holly Kluger remembers that the SPARK retreat was "a spiritual and emotional awakening for me. This was an amazing gathering of Jewish women in the Orlando area who came together to make new friendships, reconnect with old friends and to learn about Judaism, our community and ourselves. This weekend nourished my body, mind and soul. It's hard to put into words how those two days helped me to refocus on my priorities. It's truly something special."

To learn more about SPARK, visit the organization's Facebook page and website www.joinorlando.org, or email Sarah directly at SGittleman@JoinOrlando.org. To register for the 2nd Annual SPARK Women's retreat, and learn more about the hotel rooms, visit www.sparkwomensretreat.eventbrite.com.

The cost for the weekend is at Reunion Resort starts at



Ladies who participated in the SPARK Reunion Retreat last year.

\$350 per person, which includes all programs, the hotel room, food and drink. There is currently an additional discount if it's your first Retreat or you bring a friend who has not yet attended the SPARK Retreat—don't miss out on

this amazing opportunity! The SPARK Women's Retreat is all about Women unity and connecting - and SPARK does its best to ensure all women are able to attend. If you are in need of a scholarship or a payment plan, please contact

sgittleman@joinorlando.org. We will contact all Retreat participants after they register to confirm rooming requests and dietary requirements. Reunion Resort is located at 7593 Gathering Drive, Kissimmee, Fla. 34747.

Pence

From page 3A

month, the President waived sanctions on Iran to give the Congress and our European allies time to pass stronger measures. But as President Trump made clear, this is the last time.

Unless the Iran nuclear deal is fixed, President Trump has said the United States will withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal immediately.

Whatever the outcome of those negotiations, today I have a solemn promise to Israel, to all the Middle East,

and to the world: The United States of America will never allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon. Beyond the nuclear deal, we will also no longer tolerate Iran's support of terrorism, or its brutal attempts to suppress its own people.

Last year, our administration more than tripled the number of sanctions targeting Iran and its leaders. And just this month, the United States issued tough new sanctions on Iran.

But I have another message today—a better message—from the people of America

to the proud and great people of Iran: We are your friends, and the day is coming when you will be free from the evil regime that suffocates your dreams and buries your hopes. And when your day of liberation finally comes, we say to the good people of Iran, the friendship between our peoples will blossom once again...

Nearly 4,000 years ago, a man left his home in Ur of the Chaldeans to travel here, to Israel. He ruled no empire, he wore no crown, he commanded no armies, he

performed no miracles, delivered no prophecies, yet to him was promised "descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky."

Today, Jews, Christians, and Muslims—more than half the population of the Earth, and nearly all the people of the Middle East—claim Abraham as their forefather in faith. Only steps from here, in the Old City of Jerusalem, we see the followers of these three great religions in constant contact with one another...

Israel is like a tree that has grown deep roots in the soil

of your forefathers, yet as it grows, it reaches ever closer to the heavens. And today and every day, the Jewish State of Israel, and all the Jewish people, bear witness to God's faithfulness, as well as your own. It was the faith of the Jewish people that gathered the scattered fragments of a people and made them whole again; that took the language of the Bible and the landscape of the Psalms and made them live again. And it was faith that rebuilt the ruins of Jerusalem and made them strong again.

The miracle of Israel is an

inspiration to the world. And the United States of America is proud to stand with Israel and her people, as allies and cherished friends.

And so we will "pray for the peace of Jerusalem," that "those who love you be secure," that "there be peace within your walls, and security in your citadels."

And we will work and strive for that brighter future where everyone who calls this ancient land their home shall sit "under their vine and fig tree, and none shall make them afraid."

Brenner

From page 4A

And Jewish men in the field of education should work with people of all genders to help the next generation navigate a world with confusing mes-

sages about sex, sexuality and power. Jewish educators should ask:

How can we do a better job of teaching about sex and sexuality in Jewish schools?

How do we foster safer

summer camp environments where college students, pre-teens and teens are learning to respect one another's bodies?

How do we help parents to be in conversation with their children on issues of sexual

health and well-being?

These questions have never been very high up on the Jewish communal agenda, but I hope that in the wake of #MeToo more people will see how important it is for

the Jewish community to take them seriously.

Rabbi Daniel Brenner is the chief of education and program for Moving Traditions, www.movingtraditions.org, which seeks to embolden

teens by fostering self-discovery, challenging sexism, and inspiring a commitment to Jewish life and learning. This essay is excerpted from a longer piece available at Medium.

Block

From page 5A

the mullah regime where it hurts most. Congress should act and cut off the financial lifelines the regime uses to fund its human rights violations: The Central Bank of Iran and EIKO, the Supreme

Leader's personal business empire.

Such concrete steps would also undermine efforts by the Iranians to take advantage of the rift between Washington and Brussels to lure European governments into economic deals.

It's true, many of Europe's businesses want a piece of Iran's economy. But Europe's elites are out of touch with reality if they think for a moment that European business giants will risk their stake in America's \$19 trillion economy for Iran's \$400 bil-

lion economy. In 2015, French banking giant BNP Paribas was slapped a whopping \$8.9 billion fine for concealing billions of dollars in transactions with Iran in violation of US sanctions.

Although Iran's current regime has attempted to ap-

pear more moderate, they are still driven by the same ideology of clerical fascism that crushed protesters in 1979 and again in 2009 during the Green Revolution. The silence, or even complicity, of European governments shames the reputation of

Europe and benefits the mullahs, who treat the Iranian people as their own private property.

It is now up to America to say, "no more."

Joshua S. Block is CEO & President of The Israel Project.

Millner

From page 5A

However, the singling out of the lone Jewish nation-state for divestment and sanction under the guise of "opposing occupation," while not ad-

ressing the hundreds of other territorial disputes and various issues around the world, is a form of double standard that should not and cannot be tolerated.

French President Emman-

uel Macron echoed this sentiment recently when he stated, "We will never surrender to the messages of hate; we will not surrender to anti-Zionism because it is a reinvention of anti-Semitism."

This follows U.N. Secretary General António Guterres, who recently said that "The denial of the right of the State of Israel to exist is one of the modern forms of anti-Semitism. [Israel] should be

treated like any other member state."

Who is elected is important. Elections matter. We should strive to elect the very best of both parties whose worldview includes the very basic

understanding that double standards focused on delegitimizing only Israel is wrong-headed and discriminatory.

Jacob Millner is senior policy analyst for The Israel Project.

Poll

From page 10A

tions Committee, was among those who wanted to add language about Israel's occupation to the 2016 party platform.

Zogby, the founder of the Arab American Institute, told JTA that the Pew results show that Democrats are growing tired of Israeli actions in the West Bank and resent the mutual admiration between Trump and Netanyahu. Zogby also says Democrats are upset about Netanyahu's past efforts

to undermine Obama's Iran nuclear deal—including a 2015 speech to Congress he delivered at the invitation of its Republican opponents.

"This is largely the result of really bad Israeli policy, and an embrace by a president who also has a really negative agenda," he said.

Wittes and others also noted that this poll isn't good news for Republican supporters of Israel, either. Pro-Israel activists have long emphasized that defending Israel is a bipartisan priority. If that support does

erode among Democrats, it could hurt Israel even if Republicans continue to support the Jewish state.

"Every member of Congress who supports Israel is a good thing," said Jennifer Rubin, a columnist for the Washington Post who self-identifies as center-right and has been very critical of Trump. "My conclusion is that [support for Israel] has become way too imbalanced. The challenge is to remove this from the partisan dynamic that is so fierce right now."

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A brief history of Congregation Ohev Shalom



COS Sunday School students in 2013 at the current location of the synagogue.

With Congregation Ohev Shalom's Centennial Gala Weekend (Feb. 9–10) fast approaching, we take a look back of some of the highlights of the congregation's 100 years.

In the early 20th century, when very few Jews lived in Central Florida, religious services were held at the citrus grove of Moses and Sarah Levy and in private homes. Attendees were not an official congregation yet, but by 1916, \$260 had been raised toward purchasing a building. Then, as the United States entered World War I in 1917, Orlando held a war bonds rally and parade, and the local paper noted that Jews were "conspicuously absent." Pauline Berman, a community leader, organized a meeting at the home of Harry Kanner to address the lack of a recognized Jewish organization that could be invited to participate in community events.

The group organized as Congregation Ohev Sholem [Shalom] and purchased a former church in 1917; in 1918 it received its charter from the state of Florida and became the center of Jewish life in the area.

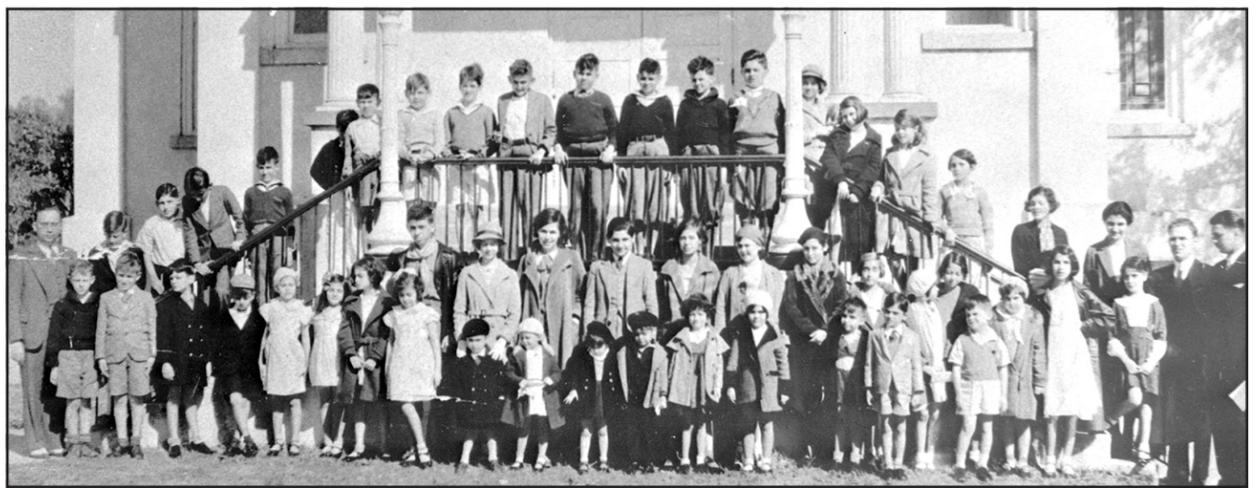
COS purchased a cemetery on Old Winter Garden Road in 1924. At the time, the congregation did not yet have a rabbi, and Rev. Benjamin Safer traveled from Jacksonville to serve as rabbi when needed. By 1926, a new synagogue building was dedicated on Church Street in downtown Orlando. The

next year, the congregation hired Rev. Abraham Leshinsky as teacher and shochet with some cantorial duties; he remained in those roles through 1945. As the Jewish community continued to grow and prosper, COS was able to hire its first full time rabbi, Benjamin Safer, in 1933. By that time, 50 children were enrolled in the religious school.

After America entered World War II, COS established a USO for Jewish service men and women stationed in Orlando and loaned a Torah to the Air Base Chapel for the duration of the war. As the war ended in 1945, the congregation purchased the lot across the street from the synagogue for a Sunday School building. Returning veterans were honored at a special service and offered a discounted membership.

By 1948 the Sunday School building was completed and dedicated, with an enrollment of 90 students, and 30 students in Cheder (Hebrew School). In 1949, the congregation became a member of United Synagogue. Just 3 years later, in 1953, the congregation had 250 member families, with 150 Sunday School students and 58 in Cheder. That same year, the board passed a motion to air condition the synagogue, enlarge the sanctuary and vestry hall and modernize and enlarge the kitchen.

In 1960, Rabbi Rudolph Adler was hired, and he served for 30 years. In the early 1970s, COS was outgrowing



COS school in the 1930s in front of the Church Street building.

its downtown location and began planning a new building in suburban Orlando, on Goddard Avenue, to include a large sanctuary, social hall, kosher kitchen, banquet seating for 200, a double room to accommodate the junior congregation, a library and eight classrooms. The building was completed in 1974, with a Sisterhood gift shop run by Myrtle Rutberg. The 1970s were a time of greater acceptance of women's increased role in ritual.

Following Rabbi Adler's retirement and designation as rabbi emeritus in 1990, Rabbi Aaron Rubinger was hired. The congregation was active in support of the emigration of Soviet Jews and helped those who resettled in Orlando to become part of the community. With a membership of around 600 families, COS began an ongoing effort to help feed

Orlando's homeless, with 100 congregants volunteering. As the congregation's growth continued, Rabbi David Kay was hired as assistant rabbi in 2004, and by 2006 the board voted to purchase land for a new building on Concourse Parkway South in Maitland.

In 2008, COS began designing and planning for building its new location. About 250 attended the groundbreaking in 2010, and by 2011, the Torahs were brought from the Goddard building for the dedication celebrations. Now in 2018, the congregation continues to thrive in its new

home, serving its members and the Greater Orlando Jewish community as a center for spiritual, educational and social life—just as it began 100 years ago.

Kehillah

Our region has such a strong and remarkable Jewish community, and so many people and organizations played important roles in its establishment and growth. For an extraordinary look at Central Florida's Jewish past, researched by many longtime community members in a 3-year labor of love, be sure to visit the Kehillah: A His-

tory of Jewish Life in Greater Orlando exhibit at the Orange County Regional History Center before it closes on Feb. 20, 2018!

Join the celebration

Congregation Ohev Shalom warmly invites Orlando's Jewish community to join us in celebrating our Centennial on Feb. 9th and 10th with a Traditional Erev Shabbat Dinner, very special Erev Shabbat and Shabbat Morning services, and our Centennial Gala on Saturday night. Details can be found at OhevShalom.org or by calling 407-298-4650.

Diamond gives up touring after being diagnosed with Parkinson's

(JTA)—Jewish singer-songwriter Neil Diamond announced he is giving up touring after recently being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

The Australia and New Zealand leg of his 50th Anniversary tour scheduled for March have been canceled, according to the announcement.

"It is with great reluctance and disappointment that I announce my retirement from concert touring," the artist said in a statement released Monday on his website. "I have been so honored to bring my shows to the public for the past 50 years.

"I plan to remain active in writing, recording and other projects for a long time to come."

Diamond has had 10 No. 1 singles: "Cracklin' Rosie," "Song Sung Blue," "Longfellow Serenade," "I've Been This Way Before," "If You Know What I Mean," "Desiree,"



Neil Diamond

"You Don't Bring Me Flowers," "America," "Yesterday's Songs" and "Heartlight."

He starred in the 1980 remake of "The Jazz Singer," which garnered him three Top 10 singles: "Love on the Rocks," "Hello Again" and "America."

Diamond was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1984 and into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in

2011. He received the Sammy Cahn Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000 and was honored at the Kennedy Center in 2011.

On Wednesday, Diamond will celebrate his 77th birthday. Four days later The Recording Academy, at its annual Grammy Award ceremony, will honor him with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.

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