



In attendance were (l-r), David McKee, JFS board president; US Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL 7th District); Ashlyn Douglass-Barnes, LCSW, clinical therapist supervisor; Helen Miller, Central Florida regional director for US Senator Bill Nelson; Sarah Sprinkel, Winter Park Commissioner; and Eric Geboff, executive director of JFS Orlando.

## Cutting the ribbon to JFS Orlando's new counseling wing

As the 40th anniversary of Jewish Family Services approaches, a special ribbon-cutting ceremony was held last Thursday officially opening the newest wing of the facility.

In 2016, Orange County Community Development Block Grant awarded JFS Orlando with a \$75,804 grant to transform one hallway of the building into a mental health counseling center; create an ADA-compliant handicap ramp at the rear of the building (that faces Lee Road) for a new counseling center entrance, which will give clients privacy upon entering the building; replace the

exterior building doors to increase ADA compliance; and replace the carpeting in the agency offices.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy told the audience that Florida ranks last in total state mental health funding, and she thanked JFS for the tremendous work it is doing. Ashlyn Douglass-Barnes stated that most mental health facilities have up to three-month wait lists. The agency's goal is to help families or individuals get the needed treatment with no wait list, which it has accomplished.

More than 50,000 hours of counsel-

ing sessions were provided last year in both individual and group settings by counselors Brenda Chappell, a registered mental health counselor intern; Carla Fischer, MA, LMHC, LMT; Daniel M. Fisher, Ed. S., LMHC; Danielle Glover, MSW; Stacey Greenberg, MSW, LCSW; and Daniel Nabatian, MA, who address issues related to grief, loss, anxiety, parenting, aging and more.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, attendees toured the new wing and met the licensed therapists.

The 40th anniversary gala will be held April 29.

## JNF Tree of Life Gala honors four

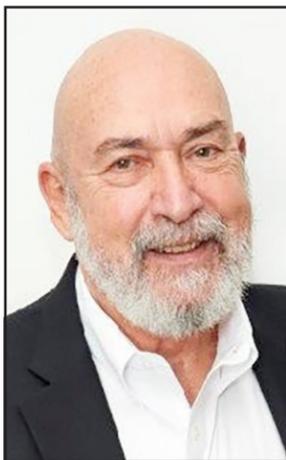
The Jewish National Fund will host the annual Tree of Life™ Award Gala at Congregation Ohev Shalom on Tuesday, March 20, to honor Deborah Dorsky Meitin, Marc Reicher, James Riola, and Rabbi Aaron Rubinger with Tree of Life™ Awards for their dedication to the Orlando community, JNF, and Israel.

The Tree of Life™ Award

is a humanitarian award given in recognition of outstanding community involvement, dedication to the cause of American-Israeli friendship, and devotion to the peace and security of human life.

Honoree James J. Riola is currently president and CEO of CITSS, a technology consulting company specializing in strategic business relationships with international technology companies. Prior to founding CITSS, Riola held several executive positions in a number of Silicon Valley companies, including Apple Computer, where he met his wife of 24 years, Jill. He has been involved with several philanthropic and charitable Jewish organizations and is currently co-chairman of Jewish National Fund's National Community Campaign. He and his wife are also members of JNF's World Chairman's Counsel and President's Society.

"I am humbled to be chosen to receive the Tree of Life award," said honoree Deborah Dorsky Meitin. "I know that many outstanding men and women have been honored



James J. Riola



Deborah Dorsky Meitin



Marc Reicher



Rabbi Aaron D. Rubinger

JNF on page 14A

## JBall honors Carol McNally

By Christine DeSouza

What's a nice Irish-Catholic girl doing in a Jewish preschool? Making it the best Jewish preschool in Central Florida, that's what! Carol McNally, director of the Richard S. Adler Early Childhood Learning Center, has been at the preschool for 29 years, and she is retiring on May 31. But before she leaves, The Roth Family JCC will be honoring her with the Harriet Weiss JCC Legacy Award at the annual JBall on March 14.

"Carol has inspired countless children as the director of our Richard S. Adler Early Childhood Learning Center for the last 29 years," said Keith Dvorchik, CEO of The Roth Family JCC.

Bonnie Friedman hired McNally as a teacher back in 1989. After six years of teaching 3- and 4-year-olds, she was offered a position as a team supervisor, eventually stepping into Friedman's shoes as director.

"Who would have thought when I started 29 years ago, they would have a non-Jewish director," she said. "You don't have to be Jewish to run a wonderful Jewish school. You just have to be passionate and love the culture, the heritage, and the traditions."



Carol McNally

McNally has a straightforward, no-nonsense persona, with a New England accent (she hails from Dover, Mass.), and sounds a bit like Rosie O'Donnell. She is proud of the school and proud of the reputation she has built in the community as a strong leader. She is a "go-to" leader—a director who has given her administrative team the ability to think out of the box, and the confidence that if they have a good idea to let them run with it.

"I have a strong administrative team—it's a team effort, I can't do this alone—that

McNally on page 14A

## RAISE brings hiring in house

By Christine DeSouza

RAISE (Recognizing Abilities & Inclusion of Special Employees), the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando's work and social skills training program for adults with special needs, has a new job creation division called RAISE Awareness to Hire.

"RAISE Awareness to Hire works with local businesses to provide a simple and seamless transition for adults with disabilities from the nurturing environment of RAISE into the more competitive marketplace," said Loren London, RAISE founder and director.

Rachel Slavkin, RAISE director of Employment and Education and Amy Weston, RAISE transition specialist are overseeing RAISE Awareness to Hire.

According to Slavkin, RAISE Awareness to Hire offers businesses onsite visitation and "job carving" to meet employers' needs, customized job placement, and a review of Work Opportunity Tax Credits that benefit employers hiring adults with disabilities.

Five RAISE employees who found jobs in the community thanks to RAISE Awareness to Hire shared their stories with Heritage. These stories show

how both RAISE employees and their employers have benefitted from the program. Only the first names of the employees are used, and some names have been changed for privacy.

Samuel\* worked at JFS Orlando and at the Jewish Community Center, as a RAISE employee. While employed at JFS Orlando, Samuel was assigned a wide range of administrative tasks. He performed his duties with the highest degree of efficiency, productivity and professionalism, and demonstrated a strong work ethic. He noted the positive correlation between gainful employment and self-worth.

Nearing the end of his tenure at RAISE, a temporary position became available at Buhler and Associates. He seized the opportunity and parlayed a temporary position into part-time employment with increasing responsibility and duties.

"The position became per-

RAISE on page 15A



# With theme of 'Together We Will,' BBYO convention sounds prescient note on teen action



A group of North Florida teens posing together at the conference.

By Pamela Ruben

(JNS)—Mike Signer, who served as the mayor of Charlottesville, Va., during the rally and protests last August that brought white supremacists to the forefront of international attention, recalled that he was about 8 or 9 when he heard his first anti-Semitic slur.

"Growing up in Northern Virginia, the last thing I wanted to be was different, so I assimilated," he told more than 3,000 Jewish teens attending the annual BBYO International Convention held last week in Orlando, Fla.

It wasn't until his late 30s, when Signer made his first trip to Israel, that he said he became comfortable with his Judaism.

That wasn't the case for the Jewish teens who packed convention halls and meeting rooms during the four-day conference. Delegates traveled from 49 states and 36 countries, including from as far away as China, for the celebration of Jewish teen spirit, listening and learning from speakers in the worlds of entertainment, social justice and Jewish organizational life.

But before they got into

the bulk of the program, a moment of silence was held in memory of the 17 people—14 students and three staff members—killed in the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., some 200 miles south of Orlando, on Feb. 14, the first day of the conference.

Recognition of that loss continued throughout the next few days. Yet despite a lingering pall of sadness, a sense of excitement also prevailed.

"I love going back to connect with friends from all over the world; it is the only way we can all see each other in one place," said Lexi Sussman of Cleveland, who was attending her third convention.

In addition to Signer, speakers included Susan Bro, whose 32-year-old daughter, Heather Heyer, was killed when a car drove into the crowd of counter-protesters last summer in Charlottesville; two-time Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman, who just a few weeks before the convention publicly confronted Larry Nassar, the USA Gymnastics physician convicted of sexually abusing her and hundreds of others young athletes; Jona-

than Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League; and 31-year-old actor Josh Peck.

Throughout his remarks, Signer, who now sits on the Charlottesville City Council, implored the young people gathered to go into public life with "courage and confidence."

"Fringe elements are unacceptable," he said. The Jewish people can have a place in "healing the breaches and wounds of the world."

Wisconsin delegate Andrew Kazan agreed. "When you see how terrible hate is firsthand," he said, "you can see why we need to combat extremism and anti-Semitism."

Focusing on the event's theme, "Together We Will," Signer shared that BBYO teens would be part of the generation that takes leadership to the next step—something being exhibited in real time in the wake of the school shooting in South Florida. There, teens the same ages as the conference participants were becoming budding activists, trying to make sense of lethal attacks in America's schools (18 school shootings have occurred since Jan. 1).

"The force for change"



Pamela Ruben

BBYO members with friends from across the country reunite at annual and summer programs. Lexi Sussman from Cleveland, Ohio, Jared Katon from Potomac, Maryland and Brooke Levitt from Central Florida carpool together to BBYO's International Convention in Orlando.

For her part, Bro is seeking a way to bring meaning and something positive from her daughter's death. The room was pin-drop quiet as Bro, too, embraced the convention's theme, asking participants to be the force of change that eradicates hate.

Bro described Heyer as an ordinary person, but one who was willing to stand up for what she believed. The crowd buzzed in support as Bro passed on a quote from her daughter: "If you are not outraged, you are not paying attention."

Asked where she finds the energy to carry on, Bro responded, "I have to make something out of her death. I can't just let it go. I am not allowing that." She also looked to the teens for help, saying "you have to be the force for change."

To that end, she invited the teens to speak with her, but with one caveat: "Tell me what difference you're making, so the world can be a better place."

Raisman, who received the BBYO "StandUP" award, spoke of the importance of Judaism in her life. She noted "amazing memories of Jewish holidays," which were a time of bonding in her tight-knit family. "If you are not close to your family, surround yourself with people that support you," she said. "There's a lot of ups and downs in life, and it's important to have people you can go to for advice."

The native of Needham, Mass., also expressed concern about bullying on social media, including victim shaming, body-shaming and judging. "What you guys have to think about is no matter how many followers someone has, everyone has feelings. Always be kind to one another," she encouraged.

Alluding to the gymnastics sexual-assault scandal, Raisman acknowledged that "everyone is a survivor of something."

In a more intimate leadership question-and-answer session titled "It's a Woman's

World," Raisman told BBYO delegate and moderator Gabrielle Gorowitz from the Gold Coast Region in Florida, that "if someone is suffering abuse, they need to tell someone, and then someone else, until someone finally listens."

"Kids are planning what they want"

Caryl Stern, president and CEO of UNICEF USA, described the audience as pieces of a puzzle who could make a difference. She invited the delegates to join her in helping kids in need fulfill their potential.

Speakers also included Jason Kander, president of Let America Vote and a former secretary of state in Missouri; singer Melanie Galiardo; and Zachary Pamboukas, a third-grader who was born with a partial arm. The 8-year-old received a "Spider-Man"-inspired limb from a 3-D printer created with the help of Israeli engineers and Limbitless Solutions, a non-

BBYO on page 14A

## Statement from the Jewish Community Relations Council

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando expresses its deepest sympathies to the survivors, victims and families impacted by the tragic shooting in Parkland, Florida, and all those affected by senseless murder that plagues our nation.

The importance of action, rather than words, is a central lesson of Judaism. In particular, the Torah expressly commands, "Do not stand idly by the blood of your fellow" and compels us to take whatever action we can to save, protect, and defend human life ("piku'ach nefesh"). By this standard, and any standard of common decency, we are failing. Yet again, last week our Nation suffered a devastating loss at the hands of a sick individual with an AR-15. This time, we lost 17 innocent souls, and a

number of others still hang in the balance. If the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting a different result, then we—our elected leaders and the American public—are either insane or do not wish to produce a different result. Neither scenario is acceptable. It is long past time that we as a Nation demand better—and not just for the next few weeks while this senseless tragedy is still fresh in our minds, but until our demands are met by those with the power to meet them. The JCRC is heartened by the actions of the survivors in Parkland, Florida, who have spoken out in the face of inaction by certain elected officials. Most of the survivors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School are not even old enough to vote, but have

already emerged from this tragedy as the leaders that we need. We hope to see many of our friends and neighbors get involved in the upcoming demonstrations planned for Washington, D.C., and in local communities around the country.\*

As long as this issue is neglected by those with the power to affect change, our society will be liable for the traumatic and repetitive violence aimed at our children—and our concertgoers, our employees, our airport travelers, our club goers, our church parishioners, and so on—by madmen with assault weapons. We cannot stand idly by. It is a matter of life and death.

Ben Friedman, director of JCRC with co-chairs Ina Porth and Michelle Zaltsberg

\* The upcoming demonstrations take place March 24.

## Beth Sholom March schedule

Celebrate Shabbat with the synagogue that feels like family. Congregation Beth Sholom's Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi Karen Allen is on Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. An Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

The synagogue is located at 315 North 13th St. in Leesburg, with the entrance on Center Street.

The Rabbi's Torah Roundtable Discussion Group with Rabbi Karen Allen of Congregation Beth Sholom, will be held on Thursday, March

15 at 1 p.m. at the Sumter County Administration and Library Building (with the golden dome) at 7375 Powell Rd. (near Pinellas Plaza and 466A), Wildwood. The Rabbi's Roundtable series explores the current Torah Portion and how it affects our daily lives. The roundtable provides a unique opportunity to talk with the rabbi as she leads an informal and interactive Torah study discussion.

Make reservations for Congregation Beth Sholom's Seder now.

You are invited to attend our second night Seder on March 31 with Rabbi Karen Allen. A traditional Kosher Seder dinner with choice of entrée will be served. Download the reservation form from our website <http://bethsholomflorida.org> or call Burt Kraft at 352-513-3517 for more information about the Seder.

More information is available on the synagogue website: <http://bethsholomflorida.org> or by calling the synagogue at 352-326-3692.

## Holocaust profiles in poetry at literary luncheon

The public is invited to a presentation of "Beneath White Stars: Holocaust Profiles in Poetry" at the American Association of University Women's (Orlando/Winter Park branch) annual Spring Literary Luncheon on March 17. The served luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Interlachen Country Club, 2245 Interlachen Court, Winter Park.

Author Holly Mandelkern will discuss her narrative poetry of stories about real people from the Holocaust.

Tickets are \$ 45, and can be purchased by contacting [Gazianomyra@yahoo.com](mailto:Gazianomyra@yahoo.com) or (321-363-1105.)

Proceeds from the Annual Literary Luncheon go to the AAUW Scholarship Fund awarded to local students.

The American Association of University Women in a nationwide network of more than 100,000 members. For more than 130 years this group has researched and taken positions on important social issues that impact women's lives. AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and philanthropy.

# Holding out an olive branch? US lawmakers speak out after being detained on Temple Mount



Amos Ben-Gershom/GPO

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (center) with a delegation of US lawmakers, including Rep. David B. McKinley (R-W.Va.), to his left, and Rep. Scott Tipton (R-Colo.)

## By Israel Kasnett

(JNS)—US Reps. Scott Tipton (R-Colo.) and David B. McKinley (R-W.Va.) no

doubt anticipated an eye-opening experience when they visited the Temple Mount on Thursday as part of their current trip

to Israel. So imagine their surprise when they were detained by Israel police after an Islamic Waqf official, which administers

the Temple Mount, lodged a complaint against them.

It appears that they violated some unknown rule when Tipton bent down to pick up

a broken olive branch off the ground. His movement seems to have agitated the Waqf official who, apparently believing that the congressman was bowing as if in prayer, set off the events that followed.

The congressmen, both in their 70s, were physically removed from the Temple Mount by police officers, and frisked and detained for more than a half-hour. They were released without incident.

Hosted by the American evangelical organization Proclaiming Justice to the Nations, as well as by Jaffe Strategies and its Yes! Israel Project, the politicians are on a fact-finding mission to explore their Judeo-Christian roots.

Speaking of the experience with JNS, Tipton said: "You know it was a little surprising... We were going around and trying to take it all in and being rushed through, and I

happened to pick up an olive branch, ironically a symbol of peace. Apparently, that broke a rule—not one that was defined. We had no forewarning going in of what to do and not to do, no instructions... We were trying to take in what is obviously a religious site not only for Jews and Muslims, but for Christians as well... Interestingly, apparently they viewed something as an infraction and then chose to detain us."

McKinley said, "We should be able to pray and reflect on the history and culture, but you're not allowed to do that as Jews and non-Muslims. You're pushed, literally, and they have a time frame to get you through. That's not right. That's why the status quo has to change, to reflect the change in culture over the past 50 years."

**Lawmakers** on page 15A

## Billy Graham, who championed Israel, but had his image tarnished one time, dies at 99

### By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Billy Graham, the giant of American evangelism who was exalted by Jews for his championing of Israel at its hour of need and then condemned when a nasty anti-Semitic streak was revealed, has died.

Graham, 99, died at his home in Montreat, North Carolina, media reported. He was a counselor to Democratic and Republican presidents and, with his massive arena appearances, was a precursor of the Protestant televangelism that helped reshape the American religious and political landscapes. His son, Franklin, is one of President Donald Trump's highest-profile religious supporters.

The elder Graham was an early and avid backer of Israel. A tour of the country in 1960 raised Israel's profile among American evangelicals, establishing the seeds of strong pro-Israel support that persist in that community until now. In 1967, he urged Israeli leaders not to yield to diplomatic pressures that could endanger the country's security; such entreaties, commonplace now on the American right, were unusual at the time. He made a film, "His Land," about Israel that continues to be screened among pro-Israel evangelicals.

Graham also was a champion for the Jews persecuted in the former Soviet Union and counseled his evangelical brethren not to proselytize Jews.

"Just as Judaism frowns on proselytizing that is coercive, or that seeks to commit men against their will, so do I," Graham told an American Jewish Committee delegation that met with him in 1973.

He received awards from the organized Jewish community and was so beloved in its precincts that in 1994, when H. R. Haldeman, a former top aide to President Richard Nixon, revealed Graham's lacerating anti-Semitism expressed in private talks with Nixon, the Jewish community dismissed Haldeman's account out of hand.

Tapes from the Nixon Library released in 2002 validated Haldeman's account, however.

"A lot of Jews are great friends of mine," Graham told

Nixon in 1972. "They swarm around me and are friendly to me. Because they know that I am friendly to Israel and so forth. But they don't know how I really feel about what they're doing to this country, and I have no power and no way to handle them."

Graham also said that the Jewish "stranglehold" on the media "has got to be broken or this country's going down the drain."

In 2002, Graham apologized for the remarks. Grant Wacker, a Duke Divinity School professor who wrote a book about Graham, said Graham was horrified that he said that.

"I don't ever recall having those feelings about any group, especially the Jews, and I certainly do not have them now," Graham said in 2002 when the tape was released. "My remarks did not reflect my love for the Jewish people. I humbly ask the Jewish community to reflect on my actions on behalf of Jews over the years that contradict my words in the Oval Office that day."

"He did not spin it. He did not try to justify it," Wacker told NPR. "He



AFP/Getty Images

**Billy Graham shown in February 1954.**

said repeatedly he had done wrong, and he was sorry." Jewish community leaders accepted his apology—but the relationship would never again be the same.

"We knew that Nixon was an anti-Semite," Abraham Foxman, then the Anti-Defamation League's national director, told JTA at the time, whereas Graham is "a guy we all felt comfortable with... And he was so infected with this virulent anti-Semitism."

Rabbi A. James Rudin, the

AJC's senior interreligious adviser, wrote in a statement Wednesday that Graham regretted his remarks about Jews and Judaism.

"He publicly apologized for them and asked for forgiveness during his 2002 'Crusade' in New York City," Rudin wrote. "I had a private conversation with him at that time, where he expressed deep personal remorse and asked me to convey his sincere apologies to the entire Jewish community."

## Trump cites suffering of Jewish family

WASHINGTON (JTA)—President Donald Trump spoke of the anguish of a Jewish family in commemorating last week's school shooting in Florida.

"I had them in the Oval Office, incredible people," Trump said Friday at CPAC, an influential annual conference for conservatives, describing his meeting with the family of Meadow Pollack. "She had a beautiful, beautiful smile, a beautiful life."

Meadow Pollack was 18 and a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where an expelled classmate opened fire last week, killing 17 people. Her father, Andrew, and her three brothers were a riveting presence last week when Trump convened a meeting for survivors of school shootings at the White House. Andrew Pollack pledged to work with Trump to stop school shootings.

"So full of promise, we wish there was something,

anything we would do to bring Meadow and all the others back," Trump said. "There are not enough tears in the world."

The president went on to say: "No family should never have to go in and suffer the way these families have suffered. A father drops his daughter off at school, kisses her goodbye and waves to her as she's walking up the path and never sees her again."

Trump, received with adoration during the one hour, 20-minute speech, reviewed some of the proposals he has offered since the shooting, including turning schools into "hard targets" by arming some teachers.

He went over his first-year accomplishments, including tax cuts, and gave prominence to fulfilling his campaign pledge to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

"We officially recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel," Trump said to thun-

derous applause. Trump said he understood why other presidents had reneged on the promise because they came under tremendous pressure not to move it after assuming office.

"The campaign against it was so incredible, but you know what, the campaign for it was also incredible and we did the right thing," he said, again prompting cheers.

Trump also noted that he would no longer certify Iranian compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, although he stopped short of saying he would pull out of the agreement trading sanctions relief for rolling back Iran's nuclear program. He decried the Obama administration for releasing frozen Iranian funds to a hostile country after the pact was completed.

"If somebody said death to America while I'm signing an agreement," he said, "I would say what's going on, I'm not signing."

## US embassy moves to Jerusalem in May for Israel's 70th

(JNS)—The United States will move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on May 14, in time for Israel's 70th anniversary, according to a State Department official.

Steven Goldstein, undersecretary of State for public diplomacy, said on Friday that US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had approved a security plan for a "facility" in Jerusalem, the Associated Press reported.

"We're looking at that as a possible date, but safety of the Marines and other people who visit and work there is primary," said Goldstein.

According to the prelimi-

nary plans, US ambassador to Israel David Friedman will move his office, along with a small staff of around four to five people, to a building in Jerusalem known as the Diplomat Hotel, which the State Department acquired in 2014.

However, the move will likely be largely ceremonial for now as the current US embassy in Tel Aviv will be renamed a consulate, but will still continue to house the bulk of the United States' diplomatic staff in Israel.

Additionally, separate reports also indicate that pro-Israel Republican billionaire

donor Sheldon Adelson has offered to pay for at least part of the new US embassy in Jerusalem, four US officials told the Associated Press. State Department lawyers are currently looking into the legality of the offer.

Early last December, President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and set forth plans to relocate the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. At the time, however, officials noted that the embassy move would likely take years as the United States must construct a large and secure enough building to house the embassy.

# What we thought of the Rev. Billy Graham

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS)—Perhaps the saddest thing about the death of the Rev. Billy Graham on Feb. 21, at the age of 99, was the fact that virtually every obituary gave prominent mention to what was arguably his worst moment. Graham was a giant of American evangelism, whose worldwide fame as a preacher eclipsed that of any American religious figure of the 20th century. But it was impossible to do an assessment of a life full of achievements without also talking about the fact that he was caught on tape expressing anti-Semitic sentiments while speaking with former President Richard Nixon.

The comments—in which he spoke of his negative feelings about his many Jewish friends and his belief that a Jewish “stranglehold” on the media was destroying the country—were

indeed despicable. Graham said those words in 1972, not knowing that Nixon’s taping system would preserve them for eternity. When former Nixon aide H.R. Haldeman first revealed them in 1994, few believed the kindly churchman was capable of speaking in that fashion. Years later, when the Nixon library released the tapes in 2002, there was no denying what he said.

Graham publicly apologized and asked the Jewish community for forgiveness. The real damage here was not so much the hurt feelings that the comments caused as much as the way it confirmed the negative opinions that so many in the community already held about Evangelical Christians.

The profound distrust among liberal American Jews bordering on contempt for evangelicals in general and Christian conservatives in particular is so pervasive as to be unremark-

able. That it often crosses over into religious prejudice is something few in the American Jewish community—which tends to think of religious bias as something only done to them, rather than what they can possibly do to others—think actually occurs. Most Jews also rarely consider the vital role these same Christians play in maintaining support for Israel and opposing anti-Semitism.

While his message of faith inspired countless numbers of people who flocked to hear his sermons at his “crusades,” Graham was not a profound religious philosopher. His homespun, God-centered philosophy and strict views about sex was not the sort of things most liberal Jews contemplated with respect.

So in that sense, Jewish opinion about Graham, which was often negative even before the public learned of his conversation with Nixon, illustrates both the difficult nature of the relationship between Jews and evangelicals, as well as the need to rise above negative attitudes that are rooted in the prejudices of the past, rather than on the needs and realities of the present.

The salient point about Graham is not so much what he was taped telling the president, but that in his public life he was an important friend of the Jewish people, even though most Jews often dismissed him as the epitome of a “holly roller” who hated Jews.

Graham was an early and impassioned supporter of Israel. A much-publicized tour of the country in 1960 helped galvanize support for the Jewish state among evangelicals at a time when sympathy for Zionism in this country was far greater among liberals than among conservatives, who were Graham’s base of supporters. He was willing to stand with Israel when it was both popular and unpopular, publicly urging it not to endanger its security and even producing a film about it that’s still popular among Christian audiences. He was also an early and influential supporter of the cause of freedom for Soviet Jewry.

There will be those who will look back on his anti-Semitic remarks as “proof” that evangelicals are not sincere about their love for Israel and their friendship for the Jews. But such reasoning ought to be rejected by thinking people.

As George Will pointed out in a not particularly sympathetic appreciation of Graham in *The Washington Post*, the famous preacher’s predilection for fawning over world leaders (including Britain’s Queen Elizabeth, as viewers of Netflix’s series “*The Crown*” learned) may have been the real reason for his comments to Nixon. One can, as he put it, “acquit him of anti-Semitism only by convicting him of toadying.”

Tobin on page 15A

## Comedian Sarah Silverman: Whose side are you on?

By Stephen M. Flatow

(JNS)—Stop the presses! A vulgar American Jewish comedian has praised a Palestinian teenage girl who assaulted an Israeli soldier. Put it on the front page!

The comedian, Sarah Silverman, recently sent out a tweet demanding that Israel release Ahd Tamimi, the Palestinian teenager who staged a video in which she repeatedly slapped a soldier in the Israel Defense Forces. Tamimi tried, but failed, to provoke the soldier to respond in a way that would make useful propaganda.

“Jews have to stand up even when—especially when—the wrongdoing is by Jews/the Israeli government,” Silverman pompously declared. She didn’t bother to explain what it was that was “wrong” about the Israeli authorities arresting someone who assaulted a soldier. In Silverman’s little bubble, everyone “knows” that it’s wrong to arrest a photogenic Palestinian teenager.

I’m never impressed when I hear an actress or entertainer comment on political issues. It’s like me having a say on recent advances in dentistry.

But I’m old-fashioned, I guess. Because in today’s culture, celebrities in the entertainment industry are treated with reverence. Their opinions, on issues that they know nothing about, carry weight. They are sometimes even looked upon as potential political candidates.

Even comedians, whose *raison d’être* is to not be taken seriously, are now taken seriously. Their entire lives are built around joking about the world, rather than knowing about it—yet too many people seem willing to pretend that they do know something about it.

I don’t particularly enjoy Sarah Silverman’s vulgar brand of humor. Variety magazine once characterized her style as “foul-mouthed charm.” I, for one, don’t find a foul mouth charming at all. Nor do I find Silverman’s rape jokes very amusing. And frankly, in today’s #MeToo world, I’m surprised that anybody else does.

I don’t enjoy Nazi jokes very much, either. In 2016, she appeared on Conan O’Brien’s show dressed as Adolf Hitler, as part of a bit in which she said, in effect, that Donald Trump was worse than Hitler.

What I enjoy least of all about Silverman is the way in which she uses her Jewish identity as a hammer with which to pound Israel.

Obviously, I’m not disputing a comedian’s right to express her opinions about political

events in other countries, although I do find it curious when someone who does not seem to be part of the organized Jewish community suddenly has very specific opinions on Israeli politics.

Just before the 2015 Israeli elections, Silverman sent out a tweet appealing to Israelis to vote for the extreme-left Meretz Party. In 2017, she contributed to a book called “Save Israel, Stop Occupation,” in which she wrote: “Of all people, Jews know the bitterness of being oppressed—and not being in our own country. That’s what makes the occupation all so ironic.”

What’s ironic is that Silverman is complaining about an “occupation” that ended in 1995. I guess she wasn’t paying attention that year, when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin withdrew Israel’s forces from the areas where 98 percent of the Palestinian Arabs live. I guess she never heard of the Palestinian Authority regime that governs them, or the Palestinian police force, Palestinian courts and Palestinian schools they run.

Maybe Silverman thinks that a two-hour Israeli security operation in a terrorist-infested Palestinian town or the presence of Israeli soldiers along their own border constitutes an “occupation.” If so, then she simply doesn’t understand the meaning of the word.

There’s something else very ironic in all this. On June 18 last year, Silverman posted an Instagram photo of her 19-year-old Israeli nephew on the occasion of his birthday. She obviously feels a strong personal connection to him, and that’s sweet. “This baby is now a 19-year-old soldier,” she wrote, with a photo of him as a toddler next to a photo of him in his army uniform. “OY. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, @adar\_abramowitz\_silverman I LOVE YOU A ZILLION!!”

See the irony? The 17-year-old Palestinian teenager Silverman is now saluting so openly assaulted a young Israeli soldier who is no different than the teenage nephew the comedian loves and is so proud of. Her nephew, Adar, could just as easily have been on the receiving end of Ahd Tamimi’s slaps and taunts.

Sorry, Sarah! You can’t have it both ways. You have to choose: Ahd or Adar? The vicious assaulter or the soldier protecting his country?

Whose side are you on?

*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.*

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

☆ ☆ ☆ CENTRAL FLORIDA'S INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICE ☆ ☆ ☆		
ISSN 0199-0721 Winner of 46 Press Awards		
<b>HERITAGE</b> FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS		
HERITAGE Florida Jewish News (ISSN 0199-0721) is published weekly for \$37.95 per year to Florida addresses (\$46.95 for the rest of the US) by HERITAGE Central Florida Jewish News, Inc., 207 O'Brien Road, Suite 101, Fern Park, FL 32730. Periodicals postage paid at Fern Park and additional mailing offices.		
POSTMASTER: Send address changes and other correspondence to: HERITAGE, P.O. Box 300742, Fern Park, FL 32730.		
MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 300742 Fern Park, FL 32730 email: news@orlandoheritage.com	PHONE NUMBER (407) 834-8787 FAX (407) 831-0507	Editor/Publisher Jeffrey Gaeser Editor Emeritus Gene Starn Associate Editor Kim Fischer News Editor Christine DeSouza Society Editor Gloria Yousha Office Manager Paulette Alfonso Account Executives Kim Fischer • Marci Gaeser Contributing Columnists Jim Shipley • Ira Sharkansky David Bornstein • Ed Ziegler Production Department David Lehman • Gil Dombrosky Joyce Gore

## A change in common parlance doesn't change the facts

By Ben Cohen

(JNS)—I interviewed Mateusz Morawiecki, the prime minister of Poland, during his September visit to New York. The public-relations maven who arranged the meeting pitched Morawiecki—then still deputy prime minister—as a rising star anxious to allay concerns in the Jewish community about controversial legislation (which was signed into law on Feb. 6) regarding terminology and the Holocaust.

Indeed, when we sat down for our conversation, Morawiecki advanced the case that Jews and Poles have a common interest in commemorating the brutalities of the Nazi occupation together. Phrases like “Polish death camps” and “Polish concentration camps” (which the new law now considers a crime to actually use) should be excised from public vocabulary, he said, because they do a disservice to both Jews and Poles (Nodding while taking notes, I told him that most Jews agree wholeheartedly with that complaint, and that it really wasn’t so controversial.) He wanted more understanding and more attention paid to the sufferings of the Polish nation during the war. (Again, I briefly interjected that this was also a goal that Jews could empathize with—just as we commemorate disabled victims of the ghastly eugenics program launched by the Nazis and gay men incarcerated in concentration camps, as well the 500,000 Romani gypsies exterminated on the grounds of their “racial impurity,” and so on.)

The way Morawiecki spoke, you would have thought that the Holocaust was an exclusively Jewish affair. But no credible Holocaust scholar has ever argued that the genocidal anti-Semitism that drove the Nazi conquest of Europe claimed only Jewish lives. As smooth and as polished as I found Morawiecki—who, like many of Eastern Europe’s more capable politicians, is well-traveled, speaks excellent English and, in his case, studied at Northwestern University outside Chicago—I left our encounter mildly disturbed by some of the questionable, even bizarre, claims that punctuated a message that was on the surface reasonable, even to the point of being unremarkable.

That unease has been borne out by the manner in which Poland has revised the Holocaust in the intervening time frame. The right-wing nationalists currently ruling Poland want to recast the Nazi extermination program as the “Polocaust,” a word coined this week by the country’s Deputy Culture Minister Jaroslaw Sellin when he urged the construction of a new museum dedicated to this topic.

In this rubric, talking about the suffering of ordinary Poles isn’t enough. The aim is to present the Holocaust as a largely Polish affair, with 6 million Polish victims, half of whom happened to be Jews but who are being reclaimed, in keeping with the Warsaw government’s present imperatives, as Poles

first. Ironic really, given that many of the Poles who lived through the Nazi occupation—such as the pro-German Swietokrzyska Brigade, which fled westwards with the Nazis in 1945, and whose graves in Munich were visited by Marowiecki on Feb. 17—would violently disagree with that assertion.

A good deal of the motive here is financial. Although Germany paid out more than \$1 billion to Poland in wartime compensation in the mid-1990s, the country wants more, and its leaders hold up the reparations paid to Jewish communities as an example of how Jewish victimhood has been elevated above Polish victimhood. And while Morawiecki told me in September that he could foresee some of that money going to Jewish individuals and institutions, the way the legislation has been framed means that it’s virtually impossible for anyone who is not a Polish citizen to receive any future compensation.

On top of this comes a slew of myths and half-truths, all of which help to shape our understanding of the “Polocaust.” One of the stranger assertions I heard from Marowiecki was that non-Jews who rescued Jews from the clutches of the Nazis elsewhere in occupied Europe were, if caught, subjected to a mere fine. But in Poland, he continued, saving Jews was a much riskier business because it brought a death sentence. This is dangerous nonsense, of course, and an insult to citizens in countries across Europe who were murdered because they were caught sheltering Jews. As sensitive and angry as Poland’s leaders are about their own wartime record, they have few qualms about belittling the contributions of others in those long, dark years of resistance to Hitler.

Ultimately, this is not a bad-tempered debate about history, but a concerted political campaign about the present. A number of Polish politicians, including a senior adviser to the president, have turned on Israel in the process, surmising that its policies toward the Palestinians are the result of the shame that Jews feel from having passively gone to the slaughter during World War II. Small wonder, then, that someone in Israel decided to daub the Polish embassy in Tel Aviv with obscenities, even if a more constructive response would have been to ask where, exactly, the Polish resistance was in April 1943, when the Jewish fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto rose in a heroic, bloody uprising against the far better-armed and more numerous Germans.

Only one other country today wields the Holocaust as a weapon to bash Israel and the Jews: Iran. That a member state of the European Union now finds itself in the company of Tehran’s deniers and revisionists should give pause. Yet European governments have looked the other way as Poland reinvents the Holocaust as the “Polocaust,” conveniently deciding that this is one of those things that should be written off as an “internal matter.”

Of such platitudes are moral disasters borne.

# Iran's takeover of Lebanon

By Joshua S. Block

Not long ago, I authored a column for The Boston Herald warning of yet another Middle East humanitarian crisis in the making. Sadly, that prediction appears well on its way to becoming reality.

Lebanon was once one of the most progressive and liberal countries in the Middle East. Beirut was a center of culture and finance and often referred to as the "Paris of the Middle East."

Years of sectarian warfare and conflict resulted in weak, unstable governments that were held together by a delicate power-sharing arrangement among the various religious/political factions. One of those fac-

tions is Hezbollah, the radical Shia terrorist organization backed by Iran. Hezbollah has always held significant power in Lebanon, especially in the south along Israel's northern border.

Sensing another opportunity to expand its dominance in the region, Iran has spent vast sums of cash to support and expand Hezbollah's military capacity in Lebanon. In Syria, the terror group fights alongside Iranian and Syrian troops to support the murderous regime of Bashar Assad.

Iran's objectives are clear—use Hezbollah to achieve complete control in Lebanon, create a land bridge under a Shiite Caliphate to the Mediterranean Sea, and threaten Israel with sophisticated weapons capable of inflict-

ing massive destruction on Israel's largest cities.

Hezbollah is armed with 150,000 missiles and rockets, effectively allowing them to saturation bomb Israeli population centers with 1,500 rockets and missiles per day for over three months.

The recent aggression launched by Iran against Israel on February 10 indicates that Iran is becoming more brazen and self-assured—a development that can be tied directly to the misguided Iran nuclear deal, which unshackled the regime in Tehran and filled its coffers with cash. It doesn't require the services of a forensic accountant to see how the Mullahs are spending the money.

Worse, Iran and its proxies have structured their forces in Syria and Lebanon

to guarantee mass casualties during the next conflict with Israel—a strategy meant to ensure swift international condemnation of Israel's right to self-defense. Hezbollah's military infrastructure is embedded in the civilian population. Rockets, bombs and rifles have been hidden in homes and under schools and hospitals—to ensure that any future war with Israel will be catastrophic and that Israel will be blamed for the consequences, regardless of the facts.

This latest attack is clearly a sign that Iran is testing Israel's red lines in preparation for a new confrontation. It is important that Israel sends a clear message to Iran, Hezbollah and Assad: any attack on Israel comes with a terrible price.

Now that Hezbollah—and by extension, Iran—has achieved what amounts to complete political and military control of Lebanon, that message has never been more urgent.

Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, said that Hezbollah will use its recently acquired advanced missiles against Israel's nuclear installations and chemical facilities, triggering tens of thousands of casualties.

"Hezbollah's budget, its income, its expenses, everything it eats and drinks, its weapons and rockets, come from the Islamic Republic of Iran," Nasrallah said. "As long as Iran has money, we have money."

The Iran nuclear deal was a good deal for terror and a good deal for Hezbollah. It was a

bad deal for the United States, Europe, the West, Israel, and Lebanon.

The world must demand that Iran and Hezbollah cease their threatening and destabilizing behavior. A confrontation between Israel and Iran, whether directly or through proxies like Hezbollah, will be devastating.

Lebanon was once the jewel of the Middle East. It has been reduced to the status of a client state of an increasingly aggressive, intolerant, and totalitarian Iranian regime.

It is time to hold Iran accountable. Israel and the United States, along with Europe and allied Arab states in the region, must act together to eliminate Iran's presence in Lebanon.

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

## Damned if you do... and Trump and Netanyahu are certainly doing

By Melanie Phillips

(JNS)—Day in and day out, two men—two crucial world leaders—remain under a constant barrage of verbal attacks. They are subjected to an obsessional, unhinged and unprecedented stream of abuse, distortion, character assassination and malicious fantasies.

If you haven't guessed, they are Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Donald J. Trump. The campaign against them signifies a cultural disorder in the West that borders on the pathological.

Netanyahu certainly has his faults. One might list arrogance, moral cowardice and his tendency to be a control freak. He doesn't take criticism well. He has failed to organize his government to deal with the psy-ops war waged so devastatingly against Israel in the court of Western public opinion. And maybe, who knows, some of the multiple

corruption charges against him will stick.

Yet his achievements are formidable. Netanyahu enabled Israel to survive the sustained attempts to weaken it by President Barack Obama, arguably the most hostile American president to date regarding Israel. Netanyahu has led the Jewish state to become a dynamo in the fields of technology and R&D in large measure because of his liberalization of the Israeli economy. He has opened up new alliances through the pivot to Asia. He has held the line against the Palestinian/European axis of attrition. And he is riding the wave of a new regional order involving alliances with Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

In Israel and among the Western intelligentsia, however, it's hard to overestimate the loathing he provokes. His achievements are ignored or blatantly dismissed. Instead, he is blamed (ludicrously) for preventing a solution to the

Middle East impasse. No less risibly, he was held responsible for Obama's hostility for eight years running. He is said to be an incipient dictator, a racist ethno-nationalist and an "alt-Zionist." These are not criticisms; these are ravings.

Over in the United States, Trump certainly has his faults. One might list his zero concentration span, his disregard for detail, his carelessness with accuracy, his reckless and compulsive tweeting, his coarse and bombastic talk, and his failure to take criticism.

Yet his achievements after only one year in office are formidable. He presides over a booming economy with huge job growth; he is restoring the rule of law to immigration; he's rolling back regulation; he's made stellar appointments to the judiciary; he's forcing Saudi Arabia to reform; and is confronting Iran, the United Nations and the Palestinians.

It's impossible, however, to

overestimate the contempt and horror with which he is viewed. He is accused of being racist and anti-Semitic, of undermining the rule of law, of behaving like Mussolini. While not a shred of evidence supports the claims against him of colluding with Russia, there is mounting evidence that elements of the FBI and justice department under the Obama administration have acted illegally against him.

The Democrats are talking wildly of impeaching him. They'll decide on the nature of his crime later. This is not open position; this is derangement.

So why are both men being treated like this? In Israel, it's easier to blame Netanyahu than face up to the terrifying complexities of the existential war being waged against it and the difficult choices that need to be made.

In America, Trump provokes such a frenzied reaction because he operates outside all conventions. He challenges unchallengeable liberal or-

thodoxies on immigration, national identity and victim culture, and he exposes the frailties on his own Republican side.

Where both he and Netanyahu succeed is in speaking for the great middling center of their electorates—the ordinary people who observe with silent astonishment and fury how the cultural and political establishment not only ignores their concerns, but deems them illegitimate.

Middle Israel understands that the difficult and dangerous status quo with the Palestinians is nevertheless inevitable given their persistent rejectionism. Middle America understands that under Obama, the rule of law was eroded through illegal immigration, the weaponization of the IRS against conservative groups and the support of black-power activists against the police.

That's why they voted for Netanyahu and Trump. And that's why the liberal estab-

lishment responsible for this onslaught on the culture not only damns Netanyahu and Trump, but also the public who voted for them.

In an article in Tablet, writer Paul Berman wrings his hands over Trump's election. He runs through some explanations offered by fellow hand-wringer Thomas B. Edsall, who in a column in The New York Times points to the "material grievances of the white working class," and "racist animosities toward the blacks and the latest immigrants, together with a surly hatred of the bicoastal snobs."

Berman, however, thinks the real reason for Trump's election was nothing less than a "broad cultural collapse." He writes: "It is a collapse, at minimum, of civic knowledge—a collapse in the ability to identify political reality, a collapse in the ability to recall the nature of democracy and the American ideal. An intel-

Phillips on page 15A

### Letters To The Editor

We are a diverse community and we welcome your letters and viewpoints. The views and opinions expressed in the opinion pieces and letters published in The Heritage are the views of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Heritage Florida Jewish News or its staff. The Heritage reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, content, and accuracy. And respectful of lashon hara, we will not print derogatory statements against any individual.

Please limit letters to 250 words. Send letters to P.O. Box 300742, Fern Park, FL 32730. Or e-mail to news@orlandoheritage.com.

### Action must be taken on gun control, NOW

Dear Editor:

After so many mass shootings in America, including our schools, why is there not action being taken in the area of gun control? The evidence shows that a reduction in guns reduces violence and gun deaths, not only in states with increased gun control, but also in other countries. When it comes to protecting our Constitution, we should know that the laws of our land require judges to balance our rights. Just as our first amendment rights are not unlimited, the second amendment right is not unlimited. What is so sacred about unlimited gun

rights over protection of human lives, not limited to our college, high school, middle school, elementary school kids? What about protection of all human lives of all ages in shopping centers, movies, theatre, sports events, music concerts, etc.?

Congress is constrained by lawmakers who do nothing but talk about improving background checks, but doing nothing or preventing the mentally ill from getting guns, when the opposite is done through an executive action early in the presidency to increase the right of the mentally ill to get guns. In-

stead of reducing the influx of access to guns in our country, Congress is now voting to reduce the gun control laws by allowing carrying concealed weapons across state lines promoting a vigilante type justice. Lawmakers funded by the NRA are compromised and not interested in saving lives.

Why is anyone not listening to the students who survived the Parkland High School mass shooting? They may be our only hope. Why should an 18-year-old be able to purchase a gun when there is no right to get alcohol at 18? Is a gun a lesser evil than alcohol? Why should an 18-year-old or anyone be able to get an AR-15 or guns used like assault weapons in recent mass shootings? If we do not change our way of thinking and status quo persists, what makes anyone think that the epidemic of mass shootings will stop? We need gun control laws like bans on assault weapons like AR-15, the age for gun purchases should start at age 21, etc. In addition, voters need to know who to vote for in the upcoming midterm elections so that lawmakers compromised and funded by the NRA do not continue to carry out the agendas that

result in loss of so many precious human lives.

To the lawmakers who try to blame the FBI for not following up on the tip that the student wrote on social media that he wants to be professional shooter, yes, that should be investigated and never happen again. But,

that does not shift the burden of responsibility. The burden of responsibility falls on the lawmakers and Congress to enact real gun-control laws because the rights of the gun owners should never outweigh the right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. If our citizens of all ages, and stu-

dents are in fear for our lives and safety in the most sacred environments—our schools, temples, churches, shopping malls, movie theatre, concerts, and in public arenas, how is our constitutional ideal and principles being upheld?

Simone Rosenberg  
Oviedo

### Dry Bones

### The U.S. Embassy



www.drybones.com

# What's Happening

## A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT

**MARCH 2**  
**6:08 p.m.**  
**MARCH 9**  
**6:12 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, MARCH 2

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Congregation Sinai—Annual golf tournament, registration 8 a.m.; shotgun start, 8:30 a.m.; lunch and awards following the game.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Orlando Hadassah—Bunny Rosen Heart Health Luncheon and Fashion Show, The Alford Inn. Couvert: \$45, Info: 407-415-6892.

### MONDAY, MARCH 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.  
 Congregation Beth Am—Mommy and Me class with Cantor Nina Fine, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. \$7 per family; free for CBA members Info: 407-862-3505.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 6

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

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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.  
 Rollins College—Jewish Studies Program presents lecture on legacies of Jewish women. 7 p.m. in the Galloway Room, Mills Building. The lecture is free of charge and open to the community. Info: Dr. Yudit Greenberg, at [ygreenberg@rollins.edu](mailto:ygreenberg@rollins.edu) or call 407-646-2139.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.  
 Congregation Beth Shalom—Services, 7 p.m. Synagogue located at 315 North 13th St. in Leesburg.



## Who wants to have a Purim play?

*Hail, Hail, the gangs all here, celebrating Purim with hands in the air! The Jewish Pavilion Program Director Walter Goldstein had the residents at Kinneret, celebrating the holiday with a Purim play, festive music and hamantashen, with the help of Laurie Goodheim-Levine and Julie Capps. Special thanks to VITAS for supplying the colorful paper good.*

## Quote of the Week

"Memory preserves the threads of sorrow and joys of people, and carries them forth. Forgetfulness betrays not only the past but also the present and future."  
 —Shmayahu Elisha Bloch, member of Bielski Partisans, who died Feb. 4, 2018, at age 93

# 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*.

**What are you missing out on?... Subscribe today!**

YES! I want to be informed. Start my subscription at once.

Please:  enter  extend my subscription for:

- 1 year at \$37.95 52 issues
- 2 years at \$69.95 104 issues
- 1 year out-of-state at \$46.95 or  2 years out-of-state at \$87.95

### MAIL SUBSCRIPTION TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out coupon and mail, with check or credit card information to:

**HERITAGE Florida Jewish News**  
 P.O. Box 300742  
 Fern Park, FL 32730

(407) 834-8787

If different from above, fill in your:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Easy puzzle

"At the Zoo" by Yoni Glatt  
[koshercrosswords@gmail.com](mailto:koshercrosswords@gmail.com)

#### Across

1. Participant in the Second Plague
5. Isaac's sacrificial replacement
8. Balaam's talked
14. Vegas alternative
15. Historical period
16. Grande on the radio
17. Eleazar Maccabee was tragically crushed by one
19. Like some windows and glasses
20. "That when Isaac was old, and his eyes were \_\_\_" (Gen. 27:1)
21. Ending for imp or stamp
22. Den-mate of Daniel, once
23. Genetic link between many Jewish priests
24. "Here, I'll do that"
26. Fibbing
30. "Fiddler on the Roof" matchmaker
32. Rabbi or Doctor, e.g.
34. Shabbat afternoon "activity"
35. Santa \_\_\_ winds
37. Like some characters in Spielberg's "Ready Player One", for short
38. Jezebel was eaten by them
39. Insect that could be kosher
42. They're essential to Rosh Hashana
44. Call \_\_\_ night (end the Seder)
45. Actor Mineo of "Exodus"
46. Tefillin limb
47. Former "Today" co-anchor Matt
49. Pose for another portrait
53. Complicated, as a breakup
55. Goes on the run
57. Angry rock genre
58. Sign of the tribe of Benjamin
60. Aug. or Sept., e.g.
61. Vinyl records, for short
62. Explain the meaning of "life"?
65. Largest kosher animal
67. Those who graduated Brandeis, now
68. "I'll take that as \_\_\_"
69. Assistant
70. Solomon acquired too

many of these

71. Animal best known for being tref
72. "...swift like the \_\_\_" (Pirkei Avot 5:20)

#### Down

1. Elm Street menace Krueger
2. Change the inner layer of a coat again
3. "Band" option for a small simcha
4. Republican letters
5. Duane \_\_\_ (pharmacy chain)
6. Will who voices "Lego Batman"
7. Floor for Aly Raisman
8. "Religious", in Israel
9. Baltimore baseballer
10. Scatterbrain, to a Brit
11. "Kit \_\_\_" (chocolate snack)
12. Tel Aviv to Tiberias Dir.
13. \_\_\_ Vashem (Holocaust memorial)
18. Bonham Carter of the "Harry Potter" films
22. "Unhand me!"
25. Jordan or Jackson
27. "Are you \_\_\_ out?"

28. Be a nudge
29. Waze, e.g. (Abbr.)
31. Installs, as a driveway
33. "... thine own \_\_\_ testify against thee" (Job 15:6)
36. Israel's continent
38. "Drop this," editorially
39. Diamonds and rubies
40. Fill, as a Jewish mother might stereotypically do
41. Weekly Torah reading
42. "Kapow!"
43. Bard's "before"
47. Actress Natasha who went to The Ramaz School
48. "The King of Queens" actress Leah
50. Solo pic, nowadays
51. Get in the way of
52. One flipping a coin
54. Travels by arm and leg across the Galilee
56. Lulav's partner
59. Hawaiian necklaces
62. "Yup", to Boris
63. "Evil Woman" band, for short
64. 22-Across is covered in it
65. \_\_\_ year (spent in Israel, for many students)
66. Fidget spinners, for one

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15			16					
17				18			19					
20			21			22						
23			24			25		26		27	28	29
30			31			32		33		34		
			35			36		37		38		
			39			40		41				
42	43			44			45					
46			47			48		49		50	51	52
53			54			55		56		57		
			58			59		60		61		
62	63	64				65				66		
67						68				69		
70						71				72		

See answers on page 14.

# Who made the hamantashen

By Marilyn Shapiro

One of the nicest things about our community in Florida is our diversity. Often, while I am working out in my exercise class or enjoying a concert or eating in our small bistro, I am struck by the number of people from all cultures, ethnicities, and countries that live here. An example of our melting pot was seen in the Shapiro's Who-Made-the-Hamantashen tale.

In May 2016, my husband, Larry, and I purchased tickets for a Flores de Mayo celebration that was being sponsored by our community's Filipino Club. I had met several of its members through my cardio ballroom dancing class, and they had hyped up the event for several weeks before the May event. "Lots of fun! Great music," one of the organizers told me. "Just bring a dish to share with your table."

Although not familiar with Flores de Mayo, I knew of Cinco de Mayo, the Hispanic celebration held every year on May 5 that involved food and colorful costumes. We bought the tickets and made arrangements to sit with our friends Farida and Abdul whom we first met at a cocktail party for new residents of our 55 plus community.

Farida and I reconnected at the cardio ballroom class and struck up a friendship. She mentioned casually that she was involved in ballet when she lived in Egypt. One day, she shared a picture on her iPhone—a stunning portrait of her as Odette, a

princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. Faridah was not just a dancer, she was a prima ballerina for an Egyptian ballet company. "Faridah," I commented, "you are a ballet dancer like Billy Joel is a piano player!"

Not only was she involved in dance. Her daughter-in-law, a beautiful, vibrant Hispanic woman, taught the class.

I put the event on our calendar for the date in May and tucked the tickets away until I grabbed them on our way out the door. When we arrived at the venue where the event was being held, the lobby filled with women in elaborate Filipino costumes and men in suits. For a moment I thought I was at a formal ball, not a Flores de Mayo program. When we entered the ballroom, we breathed a sigh of relief. Everyone in the audience was dressed in Florida casual—tropical shirts and shorts for men; capris or skirts and nice tops for the women.

We rushed to claim our two seats just as the formal program began. Filipino couples began filing into the room, each group behind a large icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary. No, Flores de Mayo was obviously not related to the Hispanic holiday. Adapting quickly, we sat back and enjoyed the pageantry, the costumes, and the musical and dance entertainment that followed.

I later learned that Flores de Mayo is held each May to celebrate the finding of the True Cross in 320 C.E. by

Helena of Constantinople and her son Constantine the Great, emperor of the Roman Empire. The Santacruzán, which we had observed, is the ritual pageant held on the last day of religious Catholic celebration.

Once the program was over, we were able to say hello to our tablemates. What struck me immediately was the diversity represented not only in the room but at our own table. Larry and I were enjoying a Filipino celebration of the Catholic's Blessed Virgin Mary with Velma, our next door neighbor who was African-American; our friends who had emigrated from Egypt and whose son was married to our Hispanic cardio ballroom instructor; and our down-the-street-neighbor Eileen, whose last name spoke clearly to her husband's Polish ancestry. We all unwrapped our "potluck" snack items: my hummus and chips; Velma's fruit platter; Farida and Mohammed's dukkah, a popular Egyptian dip made up of herbs, nuts and spices; and Eileen's hamantashen.

Hamantashen? "Eileen," I asked. "Did you make the hamantashen?"

"Yes," she said. "An old family favorite."

"I didn't know you were Jewish," I said.

"I'm not," she said. "My mother got the recipe from her German neighbor."

"And she was Jewish?"

"No," Eileen said. "She was Christian like us. She told me it was an old Russian recipe."

So here were Larry and I,



two Jews, at a table celebrating a Filipino Catholic holiday with an African-American, two Muslims whose grandchildren were half Hispanic, and a Christian who made the best hamantashen I had ever eaten. Who knew?

The following March, I was in Colorado baby-sitting for my granddaughter during Purim. Larry called me to tell me that someone had dropped off a plate of hamantashen. He didn't recognize the woman, so I asked him to describe her.

"She is a woman about your age and your height with grey hair," he said.

"That describes half the women in our community," I said. "Maybe it was someone from the Shalom Club." I listed a number of names with no success.

It wasn't until I returned that I realized who had dropped off the hamantashen. While getting ready for my

cardio ballroom class that was being taught by the Hispanic daughter-in-law of my Muslim friend, I spotted Eileen lining up in the back of the room.

"Eileen, did you bring hamantashen over to Larry last week?" I asked.

"Yes," Eileen said. "I don't think Larry recognized me."

"No, he didn't," I said. "But he loved them and even saved some for me. How did you know it was Purim?"

"What's Purim?"

It didn't matter. Eileen's hamantashen, no matter what her background, are the best. And her hamantashen will be served in our home this Purim. Chag Samaech!

*Marilyn Shapiro lives in Kissimmee. She writes regularly for the Jewish World in Schenectady, and published her book "There Goes My Heart," which is available on Amazon. You may also follow her on her blog, theregoesmy-heart.me.*

Construction, Remodels, Additions, Handyman does most anything

**Ricardo Torres — Handyman**  
407-221-5482  
Available in Central Florida Area • References Available

**Discover 25 Unique Hands-On Attractions!**

- Turn your coloring page into a real-life adventure!
- Design a swirly whirly masterpiece with melted wax!
- Name your own crayon!

Buy tickets online and **Save \$5.00 Off Admission**  
Tickets.CrayolaExperience.com  
Enter Code: **HeritageFL**  
The Florida Mall • 407.757.1700

# Precious are the pearls of the Jewish Pavilion

By Julie Capps

On Jan. 20, the Jewish Pavilion held its annual Pearls of the Pavilion luncheon to honor those who go above and beyond to support the Jewish Pavilion. During her opening remarks, Miriam Josephs, event co-chair, shared the true definition of a pearl with attendees.

"One that is very choice or precious," said Josephs.

And for the Jewish Pavilion, supporters invited to the event truly are precious, as the group's generous annual contribution is an important component of funding that allows the nonprofit to continue servicing and providing programming to over 1500 Jewish seniors who reside in over 73 elder-care facilities throughout Central Florida.

The luncheon was held at the home of famed jewelry designer Gay Harrison of Gay Harrison Handcrafted

Couture Jewelry, and co-chaired by Josephs and Elise Schilowitz. The event gave over 35 women the chance to raise money for the important cause while enjoying a lovely lunch.

Upon arrival, each attendee was gifted with a strand of beautiful hand-knotted freshwater peacock pearls designed by Harrison and featuring a jaguar-styled clasp adorned with crystals.

With a little encouragement from the ladies in the know, guests were given the opportunity to shop the latest accessories to be found in the Gay Harrison jewelry collection, with a generous donation going back to the Jewish Pavilion. From statement necklaces to colorful bangle bracelets, there were plenty of beautiful options to choose from.

After a period of shopping and fellowship, an extraordinary gourmet meal from

Bagel King was served. Following the lunch, Harrison gave a presentation on upcoming trends in jewelry for the spring season. According to Harrison, trends to watch for include the light and airy look, tassels, the multi-strand look and gemstones, particularly baroque pearls. Guests were also provided with a guide on how to choose the correct-sized necklace for varying fashion necklines.

The benefit to becoming a pearl of the Jewish Pavilion is multi-faceted, according to Elise Schilowitz. "Not only do you get a magnificent piece of jewelry," she laughingly said, "but you meet wonderful people, and you help so much with seniors."

Interested in becoming a Pearl with the Jewish Pavilion? Contact Jewish Pavilion Executive Director Nancy Ludin at 407-678-9363 or email: NancyLudin@jewish-pavilion.org.

The Jewish Pavilion enhances the lives of residents in independent, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities throughout Cen-



Attendees of the Pearls of the Pavilion luncheon enjoyed shopping for jewelry.

tral Florida by providing visitation, Shabbat services, holiday festivities, inter-generational celebrations, musical programs and edu-

cational courses. 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>.

## Bat Mitzvah

*Lily Paige Rebar*

Lily Paige Rebar, daughter of Daron and Tracy Rebar of Orlando, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday, March 11, 2018, at Congregation Ohev Shalom in Maitland, Fla.

Lily is in the seventh grade at Lake Highland Prep where she is a member of the dance team. Her hobbies and interests include dance, being with friends, going to the beach, big hair bows and spending time with family.

Sharing in the family's simcha will be Lily's brother, Marshall; grandparents, Carol and Gene Rintels, Joyce Thompson, and Skip and Judy Rebar.



## Is your teen seeking answers to the "big" questions?

By Brooke Wilczewski

Calling any Jewish teen interested in developing a deeper understanding of Jewish politics, economy, and philosophy to attend the Tikvah Institute's Maimonides Scholar program. This summer, from June 24 through July 8 at Yale University, Rabbi Mark Gottlieb is introducing a new cultural and historical enrichment program for Jewish teens to

encourage people to come and ask the "big questions" about fundamental Jewish texts and values. The Tikvah Institute for High School Scholars has announced a new summer program in partnership with the Maimonides Fund.

Throughout the program, students will be immersed in an academic, open-minded environment that is meant to facilitate debate and provoke new profound thoughts and ideas about different facets of Judaism and its ideals. According to Rabbi Gottlieb, "We don't want those who don't come with an agenda. We want the participants to learn as they help each other to ask the hard, big questions. In this program, we are more interested in a quest for knowledge and understanding, not the solutions. We want to implore everyone to feel comfy and connect in a different way that they are used to... Welcoming those who have never done anything extremely 'Jewish,' to those that are really involved in their synagogues. We want to facilitate the building of bridges in the Jewish communities."

With messages of curiosity and camaraderie in the search for a deeper knowledge and understanding of what makes us Jewish and what that means, Gottlieb urges those young Jewish teens around the country, no matter religious affiliation or other schools of thoughts, to come ready to dive deep into thought and education.

While diving deep into the learning aspect of this short, yet highly informational, summer program, students will also adventure around and outside of this college town to give program attendees a fun and educational experience that they will never forget. One venture that Rabbi Gottlieb specifically emphasized is a field trip to



Tikvah Summer Program alumni Frances Hoffen (l) of Central Florida with Rabbi Mark Gottlieb, senior director of the Tikvah Fund and dean of the Tikvah Summer Institute at Yale University.

the Touro Synagogue where George Washington delivered his address on religious toleration, and is the oldest synagogue in continuous use in North America. Here, teens will participate in dramatic readings of the speeches delivered by the Newport, Rhode Island Jews to George Washington and the speech back from Washington to the Jews. Additional outings, such as a Fourth of July barbecue, will allow the students to socialize and create memories with other highly inquisitive Jewish teens like themselves, a rare opportunity for any deep-thinking Jewish teen.

Rabbi Gottlieb, ecstatic to be introducing this new opportunity, was sure to mention that participants come from all walks of Jewish life: non-religious Jews, Liberal Jews, Conservative Jews, Orthodox Jews that

live without a large Jewish community, or even Jewish kids coming from Catholic schools. In addition, he emphasized that if parents or potential attendees have any questions, they should not hesitate to reach out because, just as there are a multitude of ways to practice Judaism that unite to form a belief system and culture for everybody, this Jewish enrichment opportunity remains a healthy and open-minded environment to experience and learn about Jewish philosophy, culture, and values.

For more information or to apply please visit <http://www.MaimonidesScholars.org>

Brooke Wilczewski is a high school senior from the Mid America Omaha region of BBG. She was part of the press corp at the BBYO International Convention in Orlando.

## Little ones bring smiles to seniors



"The phrase *L'Dor L'Dor*—from Generation to Generation—encapsulates the essence of good Jewish parenting," said Nancy Ludin, executive director of the Jewish Pavilion.

Shown here (top photo) are the children in the *Mishpacha Sheli* class from Ohev Shalom who brought a bit of sunshine and flowers to residents of Savannah Court in Maitland.

Shown in the photo to the right is Alison Klein, daughter of Jessica and Matt Klein of Orlando, making smiling faces with a resident. (The Klein's other daughter, Jennifer, is seated far right on the couch in the group picture.)





# Scene Around

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

## The NRA spends millions...

(I'm just saying.)  
This is a recent statement from the American Federation of Teachers: (AFT) President RANDI WEINGARTEN on the Florida school shooting;

"This is the 18th school shooting this year. At least 17 people were killed today. May their memories be a blessing, but when is enough enough?"

"We are devastated and horrified by yet another school shooting in our nation. The trauma and tragedy inflicted on the children, educators and parents of the Stoneman Douglas community can't begin to be measured in this moment.

"We've been in close contact with our union leadership in the Broward Teachers Union all afternoon, and we will do everything we can to support our educators, children, parents and local in the days, weeks and even years to come.

"As we've sadly learned, the devastation and trauma of school shootings require years of healing and support. We will be there today, tomorrow and however long it takes to help the Stoneman Douglas community, and we will continue to fight to prevent gun violence from becoming the new normal in our schools."

(Good luck, Ms Weingarten. You're gonna need it!)

## Finally, some positive news...

I read this in the World Jewish Congress (WJC) digest and pass it along:

"The WJC is proud to join YouTube's Trusted Flagger Program, designed by the preeminent video platform to effectively monitor user generated content for offensive material and to help create a safer and more tolerant digital space.

The WJC and other partners will help the internet company sort through the millions of videos uploaded every day to actively report hate speech videos and ensure that YouTube is aware of every element promoting anti-Semitism, hate, Holocaust denial and other intolerant content in its platform.

The WJC has actively engaged with social media platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, and Google to cooperate on methods of combating this phenomenon.

Early this year, the WJC also launched a campaign to expose and remove Arabic-language anti-Semitic content on social media platforms, beginning with YouTube.

## Reminder...

On Sunday, March 4th at 2 p.m. in the Social Hall, the Congregation Ohev Shalom (COS) Seniors will hold their fabulous meeting, entertainment and refreshments!

Klezmer music will be featured, so singing and dancing will be almost impossible to ignore. (Wear your dancing shoes and clear your throats!)

Everyone is welcome and the price of admission is the same for all, \$5. This also includes the refreshments that follow. (And my cookies!)

Congregation Ohev Shalom is located at 613 Concourse Parkway South in Maitland.

For further information, phone co-presidents, BERNYRAFF,



Randi Weingarten



Toby Vandemark

407-767-6763 or JERRYLEIBMAN, 407-694-0546.

(DON'T EAT MY COOKIES!)

## Jewish Pavilion Mensch...

Kudos to TOBY VANDEMARK, Jewish Pavilion treasurer, who serves on the board of directors while living in North Carolina.

Toby became active with the organization about eight years ago while living in Winter Park. With her expertise in computers, she helped the Pavilion select Sales Force as their data base, set up and maintains their system.

Toby also became active years ago with the financials and helps with all areas of book-keeping.

"Toby is our website aficionado," says NANCY LUDIN, executive director of the Jewish Pavilion. Toby advises and works with many aspects of the Jewish Pavilion website.

Ludin concludes, "While board attendance is important, it is the work that board members do when they are not at meetings that makes all the difference in the world."

## JCC 39ers...

Game Day Tuesdays is the name of the game. On any Tuesday beginning at 1 p.m., the Senior Lounge is filled with 39ers playing their favorite games... Mah jongg, Dominoes, Canasta, Pinochle and Bridge are included and there is always room for a new game! (I like Poker!)

## Shout-Out...

I must commend CHAD AYCRIGG, host, and RACHEL RITTER, waitress, for their superb service recently at the Outback Restaurant on Aloma Avenue, Winter Park. I hope someone shows this shout-out to manager TONY DIAZ!

## One for the road...

Although married, Moshe is infatuated with Mary, his secretary. So one afternoon he takes a chance and says to her, "Let's go back to your place."

To Moshe's surprise, Mary smiles and says, "What a good idea, Moshe. Yes, I'd love to."

They get to her house and make mad passionate love all afternoon. Then, totally exhausted, they fall asleep and don't wake up until 7 p.m.

"Oy vay," shouts Moshe, jumping out of her bed, "just look at the time."

As he's getting dressed, Moshe tells Mary to take his shoes into the garden and rub them thoroughly into the wet mud and grass. She does what she's told even though she doesn't know why. Moshe finishes dressing, puts on his shoes and drives home.

As soon as he opens his front door, there's his wife Rifka waiting for him. "So, where have you been?" demands Rifka, angrily.

"Darling, I can't lie to you," replies Moshe. "I've been having an affair with my secretary and we've been making love all afternoon. Then I fell asleep and didn't wake up until 7 o'clock."

Rifka takes one look at his shoes and says, "You lying momzer. You've been playing golf again."

# Personal seal of prophet Isaiah believed to be uncovered in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (JTA)—An impression of what is believed to be the 2,700-year-old personal seal of the prophet Isaiah was uncovered in Jerusalem.

Isaiah lived during the eighth century BCE and prophesied about the return of the Jews from the Babylonian exile.

Israeli archaeologist Eilat Mazar of the Hebrew University reported on her discovery

Thursday in the Biblical Archaeology Review magazine.

The impression of the seal, or bulla, was found during excavations in the area just below the southern wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The seal was found about 10 feet from where a seal of King Hezekiah was found three years ago.

The seal bore the name of Isaiah in Hebrew and is

followed by the first three letters of the Hebrew word for prophet, or Navi. The aleph is missing and it is not clear if it was on the seal but was too damaged or did not appear on the seal, meaning that it belonged to someone else named Isaiah. The fact that it was found so close to a seal of King Hezekiah lends credence to the theory that it belonged to the prophet, however.

"Whether or not the bulla we found in the Ophel excavations is the bulla of the prophet Isaiah, it remains, nevertheless, a unique and fantastic discovery," Mazar wrote in the article, according to The Times of Israel.

Isaiah is believed to have served as a spiritual adviser to the king. There are several biblical references to meetings between the two men.

# Taylor Force's family to receive award

NEW YORK—The World Values Network is honored to announce that Stuart and Robbi Force along with their daughter Kristen, will receive an award at The Sixth Annual Champions of Jewish Values International Awards Gala, which will be held on March 8, in memory of their late son,

Taylor, who was tragically killed in Tel Aviv two years ago at the hands of Palestinian terrorists.

Force was a West Point graduate and an Army captain who served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Force was on tour in Israel at the time as a private citizen with a group

of graduate students from Vanderbilt University. Ten other students were wounded in the attack. Force was the only fatality.

His parents have been responsible for championing, "The Taylor Force Act" which would stop American economic aid to the Pal-

estinian Authority until the PA changes its laws to cease paying stipends to the families of deceased terrorists. On Dec. 5, The Taylor Force Act passed through the House of Representatives with both sides of the house saying the bill's passage was long over-due.

# HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

can be purchased at the following locations:

## ORANGE COUNTY

JCC, 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland • JCC South, 11184 South Apopka-Vineland Rd., Orlando • Kinneret, 515 South Delaney Ave., Orlando • SOJC, 11200 S. Apopka Vineland Rd., Orlando • Brown's New York Deli, 156 Lake Ave., Maitland • Most Publix Supermarkets • All Winn Dixie Supermarkets

## SEMINOLE COUNTY

Heritage News, 207 O'Brien Rd., Fern Park • Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 451 E. Altamonte Dr. Suite 2317, Altamonte Springs & 1260 Oviedo Marketplace Blvd., Oviedo • Bagel King, 1472 Semoran Blvd., Casselberry • Kosher Kats, 744 W. S.R. 434, Longwood • Central Florida Hillel, 4250 Alafaya Trail, Ste. 212-363, Oviedo Most Publix Supermarkets • All Winn Dixie Supermarkets

## VOLUSIA COUNTY

Federation of Volusia/Flagler, 470 Andalusia Ave., Ormond Beach • Most Publix Supermarkets • All Winn Dixie Supermarkets • Barnes & Noble, 1900 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach • Perrys Ocean Edge Resort, 2209 South Atlantic Ave. Daytona Beach • Debary City Hall • Debary Library • Vienna Coffee House, 275 Charles Richard Beall Bl • Starbucks, 2575 Enterprise Rd • Orange City City Hall • Orange City Library • Dunkin Donuts, 1296 S Woodland • Stetson University Carlton Union • Deland Chamber of Commerce • Sterling House, 1210 Stone St • Temple Israel, 1001 E New York Ave • Beth Shalom, 1310 Maximillan St • Deltona City Hall • Deltona Library • Temple Shalom, 1785 Elkam Dr. • Temple Israel, 1001 E New York Ave, Deland • College Arms Apt, 101 Amelia Ave, Deland • Boston Gourmet Coffee House, 109 E. New York Ave, Deland • Stetson University Carlton Union, 421 N Woodland Ave, Deland • Family Bookstore, 1301 N Woodland Ave, Deland • Deland Chamber of Commerce, 336 Woodland Ave, Deland • Deland City Hall, 120 S Florida Ave, Deland • Beth Shalom, 206 S. Sprng Garden Ave, Deland • Orange City Library, 148 Albertus Way, Orange City • Boston Gourmet Coffee House, 1105 Saxon Blvd, Deltona • Deltona Library, 2150 Eustace Ave, Deltona • Temple Shalom, 1785 Elkam Dr., Deltona • Deltona Community Center, 980 Lakeshore Dr, Deltona • Debary City Hall, 16 Colombia Rd, Debary • Debary Library, 200 Florence K. Little, Debary

## OSCEOLA COUNTY

Cindy M. Rothfield, P.A., 822 W. Bryan St., Kissimmee • Most Publix Supermarkets • Verandah Place Realty, 504 Celebration Ave., Celebration • All Winn Dixie Supermarkets • St. Cloud City Hall, 1300 9th St, St. Cloud • St. Cloud Library, 810 13th St, St. Cloud • Southern Oaks, 3865 Old Canoe Creek Rd, St. Cloud • Plantation Bay, 4641 Old Canoe Creek Rd, St. Cloud • Osceola Chamber of Commerce, 1425 Hwy 192, St. Cloud • Valencia College, 1800 Denn John Ln, Kissimmee • Kissimmee City Hall, 101 Church St, Kissimmee • Kissimmee Library, 211 E. Dakin, Kissimmee • Robinson's Coffee Shop, 114 Broadway, Kissimmee • Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Sq, Kissimmee • Barnies, 3236 John Young Pwy, Kissimmee • Reily's Gourmet Coffee, 3831 Vine St, Kissimmee • Shalom Aleichem, 3501 Oak Pointe Blvd, Kissimmee • Books-A-Million, 2605 W. Osceola Pwy (522), Kissimmee • Lower East Side Deli, 8548 Palm Parkway, Lake Buena

## Sudoku (see page 14 for solution)

### SUDOKU

The support you need to find quality

## SENIOR LIVING SOLUTIONS

A Place for Mom has helped over one million families find senior living solutions that meet their unique needs.

There's no cost to you!

CALL (855) 439-6734

! We're paid by our partner communities



5	4		6		7			
2			1			7	5	
		7						
4	1				2			
	7	9				5	1	
			7				9	4
						4		
	2	4			6			7
			9		8		2	5

© StatePoint Media

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

# These Jewish women say celebrating Purim in the #MeToo era is different



Lior Zaltzman

Female rabbis said the themes related to gender in the Purim narrative take on an added significance in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

By Josefina Dolsten

NEW YORK (JTA)—When Meredith Jacobs was taught the Purim story as a little girl in the 1970s and '80s, Esther was made out to be its heroine, while Queen Vashti was its "evil queen." According to the Book of Esther, Vashti was banished by her husband, the Persian King Ahasuerus, for refusing his order to display herself wearing her crown in front of his male guests. A body of traditional commentary depicts Vashti as disobedient and a fraud.

As an adult, Jacobs started to reject that interpretation. Vashti, she realized, was

standing up for herself in disobeying her husband's command to expose herself to his guests. (The king's request is often interpreted to mean that he asked Vashti to come out wearing nothing but her crown.) This year, Jacobs said, the new interpretation feels even more relevant to her.

"It resonates more powerfully through the voice it's been given through the #MeToo movement and the Time's Up movement," Jacobs, vice president of communications and marketing at Jewish Women International, told JTA.

Jacobs helped organize JWI's #IAmVashti campaign

urging people to share their thoughts on the Purim narrative on social media. She said she doesn't think the campaign, which launched this month, would have worked prior to this year.

"I think #MeToo and Time's Up created a way for women to have a conversation and a platform in a huge way and empowered them," she said.

Themes relating to gender are especially relevant this Purim, female rabbis and community leaders told JTA. The holiday, which begins on Feb. 28, comes as sexual harassment and assault allegations against high-profile men continue to emerge months after dozens of women accused Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein of sexual misconduct.

The carnival-like holiday is based on Megillat Esther, the Book of Esther, which describes how the Jewish queen Esther used her influence in Ahasuerus' harem to avert a slaughter of his Jewish subjects. In recent years there has been a slew of feminist interpretations both rehabilitating Vashti and pondering the tensions between Esther's subservient role in the king's household and the power she asserts as his queen.

"I've always thought of Purim as a bit of a feminist holiday in that there was always

strong female role models in this particular narrative, but it is especially striking this year as we've watched the #MeToo movement just explode, that there is such a precise parallel right here in our own Bible," said Rabbi Leora Frankel at the Community Synagogue of Rye, a Reform congregation in suburban New York City's Westchester County.

Together with the synagogue's cantor, Melanie Cooperman, Frankel is organizing a women's event highlighting women's voices from the Purim story in a skit. The "Megillah Monologues," named after the feminist playwright Eve Ensler's acclaimed "Vagina Monologues," will take place Feb. 25 and is being framed as a way to promote discussion about gender and celebrate Purim in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

"How can we lift up both Vashti and Esther as role models of women today? How can we celebrate their courage and draw inspiration from their story?" Frankel recalled asking herself when she came up with the idea for the event.

Rabbi Denise Handlarski at Oraynu, a Humanistic Jewish synagogue in Toronto, said the themes relevant to #MeToo have always been in the back of her mind while reading the Purim narrative.

"If you read Megillah, it's quite clear that Vashti was victimized in all kind of ways, and much like we see with some of the things that have been happening recently," she said "But we have also seen throughout history, when a woman stands up for

herself, there are unfavorable consequences."

Although Esther is able to attain a position of power, she is still limited by the fact that she is a woman, Handlarski said.

"She is able to capitalize on her position, but her position is not particularly full of great choices," she said. "She uses her femininity to help her people in story, but she has to use her femininity because that's the only location of power for her."

While these themes are not new to Handlarski, she said the #MeToo movement may prompt those who have not previously shared her perspective to do so.

"It's a challenge to rabbis who don't always seek the perspective of women in Jewish texts to center those perspectives a little bit more," she said.

Channa Pinchasi, director of the Be'eri School for Teacher Education at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, says Vashti represents the first time a character in the Purim narrative stands up to Ahasuerus.

"She is the first #MeToo," Pinchasi said.

But Esther, who remains with the king at the end of the Megillah, also represents a #MeToo moment, according to Pinchasi.

"We are asking ourselves in the end of story, there was salvation for the Jewish people, but I can hear Esther calling [out to] us 'Me too, me too! I want to be part of the salvation, but I never got the chance to get out of the palace!'" she said.

B'nai Jeshurun, a non-

affiliated synagogue on this city's Upper West Side, is hosting Purim events with the theme "reveal yourself," including a ball for Jewish LGBTQ teens.

"The obvious connection between the theme that we've chosen and the #MeToo movement is the importance of creating communities and a society wherein people feel empowered and safe to reveal the truth of their identities and their experiences, and to feel supported in both telling their truth and living their truth," said Rabbi Adina Lewittes, the part-time interim rabbi.

Rabbi Mary Zamore, executive director of the Women's Rabbinic Network, said the holiday provides an opportunity to think about Judaism and gender more generally.

"Purim gives us an opportunity to see how these problems have played out throughout our history, but also how we've brought our understanding of gender to our texts in the past and how we can have a fresh view of our texts with a new understanding of gender and women's experience," Zamore said.

At the "Megillah Monologues" event, Frankel hopes to strike a balance between addressing issues of gender and power dynamics and embracing Purim's festive and lighthearted atmosphere.

"Purim is a night that's supposed to be a little irreverent and frivolous, so [I want women] to be able to come together in safety and female solidarity but [also] to celebrate and not just to protest and not just to lament the state of things," she said.

## Spielberg and Katzenberg each pledge \$500,000 to gun control march

(JTA)—Director Steven Spielberg and producer Jeffrey Katzenberg have pledged \$500,000 each to the student-organized March For Our Lives imploring action on gun control.

The nationwide protest scheduled for March 24 is the brainchild of the Never Again movement organized by the student survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas

High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, and joined by students from across Florida and the United States.

In their announcements on Tuesday, Spielberg and his wife, Kate Capshaw, and Katzenberg and his wife, Marilyn, joined stars such as George Clooney and his wife, Amal, and Oprah Winfrey in pledging \$500,000 to offset costs of the protest.

Seventeen students and teachers were killed and at least a dozen others wounded in a shooting rampage Feb. 14 at the school by a 19-year-old expelled student with a legally purchased AR-15 assault rifle.

The march to demand action on gun control will take place in Washington, D.C., and other cities. Students nationally also plan a walkout from school on March 14



# DeGusipe

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

### Jewish Graveside Package:

- Service of Funeral Director and Staff
- Sacred Burial Shroud
- Filing all Necessary Paperwork
- \$200.00 to Chevra Kaddish Society donation for washing
- Traditional Jewish Flat Top Pine Casket
- Staff Supervision of Service at Graveside
- Transportation to Cemetery

**\$4595.00**



Call us to receive your free Final Wishes Organizer!

407-695-CARE (2273)

www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com

Maitland  
9001 N. Orlando Avenue  
Maitland, FL 32751

Sanford  
905 Laurel Avenue  
Sanford, FL 32771

West Orange  
1400 Matthew Paris Blvd  
Ocoee, FL 34761

## A TRUSTED AND VALUED RESOURCE



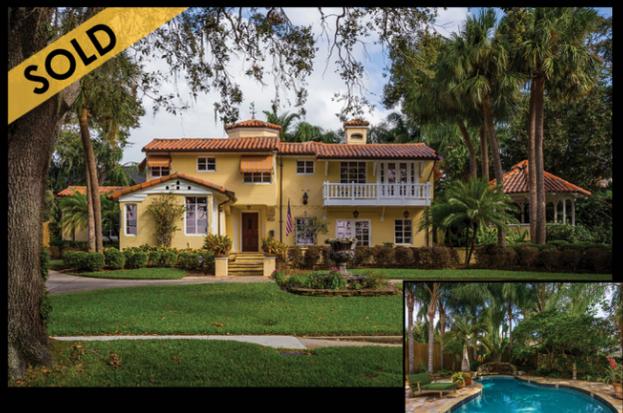
LOU SUOWITZ, GRC  
REALTOR  
DIRECT: 407.415.0338  
OFFICE: 407.645.4321

KELLY PRICE  
& COMPANY

243 WEST PARK AVENUE  
WINTER PARK, FL

ONE OF A KIND, CLASSIC 1938 ESTATE BOASTS SUPERB ARCHITECTURE  
PANORAMIC VIEWS OF LAKE IVANHOE

3 BR | 3 BA | 3,083 SF



WWW.KELLYPRICEANDCOMPANY.COM

## OBITUARY

### CHARLES DAVID HARRIS

Charles David Harris of Orlando, Fla., passed away on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018, following a long-term illness. One of two children, he was born on May 15, 1938, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Bernard and Ethel Harris. He worked at Lockheed Martin in the International Procurement Division.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Arlene; three daughters, Jodi (Jack) Schiff of Atlanta, Ga., Randi (Kurt) Klingenberg of Tempe, Arizona, and Dawn (Joe) Cohen of Orlando, Fla. He is also survived by his sister, Marion of Delray Beach, Fla.; and he was a very proud grandfather of Jennifer and Julie of Atlanta, Ga., Sarah and Jenna of Tempe,

Arizona, and Massin, Haydn and Morgyn of Orlando, Fla.; and great-grandfather of Addison, Zoey and Carter of Atlanta, Ga.

A service was held on Feb. 14, 2018 at Woodlawn Memorial in Gotha, Fla. In memory of Charles Harris, the family requests contributions be made to the American Heart Association.

## Kids are using hamantaschen to help end gun violence

By Josefin Dolsten

(JTA)—The college-aged kids of a Jewish congressman from Florida are raising money to end gun violence by selling hamantaschen.

Gabby, Serena and Cole Deutch launched the Bake Action Against Gun Violence initiative on Sunday. Their father is Rep. Ted Deutch, a Florida Democrat who represents the district where 17 people were killed last week in Parkland in a shooting rampage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School by a former student there.

The project encourages Americans from across the country to bake hamantaschen, a pastry traditionally eaten during the upcoming holiday of Purim, and sell them to raise money.

After learning about the shooting, Gabby Deutch, 22, wanted to find a way to help. As a senior at Yale University, she felt far removed from her hometown of Boca Raton, which is near Parkland. From her work as a camp counselor at Camp Ramah Darom, a Jewish summer camp in Clayton, Georgia, she knew several kids who were inside the school at the time of the shooting.

"I was watching the news, and it felt like people just weren't paying any attention," she told JTA on Thursday. "I felt very distant from a lot of the community here. Although my friends were very supportive, it felt like people sort of are used to this kind of thing, so they kind of tuned it out."

Deutch spoke to Serena, a senior at Vanderbilt University, and the sisters decided they wanted to find a way to make a difference using Jewish food. The sisters are both active in Challah for Hunger, an initiative in which college students bake and sell the bread to raise money for hunger relief.

"We were thinking about the idea of Jewish food, and we've both seen that people are really excited and willing to pay for that if it goes to causes they care about," Deutch said.

Since Purim starts Feb. 28, they decided to go with hamantaschen. The pair enlisted Cole, a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin, and started recruiting friends throughout the country to join. Groups who sign up decide how to do the baking, how much to charge and where to give the money. The website recommends donating to groups such as Everytown for Gun Safety



Shown here (l-r): Gabby, Cole and Serena Deutch drew inspiration from the Purim story for their fundraising initiative.

and the March for Our Lives, as well as fundraisers for the families of the Parkland victims.

Over 40 Jewish groups, including Hillels at universities nationwide, have signed on for the hamantaschen baking.

Gabby Deutch said she and her siblings drew inspiration from the Purim story, which commemorates the downfall of Haman, a despotic henchman to a Persian king, through the heroic intervention of the Jewish Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai.

"I think it's a holiday that within the Jewish world, at least within more liberal Jewish circles, people take a lot of messages of social justice from, so I think with that in mind it made sense to use it," she said.

Deutch said her father is participating in the initiative and "has been very supportive," although she joked that he likely won't be the one baking.

"He's very excited about it. I will say that he's not the baker in our family, so I'm not sure that he will be participating in baking, but my mom is [participating] this weekend with some of her friends," she said.

Since the shooting, Ted Deutch has spoken vocally

in favor of gun control. On Wednesday, the congressman participated in a CNN town hall event with shooting survivors where he slammed those who said it was "too soon" after the tragedy to discuss gun control. In an exchange with Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., Deutch defended his call to introduce legislation to ban assault weapons.

"You would literally have to ban every semi-automatic rifle that's sold in the US," Rubio said.

Deutch responded: "Do I support banning weapons that fire off 150 rounds in seven or eight minutes, weapons that are weapons of war, that serve no purpose other than killing the maximum number of people they can? You bet I am."

Gabby Deutch said she is happy to make a difference, and that other participants have told her they feel the same.

"I was feeling disappointed by a lack of response, at least on Yale's campus," she said, "and a lot of people since this has become public have come up to me and really expressed gratitude that something is happening about it, which makes me feel like there are people who care about this issue."

## Central Florida Synagogues

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

**Celebration Jewish Congregation (R)**, services and holiday schedules shown at [www.JewishCelebration.org](http://www.JewishCelebration.org); 407-566-9792.

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

**Chabad of Altamonte Springs (O)**, 414 Spring Valley Lane, Altamonte Springs, 407-280-0535; [www.jewishaltamonte.com](http://www.jewishaltamonte.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Congregation of Reform Judaism (R)**, 928 Malone Dr., Orlando, 407-645-0444; [www.crorlando.org](http://www.crorlando.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.ohevshalom.org](http://www.ohevshalom.org); Shabbat service, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Elegant Printing*

Custom Printing  
Digital & Offset Printing  
Direct Mail Services  
Envelopes

Invitations & Announcements  
Brochures & Booklets  
Forms & Letterheads  
Business Cards

**407-767-7110**

205 North Street • Longwood, FL 32750  
[www.elegantprinting.net](http://www.elegantprinting.net)  
Bring in this ad and receive 18% Discount

# Aly Raisman to BBYO: Be kind, speak out, stand up for survivors



**Aly Raisman addressing the BBYO conference in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 16, 2018.**

(JTA)—Aly Raisman, the Olympic gold medalist gymnast, told a BBYO conference she drew strength from her Jewish upbringing.

Raisman, addressing the pluralistic youth movement's annual conference in Orlando, Florida on Friday, said she wanted to "talk about how proud I am to be a Jewish

athlete," which drew cheers.

"Being Jewish is all about family and I think being Jewish is all about being a good person," she said. "I have so many amazing memories of being with family during the Jewish holidays."

Raisman, 23, advised her audience to seek family where they could find it. "Family

does not have to be blood-related. It can be a coach close to you, a teacher, a friend anyone that you trust," she said.

She alluded to her abuse by Larry Nassar, a former doctor for the US Olympic gymnastics team. Nassar was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison for molesting over 150 women and girls over two decades.

"Everyone is a survivor of something no matter what it is," she said. "There are many people out there who have bravely spoken up about their stories of abuse, but there are many people who are also suffering in silence."

Raisman has been one of Nassar's most vocal public critics since last fall. A video of her giving powerful court testimony at his sentencing hearing went viral last month.

She said anyone suffering should speak out.

"We live in the social media age where I'm sure most of you guys have Instagram or Snapchat or Twitter," she said. "Social media is great...

but it's also tricky because social media, we only want to show the best ideas of ourselves."

She said it was important not to live up to others' idea of perfection. "I'm not perfect, nobody's life is perfect. It's really important if you're having a hard time to know that it's okay to not be okay," she said.

She emphasized the importance of kindness. "There's a lot of bad on social media, there's a lot of victim blaming, there's a lot of body shaming," she said. Her parents raised her, she said, to understand, "Everyone has feelings you should always, always be kind to one another."

BBYO's International Convention, running through Feb. 19, is expected to include over 3,000 teens from 36 countries, for sessions led by peers, educators, thought and business leaders, celebrities, political figures and philanthropists. BBYO calls it one of the largest Jewish communal leadership events in North America, and the single-

largest gathering of Jewish teen leaders worldwide.

Also speaking were Michael Signer, the former mayor of Charlottesville, Virginia, who is Jewish; and Susan Bro, the mother of Heather Heyer, the counter protester who was killed by a white supremacist during protests in the Virginia college town last summer.

Signer said he had grown up in Virginia, assimilated, in part because he feared standing out. A trip to Israel when he was 40 brought out his Jewish pride, he said. "Something really clicked just hanging out with all those sabras," he said. "My own journey of coming to being very proudly and strongly Jewish gave me the strength to have the courage I needed when Nazis invaded my town when I was mayor."

Bro drew some of the loudest cheers of the day when she recalled her late daughter's favorite saying: "If you're not outraged you're not paying attention."

Another speaker was Jason Kander, the former secretary

of state of Missouri and US army intelligence officer. In 2016, the Jewish candidate made an unexpectedly strong showing in his bid to oust the incumbent Missouri Republican senator, Roy Blunt.

Kander now directs a get-out-the-vote operation for Democrats. He said that he had been advised by others in the military—including Jewish troops—not to reveal to others while he was in Iraq that he was Jewish.

Kander said he now feels embarrassed that he kept the fact he was Jewish from his interpreter, Salaam, until Kander was about to finish his tour. "I had never had a Muslim friend I was as close to as I was close to Salaam," he said. He was surprised to learn that Salaam knew all along that Kander was Jewish. "Back home in Kansas City my sister cuts your grandmother's hair," Salaam told Kander.

Other speakers spoke of Israeli voluntarism and assistance in disaster relief overseas, and Israeli innovation.

## Jewish war veterans want the young warriors to tell their stories

**By Ron Kampeas**

ARLINGTON, Va. (JTA)—Jews don't serve in the military. Jews shouldn't serve in the military. Forget about being Jewish—the mission comes first.

Like a lot of other Jewish dilemmas, what's old for Jews who serve in the US military is new again, and the organization established in 1896 to dismantle myths and anxieties about Jews in uniform is still confronting them.

Jewish War Veterans, a group that advocates for Jews in the military and for the military in the Jewish community, set aside a Shabbat at its annual conference this month to discuss strategies to remind Americans (and Jewish Americans particularly) that there is a proud tradition of Jewish service.

"Time and time again, we have to remind our fellow Americans, 'Yes, we were there,'" Col. Rich Goldenberg of the New York National Guard said at a session at the Feb. 10 Shabbaton. "This goes back to the Civil War."

One of the reasons for the conference theme was simply organizational survival: JWV officials say they have about 20,000 members, many of them veterans of long past wars, although there are likely hundreds of thousands of living Jewish veterans eligible to join its ranks.

"Jewish War Veterans is slowly dying," said Sheldon Goldberg, a docent at the JWV museum in Washington, D.C.

Three obstacles to spreading the word emerged during the conference from speakers and participants, who represented the breadth of the US armed forces: the persistent stereotype that Jews are underrepresented

in the military; the ongoing reluctance of Jewish families to send their sons and daughters to the military; and a military culture that encourages the repression of any expression of identity unrelated to the military.

Dan Rosenfield, a recent graduate of Texas A&M University and now a second lieutenant at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, talked about bringing around his family to the prospect of an extended stay in a corner of the country with virtually no Jews.

"My mother wasn't happy," he said. "It was two more years without a Jewish girl."

Goldenberg said there is an undertone in Jewish society that Jewish service is undesirable.

"One of the most important groups we should be talking to is other Jewish Americans—they have become less and less tied to our service," he said.

One way to overcome that reluctance is to tell stories that are heroic, both from a Jewish and a military perspective. Goldenberg recalled a meeting between two Jewish veterans who served as prison guards -- one of Nazis at Nuremberg and one of accused terrorists at Guantanamo Bay. Each recalled endeavoring to treat the prisoners humanely, setting examples for other guards, and for the prisoners.

"They both tell the story that they found the right opportunity to remind the prisoners, at Nuremberg and at Guantanamo, that they were being guarded by American Jews," he said.

Marc Wolf, a former Navy officer who is now the chairman of Warriors and Veterans society of the UJA-Federation of New York, said reaching younger veterans

who may not be aware of JWV was vital.

"Talking to the younger generation is one of the most important conversations we can have," Wolf said. "This is our Jewish fraternal organization. It's the voice of Jewish warriors. To not figure this out would be a shanda [shame]."

Matt Bernstein, until recently an officer in the Army's Judge Advocate Corps, said he only learned about JWV when he moved to Washington, and he passed by its small museum near Dupont Circle.

"I didn't know about it and it was three blocks from my house," said Bernstein, who included Bowe Bergdahl, the sergeant who was captured after walking off his base in Afghanistan, among his clients.

Rosenfield said service members who meld their service with their Jewish activism is one way of reaching other Jews. Last year at Texas A&M, he brought together the university's Corps of Cadets and its Hillel, as well as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, JWV and the Jewish Welfare Board, to organize a Jewish Warrior's Weekend for Jewish ROTC members and cadets from across the United States as a means of highlighting Jewish service. At the Ellsworth base in December, he helped organize the first Hanukkah lighting on the base in 22 years.

Isolation and the pressure while on duty to subvert everything to the mission also contribute to Jews not identifying.

"You do not want to create friction with your leadership over Shabbat, you do not want to create friction over the High Holidays," Goldenberg recalled of his own younger days in the military.



Ron Kampeas

**Shown here (l-r): Jerome Blum, past national commander of Jewish War Veterans; Matthew Millen, commander of a California JWV post; and Barry Schneider of Texas at a JWV Shabbaton in Arlington, Va., Feb. 10, 2018.**

"You desperately want to fit in, whether it's with your shipmates or your platoon."

Shari Berger, the wife of an active duty service member based at the Norfolk, Virginia, naval base, said she immediately sought out a Jewish community when they moved to the midsize city—a strategy she said helps smooth frequent moves during a military career.

"I went spinning one day at a spin studio," she said. "I looked around and made sure I found the one Jewish person who would make me feel at home."

That helped ease her transition, and also helped the family sustain Jewish involvement, which in turn "makes myself feel at home when we move."

Jewish care packages—often organized by the JWV,

but also informally on Jewish military listservs—help sustain a sense of belonging, said Lt. Col. Naomi Mercer, the Army's chief of command policy who is developing gender integration. "When I was deployed, I got tons and tons of care packages" that she could share with other Jews.

Anti-Semitism still persists, with JWV taking up cases of discrimination. Jewish service members have at times claimed they were singled out against being promoted. There also are persistent claims of proselytization at the military academies.

An irritant is the perception that Jews underserve. At the JWV conference, the consensus was that there are 30,000 Jews currently serving—more than half a percent of the estimated 5.5

million Jews in the United States, and outpacing the 0.4 percent of the US population currently in uniform. If the count is correct, and taking into account demographics—the Jewish population is older on average, so a smaller portion would be eligible to serve—Jews, as they have in the past, have a higher representation in the US armed forces.

Goldenberg said the same contradiction has historically been true of Jews in Diaspora militaries, noting that around the same time Jewish War Veterans was established toward the end of the 19th century, German and British Jewish veterans groups were being established to combat the same misperception.

"We've always been the outsiders looking in the lands we've lived in," he said.

# Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

## Trump administration to move US Embassy to Jerusalem in May, Israel's 70th birthday

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The Trump administration will formally move the US Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv in May to coincide with Israel's 70th anniversary.

"We're planning to open the new US Embassy to Israel in Jerusalem in May," a State Department spokesman told JTA in an email. "The Embassy opening will coincide with Israel's 70th anniversary."

The spokesman did not reveal a specific date, but May 14 would mark 70 years since Israel's establishment.

The spokesman said the embassy would be located in a southern Jerusalem neighborhood on the side that Israel held before 1967 but running along the seam of what was then the border.

"The Embassy will initially be located in Arnona, on a compound that currently houses the consular operations of Consulate General Jerusalem," he said.

Building a new embassy will take at least three years, and the spokesman suggested that at least for now, much of the daily operation of the embassy would remain in Tel Aviv.

"At least initially, it will consist of the Ambassador and a small team," the spokesman said of the Jerusalem operation.

Trump administration officials had said previously that the embassy move would take place in 2019. President Donald Trump has heralded his Dec. 6 recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as one of the highlights of his administration. He earned lengthy applause on Friday from the CPAC annual conservative conference in Washington when he mentioned the Jerusalem recognition.

Another source apprised of the move provided JTA with a timeline for the move: In the first phase, starting in May, Ambassador David Friedman and some staff will begin working out of the consular section at a cost of about \$300,000 to \$500,000. In the second phase, by the end of 2019, an annex on site will be constructed for a more permanent working space for the ambassador, staff and a classified processing site. That will cost \$10 million to 15 million, and the security arrangement will cost at least \$45 million. The third phase, the site selection and construction of a new embassy, will take up to nine years.

## Sheldon Adelson reportedly offering to fund US Embassy move to Jerusalem

(JTA)—The Trump administration is considering an offer from Republican megadonor Sheldon Adelson to pay for at least part of a new US Embassy in Jerusalem, four US officials told The Associated Press.

Lawyers at the State Department are looking into the legality of accepting private donations to cover some or all of the embassy costs, the administration officials told the news agency, which published an article on the reported plan Friday.

The discussions are oc-

curing, the report said, as the new embassy clears its final bureaucratic hurdles. On Thursday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson ended weeks of delay by signing off on a security plan for moving the embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city, according to the officials, who weren't authorized to discuss the issue publicly and demanded anonymity.

In one possible scenario, the administration would solicit contributions not only from Adelson but also potentially from other donors in the evangelical and American Jewish communities. One official said Adelson, a Las Vegas casino magnate and staunch supporter of Israel, had offered to pay the difference between the total cost, which is expected to run into the hundreds of millions of dollars, and what the administration is able to raise.

Under any circumstance, letting private citizens cover the costs of an official government building would mark a significant departure from historical US practice, according to AP.

It's not clear if there are any precedents, nor whether government lawyers would give the green light to accept donations for the embassy from Adelson or anyone else.

At least one US Jewish leader, who also has close ties with Adelson, appeared to be skeptical of the idea.

"This is a government project. It's a government-run embassy," Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, told AP. "I don't want people to be able to say it was Jewish money."

Adelson's unconventional offer was made around the time Trump announced in December he would move the embassy to the disputed city of Jerusalem. It would address the president's stated distaste for shelling out large sums for overseas diplomatic facilities. Although Trump has promoted the Jerusalem move as fulfilling a key campaign promise, he also was outspoken last month in blasting the \$1 billion price tag for a new embassy in London.

Since Trump's announcement, his administration has been sifting through options for fast-tracking the embassy's relocation. Last month, Vice President Mike Pence announced during a visit to Israel that the embassy would move by the end of 2019, and possibly earlier.

Ambassador David Friedman, who lobbied for Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, has advocated moving the embassy as soon as possible.

The United States has looked at several possible sites. The most likely plan involves a phased approach to opening the embassy in the Arnona neighborhood at an existing US facility that handles consular affairs like passports and visas. The United States could initially retrofit a small suite of offices in that facility to accommodate Friedman and one or two top aides such as his chief of staff.

It's unclear how much of the cost Adelson might be willing to cover.

## Bernie Sanders' son considering run for Congress in New Hampshire

(JTA)—Levi Sanders, the son of Sen. Bernie Sanders, said he is considering a run for Congress in New Hampshire.

"Oh absolutely, I'm definitely considering it," the younger Sanders told Vice News of his envisaged bid for the open seat in the 1st District, which is expected to be one of the most contested in the country this year. "I'm excited, motivated, and interested in the race."

Levi Sanders, 48, told Vice in an interview published Friday that he would run on a similar platform of Medicare for all and free college tuition that animated his father's presidential run in 2016, when the elder Sanders beat Hillary Clinton in the New Hampshire Democratic primary, 60.4 to 38 percent. Bernie Sanders, an Independent from Vermont, caucuses with Senate Democrats.

"The basic difference is that I'm a vegetarian and he's not," Levi said of his father, adding that despite their policy similarities, he would run his own campaign. Sanders said he has talked to his father about the race but declined to elaborate.

Sanders has been around for every race his father has ever run and served as a senior policy strategist for the presidential campaign, according to Vice. He also works as an advocate for people trying to obtain Social Security benefits. Eight years ago, Sanders lost in a bid for City Council in Claremont, New Hampshire.

In the 1st District race, seven Democrats are already running and raising money to succeed Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, a Democrat, who is retiring. Her seat is one of the Republican Party's top targets in 2018 as the district regularly swings from blue to red, Vice wrote. President Donald Trump received more votes than Hillary Clinton in the district in 2016.

The Democratic Party's establishment has a successor for the district in Chris Pappas, a Bernie Sanders supporter, the report said. Levi Sanders detractors are eager to point out that he doesn't live in the district, according to the report.

Given how well Bernie Sanders, who is Jewish, did in the New Hampshire primary and how well known he is there, it will give his son "some instant visibility and make the race even more interesting," said Dean Spiliotes, a professor at Southern New Hampshire University and an expert in the state's politics.

"Whether he's able to turn it into on the ground organization, it's hard to know."

## Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens indicted in fallout from 2015 affair

(JTA)—Eric Greitens, the governor of Missouri, has been indicted for felony invasion of privacy after allegedly blackmailing a former lover.

Greitens, a Republican, has resisted bipartisan calls to step down after news emerged in January that he had an affair with a woman in 2015, then photographed her while she was in a compromised position. He allegedly threatened to release the photo if she ever revealed the affair. Greitens

has admitted to the affair but says he did nothing illegal.

He was indicted by a St. Louis grand jury Thursday. The indictment accuses him of photographing the woman, then transmitting the photo "in a manner that allowed access to that image via a computer," according to the Kansas City Star.

"As I have stated before, it is essential for residents of the City of St. Louis and our state to have confidence in their leaders," St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner said in a statement. "They must know that the Office of the Circuit Attorney will hold public officials accountable in the same manner as any other resident of our city"

Greitens, a former Navy SEAL whose seven military awards include the Bronze Star, became the first Jewish governor of Missouri when he was elected in November 2016. **NRA chief singles out George Soros and Michael Bloomberg as 'socialists'**

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Wayne LaPierre, the executive vice president of the National Rifle Association, told a conservative conference that three liberal philanthropists were funding a socialist takeover of the United States.

"Every time in every nation in which this political disease rises to power," LaPierre told the CPAC conference on Thursday, describing socialism, "its citizens are repressed, their freedoms are destroyed, and their firearms are banned and confiscated, and it's all backed in this country by the social engineering and the billions of people like George Soros, Michael Bloomberg, Tom Steyer and more."

Soros is a hedge fund trader who has been prominent in backing Democratic policies, but also is known for promoting free markets overseas, particularly in formerly communist countries. Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York, has taken a lead in recent years in promoting gun control, but also has a pro-business reputation cultivated through his eponymous news service.

Steyer, also a hedge funder, for decades has been involved in Democratic politics, with much of that focus on the environment. Last year he launched a movement to impeach President Donald Trump.

All three are Jewish, although Steyer, whose wife is Episcopalian, attends a church in that denomination.

LaPierre painted an apocalyptic picture of the challenges he said are facing conservatives.

"Their goal is to eliminate the Second Amendment and firearms freedom so they can eliminate all our freedoms," he said of gun control activists.

"Saul Alinsky would be proud" of gun control activists, LaPierre said, referring to the Jewish community worker who authored a how-to book on social activism.

Despite being dead for decades, Alinsky remains a byword for radicalism among some conservatives.

Charter schools co-founder Michael Feinberg fired over sexual abuse claim

(JTA)—KIPP, one of the

largest charter school chains in the country, dismissed its co-founder, Michael Feinberg, over claims that he sexually abused a student.

Feinberg was let go after an investigation found credible a claim of the alleged abuse some two decades ago, KIPP's management wrote in a letter that The New York Times reported was sent to the school community on Thursday.

He was accused last spring of sexually abusing a minor female student in Houston in the late 1990s, a source told The Times. An outside investigation found her claim credible after interviewing the student and her mother, who both gave the same sequence of events.

Feinberg denies the accusation, his lawyer, Christopher Tritico, told The Times.

Investigators also uncovered evidence that Feinberg had sexually harassed two KIPP employees, according to the report. One case, in 2004, led to a financial settlement, the letter said, and the other could not be corroborated because the woman involved would not cooperate.

Feinberg had never been told of the precise allegations against him, and had not been given a chance to defend himself, his lawyer told The Times.

"The investigation was conducted without even the most rudimentary form of due process," Tritico said.

Feinberg and David Levin, two former Teach for America teachers, launched KIPP in Texas in 1994. Today it counts nearly 90,000 students and 209 schools in 20 states. In 2008 they received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President George W. Bush for "their work to encourage youth to make responsible choices and build a solid foundation for a lifetime of accomplishment."

Feinberg and Levin, who are Jewish, also received the 2009 Charles Bronfman Prize. Established in honor of the Jewish philanthropist, the prize recognizes those whose humanitarian work and Jewish values combine to significantly improve the world. At the time, the prize committee noted that KIPP "has made enormous strides in closing the achievement gap in low income communities."

In 2008, Feinberg visited Israel to promote the KIPP concept to officials in Nahariya. Israel currently has two schools inspired by the KIPP model.

## 500 Icelandic physicians back bill to outlaw circumcision

(JTA)—Hundreds of physicians in Iceland and some of Belgium's top doctors came out in support of a bill proposing to criminalize nonmedical circumcision of boys in the Scandinavian island nation.

The approximately 500 Icelandic physicians who backed the bill that was submitted last month to the parliament cited the World Medical Association's Declaration of Helsinki on ethical principles.

"Potential complications should offset the benefits" of male circumcision, "which are few," the Icelandic physicians wrote in a joint statement published Wednesday.

Advocates of male circumcision include many physi-

cians who believe it reduces the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and genital infections.

In Belgium, several prominent physicians, including Guy T'Sjoen of Ghent University Hospital, told the De Morgen daily they also support a ban.

"As a physician, I find it very regrettable that we have thousands of unnecessary circumcisions annually of boys who can't have their say about it," he said in an interview published Tuesday.

In Denmark, a petition featured on the parliament's website proposing to ban nonmedical circumcision of boys has received 20,000 signatures out of the 50,000 needed to come up for a parliamentary vote as draft resolution. As per a new law, the petition, which was posted on Feb. 1, will remain active for 180 days.

Throughout Scandinavia, the nonmedical circumcision of boys under 18 is the subject of a debate on children's rights and religious freedoms. The children's ombudsmen of all Nordic countries—Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway—released a joint declaration in 2013 proposing a ban, though none of these countries has enacted one.

In the debate, circumcision is under attack from right-wing politicians who view it as a foreign import whose proliferation is often associated mostly with Muslim immigration. And it is also opposed by left-wing liberals and atheists who denounce it as a primitive form of child abuse.

A similar debate is taking place across Western Europe about the ritual slaughter of animals, which is illegal in several European Union member states.

## Palestinian stone-thrower bitten by Israeli army dog sues Dutch breeder

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—A 19-year-old Palestinian man is suing a Dutch dog breeder who sold a dog to the Israeli army that the claimant said bit him during a riot in the West Bank.

Hamze Abu Hashem was bitten in 2014 while throwing stones at Israeli soldiers, according to the Telegraaf daily's report Thursday on the unusual lawsuit. He sued the Four Winds K9 dog breeding company in the southern Netherlands for \$13,500 in damages.

The company says it is not responsible for what Israel does with its army dogs.

Liesbeth Zegveld, Abu Hashem's attorney in the Netherlands, told the Algemeen Dagblad daily that the money is for psychological damage sustained by her client. She is also seeking an injunction outlawing the sale of dogs to Israel.

"My client bears serious scars that will remain with him for the rest of his life," Zegveld told the daily. "He is also deeply traumatized by the attack. He shakes when he hears dogs barking, he is too afraid to sleep and suffers from sleepwalking."

Abu Hashem was imprisoned for three months for throwing stones at Israeli soldiers.

# JNF

From page 1A

with this award and I am proud to be included among them.”

Meitin worked in health administration for 20 years before becoming cantor at Temple Israel in Orlando. She previously served as president of JNF Orlando for three years. After the JNF Queen of Sheba Mission to Israel in 2008, Meitin started Orlando’s Women for Israel group, which has been running successful programs and has grown to be one of JNF’s largest affinity groups.

She also leads the Orlando Israeli dance group and volunteers with the Jewish Pavilion. She is married to Larry Gutter and has three daughters and six grandchildren.

“Through my work with Jewish National Fund, seeing the amazing results of our work in Israel, meeting the many staff and volunteers who devote so much time, energy and resources to helping the land of Israel blossom, I have become an avid supporter of the organization,” said Meitin. “We must continue to support the land and people of Israel. The fact that Jewish National

Fund is apolitical is very important to me—this allows us to focus of the needs of people, unrelated to their political or religious views.”

Honoree Marc Reicher has been involved in the Commercial Real Estate Industry for over 30 years and currently serves as senior vice president for RIDA Associates, L.P. Prior to joining RIDA/ChampionsGate, Reicher worked with Trammel Crow Company for 10 years, as a retail broker and developer. Reicher is involved in various community organizations including Experience Kissimmee, the Winter

Park Transportation Advisory Board, ETC, Osceola Chamber of Commerce, and more.

“Israel is one of the most important things in my life, that’s why I support JNF,” says honoree Rabbi Aaron D. Rubinger. “If you care about Israel, if you want to personally participate in rebuilding the land of Israel, if you’re a proud Zionist, naturally, you would be drawn to the Jewish National Fund.”

Since 1990, Rubinger has been rabbi and, then, senior rabbi of Congregation Ohev Shalom. In October 2017, he was named rabbi emeritus.

He has been a long-time supporter of the State of Israel, an activist on behalf of Soviet Jewry and a witness to contemporary anti-Semitism in Europe. He is the father of three daughters—Ariella Valente, Becky Rosenthal, and Dr. Adina Paulk. He has six grandchildren and is the husband of Marisa D. Rubinger.

“Those of us who have long been involved in communal activities understand what it really means to be honored—any accomplishments of the honoree are of secondary importance,” said Rubinger. “Allowing oneself to

be honored is the act of signaling others just how much you yourself honor and value the work undertaken by the Jewish National Fund.”

The JNF Tree of Life™ Award Gala will take place on Tuesday, March 20, at 6 p.m. at Congregation Ohev Shalom, located at 613 Concourse Parkway South in Maitland.

Sponsorship information and tickets are available online at [jnf.org/orlandotol](http://jnf.org/orlandotol). For more information on this event or ways to get involved with JNF in Orlando, please contact Laura Abramson at [labramson@jnf.org](mailto:labramson@jnf.org) or 407-804-5568.

# McNally

From page 1A

works really hard,” McNally stated.

She also has immersed herself in learning all the Jewish holidays, and “did a lot of research” about the culture and traditions. Even though there are children from non-Jewish families as well as mixed marriages, she said “everyone is welcomed here, and exposed to all of [the Jewish traditions]. There’s none of the Christian holidays here, but we celebrate all the Jewish holidays in a big way!”

During this interview, McNally said they were preparing for Purim. The children would come in costume and the teachers were going to put on a crazy skit on stage.

community,” she said. “I’m proud to say I work at the JCC preschool. I’ve heard a lot of random comments from everybody about how great the school is.”

And memories – so many fond memories about the people she has met: The parents and their children are No. 1, “They have enriched my life.”

The staff, “Lots of teachers have come through here, and some moved on to great things. But my core staff has been here about 20 years. That says a lot of who we are.”

Speaking of the staff, McNally encourages the preschool teachers to go on to higher education. “The J has put about 100 teachers through child development credentials, which is another level of education,” McNally stated. “For some, that’s 120 hours of vocational training, for others it’s 2 to 3 credit courses to get certified in early childhood education. I’m proud the J has always given me the opportunity to allow me to access the scholarships for them and then [the J] picks up the balance.”

One of McNally’s former teachers received her master’s

degree through a scholarship program and is now training teachers in early childhood education at Seminole State.

“Some of those teachers may eventually come here!” she said.

It’s hard to separate McNally from the Jewish preschool. For her it is like these are all her children. When the JCC community suffered three bomb threats in a very short period of time last year, McNally and her team moved all the children out of harms way without showing any fear. To the children it was “a great adventure. They were on a field trip.”

“No one ever questioned how we handled it—beautifully. We’re trained for that. The adrenaline kicks in and ya do what ya have to do, and

do it without instilling any fear,” McNally stated almost matter-of-fact.

The bomb threats cost the Jewish preschool. Many parents withdrew their children from the school.

“It’s a hard call,” said McNally, who understood the parents’ choices as times have changed. She pointed out the need of staff to staying vigilant about safety procedures. But the one constant is the children. “Children haven’t changed. They are gentle, inquisitive, want to please and they love us and are joyful. That’s why my job is joyful.”

When McNally first came to the preschool there were over 400 children enrolled. That was when there were morning and afternoon classes, so

rooms were double used. Now there are about 300 children enrolled full time, with wait lists.

“A good amount of the families have come back and we’ve rebuilt the population,” McNally said. “We are now looking at a health enrollment for fall 2018.

A fall enrollment McNally won’t be a part of. However, she does not plan to stay “retired” very long.

“A job is probably going to find me before I find it. I don’t think I could stay home! I’ve worked all my life and I think staying home wouldn’t be the best thing for me.”

What does McNally see in her future? “A part-time job, maybe 25-30 hours a week.”

Working with children?

“Probably. Maybe getting back to my roots and getting into a classroom teaching. I think that there will be lots of doors all over for me when I make my journey from the J.”

The JBall will be held Wednesday, March 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Orlando Science Center, 777 E. Princeton St. There will be heavy hors d’oeuvres, an open bar, live entertainment, a silent auction and gaming tables.

General admission is \$100/preschool and J University parents, JAO families and seniors (65+), \$75. Babysitting is available for \$15. For more information, call Keith Dvorchik at 407-621-4042.

All proceeds benefit The Roth Family JCC.

With a degree in elementary education, McNally taught preschool in the private sector in Massachusetts for several years. “I chose the preschool route because I just love the little ones, and I like the private sector and nonprofits.”

Six months after McNally and her husband moved here, she was hired at the JCC’s preschool.

“It’s fun to work for a place that is recognized in the

profit organization dedicated to providing children with affordable bionic limbs.

Zach’s enthusiasm for his super-hero-like appendage drew both smiles and tears as he insisted, “I do everything everyone else can; I just do it in my own way.”

Jonah Rubenanko from BBYO’s Ohio Northern Region said Zach inspired him: “I’m studying 3-D modeling at school and someday hope to be part of these solutions.”

Omer Bar-Lev, a member of the Israeli Knesset who founded Acharai (“Follow me”), which works to empower thousands of marginalized Israeli youth each year, told the gathering that “youth organizations are the key to success, to what we can do.”

Self-acceptance, repairing the world and eradicating hate were all common convention themes, made more

relevant by the presence of several Holocaust survivors, who addressed the group. In “Zikaron BaSalon: Survivor’s Stories,” more than 50 teens helped support a movement to bring Holocaust remembrance beyond a yearly commemoration and “into people’s living rooms,” as the project name imparts. Along those lines, when survivor Trudy Album told of her harrowing experiences during World War II in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Ariana Rabinovich of Fort Collins, Colo., videoed the presentation to share with classmates for a school project.

The convention also featured learning labs, leadership activities, Shabbat and Havdalah celebrations, and entertainment by Daya and Fetty Wap. Firsthand accounts from Holocaust survivors reinforced the responsibility of remembrance, and off-site visits to local nonprofits emphasized the importance of

communal involvement for all ages. Teens visited sites that included Clean the World, Emeril Lagasse Foundation Kitchen House & Culinary Garden, and the Renaissance Senior Center. They also heard from two-time Olympic soccer gold medalist and LGBTQ activist Abby Wambach, and watched videos sent to them from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

During a live session moderated by BBYO’s Teen Press Corps, actor Peck—known to parents for Nickelodeon’s “Drake and Josh,” and to teens as a YouTube and social-media influencer—answered questions from Eva Hayman (Northern Region East, Northern Virginia) and Olivia Landsman (Gold Coast Region, Florida) about a variety of topics, including self-acceptance, and the rewards and challenges of growing up in the public

eye. Asked what it was like having his awkward years chronicled on television, the actor quipped: “Kids going through the same stages can feel a little better knowing it’s going to end up OK.” (He then posed for pictures with more than 500 teen delegates.)

BBYO’s CEO Matthew Grossman noted the convention was the largest of its kind, gaining 500 new delegates since the 2017 summit in Dallas and first-time delegates from Australia, China, Colombia, Mexico and Spain. He attributed the strong growth of the event to the organization being teen-led, coupled with its pluralistic environment.

“There’s no need for focus groups when kids are planning exactly what they want,” he said. “Teens are more than the center of conversation; they’re running it.”

*Pamela Ruben is an author and freelance writer based in Orlando, Fla.*

relevant by the presence of several Holocaust survivors, who addressed the group. In “Zikaron BaSalon: Survivor’s Stories,” more than 50 teens helped support a movement to bring Holocaust remembrance beyond a yearly commemoration and “into people’s living rooms,” as the project name imparts. Along those lines, when survivor Trudy Album told of her harrowing experiences during World War II in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Ariana Rabinovich of Fort Collins, Colo., videoed the presentation to share with classmates for a school project.

The convention also featured learning labs, leadership activities, Shabbat and Havdalah celebrations, and entertainment by Daya and Fetty Wap. Firsthand accounts from Holocaust survivors reinforced the responsibility of remembrance, and off-site visits to local nonprofits emphasized the importance of

1	F	R	O	G		5	R	A	M		8	D	O	N	K	E	Y					
14	R	E	N	O		15	E	R	A		16	A	R	I	A	N	A					
17	E	L	E	P		18	H	A	N	T		19	T	I	N	T	E	D				
20	D	I	M		21	E	D	E		22	L	I	O	N								
23	D	N	A		24	L	E	T		25	M	E		26	L	Y		27	28	29		
30	Y	E	N		31	T	E		32	T	I	T		33	L	E		34	N	A	P	
					35	A	N	A		37	C	G	I		38	D	O	G	S			
					39	G	R	A	S		40	S	H	O	P		41	P	E	R		
42	B	E	E	S		43	I	T	A		44	S	A	L								
46	A	R	M		47	L	A	U	E	R		48	R	E		50	S	I		51	52	
53	M	E	S		54	S	Y		55	F	L	E		56	E	S		57	E	M	O	
					58	W	O	L	F		60	M	T	H		61	L	P	S			
62	D	E	F		63	I	N	E		65	G	I	R	A		66	F	F	E	S		
67	A	L	U		68	M	N	I		69	A	N	O		70	A	I	D	E			
70	H	O	R		71	S	E	S		72	P	I	G		73	D	E	E	R			

5	4	1	6	8	7	2	3	9
2	9	6	1	3	4	7	5	8
3	8	7	5	2	9	6	4	1
4	1	5	8	9	2	3	7	6
8	7	9	4	6	3	5	1	2
6	3	2	7	1	5	8	9	4
9	5	8	2	7	1	4	6	3
1	2	4	3	5	6	9	8	7
7	6	3	9	4	8	1	2	5

# BBYO

From page 2A

profit organization dedicated to providing children with affordable bionic limbs.

Zach’s enthusiasm for his super-hero-like appendage drew both smiles and tears as he insisted, “I do everything everyone else can; I just do it in my own way.”

Jonah Rubenanko from BBYO’s Ohio Northern Region said Zach inspired him: “I’m studying 3-D modeling at school and someday hope to be part of these solutions.”

Omer Bar-Lev, a member of the Israeli Knesset who founded Acharai (“Follow me”), which works to empower thousands of marginalized Israeli youth each year, told the gathering that “youth organizations are the key to success, to what we can do.”

Self-acceptance, repairing the world and eradicating hate were all common convention themes, made more

relevant by the presence of several Holocaust survivors, who addressed the group. In “Zikaron BaSalon: Survivor’s Stories,” more than 50 teens helped support a movement to bring Holocaust remembrance beyond a yearly commemoration and “into people’s living rooms,” as the project name imparts. Along those lines, when survivor Trudy Album told of her harrowing experiences during World War II in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Ariana Rabinovich of Fort Collins, Colo., videoed the presentation to share with classmates for a school project.

The convention also featured learning labs, leadership activities, Shabbat and Havdalah celebrations, and entertainment by Daya and Fetty Wap. Firsthand accounts from Holocaust survivors reinforced the responsibility of remembrance, and off-site visits to local nonprofits emphasized the importance of

communal involvement for all ages. Teens visited sites that included Clean the World, Emeril Lagasse Foundation Kitchen House & Culinary Garden, and the Renaissance Senior Center. They also heard from two-time Olympic soccer gold medalist and LGBTQ activist Abby Wambach, and watched videos sent to them from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

During a live session moderated by BBYO’s Teen Press Corps, actor Peck—known to parents for Nickelodeon’s “Drake and Josh,” and to teens as a YouTube and social-media influencer—answered questions from Eva Hayman (Northern Region East, Northern Virginia) and Olivia Landsman (Gold Coast Region, Florida) about a variety of topics, including self-acceptance, and the rewards and challenges of growing up in the public

eye. Asked what it was like having his awkward years chronicled on television, the actor quipped: “Kids going through the same stages can feel a little better knowing it’s going to end up OK.” (He then posed for pictures with more than 500 teen delegates.)

BBYO’s CEO Matthew Grossman noted the convention was the largest of its kind, gaining 500 new delegates since the 2017 summit in Dallas and first-time delegates from Australia, China, Colombia, Mexico and Spain. He attributed the strong growth of the event to the organization being teen-led, coupled with its pluralistic environment.

“There’s no need for focus groups when kids are planning exactly what they want,” he said. “Teens are more than the center of conversation; they’re running it.”

*Pamela Ruben is an author and freelance writer based in Orlando, Fla.*




HEALTHY EYES

WEAR SUNGLASSES

Every day that you’re outside, you’re exposed to dangerous, but invisible, ultraviolet (UV) sunlight. Left unprotected, prolonged exposure to UV radiation can seriously damage the eye, leading to cataracts, skin cancer around the eyelid and other eye disorders. Protecting your eyes is important to maintaining eye health now and in the future.

Shield your eyes (and your family’s eyes) from harmful UV rays. Wear sunglasses with maximum UV protection.

For more information, visit [www.thevisioncouncil.org/consumers/sunglasses](http://www.thevisioncouncil.org/consumers/sunglasses). A public service message from The Vision Council.



## RAISE

From page 1A

manent part-time because [Samuel] is such a hard worker and is a pleasure to be around. After working on the scanning project, Chuck Buhler wanted to offer him meaningful work with an eye towards advancing him along in a potential career path," said Jeanne Smith, marketing director for the Law Office of Catherine E. Davey, P.A.

Samuel is currently thriving and experiencing a sense of dignity and competency that far exceeded his expectations.

"RAISE is an amazing organization, and we are so happy to work with them whenever we can do so," said Smith.

Kenya has been working at Abby Nelson's Great Home Groups Remax with business owner Abby Nelson for several months. She works one day a week handwriting thank you notes and performing general clerical duties.

Nelson couldn't be happier with Kenya's work. "She is doing fantastically! I'm consistently amazed at her capabilities and the joy she brings into the office with her never-ending smile," Nelson said.

Kenya was in the RAISE program for a year where she practiced the social skills needed for job success and developed the confidence needed to seek employment in the community. While in RAISE, Kenya worked one day a week at the JCC Fitness Center and one day a week at Kinneret. In both positions, Kenya's responsibilities included keeping her work sites sparkling clean. She

always had a smile on her face whether it was doing the laundry, cleaning the equipment at the JCC or vacuuming the hallways at Kinneret.

Ali Polejes, owner of Richard Incentives, hired Robert in August 2017. He works approximately two days a week in this home-based office doing filing, organizing, data entry and some product research.

"For me, this has been a wonderful experience. We really benefit each other," said Polejes. Robert's help has saved Polejes time that she would have been spending keeping everything up-to-date with the product lines she carries in her business. Another "plus" is that Robert speaks fluent Spanish (a skill Polejes didn't know he had) and has been the translator between Polejes and her Spanish housekeeper.

While in RAISE, Robert worked at JFS Orlando as a receptionist and office assistant. After not having worked for many years, Robert gained confidence and a renewed work ethic in the RAISE program, which helped him to be successful in his new job.

Linda\* gained the confidence needed to leave the safe nest of RAISE and begin working at Orlando Day Nursery with Julie Carleton, senior director of Business and Development, and Morgan Morgan, director. Linda's dream job has always been to work with children and through RAISE Awareness to Hire, her dreams have become a reality. At Orlando Day Nursery Linda is able to combine her love of children with her artistic abilities to help the children with some arts and crafts projects. She

also works as office support as well.

"Social justice and collaborative initiatives are values Orlando Day promotes as a means to support its mission," said Carleton. "Supporting RAISE and Linda helps achieve all of these goals."

Last May, Heritage wrote about Caitlin, who has been working at FASTSIGNS Orlando Central with business owner Renee Friedman and Kayla Bratager since April 2017. Caitlin started working three days a week for three hours each day. As Friedman and Bratager realized that Caitlin was a tremendous asset to FASTSIGNS Orlando Central, they increased her hours to five days a week, four hours each day.

Caitlin spent almost a year in the RAISE program learning the responsibilities of having a job and developing the self-confidence needed to leave RAISE and work in the community. While in RAISE, Caitlin worked at Hillel at UCF one day a week where she helped organize the supply closets, take inventory, set tables for Shabbat dinner, replenish the snacks for the students, keep the tables and work surfaces clean, and give treats to the lovable Hillel dog, Reggie. Additionally she worked at the JCC Welcome Center where she made membership packets, sorted and delivered the mail, and performed general clerical duties.

At FASTSIGNS Orlando Central Caitlin greets customers, keeps the break room stocked and clean, helps with printing and folding flyers. She also checks and opens the mail each day, labels and puts postage on marketing

materials, counts the cash box, prepares marketing folders and give-a-ways and so much more.

"Caitlin has been a fantastic addition to our team! Immediately, she filled a need and became a valuable employee. We created the administrative assistant job for her and continue to add responsibilities as they develop," said Friedman. "She takes great pride in everything she does and loves being part of the team. She starts her day by attending and often contributing to our Work Start Team meetings."

Friedman values Caitlin beyond being just an employee.

"[Caitlin] often joins the team when we are giving back to the community," Friedman explained. Some activities Caitlin has joined in include Bowling for Charity with the Apartment Association, attending the Charity Ball for Compassionate Hands and Hearts, stocking the food bank at JFS, delivering gifts to WFTV Channel 9 Toys for Tots and Bowling for Charity for the AutoNation Curebowl.

"The most exciting news," Friedman shared, "is that she will be joining me in Houston at the Friends of Down Syndrome Cinderella Ball where my niece goes to the Academy. While we're in town, Caitlin will be speaking to the students at the Academy at a special assembly. She will be speaking about her job, what motivates her, eating healthy and exercising. We are thrilled about this."

The local businesses that hired RAISE employees learned about the program in many different ways, and often by word of mouth or



Shown here (l-r): Loren London, Kayla Bratager, Caitlin Chambers and Renee Friedman flank the RAISE banner, which was a gift in kind by FASTSIGNS—Orlando Central.

from someone who knows someone.

"We found out about Samuel from Amy Weston, who is a job coach for one of our other employees and is a volunteer with RAISE [and now RAISE transition specialist]," Smith shared. "When she told us about [Samuel], we got the word out and our legal secretary, Carol, said her husband was looking for someone on a temporary basis. The rest is history."

The reason Smith got involved with RAISE is because she is the staff person for a nonprofit called No Down Side, which was started by Catherine Davey, owner of the Law Office of Catherine E. Davey, P.A. No Down Side ([www.nodownside.org](http://www.nodownside.org)) promotes meaningful employment for people with disabilities.

Interestingly, Carleton learned about RAISE through a RAISE staff member while

attending a Business as Usual networking event.

Abby Nelson learned about RAISE through Renee Friedman (owner of FASTSIGNS—Orlando Central). "The instant she started telling me about the program I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I then met Loren London and began the search for the right fit!"

Ali Polejes attended a networking event hosted by Friedman and Nelson. The speakers were Loren London and Rachel Slavkin. "I thought, 'is this something I can be a part of?'" said Polejes. She told Slavkin her needs, to which Slavkin replied that she had the "perfect fit." For Polejes, it was a great connection.

If you know a business owner interested in hiring an adult with special needs or would like to find out more about RAISE Awareness to Hire, please visit [www.orlandojewishfed.org/raise](http://www.orlandojewishfed.org/raise).

## Lawmakers

From page 3A

According to the congressmen, when they met afterwards with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and related the story, he apologized, saying "it shouldn't have happened."

Speaking of the meeting, Tipton said, "We continue to see Iran, [the] No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism, trying to expand their influence over into Syria, Lebanon and Yemen. We discussed serious issues, which we all need to make sure we understand, and the challenges we face. We want to be able to see peace in this

area... The prime minister, admirably, has a very specific understanding of the threats that are out there and ideas on how to best deal with them... It was, overall, a very thoughtful and comprehensive discussion. He [Netanyahu] was very on-game."

Asked about the US-Israel relationship, Tipton said "from a congressional point of view, particularly our caucus, it's strong. I think it is bipartisan."

Pointing to Netanyahu's 2015 speech to a joint session of Congress, in which he urged the United States to seek a better deal with Iran, Tipton

highlighted the reception he received and the "enthusiasm that was there for his clear vision."

He said the Israeli prime minister, "probably better than anyone in the world, is able to lay it out in terms of the challenges that, collaboratively, we face, and that are going to be impacting our European allies as well. It is well-appreciated, and I think the support is there in Congress."

McKinley added: "This is the foothold of democracy in the Middle East. And in some form, it protects Europe. So the whole issue of deal-

ing with ballistic missiles, I think there are going to be some answers that come from Israel. It is bipartisan. [Netanyahu] is enormously well-respected."

Referring to the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, McKinley felt that "more countries will follow. Part of it will be the optics of how quickly the US fulfills its objective. I hope it can be done—even if it's a temporary situation—make that position. Put your flag in the ground."

Regarding Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud

Abbas's speech to the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday, Tipton said "there is a very simple solution for Mr. Abbas. Recognize the right of Israel to be able to exist. If you're going to be able to have a peaceful solution, it takes two willing parties to be able to work together. I think Israel has extended the hand for the opportunity to make sure that peace does exist."

"We've had the opportunity to visit with some of the local people," he continued. "I think the sense is there. The leadership needs to get in tune. Ultimately, this has always been a sticking point. You

have to be able to recognize the right of Israel to exist. If you refuse to do that, you're making it very difficult to secure peace in the region."

In addition to Netanyahu, the congressmen met with other Israeli officials. They also visited the Port of Ashdod on the Mediterranean, and further south, Sderot, a town that has been pummeled by rocket fire from Hamas in Gaza since 2001. They will also be touring Judea and Samaria to learn more about the importance of these areas in Jewish history, and more pressing, their significance in present-day reality.

## Tobin

From page 4A

But there was more to the man than that gaffe or any other foolish statements uttered in several decades in the limelight.

Born in North Carolina in 1918 and the grandson of two Confederate soldiers, Graham was a product of an era in the American South in which anti-Semitism and racial bigotry were commonplace. But

Graham was able to transcend those prejudices to become an opponent of segregation, as well as a very public supporter of Jewish causes.

His willingness to embrace Israel is significant because the world in which he made his mark as an international religious celebrity was not one in which Jews were widely accepted. Nor was his advocacy for Zionism rooted in dispensationalist

beliefs about Jews being converted and bringing on the end of days. Unlike some evangelicals—and in spite of the fact that conversions were a prominent part of his ministry—Graham opposed proselytizing Jews, reminding Christians that seeking to impose faith on those who resisted such overtures was wrong.

Seen in that context, a Jewish rejection of Graham

and the tens of millions of other evangelicals not only makes no sense, but also is deeply self-destructive. Why continue to question the good intentions of people who not only think well of Israel, but also donate generously to charities that help Jews (as Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein's International Fellowship of Christians and Jews has proved) and who only vote for candidates that

support Israel with a single-minded mindset that most Jews reject.

In remembering Billy Graham, Jews can acknowledge his flaws, but they must also understand how much good he did not just for his own flock of believers, but for them as well. At a time when Israel remains beset by hatred and many are urging boycotts rooted in anti-Semitic animosity, friends like Billy Gra-

ham—and all the many other evangelicals who followed in his footsteps in support of Israel—should be embraced, rather than disdained. To do otherwise says more about our own prejudices against Christians than it does about the shortcomings of evangelicals.

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

## Phillips

From page 5A

lectual collapse, ultimately. And the sign of this collapse is an inability to recognize that Donald Trump has the look of a foreign object within the American presidential tradition."

You really do have to rub

your eyes at this. For eight years, America had in Barack Obama a president who subverted the constitution at home and weakened his country abroad by helping empower those who wished the country ill (consider the Iranian regime or the Muslim Brotherhood).

In Trump, America now has a president who is restoring respect for the constitution and the rule of law, and is standing up for American interests at home and abroad. And who is also currently being targeted by what looks very much like an attempted establishment coup against his presidency.

Berman has it backwards. Trump's election was not evidence of cultural collapse; it was a reaction against cultural collapse.

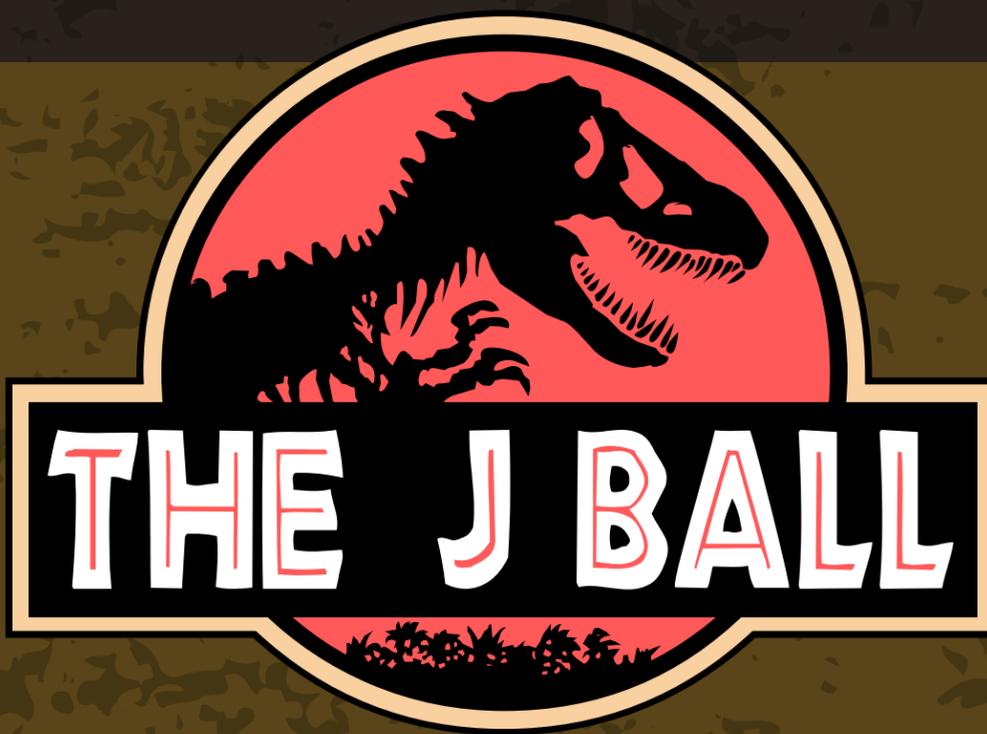
If this wasn't so serious, it would be comical to see some of our most stellar intellects holding their heads in their hands and wondering aloud

what could possibly have caused their country to fall into an abyss. The answer is simple: them.

Trump and Netanyahu lead the West on a new and more hopeful path. For sure, they aren't perfect and much remains unaddressed. But this is the first time that the

demoralization of the West has been tackled since the end of World War II.

Countries hostile to this leadership, including Britain and much of Western Europe, are now fumbling the civilizational ball. The only things they will be left holding are their noses.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 6:30-9:30PM  
ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER

ON-SITE BABYSITTING



It's a prehistoric party in **J-RASSIC PARK**, benefiting The Roth Family JCC! Chomp on heavy hors d'oeuvres, conquer the open bar, sift through the silent auction, revel in the gaming tables and dig the live entertainment from Michael Andrew and the J Life Magazine Swing Band!



RECEIVING THE HARRIET WEISS  
JCC LEGACY AWARD

Carol J. McNally  
*Early Childhood Leader for 29 Years*

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Gary & Phyllis Gould and the Gould Family Philanthropic Fund



REGISTER BY MARCH 5 [orlandojcc.org/jball](http://orlandojcc.org/jball)

BENEFITING



The Roth Family  
Jewish Community Center  
of Greater Orlando