

UCF students attend AIPAC conference

Thanks to the leadership of the Orlando Jewish community, UCF brought the fourth largest student delegation in the country to the AIPAC Policy Conference, which was held Sunday, March 4 through Tuesday, March 6.

Israel steps in to help teachers



Israel Trauma Coalition professionals Yotam Dagan (l), and Alan Cohen led training session for 600 community leaders in southern Florida after the Parkland school shooting.

By Abigail Klein Leichman

ISRAEL21c—Ten days after the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, experts from the Israel Trauma Coalition arrived at the community to guide teachers, clinicians, law enforcers, first responders, social workers, parents and clergy through a “day after” strategy for helping people face the future with resilience.

The community, which had never dealt with a shooting on this scale, was in shock.

“It was devastating,” said Nancy Teitelbaum, senior director of marketing and communications at Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County. “Everyone in our small community in Parkland is affected.”

Teitelbaum has a son in 11th grade at Stoneman Douglas, and he was at the school on the day of the shooting. Her older son graduated from the same school just a year ago.

“Most counselors, teachers and clinicians have never dealt with a mass

Israel on page 15A

Oscars 2018: A Jewish ‘passover’

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA)—Half a century ago, Bob Hope’s films were wildly popular, but the comedian was never nominated for an Academy Award.

So when Hope served as host of the 1975 Oscar bash, he opened his monologue with “Welcome to the Academy Awards... or as it’s known in my house, PASSOVER.”

At Sunday’s 90th award ceremony, the notable Jewish nominees could largely repeat his punchline.

The list of Jewish nominees, all with realistic chances to strike gold, included two for lead actors: Daniel Day-Lewis (in “Phantom Thread”) and Timothee Chalamet (“Call Me by Your Name”), both with Jewish mothers. Gary Oldman nabbed the prize for his portrayal of Winston Churchill in “Darkest Hour.”

Also nominated was repeat winner Hans Zimmer, who composed the score for “Dunkirk,” but who lost out to Alexandre Desplat for “The Shape of Water,” the eventual best picture winner.

Benj Pasek, who won the Oscar last year for best song for “La La Land,” failed to

follow up in the same category for “This Is Me” from “The Greatest Showman,” although his song became the unofficial anthem of the 2018 Winter Olympics. The winner in the song category was “Remember Me” from the animated film “Coco.”

The consolations for tribal rooters were few and far between. “Call Me by Your Name,” based on a novel by the Egypt-born Jewish novelist Andre Aciman, won for best adapted screenplay by James Ivory.

Director Barry Fogel won for best documentary for his feature “Icarus,” which helped expose Russia’s widespread athletic doping conspiracy. Fogel, a Denver native, previously developed, co-wrote and co-starred in “Jewtopia,” a successful play and later movie based on his book “Jewtopia: The Chosen Guide for the Chosen People.”

Two Jewish talents were

Oscars on page 15A

A lady of style and accomplishments:

Jewish Pavilion Spring Fashion Show honors Elayne Burke Wershil

By Julie Capps

Edna Woolman Chase, a former editor-in-chief of Vogue magazine who is often credited as creator of the world’s first fashion show, once said, “Fashion can be bought. Style one must possess.” With this quote in mind, the creation of a memorial to honor Elayne Burke Wershil seems most fitting at this year’s Jewish Pavilion spring fashion show, to be held Thursday, April 12, at the Mall of Millenia. For while fashion was her love, it was her style that makes her most memorable.

Wershil, an active volunteer with the Jewish Pavilion and former co-president of the sisterhood at Congregation of Reform Judaism, passed away last April. A woman who pursued many passions



Elayne Burke Wershil

that included cooking, entertaining, travel, fashion and volunteerism, Wershil accomplished much in her 90 years of life. She was absolutely adored by her husband, Jeffrey, and their four children. And was loved deeply by her five grandchildren: Gillian, Jeremy, Josh, Hannah and Emma. So when Nancy Ludin, CEO of the Jewish Pavilion, approached the family to inquire about a memorial, Wershil’s daughters saw the selection of the organization’s annual fashion show as an ideal way to honor their mom’s extraordinary life.

Wershil was the mother of three daughters (Billie, Bonnie, and Bettsie) and one son (Adam).

“Our mother was very into fashion. She was very fashion-forward,” said Bettsie, the youngest daughter. Classifying her mother’s fashion choices as “adventurous,” Bettsie added, “She was always ahead of the crowd in terms of what she wore.” In fact, the sisters like to say that their mom was the first mom in

Miami to wear bellbottoms back when they first debuted.

“Weren’t they denim?” asked Bonnie, the middle of three daughters.

“Yeah, and nobody was doing that at the time,” said Bettsie. “She was the talk of the town. Yeah, that was mom.”

While Jeffrey worked in the wholesale liquor business, Wershil worked on the business of raising the family, with particular focus needed on Adam, who suffered an illness at 7 months that resulted in special needs. The family resided in Miami for a while. A brief job transfer to Jacksonville resulted in a quick move back to Miami. And yet, even with all the hectic schedules that can come with the raising of a family, Wershil managed to find the time to go back to evening classes at the University of Miami, completing her college degree in education. “That was a big part of what was so inspiring about her and what made her who she was,” said Bettsie of the accomplishment.

Eventually, the oldest sister, Billie, would settle in Maitland with her husband, Larry Parker, working as a teacher at Maitland Middle School for 30 years while helping to care for her brother Adam. Middle daughter, Bonnie, and her husband, Thom Marsteller, settled in Dallas, and the youngest daughter, Bettsie, ended up in St. Davids, Pa., with husband, Dr. Steven Greenbaum.

In the 1980s, Elayne and Jeffrey made the choice to move to Longwood in order to be closer to both Billie and Adam. Billie got to enjoy the benefits of having her mother live so close.

“She and I were shopping buddies. We loved to go shopping,” said Billie. “We would walk into Macy’s or Bloomingdales or wherever we went and all the people in there knew us.”

Elayne and Jeffrey got to travel the world and enjoyed entertaining friends throughout their 55 years of marriage before Jeffrey passed away in 2002. Their son Adam passed away this past November.

Each of the sisters have individual memories of their mom that they love to share. “She was a fabulous cook,” said Billie, sharing the memory of her mom making a huge pot of spaghetti sauce, where all the kids would get to be taste testers.

Bonnie recalls her mom’s creation of a cookbook that was meant to raise funds for Adam’s school, the Vanguard School, back in Miami.

Bettsie remembers her mom teaching a class on how to cook noodle kugel as part of Jewish Pavilion programming at Village on the Green. “She took one of her talents and transferred it into something she could share,” admired Bettsie.

The sisters also cite their mom’s active work in the community beyond just the Jewish Pavilion. Wershil was a community clergy for her temple and would visit Jewish patients at Florida Hospital as part of that role.

Most of all she simply loved people. And it was that love of people that led to her involvement with the Jewish Pavilion. “She loved to talk. Oh, did she love to talk,” said Billie. “And she loved to visit.”

Wershil on page 14A



A story of synergy and friendship

By Terri Susan Fine, Ph.D.

Every photo tells a story, and what you see here is no different. The photo shows two women, smiling and happy. On the right is Rebbetzin Rivkie Lipskier, Chabad at UCF co-executive director, wife, and mother of five young children. I stand on the left, professor of political science at UCF, wife, stepmother to two adult children, and old enough to be Rivkie's mother. Rivkie and I met about 11 years ago when she moved to Central Florida with her husband, Rabbi Chaim Lipskier, who, like Rivkie, serves as co-executive director of Chabad at UCF. Make no mistake though. Despite Rivkie and I both being Jewish women living in Central Florida, we are very different.

Rivkie and I are standing beneath a bridge. Can you see it? It is a bridge that cannot be seen with the naked eye but is unmistakably there.

That bridge represents

the long-term synergy and friendship that Rivkie and I share. Synergy is the idea that two very different elements, such as people, combine forces to create something greater than each element alone. Synergy cannot occur without different elements because without those differences something far greater than the sum of each person's individual contribution would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. After all, if we are too much alike then we would bring the same strengths to the partnership and, consequently, the same deficits.

The photograph was taken at the UCF Student Union on Friday, Feb. 23, 2018, about 45 minutes before sundown. Interesting. Two Jewish women in the secular UCF Student Union awaiting the start of Shabbat. We were not in synagogue or a Chabad center where one might expect to find a Chabad rebbetzin and certainly, as infrequently as I go to the UCF Student Union, it is

never on a Friday night, with one exception. Once a year Rivkie and I find ourselves in the UCF Student Union for the Chabad at UCF "Mega Shabbat" where hundreds of Jewish students, their parents, Jewish faculty and their families, alumni, community members and special guests, join together for a spiritual, delicious and festive Shabbat dinner. Guests change from year to year, of course, as students graduate and faculty new to the university join in. For example, two years ago, one of those special guests was Rabbi Levik Dubov. Rabbi Dubov brought with him members of his own young adult congregation, including several UCF alumni who had celebrated "Mega Shabbat" in that same Student Union ballroom as UCF students. Rabbi Dubov didn't make it to "Mega Shabbat 2017," though, and for very good reason. He was in Paris celebrating Shabbat a few days before his wedding to the lovely Slava Edelman. Rabbi Levik and Rebbetzin

Slava Dubov now make their home in downtown Orlando as co-executive directors of Chabad of O'Town. Many of the young adults experiencing Yiddishkeit with the Dubovs spent their college years with the Lipskiers at UCF.

In many respects the UCF Student Union represents the invisible bridge in the photograph that we know is there. The Student Union sits at the center of campus, and my role as Chabad at UCF's faculty adviser is to handle so much of the secular necessities that any student group requires. These duties include signing forms for events and budget requests, reviewing Student Government Association program bills, and handling concerns that arise when students have difficulty securing accommodation when their religious observance conflicts with class requirements. Rivkie, on the other hand, and along with her husband, serves as a critical center for Jewish life on campus by bringing Yiddishkeit to



Terri Susan Fine, Ph.D., with Rebbetzin Rivkie Lipskier.

the very same secular space. They use meeting space in the Student Union for "pasta and parsha" classes every week while Rivkie offers classes just for women. Together they spend time staffing a table on the front patio of the Student Union every Wednesday, sharing smiles and kosher brownies. For holidays the Lipskiers, along with student volunteers and sometimes their children, bring Yid-

dishkeit to students and other passersby with a "Sukkah on Wheels" and, more recently, a megillah reading for Purim (in costume, of course) on that same patio.

Do you see the bridge now? It is the unique and special bridge made possible by friendship and synergy.

Terri Susan Fine, Ph.D., is a professor of political science, UCF and faculty adviser, Chabad at UCF.

Choices Raffle is shaping up to be another hot ticket

Choices, the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando's annual women's philanthropy event, is a little more than a week away—the evening of March 26 at The Roth Family Jewish Community Center in Maitland.

Choices gives women in the local Jewish community an opportunity to socialize, catch up with old friends and

make new ones, all while supporting the local Jewish community. In addition to the gifts they make to the Federation's 2018 Annual Campaign, women at Choices also support the Federation through the very popular Choices Raffle.

The raffle is made up entirely of items generously donated by local businesses

and individuals. Last year's raffle netted more than \$6,600 for the Federation.

This year's raffle prizes are still coming in. So far, the prizes include everything from jewelry to wine to dining packages and more. Visit www.jfgo.org/choices for a full list of prizes.

A few standout items:

- Free weekend rental

of a Mercedes sedan from Mercedes-Benz of Orlando

- The "I Love Park Avenue" package, which features items and gift certificates from Winter Park merchants, plus jewelry and sunglasses

- Weekend stays and dining at area hotels and resorts

- 3-month membership to RDV Sportsplex

- 4 tickets to an Orlando Magic regular-season game in 2018

One of the most popular raffle items each year is the reserved parking space on the Maitland Jewish Community Campus. The winner gets exclusive use of her/his own private space for a year. For 2018, the Federation has

upped the ante, offering a reserved space at the Rosen JCC campus in South Orlando as well.

Women who attend Choices have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for \$25 each (or 5 tickets for \$100). Tickets in hand, the women get to select which item(s) they would like to win and deposit their ticket in the appropriate ticket jar during the event. Drawings will be held throughout the latter part of the evening.

Raffle tickets can be purchased in advance on the Choices web page or in person at Choices 2018 on March 26. If you haven't yet registered for Choices, you can do so online at www.jfgo.org/choices or by



calling the Federation office at 407-645-5933, ext. 236.

The Federation is able to bring Choices to life thanks to the generosity of its sponsors. The Presenting Sponsor for Choices 2018 is Harriett's Charitable Trust. The Diamond Sponsor is AVMedia, which will be handling the lighting and production. Orlando Health is a Ruby Sponsor.

CRJ Seder brings community together

Family and friends, old and new, unite to mark the beginning of Passover with food, drink, song, and, of course, the retelling of the Exodus story at the Congregation of Reform Judaism Community Second-Night Seder at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 31, 2018 at the synagogue.

This is the third year for the traditional interactive service, which has shown increased popularity, with last year's attendance doubling the first. Led by clergy aid Gary Becker and with guitar accompaniment by talented CRJ youth, this event offers an opportunity for the com-

munity to unite and reflect once again upon the survival of the Jewish people against all odds and apply the lessons of our ancestry to today's world.

All guests will enjoy a seder plate, wine and matzoh at their tables, with additional wines available for purchase by the bottle. After the seder, a buffet-style dinner awaits, catered by Bagel King, which will include salad, chicken, salmon, roasted vegetables plus Passover pastries and fruit.

In a world that often pulls people apart because of their differences, Passover offers an important reminder that

freedom and tolerance belong to all people.

The Community Second-Night Seder is sponsored by the CRJ Sisterhood and is open to all congregants and community members. Cost for the event is \$42 per person, \$36 for Seniors 65+, and \$20 for ages 13 and under. Cost includes seder, buffet dinner and reserved seating. Register online at crjorlando.org/seder by March 26, 2018. For more information, please contact Gary Becker at gbecker@earthlink.net or 407-221-5343. CRJ is located at 928 Malone Drive, Orlando, FL 32810.

CJC Passover seder, March 31

Celebration Jewish Congregation's Second Night of Passover Seder Dinner Service will take place on Saturday, March 31, 5 p.m., with Rabbi Dr. Richard M. Cowin officiating the Passover service. A comprehensive, yet expeditious seder service will be achieved using the 30-Minute Seder Haggadah.

This year's seder will be conducted at The Artisan

Club, 1343 Celebration Avenue, Celebration, FL 34747.

The Seder is the most significant event in the Passover celebration, gathering family and friends together to observe the holiday in a meaningful way.

The Seder dinner buffet menu contains traditional Passover favorites for adults and children - gefilte fish, chopped liver, matzo

ball soup, roasted chicken, beef brisket, salmon, carrot tzimmes, green bean casserole, potato pancakes, wine, coffee, tea, soft drinks and dessert.

Tickets are \$40, adults; \$20, pre-bar/bat mitzvah children.

Reservations may be made through CJC's website, www.jewishcelebration.org

For directions to the Artisan Club, call 321-939-2315.



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On AIPAC sidelines, Israeli ministers express support for settlements



Alex Traiman

Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked speaks at an event at the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue in Washington, D.C.

By Alex Traiman

(JNS)—On the margins of the AIPAC policy conference in Washington, D.C., more than 300 conference attendees gathered at the prestigious



Alex Traiman

Israeli Education Minister and Jewish Home Party Naftali Bennett at an event at the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue in Washington, D.C.

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue on Monday to express support for the nearly 500,000 residents of Judea and Samaria, also known as the West Bank.

AIPAC leaders did not permit the session on one of

Israel's most controversial topics to be included within the conference's vast schedule. Yet the high-profile event was co-sponsored by Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs.

The off-campus session was addressed by several of Israel's highest-profile government ministers. Congressman Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), also addressed the event.

The session linked Israeli settlements to multiple topics of strategic importance to Israel, including America's recognition of Jerusalem, the possibility of a new round of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, and efforts to delegitimize the Jewish state. While each of those topics was addressed at length in the policy conference, YESHA Council's Chief Foreign Envoy Oded Revivi asked the group: "Why wasn't the establishment of Judea and Samaria invited to address the general assembly?"

Regarding Jerusalem, Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet

Shaked thanked U.S. President Donald Trump for "thinking outside of the box," noting that America's official recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel was the "application of American law" and has "legal implications." Yet she also said that while the move is a bipartisan issue of "consensus between Democrats and Republicans who believe the embassy should be in Jerusalem, until Trump, no one did it."

While many of AIPAC's sessions focus squarely on Israel's security threats and the tactics used to keep Israelis safe, Shaked stated that "settlers defend the entire state of Israel."

Minister of Energy Resources Yuval Steinitz, a member of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud Party, agreed, stating that "it is impossible from a strategic point of view to defend Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the coastal plain if Judea and Samaria are in the hands of our enemies. This is a geographical reality."

Steinitz also pointed out that opponents to settlements who attempt to publicly delegitimize Israel for its presence in the disputed territories called out the Boycott, Divestment and

Sanctions (BDS) movement, stating that "those who want to throw us from Judea and Samaria want to throw us also from Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheva and all over."

"If the BDS movement would succeed, this will be just the beginning," he said. "The BDS movement is not just about Judea and Samaria. It is about the entire Jewish state."

Israel's Consul General to New York Dani Dayan acknowledged the sensitivity of settlements for many Jewish supporters of Israel, expressing his view that "the political argument [of Israel's settlement enterprise] is legitimate," yet suggested that efforts to avoid or boycott Israel or parts of Israel because of political disagreement are "un-Jewish" and represent a form of "bigotry."

"If we are foreigners to Judea and Samaria, then of course we are foreigners to Tel Aviv," he said.

For his part, Wilson showered praise on Israel at the pro-settler event, stating, "I'm just so proud of your success. I'm glad to do anything I can do to support the U.S.-Israel relationship."

'Apply Israeli law'

Israeli Minister of Education Naftali Bennett suggested that the international

community will never recognize the legitimacy of Israeli settlements until changes take place in Israeli law.

Speaking about Israel's annexation of Jerusalem following the Six-Day War, he said "in 1967, we acted first and applied Israeli law in Jerusalem. Had we not done that, nobody would have recognized Jerusalem today."

Regarding the Golan (also captured by Israel during the Six-Day War) along Israel's border with Syria, Bennett stated that in 1981, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin "brought a bill to recognize Israeli law in the Golan. And today, the Golan is ours. Forty years later, the Golan is still ours."

He called on America to follow the recent recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and "recognize that the Golan is ours."

"The world does not respect a nation that is willing to give up its homeland. We need to apply Israeli law in Judea and Samaria," stated Bennett.

But the words of Revivi, who also serves as mayor of Efrat, may have summed up the entire discussion: "Jewish communities are not obstacles to peace, but an integral part of the solution for peace in the region."

Pence: US will withdraw from Iran deal unless it is fixed soon

By Ben Sales

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Vice President Mike Pence said that unless the Iran nuclear deal is fixed in the "coming months," the United States would withdraw from it.

Pence made the promise, to cheers, during his address Monday night to the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C.

The deal, which was signed in 2015 by Iran, the United States and a group of other world powers, curbs Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

President Donald Trump opposes the agreement. In October, he declined to certify that Iran was complying with it, but he has yet to fully withdraw the United States from the accord, instead asking Congress to pass legislation altering the pact.

Pence told AIPAC that Trump waived the sanctions to give U.S. lawmakers and America's allies time to act.

"But make no mistake about it, this is their last chance," the vice president

said. "Unless the Iran nuclear deal is fixed in the coming months, the United States of America will withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal."

Pence, like several of the other speakers Monday, praised Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and vowing to move the United States embassy there in May. Pence also praised the administration for weakening ISIS, supporting Israel in international forums and giving Israel a large security aid package.

He called Trump "the most pro-Israel president in American history," but not before slipping up and accidentally calling him "the most pro-life" president. Pence also ended his speech by quoting the Shehechyanu blessing, which Jews recite on special occasions.

"Thanks to the president's leadership, the alliance between America and Israel has never been stronger," he said. "America stands with Israel today, tomorrow and always."

Also speaking Monday night was U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki

Haley, a crowd favorite who sprinkled her speech with one-liners that drew 12 standing ovations. She repeated the promise that the United States would tie foreign aid to countries' voting records in the U.N, though she added that would be one of several considerations.

"That should be one of the factors, and we are determined to start making that connection" between foreign aid and U.N. votes, Haley said. "Some people accuse us of showing favoritism toward Israel. There's nothing wrong with showing favoritism toward an ally."

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., also hit key crowd-pleasing notes in his speech, which the Senate minority leader peppered with Hebrew words. Other speakers included Reps. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., the majority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives; Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., its minority leader; and Steny Hoyer, D-Md., the minority whip.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will address the conference on Tuesday.

Czech president wants embassy move to Jerusalem expedited

**By Batya Jerenberg
World Israel News**

Milos Zeman, recently elected to his second five-year term as president of the Czech Republic, would like to speed up the process of moving his country's embassy to Jerusalem, the Lidové noviny newspaper reported.

The Americans announced in February that as an initial step they would be turning their consulate in Jerusalem into an embassy on May 14, coinciding with Israel's 70th anniversary. Daniel Meron, Israel's ambassador to Prague, tweeted that according to the Czech paper, Zeman would like his country to join US President Donald Trump's initiative in that regard.

While Meron tweeted "US: 1, Czech Republic: 2?" he was

corrected by responders who reminded him that Guatemala would be the second, as President Jimmy Morales announced on Sunday that his country would move its embassy a mere two days after the United States.

When Trump declared America's formal recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital last December, Prague was quick to follow, although the foreign ministry limited the country's statement by saying that it "recognizes Jerusalem to be in fact the capital of Israel in the borders of the demarcation line from 1967," i.e. only western Jerusalem.

At the time, Zeman was warm in his praise of the idea, adding that the Czech Republic could have led the way on the issue early in his first term.

"It makes me truly happy

because, as I said during my visit to Israel four years ago, I would like to transfer the Czech Embassy to Jerusalem, and had it happened, we would have been the first to do so," he noted. "Now we may sooner or later follow the United States. In any case, it is still better than nothing."

Now it seems that the president would like it to be a case of sooner rather than later, as the report stated that he considers the move a "top priority." Zeman's words follow a meeting held in Israel in late February with a Czech interministerial working group to discuss the transfer.

The report also stated, however, that after consulting its EU colleagues, the Czech foreign ministry objects to moving the embassy at this time and does not even own property in Jerusalem.

Poles persecuted Jews 'vigorously' during Holocaust

(JNS)—In a bid to end the contentious debate surrounding Poland's controversial Holocaust law, the Simon Wiesenthal Center released a declassified report on Thursday highlighting Polish complicity in persecuting Jews during the Holocaust.

The U.S. State Department report from May 15, 1946—released by the Simon Wiesenthal Center on the same day that the Polish Holocaust law went into effect—found "evidence that Poles persecuted the Jews as vigorously as did the Germans."

The report, declassified in 1983, found that "native Poles" took part in anti-Jewish actions conducted by the Germans, and called anti-Semitism "a traditional feature of Polish political and economic life."

The report also documents anti-Semitism in Poland prior to the Holocaust, such as the country's anti-Semitic policies following World War I, including a ban on ritual animal slaughter, discriminatory tax laws and a limit on the number of

Jews given admittance to universities.

At the same time, the report also documents attacks against Jews following the Holocaust, including reports that more than 350 Jews were killed in Polish towns.

The Polish legislation enacted on March 1 makes it illegal to attribute crimes committed during the Holocaust to Poland. The law has sparked outrage in Israel and among Holocaust survivors, and has also been condemned by the United States, a key ally of Poland.



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The House of Windsor's Israel problem

By Ben Cohen

(JNS)—Queen Elizabeth II is marking her 66th year of reign in 2018, which by any standards is an extraordinarily long time for a single individual to be a head of state. (By comparison, King David is said to have reigned for 40 years, and Queen Victoria—comfortably overtaken now by Elizabeth—managed 64.)

Off the top of my head, I can't think of any current ruler who has remained in place throughout the Cold War and beyond. In that sense, historians will have a grand second Elizabethan era to pour through, one so lengthy that those things that were features of the first half of her reign—ration books, royal family struggles with the Church of England, a snarling punk ditty by the Sex Pistols that rhymed “queen” with “fascist regime”—were misty memories by the time it came to its close in the age of social media.

But for all the momentous historic changes that Elizabeth witnessed from her vantage points at Buckingham Palace, Windsor and Balmoral—changes that were often blessed with royal visits, high honors, state banquets and so forth—one country went stubbornly unacknowledged: Israel.

Now that Elizabeth's grandson, Prince William, has announced a first-ever visit by a British royal to Israel, in addition to Jordan and the “Occupied Palestinian Territories,” it is

perhaps time to reflect on the relationship, or absence of one, between the House of Windsor and the Jewish nation.

Part of the delight around William's impending visit stems from the fact that few people see the royal family as a political entity anymore; getting a visit from a Windsor, the son of the iconic Princess Diana no less, is a moment for one's national pride to swell in the glow of royal approval. When Elizabeth visited post-Communist Lithuania in 2006, the BBC reported on the cheering crowds in the capital, Vilnius, waving their own flag alongside the Union Jack. One might imagine that Israelis, having emerged from a similar history of turbulence, would have appreciated a similar opportunity.

The point, however, is not simply that the Queen made Lithuanians feel good about themselves. In a speech to the Lithuanian parliament, she saluted all the Baltic nations in explicitly political terms. “You have emerged from the shadow of the Soviet Union and blossomed as sovereign states, taking up your rightful places in the international community and as respected members of the European Union and NATO,” she remarked. “It is a transformation—political, economic and social—for which there are few parallels in the history of Europe.”



Wikimedia Commons

Queen Elizabeth visiting Birmingham in July 2012 as part of her Diamond Jubilee tour.

Words like these could have been heard in the Knesset in Jerusalem. They should have been. But as far as the Queen and her close relatives were concerned—including her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, whose mother, Princess

Alice of Battenberg, saved Greek Jews from the Nazis and is interred on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives—Israel may as well have not existed.

Windsor on page 15A

The price for Trump's Israel plan is too high

By Stephen M. Flatow

(JNS)—A Palestinian state in Israel's backyard, international control over Jerusalem's Old City and the mass expulsion of tens of thousands of Jews from Judea and Samaria: Is this the “price” that President Donald Trump recently hinted Israel would have to pay?

According to Arab diplomats cited by the London newspaper Asharq al-Awsat, the Trump plan for the Middle East, soon to be unveiled, includes “U.S. recognition of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital”; the imposition of “international protection” over Jerusalem's Old City; and the expulsion of many Jews from the territories. Plus, the Palestinian Authority would be given another \$40 billion in aid.

The Palestinian state would not be precisely along the 1967 lines, but it would be close enough—much too close for comfort. Palestinian terrorists would be within easy striking range of Ben-Gurion Airport and downtown Jerusalem. Israel would be dangerously narrow at its midsection.

Jewish residents of the territories near the old 1967 lines would be allowed to stay, according to the plan. But tens of thousands of others would be forcibly expelled. Apparently, it's a given that the “State of Palestine” could not bear to have any Jews on its soil.

There would be no “Palestinian right of return” under Trump's plan. But that's not some big concession to Israel; obviously, the Israelis never would have accepted the idea of millions of Arabs flooding into the Jewish state. Giving up on something you never would have gotten anyway is not giving up on anything.

The Trump administration has not yet publicly confirmed that the Asharq al-Awsat report is accurate. But the reported details of the plan do seem to dovetail with recent statements by the president and his spokespeople.

First, there was Trump's statement at his

Feb. 15, 2017 press conference with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying “I would like you to hold back on settlements for a little bit”—as if Jews living in their historical homeland are somehow an obstacle to peace.

Then came the president's statement in his Feb. 9, 2017 interview with Israel Hayom: “The settlements are something that very much complicates and always have complicated making peace, so I think Israel has to be very careful with the settlements.”

Another troubling sign was the president's Jan. 2, 2018 tweet: “We have taken Jerusalem, the toughest part of the negotiation, off the table, but Israel, for that, would have had to pay more.” Similarly, he told reporters in Davos on Jan. 25: “I helped it because by taking it off the table—that was the toughest issue—and Israel will pay for that. You won one point, and you'll give up some points later on in negotiations, if it ever takes place.”

The Trump administration has also started using the kind of reprehensible “both sides” rhetoric that was typical of the Obama administration. In his Israel Hayom interview, President Trump said: “I think that both sides will have to make significant compromises in order for achieving a peace deal to be possible... Right now, I would say the Palestinians are not looking to make peace; they are not looking to make peace. And I am not necessarily sure that Israel is looking to make peace.”

Then The Jerusalem Post reported, on Feb. 20, that Trump advisers Jared Kushner and Jason Greenblatt said of the forthcoming Trump plan that “both sides are going to love some of it and hate some of it.” Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, used almost identical language at a Feb. 22 speech in Chicago: “The plan won't be loved by either side. And it won't be hated by either side.”

The United States should not be treating

Price on page 15A

The real Russia challenge Trump faces

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS)—After beating ISIS, the administration can't stand by idly as the chaos in Syria leads to war between Israel and Iran's Hezbollah auxiliaries.

Donald Trump was elected president of the United States promising an “America First” foreign policy. That was an ominous echo of America's pre-World War II isolationists, and as troubling as that sounded to anyone with a sense of history, it seemed to match his belief that the United States had spent too much blood and treasure on wars in the Middle East.

Though he promised to defeat the terrorists of ISIS, Trump also seemed to assure a pullback from the region. And while he criticized his predecessor for the success of Islamist terrorists, his approach to the Middle East now oddly enough resembles the continuation of President Barack Obama's decision both to abandon Iraq and leave the people of Syria to their fate.

The irony is that while Trump has been attacked for his desire for better relations with Russia, which his critics link to accusations of collusion during the 2016 election, this point of view would be an extension of an Obama policy that acquiesced to Russian intervention in Syria, which for all intents and purposes made it the pre-eminent foreign power in the region.

The impact of this surrender after Obama's 2013 “red line” threats against Russia's client, Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, also fit with America's appeasement of Iran, a country that also backed the Damascus government. The combined brutality of Russia, along with an Iran that had been empowered and enriched by the nuclear deal and Tehran's Hezbollah auxiliaries, guaranteed that Assad would remain in power.

Their success has led to a human-rights catastrophe in Syria. But the aftermath of a war that is winding down in more bloodshed has set the stage for yet another conflict: a possible war between Israel and Hezbollah.

With Iran building weapons and missile factories in Hezbollah-dominated Lebanon, coupled with a devastated Syria, Israel is rightly worried that Tehran is setting the stage for another war that would make the 2006 Second Lebanon War seem like a picnic. Since that conflict, most Israelis assumed that Hezbollah understood the price of another war would be too high to pay. But the fear now is that Iran's missile factories have changed the equation to the extent that Israel's strength may not be enough to deter another conflagration.

That has left the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scrambling to get Russia to ensure that the balance of terror between the potential antagonists isn't overturned. Israelis hope that Russian President Vladimir Putin shares their desire to preserve the peace and prevent more bloodshed, though their leverage over him is limited.

That's why it's time for Trump to prove that the 2018 version of “America First” doesn't mean that the United States will stand by helplessly as the mistakes of for-

mer President George W. Bush, whose Iraq war had the unintended consequence of strengthening Iran, and Obama lead to a new war involving Israel.

As it happens, Trump did keep his word on ISIS. The war against the Islamic State had been stalemated for two years under Obama. But by changing the rules of engagement and how U.S. forces fought the terrorists, Trump was in no small measure responsible for helping to turn the tide of battle as ISIS was routed in 2017.

When running for president, Trump promised that the United States wouldn't stay to clean up the mess left after the terrorists were defeated. To his credit—and contrary to the spirit of “America First”—that isn't what he's now doing. The administration has announced that U.S. troops will stay in Syria after ISIS is wiped out to make sure that the terrorists don't come back under another title—exactly the sort of policy he denounced as “nation-building” prior to taking office. It's also something that has annoyed the Russians, who have been hoping for exactly the kind of isolationism that Trump's critics feared would define U.S. foreign policy.

All that leaves Trump facing the basic contradiction that has always been at the heart of his Middle East policy pronouncements. While he has been quite open about his desire for a rapprochement with Russia, he has been equally vocal about confronting Iran, both in terms of renegotiating or dumping a weak nuclear deal and in restraining Tehran's adventurism.

It has always been clear to everyone, except perhaps the president, that he was going to have to choose between those two goals since there was no way to make nice with Moscow while getting tough with Putin's Iranian allies. Much as he would like to put off that choice, the possibility of Iran and Hezbollah picking a fight with Israel means the United States must make it clear that this is not an outcome Washington will tolerate.

Does the administration have the tenacity or diplomatic skill to compel or persuade Russia to force its allies to behave? There's good reason for pessimism on this score. But if Trump is serious about wanting to strengthen Israel and the moderate Arab states that rightly fear Iranian adventurism, now is the time for him to tell Putin rather bluntly that whatever he gained from the slaughter in Syria will be potentially lost, along with any hope that America will regard him favorably if the region erupts.

Since the goals of Russian foreign policy under Putin have been to reassemble the Soviet empire—and annoy the United States as much as possible—there's no way of knowing if Putin thinks more chaos will help or harm him. Trump can't undo the mistakes of the past that led to this mess. But if he cares as much about Israel as his recent stands on Jerusalem and holding the Palestinians accountable for subsidizing terror would lead us to believe, he can't leave Netanyahu on his own to deal with Putin, Hezbollah and Iran. Standing by idly as the situation unravels is not an option.

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

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Poland 'suspends' the Holocaust law/lie

By Fiamma Nirenstein

(JNS)—It's a very good thing that Poland took a step backwards against a decision that not only absolved it of guilt, but also made it a liar.

It gave in to common sentiment, which populism tends to do. Wisely, the government decided not to implement a law that could lead to a fine and up to three years in prison for anyone who refers to Nazi extermination camps on its territory during World War II as "Polish death camps" or accuses Polish citizens of being complicit in the extermination of the Jews.

Poland's President Andrzej Duda signed the bill into law earlier this month after it was passed in the Senate. What followed was a rhetorical escalation of petty national-

ism, and on the other side, of accusations of anti-Semitism. Probably things changed after Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, clearly rigidly playing his role, publicly declared that while there were some "Polish perpetrators," there were also "Jewish perpetrators" responsible for the Holocaust.

Here, the crisis erupted over how incongruous the Polish law was: How could anyone compare what happened to the Jews—the desperate and persecuted victims—to that of the persecutors and their accomplices?

Then Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wisely, notwithstanding the requests of breaking all relations with Poland and calling back the ambassador, spoke at length with Morawiecki with the idea,

which his shocked critics opposed, that Israel should find a way to talk with Poland. And the road has been found. The Polish Foreign Ministry announced that it will put the law on hold in order to amend its wording, and a Polish delegation will arrive in Israel on Wednesday to find an acceptable solution together.

Technically, it's true that the "Nazis," and certainly not the "Poles," undertook the extermination of the Jews. There were Poles who fought the Nazis with courage, but it's also true that the Poles haven't fully come to terms with their own terrible history of anti-Semitism, which was expressed both during the Shoah and after the war.

And yet the Polish law can't be attributed to new anti-Semitism since it is evident

that the law itself highlights its current repulsion with respect to the persecution of the Jews. And it's very important for the Jewish state to be able to ascertain, especially at a time in which genocidal anti-Semitism by extreme Islam and its supporters threaten Israel and its people, whether those countries that have elected governments that aren't on the left should be suspected or accused of anti-Semitism. The answer is that among populism and nationalism, anti-Semitism can rise its ugly head, but it's a phenomena that doesn't necessarily involve the state where this happens. Therefore, the best choice is not to send everybody, including the institutions, to hell, but to ask them to fight anti-Semitism and prove that they really do.

This will probably be asked of the Polish leaders involved.

Now Israel—although very attentive to displays of Holocaust negationism—realizes that its enemies are the fascists, the Nazis, and not the moderate governments of Eastern Europe. This is very important, especially when confronted by a hostile European Union headed by Federica Mogherini, which has taken a pro-Iranian stance. So much so that the international governmental body never once uttered a single word about Iran's genocidal intentions vis-à-vis the Jews.

Isn't this anti-Semitism—real anti-Semitism?

The wave of controversy against Poland thus seems unwarranted for now. There was a lie, but not anti-Semitism. Israel must monitor the neo-

Nazis in order to ensure that they never again propagate hate, but the Poles don't seem to belong in the same category, and Israel did well to reserve judgment because of that.

Journalist Fiamma Nirenstein was a member of the Italian Parliament (2008-13), where she served as vice president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Chamber of Deputies, served in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, and established and chaired the Committee for the Inquiry Into Anti-Semitism. A founding member of the international Friends of Israel Initiative, she has written 13 books, including "Israel Is Us" (2009). Currently, she is a fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

Translation by Amy Rosenthal.

Israel needs Trump to contain Iran—He's off to a good start

By Emily Landau

TEL AVIV (JTA)—The latest episode of Iran flexing its regional hegemonic muscles in the Middle East came with a direct and unprecedented military challenge to Israel.

Last week, Iran used a technologically advanced drone—reverse-engineered from a U.S. drone captured in 2011—to penetrate Israel's airspace. Israel took the drone down, and proceeded to strike Iranian and Syrian military targets deep in Syria. While Israel lost an F-16 in the exchange, the message to Iran and Syria regarding Israel's willingness to respond quickly and decisively was clear, and the episode was over within a few hours.

Different lessons can be drawn from this military clash, but the core issue is Iran's ongoing presence in Syria: Its goal is to assert itself there, and to call the shots,

including vis-à-vis Israel. Iran strives to establish permanent Shiite militias in Syria that will fulfill its hegemonic designs for the Middle East, similar to the role played by its proxy, Hezbollah, in Lebanon.

Israel made a conscious decision to remain on the sidelines of the civil war in Syria, intervening there and in Lebanon over the past years only in order to address direct security threats. It has carried out targeted strikes on convoys transferring advanced missiles from Iran to Hezbollah, and lately has made efforts to sabotage Iran's plans to construct missile factories in both countries. For Israel these are unacceptable game changers in any future war that might erupt with Hezbollah.

Israel will continue to act to ensure its security interests, while coordinating with Russia. Yet, the tension in Iranian-Israeli relations

will continue to percolate in Syria. Down the line, many predict that the next flare-up is virtually inevitable, possibly seeing Iran firing missiles into Israel, which could escalate to major warfare.

But while the risks of escalation are real, they cannot be assessed in isolation from the wider context in Syria. Military moves by Iran in Syria that go beyond the bounds of the civil war will draw in other actors—whether those directly involved on the ground, or on the sidelines. Russia and the U.S. in particular have a strong interest in denying Iran such freedom of action, and they are the main parties that should be working to ensure Iranian restraint, and its ultimate departure from Syria.

It is vitally important that the U.S. remain a key player in this region. While the administration has yet to carve out a comprehensive strategy regarding the Middle East, the

Iran policy unveiled by Trump in mid-October clarified that all aspects of Iran's behavior are linked, and that U.S. policy will relate to the nuclear deal alongside the other issues: Iran's missile tests, its support for terror and its regional aggressions. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson clarified last month that the U.S. will keep troops in Syria to among other things push back against Iranian influence.

The U.S. response to the weekend clash—emphasizing Israel's right to defend itself—was strong and was welcomed by Israel, but more will be needed from the U.S. in order to contain the situation over the long term. It will require diplomatic efforts vis-à-vis Russia and the Europeans, and there might soon be a need for targeted military action against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Syria.

Trump is currently facing criticism that while he talks

tough on Iran, he has yet to act. The first thing to note is that rhetoric is important; it's not "just talk." Policy statements can change things in the real world, as seen with Trump's declaration that Jerusalem is Israel's capital, but also with regard to his approach to Iran.

Moreover, Trump has taken action. He sanctioned Iran immediately for its missile tests last year, merely 10 days into his administration. He did not tear up the nuclear deal immediately, as he had promised on the campaign trail, but no one really expected him to do so. In addition, his administration did carve out a new approach to the Iran deal that involves both words and deeds. His current threat to leave the deal is the only thing pushing the Europeans to finally begin discussions on how to address the deal's blatant flaws.

Since Trump was elected, significant portions of the

U.S. foreign policy community refuse to take anything he says or does seriously. The cacophony of protestations makes it hard to debate policy options in an informed, nonpartisan manner, but such debate is sorely needed.

A good starting point is to recognize that while the U.S. needs to do more to contain Iran in Syria, the administration is moving in the right direction on Iran—regarding the nuclear deal, and in its response to other aspects of Iranian behavior. Opposing the repressive and aggressive Iranian regime should be about the dangerous implications of Iran's actions, not whether one supports or opposes the president.

Emily Landau is a senior research fellow at The Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University and head of its Arms Control and Regional Security Program.

Post-Parkland activism shows teens need a place at the table

By David Bryfman

(JTA)—In the aftermath of the fatal mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, the Jewish community should take note: Teenagers are not just the future of the Jewish people; they are the dynamic force driving social change today.

Today we are witnessing history unfold as the American teenage populace is mobilizing. This moment will be recorded as one in which adolescents were the catalysts for societal change—and they will keep fighting because they know that they are on the right side of history.

The irony should not be lost here. Generation Z (teens born post-2000) are often described as the most narcissistic, materialistic generation that the world has ever known. They are referred to as "the iGeneration" and "the Selfie Generation." Their addiction to electronic devices has been well documented, and with it the social deficits that this addiction brings.

Those of us who study and work with today's youth know all too well that despite the alleged self-indulgence of this generation, its members have repeatedly demonstrated that

they are committed to social and political change. And now the spotlight is firmly on them—and it's their time to shine.

Those who mistrust the influence of technology fail to truly understand these youth. For today's youth, technology is not what they do; it is who they are. The smartphone and its apps are an extension of their lives. And social media, in all of its variations, enhances their social life and amplifies their engagement with the world.

After the tragedies of Parkland, and Sandy Hook, and Columbine, and too many others to name, it is time to allow today's youth to fix what we could not. Our role as adults must be to empower our young to take control of the conversation and ensure that policymakers hear their voices loud and clear.

On a recent webinar sponsored by The Jewish Education Project and 12 major Jewish organizations serving youth, 450 educators tuned in live as Saralyn Lerner, a Jewish high school senior from Boca Raton who helped organize a sit-out at her school in the days following the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High

School in Parkland, issued the following call to action:

The best thing you can do is instead of simply just empowering your teens and allowing them to do the things they have been asking—like these marches and these sit-outs and these walkouts and these protests—[is to] actually take part in them. You, as Jewish educators, you are the ones who taught us how to fight for what we believed in, whether you're our teachers, whether you're our rabbis, whether you're our cantor at our synagogues—we looked up to you. It's your generation that put these ideas in our heads of how we can use our own voices and we're doing exactly that. But we need your help because a generation of teenagers, as much as I'd like to hope that we could, we're not taking over the world. We're starting a movement, and every movement has its leaders, every movement has its followers. And on this movement, the Jewish educators... also are the leaders of this. You're telling us since we were kids, that we need to speak for ourselves, that we need to protect, that we need to respond to one another, you showed us that way, and the

only way that these peaceful protests and that change is going to happen is if you keep showing us those right ways.

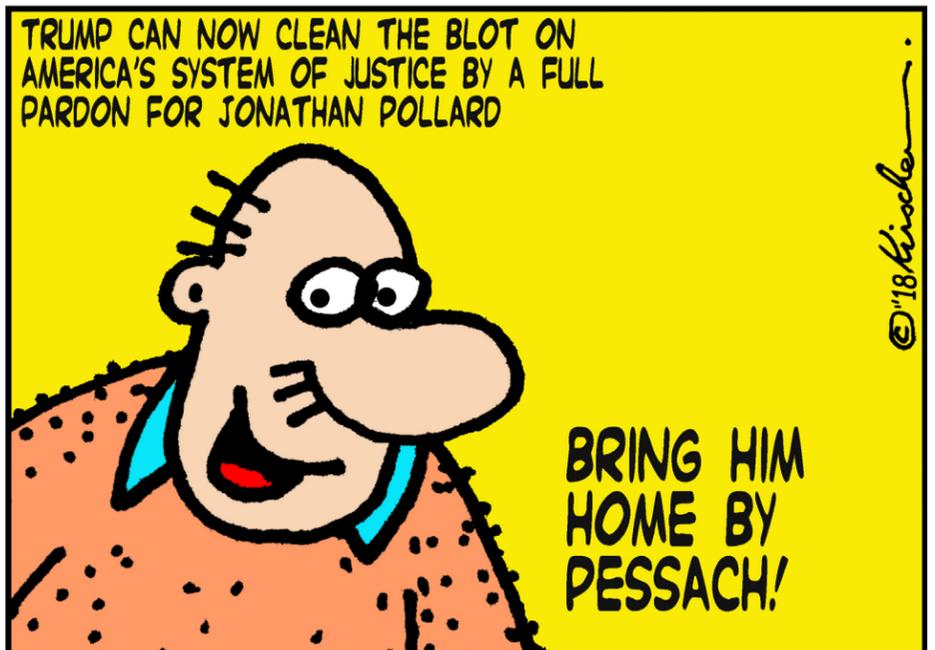
Over the next weeks and months, The Jewish Education Project will be offering guides and resources for organizations that want to elevate

the voices of teenagers within their communities. With encouragement from rabbis, education directors and other Jewish professionals, we will encourage teens to raise their voices in congregations and communities across the country, particularly on Shabbat

HaGadol (The Great Shabbat), March 24, the Shabbat before Passover that for centuries has been set aside as a day for communal rabbis to deliver major sermons. This year, Shabbat HaGadol coincides

Parkland on page 15A

Dry Bones Pollard at Pessach



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What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT
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 7:16 p.m.
MARCH 23
 7:20 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 16

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Literary Luncheon—American Association of University Women (Orlando/Winter Park Branch) hosts speaker Holly Mandelkern, who will discuss her narrative poetry of stories about real people from the Holocaust, 11:30 a.m. at Interlachen Country Club, 2245 Interlachen Ct., Winter Park. Cost: \$45, contact Gazianomyra@yahoo.com or 321-363-1105.

MONDAY, MARCH 19

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.

Congregation Ohev Shalom Sisterhood—Passover dessert tasting, 7 p.m. at the synagogue. RSVP to Susan at susan@thehochstadts.com or 407-284-1924. \$5 suggested donation.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

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.
 Jewish National Fund—Tree of Life Award Gala, 6 p.m., at Congregation Ohev Shalom, 613 Concourse Parkway South, Maitland. Tickets are available online at jnf.org/orlandotol For info, contact Laura Abramson at labramson@jnf.org or 407-804-5568.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

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.
 Lunch and Learn: Pillars of the Past—12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m., lunch and indepth look at patriachs and matriachs with Rabbi Michael Rennert of Orlando Torah Academy, held at The Roth Family JCC. RSVP requested to register@orlandojcc.org
 A Nosh of Yiddish—Classes in Yiddish the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. led by Joan Pohl and sponsored by the Jewish Pavilion, held at Oakmonte Village, Royal Gardens Circle, Lake Mary (Valencia Building), 10:30 a.m. Info: 407-766-9032. Open to the community. Coffee and refreshments served.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Rosen JCC—Men's Night Out, 6 - 9 p.m. at Audi South Orlando, 4725 Vineland Rd., Orlando. Info: Joel Berger, 407-387-5330.
 Congregation Beth Sholom—Rabbi's Torah roundtable Discussion Group with Rabbi Karen Allen, 1 p.m. at Sumter County Admin and Library Building, 7375 Powell Road, Wildwood.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

COS Sisterhood's Passover dessert tasting

Congregation Ohev Shalom Sisterhood invites the community to an evening of display cooking, recipe sharing and tasting of Passover desserts. The event is on Monday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at they synagogue, located at 613 Concourse Parkway in Maitland. A suggested donation is \$5. RSVP to Susan at susan@thehochstadts.com or call 407-284-1924. Please bring new or gently used bras and/or feminine hygiene products to be donated to local women's shelters.

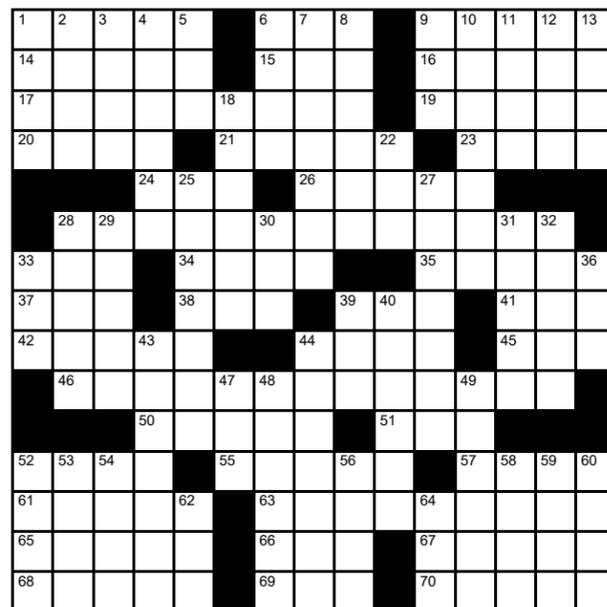
Quote of the Week

"The best thing you can do is instead of simply just empowering your teens and allowing them to do... these marches and these sit-outs and these walkouts and these protests, [is to] actually take part in them. You, as Jewish educators, you are the ones who taught us how to fight for what we believed in, we looked up to you."

— Saralyn Lerner, a Jewish high school senior who helped organize a sit-out at her school after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland

Medium puzzle "Honorifics" by Yoni Glatt koshercrosswords@gmail.com

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Makes like Prince Jonathan to young David Mich. neighbor Many a Wiesel work Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, familiarly Class clown, e.g. Observe Yom Kippur 1970 Saul Bellow title character Pine product Lee who co-created "Black Panther" Own (up) Former Missouri team Forte, Rio and Optima maker Restroom sign 1964 Peter Sellers title character Victorian, say Relieve "___ to recall..." Stimp's TV pal N.Y.C. rail org. or HS Put two and two together Minions follow him Circle segments CSA signature part "First" or "Kool" ending 2016 Eva Green title character Téa of "Madame Secretary" Lead up to U Perlman of "Cheers" Where a sukkah might be built Sefardi perk on Passover Makes 2017 Rachel Brosnahan title character Best friend of Samwise, in fantasy Fish in 67-Across Stiletto, e.g. Fresh, in a way MLB team that plays in Anaheim, briefly Singer who apologized for making anti-Semitic remarks in 2009 | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dangerous dealer "Simpsons" character who grows up to be a Chief Justice She, in Sicily "Todah!" Modern card Feral George Harrison autobiography Passover time Serving of corn Music systems His massive homerun totals weren't exactly kosher ___ Zemirot (Shabbat song) Desires Hamachpela preceder, in Israel "Super" primary day: Abbr. Do tax work, in Britain Some pitches and burgers Nebuchadnezzar had one Daniel interpreted "Amazing" debunker of the paranormal Simile's middle Tempeh eater, perhaps Spooky Mistake an Amish person for a Hasid, e.g. Dead Sea Spa item Chametz that can't be removed from Jerusalem? Mets' ace Frequent "Survivor" settings Red Sea country Kellogg's character Dental layer "Gave it my all" N.F.L. "zebras" Lashon follower Cupid, to the Greeks Actress Fisher of "The Great Gatsby" "Got it!" Con's confines "Or" or "Anything" follower Tofu base "Got it!" |
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See answers on page 14.

HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

"I'm lost without it!"

"It's inexcusable!"

"My week is not complete without it!"

"I can't live without it!"

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

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Monaco's prince honored for Holocaust apology

(JTA)—A prestigious think tank on tolerance comprising former European leaders honored Prince Albert II of Monaco for his apology for his country's treatment of Jews during the Holocaust, among other actions.

The European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation on Tuesday bestowed its European Medal of Tolerance on the head of state of the principality sandwiched between France and Italy, who in 2015 acknowledged his country's rounding up and deportation of 66 Jews in 1942. "You have found the courage and political wisdom

to openly address painful history and difficult memories," said Moshe Kantor, the head of the European Jewish Congress and the president of the council, whose chair is former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The council's approximately dozen members include the former prime ministers of Spain and Sweden, José María Aznar and Göran Persson, respectively, and the previous president of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Monaco's asking for forgiveness for the role of its police in the murder of Jews during the Holocaust was a belated gesture, coming two decades

after similar apologies by heads of state in France, Belgium, Italy and Austria. But because of the principality's size and the small number of victims from its territory, Monaco's political establishment was not under the external and internal pressure and scrutiny that preceded the apologies in those larger countries and others.

In a speech during the ceremony to award the medal at a conference hall at Monaco's famed Casino Monte Carlo, Prince Albert II on Tuesday described his apology as a gesture rooted in the need to remain faithful to historical

record on the Holocaust.

"Those words, asking for forgiveness, were extremely difficult and an obvious sentiment for me to express at the time," Prince Albert II said during the ceremony. "It was not only to commemorate the victims in the most dignified manner but also because for me, I have too much respect for history and for people. It was not only an act of faith on my part but it is an obvious gesture that I felt the time was right for, to express."

The prince vowed to continue to work for the commemoration of the Holocaust "not only as head of state but simply as human being."



Prince Albert II of Monaco

139 Jewish day school leaders sign letter calling for action after Parkland shooting

By Josefina Dolsten

(JTA)—The heads of 139 Jewish day schools have signed an open letter urging action following last month's deadly shooting at a Florida high school.

The letter released Tuesday expresses support for the student movement calling for gun reform and seeks political change. Prizmah, a group representing over 300 Jewish day schools, organized the letter.

The schools that signed on are from the United States and Canada, and represent various denominations and affiliations. They include

those with students from early childhood through high school.

"As leaders in our communities, as Jews of conscience, and most of all, as those who have taken on the sacred task of educating and protecting our children, we feel compelled to join our nation's youth to demand action that will increase safety in all of our schools," the letter reads.

It calls upon President Donald Trump, federal and state lawmakers and citizens "to enact common sense legislation that addresses all factors contributing to a safe and secure educational

community, including restrictions and safeguards related to guns."

Schools approached Prizmah with the idea to write a letter, the group's CEO, Paul Bernstein, told JTA. The letter was written by a group of heads of schools led by Adam Shapiro of Golda Och Academy in West Orange, New Jersey.

"It's clear that as a day school community we needed to make a statement as well that represented all of us, much like many of our independent school associations have done over this last week or so," Shapiro told JTA. "We felt it really important

that the Jewish day schools stepped forward as well."

The letter is not taking a position on whether schools should support student walkouts planned nationwide for later this month and in April, according to Bernstein.

"Some schools will get behind the walkout, some schools will look the other way to express what they think is important, but at the end of the day everyone is standing for the same thing, which is we need to protect our students and the professionals that work in schools," Bernstein said.

Bernstein said the issue of school safety has a special

resonance in the Jewish community.

"I think that school safety is something we are all acutely aware of in the Jewish community anyway," he

said, "and people feel that it's important we say that we name this and we say it with our Jewish voice as well as our voice in our [larger] community."



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Why more Orthodox Jews are going to AIPAC

By Ben Sales

WASHINGTON (JTA)— On the second floor of the downtown convention center here, hundreds attending the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee packed a standing-room-only hall. A bouncer stood outside to control the overflow crowd.

It wasn't a session on boycotts, Iran or the peace process. It was mincha, the Jewish afternoon prayer service. Outside, smaller groups of Orthodox men gathered to form their own prayer quorums. High school students in kippahs and long skirts sat against the walls chatting.

Meir Raskas knows it hasn't always been this way. When he began attending the policy conference 10 years ago, Orthodox prayer services would draw about 20 people.

"It's definitely enlarged," said Raskas, an investor and AIPAC volunteer from Baltimore. "All the people on the correct side of the argument are all here rallying around the cause."

AIPAC does not divide its 18,000 attendees by religious denomination, but delegates to the conference say the Orthodox contingent is growing. While the Orthodox don't make up a majority of conference participants this year, Orthodox Jewish leaders and laypeople say

their rising numbers at the event are a sign that they are translating long-held sentiments into political power. AIPAC's newly installed president, Morton Fridman, belongs to a Modern Orthodox synagogue in Teaneck, New Jersey.

"The Orthodox segment of the community is most connected to and passionate about Israel," said Nathan Diament, executive director of the Orthodox Union Advocacy Center, citing survey data. "AIPAC is a central vehicle for Israel advocacy, so more and more Orthodox people want to be involved in that."

Non-Orthodox attendees, meanwhile, did not seem worried that a growing

Orthodox contingent would eclipse their concerns. But some did worry about a growing divide on Israel policy between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews.

The Orthodox presence at AIPAC is visible everywhere. Teenagers, students and adults in kippahs, if not black hats, freckle the hallways. Dozens of members of NCSY, the Modern Orthodox youth group, clustered in a semi-circle in an alcove Sunday as their leader told them a story about a plummeting plane sparking the passengers' faith in God.

For some Orthodox participants, the question isn't why their numbers are growing but why it took so long. Many Orthodox Jews see Israel as a fulfillment of biblical prophecy, and Modern Orthodox Israelis largely identify with the nationalist wing of Israeli politics. References to Israel and Jerusalem infuse the prayers that Orthodox Jews say daily, and their children are more likely to spend extended periods of time there studying in yeshivas.

"My background, like so many of the people in that room, had Zionism as part of their education," said Rabbi Dovid Asher of the Orthodox Knesseth Beth Israel in Richmond, Virginia, though he eschews denominational labels. "It's only a fraction of American Jewry that is so-called Orthodox and it's critical that we have wide representation."

But the growing numbers are also the result of a concerted effort by AIPAC to draw religious Jews of all denominations into its ranks. The lobby's Synagogue Initiative, launched in 2005, recruits rabbis to bring congregants to the conference, along with giving them pro-Israel material to insert into weekly sermons. And all

food served at AIPAC events has been kosher, as a policy, for more than a decade.

"AIPAC has become not only more and more welcoming but has actively recruited in the Orthodox community," Diament said. "That and other things have prompted a two-sided equation in which the Orthodox community is becoming more and more engaged, and AIPAC has been very welcoming."

Non-Orthodox rabbis were worried about widening political divides between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews. A poll last year, for example, found that most non-Orthodox Jews disapproved of President Donald Trump, while most Orthodox Jews approved of him. The Orthodox tend to be much more supportive of the settler movement than non-Orthodox Jews; Trump's ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, is an Orthodox Jew who as a private citizen raised money for a West Bank settlement.

The denominations' respective leaderships also disagree on how much American Jews should influence religious controversies in Israel, such as the debate over prayer arrangements at the Western Wall. The non-Orthodox movements have made pluralism in Israel a priority. Orthodox groups tend to support the status quo represented by Israel's Orthodox Chief Rabbinate.

"Trump still enjoys wide support among Orthodox Jews in America, less so among non-Orthodox Jews," said Rabbi Jonathan Blake of Westchester Reform Temple in New York. "The result has become so divisive, it's actively dividing between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews. I am concerned that

Reform Jews and Orthodox Jews are not on the same page. We have been brought into friction."

But they also stressed that AIPAC has been able to avoid those divisions by sticking to advocating for security issues. AIPAC's legislative agenda seldom strays far from the preferences of the sitting Israeli government; the current organizational consensus is well in line with the right-wing policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and most Orthodox pro-Israel activists.

"No other organization has tapped into the Orthodox community except those that are solely Orthodox," said Rabbi David-Seth Kirshner of the Conservative Temple Emanu-El, in Closter, New Jersey. "We have liberals and conservatives, but we're not divided in our desire for a safe and secure Israel."

Non-Orthodox rabbis say they don't feel threatened by a larger Orthodox presence. A few told JTA they appreciated that the AIPAC conference, which seldom touches on religion, is a place where leaders of all movements can gather.

Rabbi Denise Eger of the Reform Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood, California, said she was heartened by how well she got along with Orthodox and Conservative colleagues on a recent AIPAC trip to Israel. And her synagogue delegation is growing, too. Last year, one congregant joined her at the conference. This year she brought seven.

"At the heart of it, we can have different ideas about what Zionism is, and what Israel's policies ought to be," Eger said. "But this is one of the few places in Jewish life where we're all in the same room."

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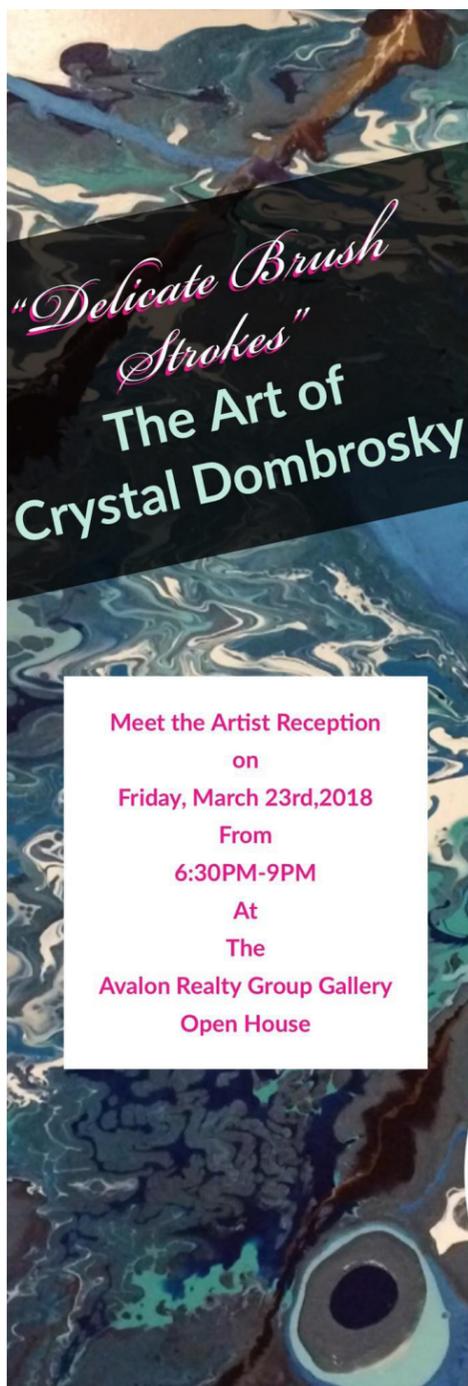
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Learn to cook for Passover

Young professionals from Orlando JNFuture and students from UCF Hillel attended a Passover cooking class at UCF Hillel taught by Myrna Ossin.

Attendees assembled their own matzo lasagna and learned how to make their own macarons and Passover bagels. They also learned about different cooking accessories and tips that make cooking easier.

"Every Passover cookbook is geared toward cooking for the Passover Seder," Ossin said. "My book gives tons of Passover recipe options for the remaining seven days."

The idea for a Passover cooking class originated with Orlando JNFuture, which is the young professional arm of the Orlando Jewish National Fund Chapter.

"UCF Hillel heard about what we were doing and they generously let us use their kitchen and dining area to host our event and they invited some of their students to attend," said Lee Ossin, a board member of JNFfuture. "We wanted to show the younger generation that keeping Passover is not so difficult when you know what to cook. You don't have to eat gefilte fish



Myrna Ossin is hands on with food, showing Orlando JNFuture young professionals and UCF Hillel students how to prepare meals for Passover.

from a gelatin covered jar for eight days."

Myrna Ossin plans on teaching other Passover cooking classes throughout the month of March at CRJ and at

the Maitland Library, but for those who cannot make those classes, her book, "What To Do With Your Leftover Matzo, the 5th Question," can be purchased on Amazon.



Scene Around

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

A meaningful letter...

LAWRENCE GROSSMAN, American Jewish Committee's director of publications, wrote this letter a few months ago. I found it very powerful and so I pass it on to you in part:

"What happened at the 'Unite the Right' rally on Aug. 12 last year in Charlottesville, Virginia, was both a battle in the longstanding war over Confederate memorials and, more broadly, the latest episode in the blood-soaked, centuries-old history of racism in America.

But for baby-boomer Jews like me, the rally, its rhetoric, and the violence that day came as a thunderbolt out of the blue, delivering an addition, and very unexpected message: old-style anti-Semitism is back, alive, and well in America.

I grew up in post-World War II New York ("Yours Truly" was pre-World War II New York) on the assumption that our country was different, that the Jew-hatred my Old World ancestors experienced couldn't take root here, that the Holocaust survivors I met came from a foreign universe that had nothing to do with me.

Yes, I heard about Americans who didn't like Jews, like Henry Ford, Father Coughlin, and the German-American Bund, but they were long gone. Americans had defeated Hitler and negated all he stood for, most definitely including anti-Semitism, and even the conviction and execution of the Jewish atomic spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg did not arouse a noticeable anti-Jewish reaction. (I watched their funeral at I.J. Morris Funeral Parlor, which was across the street from our apartment in Brooklyn when I was a kid). What's more, Jewish quotas in universities were a thing of the past, and an internationally recognized Jewish State of Israel had joined the family of nations.

But the anti-Semitism of our grandparents and great-grandparents time was making a comeback. We did take it seriously, but not that personally, since it was happening miles away, on the other side of the Atlantic where Jews were being targeted for insult, attack, and even murder in the streets of European cities, and since so many of the perpetrators were Muslims, it was hard to perceive the connection to the anti-Semitism of the past. Charlottesville, though, brought it home. American Jews have reason to worry."

A new talent for the Jewish Pavilion...

I read the following in the latest issue of the Jewish Pavilion news.

"JULIE DORSEY CAPPS has joined the Jewish Pavilion as director of marketing and publicity.

Julie brings to the role more than 11 years experience in the communications field.



Lawrence Grossman



Julie Dorsey Capps

work locations as part of his job as managing editor of The Golf Channel."

(The name "Dorsey" caught my eye as I used to sing with the legendary Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra for some years. I don't think there is a relation, but I plan to ask.)

The Jewish Academy fundraiser...

The Jewish Academy of Orlando will hold a garage sale fundraiser on Sunday, March 18th.

Be there from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to check out the sale items. (The event will be held inside The Roth Family JCC, so plan to attend even if it rains, and bring either your JCC membership card or a form of ID)

All proceeds will go directly to the Jewish Academy.

For further details, phone 407-647-0713 or email office@myjao.org.

39ers Meet & Mingle Mondays...

On Monday, March 19th in the JCC Senior Lounge, the program will be "End of Life Planning" by SALLY KOPKE. Refreshments will follow.

(Funny... no! Not so funny! One of my sons just asked me what my wishes were when I am ready to die. I'M NOT READY!!)

Shout Out...

Since I had my heart surgery, I have been attending cardiac rehab at Florida Hospital on Rollins Ave, Orlando.

I use the valet parking by ABM Healthcare Support Services each time. The operations manager is unbelievably kind, courteous and does his job perfectly. His name is TOMMY MCCRARY and he's the best! In fact, he is the one I look for each time I pull up.

Thanks, Tommy, for being you!

One for the road...

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

(Sounds fair to me.)

From work as an online editorial director at The Sports Business Journal to more recently launching a regional lifestyle magazine geared toward real estate agents, her love of clean copy that tells a good story will serve as a strength as she seeks to grow awareness in the community of the Jewish Pavilion and its important mission.

When not writing or editing, Julie is busy raising two daughters, KATIE (age 13) and ELLIE (age 10). When life allows it, the whole crew enjoys hopping on a plane and joining her husband GIL at one of his many exciting

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US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman decries J Street's motto as 'blasphemous'

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The U.S. ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, decried the phrase "pro-Israel, pro-peace"—a motto closely associated with J Street—as "blasphemous."

"Pro-Israel and pro-peace sounds like a completely reasonable position," Friedman said Tuesday addressing the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. "My friends, it is not. Using that praise plainly implies that there are people who are pro-Israel and anti-peace."

Friedman, formerly a lawyer for President Donald Trump, came under fire during his nomination process for having attacked liberal Jews, including his claim that J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East lobby, was "worse than kapos." He apologized during his testimony, although he ignored J Street requests for a personal apology.

"If you support Israel, then you must by definition support peace with its neighbors," Friedman said. "It is no less than blasphemous to suggest that any Jew or any Christian is against peace."

If a state of war persists, Friedman said, "I strongly suggest that we blame someone other than Israel for this predicament."

J Street's president, Jeremy Ben-Ami, said in response that commitments to peace involved taking action.

"Contra David Friedman, it's not blasphemous to suggest that the settlement movement and its allies in the Netanyahu and Trump governments are not committed to peace. They have spent years helping to expand and entrench the occupation—undermining the two-state solution and endangering Israel's future," Ben-Ami said.

"If Ambassador Friedman wants to defend settlements, demonize Palestinians, oppose the two state-solution

and still claim to support peace, that's his right," he said. "Meanwhile, the pro-Israel, pro-peace movement will oppose his policies and continue to work to actually promote peace and secure Israel's future."

The bulk of Friedman's speech was devoted to attacking those who use the phrase, which was notable considering how substantially Trump has moved U.S. policy to be more aligned with the policies of the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Friedman spoke of those changes, particularly Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and his decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv in May.

Trump's actions "represent a fundamental shift, a sea change, if you will, in the way America relates to its closest ally in the Middle East," Friedman said. American Jews owe Trump a "debt of gratitude," he said.



David Friedman

Friedman otherwise noted the diversity of support for Israel among Americans, and in both major parties, Republican and Democratic.

He said American support for Israel had paid divine dividends.

"We can't help but be convinced that America's steadfast support for Israel has had a profound effect on its good fortune," the envoy said.

Sudoku (see page 14 for solution)

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For women in Jewish fundraising, harassment is an occupational hazard

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA)—She was young, Jewish and the founder of a nonprofit organization that aids deprived children in Southeast Asia. He was a potential funder more than twice her age, promising donations and introductions to influential people.

“He dangled a lot of carrots,” she said in retrospect.

But the fundraiser, who spoke on condition she not be named for fear of jeopardizing future professional prospects, received no donations from the man who promised so much. Instead he stroked her thigh, propositioned her, belittled her and at their first and only meeting gave her gifts, like a bracelet, more appropriate for a mistress. More than two years later he continues to leave suitor-like messages from ever-changing phone numbers.

They had initially connected through a Jewish group that matches donors and causes. When the founder reported the incident to a leader there, it was brushed off, she said. Today she has had many more experiences like that working in the Jewish nonprofit world and frequently declines private meetings with male potential funders—“leaving money on the table,” she told JTA. She said it has significantly diminished the number of children her organization can help.

Similar experiences at a prominent Israel-related nonprofit left her disillusioned with the way sexual harassment is handled, and recently she decided to step back from working in the Jewish nonprofit world altogether.

From in-person town hall-style gatherings to online testimonials, female fundraisers working in the Jewish world are sharing similar stories of harassment. A closed Facebook group urging women to share their experiences is called #GamAni, the Hebrew translation of #MeToo. It currently has 590 members.

To be sure, the issue is not limited to the Jewish or nonprofit spheres—the #MeToo moment started in October with Harvey Weinstein’s outing as an alleged serial sexual harasser and abuser in Hollywood, which quickly led to a cascade of allegations against men in the media, politics and other for-profit and nonprofit organizations. In many cases they resulted in the resignation or firing of the men. The issue affects women at every level in every industry, experts say, but especially those who are

vulnerable because they are seeking career help, as in Hollywood; access, as in political lobbying; and donations, as in the nonprofit community.

Several people interviewed noted that unlike the Hollywood and media scandals, the accusers in the nonprofit world have neither the fame nor the professional security to put their names forward.

Firm numbers about the prevalence of sexual harassment in nonprofit organizations do not yet exist, said Stacy Palmer, editor of the Chronicle of Philanthropy, which has commissioned a poll on the issue. Results are expected next month. So there is no way to know how the Jewish community compares to other faith-based or ethnic philanthropies.

But in the nonprofit field, “there are a lot of women in fundraising compared with men,” Palmer told JTA. Studies “suggest as many of 75 percent of fundraisers are women, though at the top levels many men hold the top jobs. Among rank-and-file fundraisers it’s a very female job,” she said.

There is also a key difference between nonprofit and other fields: At the end of the day, in the nonprofit world, donors hold nearly all the power. Most big-money donors are male. So are most CEOs. Women constitute less than 17 percent of chief executives in the Jewish nonprofit world, according to the Forward.

Those are reasons cited by women who say they will discuss their allegations privately but are not willing to go public with the name of the perpetrator or even their own names. The risks both personal and professional are too great, they say, even if they currently hold a senior position.

Earlier this month, The Jewish Week of New York reported on a list in circulation naming men involved in Jewish communal life accused over the years of sexual harassment or abuse. Similar to the “Shitty Media Men” list that also gathered anonymous allegations, the Jewish list, which was seen by dozens of men and women who spoke with JTA, was briefly public but quickly disappeared from public view. None of those interviewed say they know who created it.

Elana Sztokman, author of three books relating to gender dynamics and a student at the Reform movement’s rabbinical school in Jerusalem, wrote on her blog of a male colleague who demanded that she protect a man on the secret list who had been accused by multiple women of being abusive. Sztokman



Aimee Rubenstein/JWFNY

At front, from left: Philanthropist Barbara Dobkin; Deborah Meyer, the founder and CEO of Moving Traditions; Rabbi Joanna Samuels, executive of the Manny Cantor Center; and Rabbi Mira Beth Wasserman, director of Center for Jewish Ethics at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College speaking at a town hall meeting in New York on sexual harassment in the Jewish community, Jan. 25, 2018.

wrote that the colleague, a rabbi who holds a “position of power in the Jewish world,” asked if she could use her connections to quash the list and protect the other highly visible man, one who is frequently invited to keynote conferences and colloquia. Sztokman, who said she did not create the list but shared it at one point, declined.

“Does he understand how women who make accusations are cast as mentally unstable, as problematic, as not-team players, as angry, as having a chip on their shoulder, as having an agenda, as unemployable?” she wrote of the man who pressured her. “He was so willing and eager to take all this time to help his friend keep his reputation. But when did he or anyone like him ever do that for women who experienced sexual abuse? Never.”

Rather than “out” accused sexual abusers, a growing number of female professional leaders and funders are taking a different tack: directing time and money to changing organizational culture. A preliminary group of 30 funders, organization heads and abuse experts met in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 29. Lisa Eisen, vice president of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, organized the group. More people are now being invited into the effort, Eisen told JTA, and working groups are being formed.

“There’s a great deal of interest in the funding community and Jewish community to make change,” Eisen said. “We want to develop a communal pledge together with standards, a clearing-house of resources, a focus on policies, procedures and training, awareness efforts, and reporting and investigation mechanisms.”

There will also be money for organizations to tap for work on sexual harassment and abuse.

“Short-, medium- and long-term change needs to happen,” Eisen said. “Our aim is to put a fund or funds together.”

Money is already being poured into other somewhat scattershot efforts: Webinars and in-person seminars are being run by groups ranging from the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance to the Reform movement’s Women’s Rabbinical Network. Training about handling and

preventing sexual harassment is being held at some local Jewish federations and through Hillel International, among others.

Naomi Eisenberger, founding executive director of The Good People Fund, which funnels grant money to small, grassroots nonprofits, organized a training for the heads of small- and medium-sized Jewish nonprofits in New York. Fran Sepler, an expert on workplace harassment who developed programs used by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, runs the training. She gave a workshop to leaders of a dozen Jewish groups in December. Registration has opened for a second, larger group for a workshop starting in late April.

Though the \$1,000 cost per organization is no small expense for small organizations, coordinators say there is still more demand than they can meet.

Eisenberger became aware of the prevalence of sexual harassment even before the Weinstein scandal broke: A young woman whose organization gets money through the Good People Fund had turned to her for advice about how she could respond to the sexual harassment she had faced. When Eisenberger approached larger, more-established Jewish organizations to see how they dealt with it, “I met a brick wall,” she said.

She circulated a survey in late 2016 to see how much of an issue it was. She hoped for 100 responses. When 180 quickly arrived, she realized it was a bigger issue than she had realized.

One group is working to address the issue solely on the donor side of the equation: the Jewish Funders Network. JFN has some 1,800 grant-making members. JFN has been aware of the power disparity between funders and grantees for some time, and the abuses that too often arise from the donors’ sense of entitlement, president and CEO Andres Spokoiny said in an interview. But discussion within JFN’s board of directors ramped up when #MeToo began.

“Funders don’t have a code of ethics. It doesn’t exist,” Spokoiny told JTA. “JFN understands situations of abuse, harassment and even assault within the context of power imbalances between funders and grantees.”

In addition to holding several member webinars, JFN recently added a chapter to its ethics guidelines on sexual harassment and abuse. And for the first time, JFN included language specific to the issue in a note to members before its annual conference, which will be held March 11-15 in Tel Aviv.

“We did it because we felt funders were not being sensitive” to the power imbalance between them and those who seek their donations, Spokoiny told JTA.

While there is no way to know if these guidelines will bring about change, women are demonstrating a growing demand for space to air grievances and see that change happens.

At a Jan. 25 town hall organized by the Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York, guest readers shared dozens of experiences submitted by women working in the Jewish community. Some 275 people filled the meeting room and more were on a waiting list, said Jamie Allen Black, the foundation’s executive director.

“My supervisor expressed empathy, helped intervene and supported me through addressing issues with peers, but any instances with donors was shrugged off or defended,” read one testimony.

“As an intern, I told my boss what had occurred and she laughed and said, ‘Well, he gave \$25,000 today, so you must have done something right,’” read another.

According to a third: “One donor flat out told me donations were contingent on dating him.”

How Rhonda Abrams dealt with being sexually harassed has been the exception. Immediately after a donor made sexual advances, the 27-year-old director of the Hillel in Portland, Oregon, reported the incident to the chair of her board and to Hillel International.

Reaction came fast and strong. Her Hillel chapter board sent the donor, a man prominent in Portland’s small Jewish community, a strongly worded letter saying his money was no longer wanted and warning him to stay away from Abrams. The CEO of Hillel International, Eric Fingerhut, immediately called her. Within days the head of Hillel’s human resources department had flown in so they could both meet with

leaders of Portland’s Jewish federation. The federation quickly gathered leaders of local Jewish groups to think about ways to address sexual harassment, and assigned three staffers to develop policies and protocols.

A week after she was harassed, Abrams published a powerful essay in JTA about her experience.

Abrams’ coming forward also accelerated work on sexual harassment policies at Hillel International, said Mimi Kravetz, its chief talent officer. Hillel has a network of 180 chapters serving 550 North American college campuses. The organization updated its employee handbook and distributed it to Hillel’s 1,200 staff members worldwide—many are recent college graduates. It also sent out information on how staffers should protect themselves and others from sexual harassment, and how to report it. The organization ran an online town hall in which staffers shared their experiences, and by next month will have run three training sessions.

Abrams said she received individual phone calls and emails from “every single senior woman” working at Hillel International “offering support and praise for the way I handled it.”

“Locally and beyond, the community has been so supportive,” she said. “I want people to know how positive the reaction has been, and that you don’t have to keep silent. If I can publicly say what happened to me and not be afraid, my hope is that other women will do the same.”

Not everyone is confident that there will be a notable change in how sexual harassment and abuse are handled by Jewish nonprofits, no matter how many trainings and programs are run for fundraisers and donors.

“At the end of the day organizations want the money from donors, and staff people are obviously less important than the money,” said Rachel Canar, an American-born, Tel Aviv-based development consultant who in the past worked for a wide range of liberal Jewish groups.

In the ecology of the Jewish community, fundraisers “are more expendable” than donors, she said in an interview. No matter how much effort goes into addressing sexual harassment and abuse, “I can’t picture that changing.”

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Amar'e Stoudemire just launched a line of kosher wines

By Josefin Dolsten

NEW YORK (JTA)—Six-time NBA All-Star Amar'e Stoudemire has launched a line of kosher-for-Passover Israeli wines.

The 6-foot-10 former player, who returned earlier this month from a trip to the Jewish state, spoke glowingly about the wines and his connection to Israel at a news conference here Tuesday.

"It's a blessing for me and my family to be able to produce such great wines from a land like the land of Israel, so we're constantly counting our blessings for that," Stoudemire told reporters at the Jewish National Fund House on the Upper East Side.

Stoudemire, 35, said he had been in talks with the Israel Wine Producers Association for three years about making an Israeli wine and realized the opportunity when he relocated to the country in 2016 to play for the Israeli team Hapoel Jerusalem. He retired from basketball last year after helping lead Hapoel Jerusalem to the Israeli Basketball League Cup.

"Once I moved to Israel, it was the perfect connection to meet with the vineyards and go to the tastings and figure out the different blends for each bottle," said Stoudemire, a part-owner of Hapoel Jerusalem.

Stoudemire played for the New York Knicks and Phoenix Suns among other teams in a 16-year NBA career. Although raised Christian, he began exploring a spiritual connection to Judaism on a trip to Israel in 2010.

"I feel spiritually Jewish, culturally Jewish," he said at the time.

Stoudemire's line includes two red wine blends and one Cabernet Sauvignon, all produced in limited quantity



Amar'e Stoudemire showing one of the wines in his collection of Israeli kosher wines, in New York, Feb. 20, 2018.

by the Tulip Winery on its vineyards in Kfar Tikva, in Israel's north.

The winery produced only 100 bottles of the high-end wine, Stoudemire Private Collection, with each bottle retailing at \$244.99. It produced slightly larger quantities, 1,680 each, of the Stoudemire Reserve and Stoudemire Grand Reserve wines, which are retailing for \$59.99 and \$99.99, respectively. The kosher beverage giant Royal Wine Corp. is distributing the wines, which are currently only available for purchase in stores in New York and New Jersey.

Stoudemire, who continues to speak about his connection to Israel, said he's open to producing additional wines, but that he would not produce them outside the Jewish state.

"I prefer to keep the wines strictly from the grapes in Israel," he said. "It's my way of giving back to the land. I try to do what I can to stay rooted."

Making sure the wine was kosher was important to the basketball star. Stoudemire identifies with the Hebrew Israelites, African-Americans who believe they are connected to the biblical Israelites

and adhere to some Jewish customs.

"A kosher wine is always important for us because you can drink those during the High Holy Days," he said.

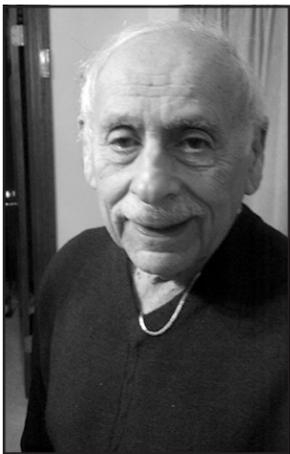
This isn't Stoudemire's first venture outside of basketball. He has also started his own clothing line and record label, and written children's books.

His fans may also wonder if Stoudemire will be using the wine for purposes other than drinking: In 2014, the athlete shared a photo of himself soaking in red wine. He later said that he had been engaging in the practice—known as vinotherapy—for months in order to relax and rejuvenate his body.

On Tuesday, Stoudemire said the whole deal had been exaggerated.

"It was a birthday gift, a friend of mine was [saying], 'Hey I got this perfect place for you to go, they have this red wine bath, and I want you to try it out,'" he recalled. "So I went and tried it out. It was great, so I took a picture, then I posted on Instagram, and it just kind of was blown out of proportion. That's a luxury deal, red wine baths."

OBITUARIES



JOSEPH DAVIDS

Joseph Davids of Longwood, Florida, passed away on Sunday, March 4, 2018. The last surviving child of Aaron and Sadie Davids, he was born on Oct. 5, 1925, in Newark, N.J. He retired from Westinghouse Electric Corporation after working there for 38 years.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Bernice; children—Mark (Debbie) Davids of Longwood, Florida, Enid (Michael) Rudney of Havertown, Pennsylvania, and Idelle (Frank Boggess)

Davids of Asheville, North Carolina. He was the very proud grandfather of Aaron (Gabriella) and Benjamin.

Joe Davids was, unless emceeding at a Westinghouse retirement dinner, a soft-spoken man of few words. He was an identical twin, a violinist, an Army veteran, an engineer, a dancer, a Masonic Past Master, a sports trainer, and a fan of the Yankees and the Orlando Magic...but those were things he did, not who he was as a person. Joe loved his family. And, oh boy, he loved his wife and children. But one cannot express how much he loved Aaron and Benjamin. The latter years of his life were marked by the events in their lives. He wanted to be alive to see Aaron's wedding, and he did. He wanted to see Benjamin graduate veterinary school, and he did. In the last 6 months he wanted to assure that Bernice, his Bootsie, would be safe and taken care of so they moved to Brookdale. And during the all-too-frequent hospitalizations he endured in the past few months, he was happy knowing she was okay. Through his

life and his actions, he taught: If you are fortunate to live 92 years and to be married to one person for 65 years, then that life will be well lived if you say less and love more.

In memory of Joseph Davids the family requests contributions be made to The Jewish Pavilion, 421 Montgomery Road, #131, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714.

ROSALIE GLENN

Rosalie Glenn, age 86, of Oviedo, passed away on Feb. 23, 2018, at Florida Hospital - Winter Park. A native of Richmond Hill, New York, she was born on Jan. 15, 1932, one of three children born to the late Nathan and Esther Schwartz Berger. Rosalie was a registered nurse for many years.

She was the widow of the late Marvin Glenn, who passed away in 2012 and is survived by her son, Russell and brothers, Norman Berger and Charles Berger. A private family burial was held at Bet Chaim Cemetery in Gotha.

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

Central Florida Synagogues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congregation of Reform Judaism (R), 928 Malone Dr., Orlando, 407-645-0444; www.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.ohvshalom.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; Shabbat service, 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Women's March renounces Farrakhan's anti-Semitism, but supports a leader who embraced him

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA)—Organizers of the Women's March renounced the anti-Semitic views of Louis Farrakhan, but they stood behind one of its co-presidents who attended a speech last month by the Nation of Islam leader and seemed unperturbed by his attacks on Jews.

Tamika Mallory, co-president of the Women's March, sparked an outcry when she posted a photo of herself and Farrakhan on Instagram following his Saviours' Day speech in Chicago on Feb. 25.

In that speech, Farrakhan declared that "powerful Jews are my enemy" and that he had "pulled the cover off the eyes of the Satanic Jew."

Farrakhan, as he has done repeatedly in the past, also accused Jews of controlling the FBI and Hollywood, and plotting to synthesize marijuana in order to "feminize" black men.

Mallory subsequently deleted her post, but not before critics demanded to know why the leader of a broad-based civil rights movement would boast of her connections to Farrakhan.

In its statement, Women's March leaders attempted to strike a balance between distancing themselves from Farrakhan's anti-Semitism and supporting Mallory.

"Minister Farrakhan's statements about Jewish, queer, and trans people are not aligned with the Women's March Unity Prin-

ciples, which were created by women of color leaders and are grounded in Kingian Nonviolence," read the statement issued Monday, more than a week after Mallory first posted about being "super-excited" to hear Farrakhan's message. "Women's March is holding conversations with queer, trans, Jewish and Black members of both our team and larger movement to create space for understanding and healing."

The statement goes on to say, "We love and value our sister and co-President Tamika Mallory, who has played a key role in shaping these conversations. Neither we nor she shy away from the fact that intersectional movement building is difficult and often painful."



Paras Griffin/Getty Images for BET

The organizers of the Women's March, from left to right: Bob Bland, Linda Sarsour, Carmen Perez and Tamika Mallory at BET's Social Awards in Atlanta, Feb. 11, 2018.

They went on to explain their delay while social media exploded in protests against Mallory's support for Farrakhan.

"Our external silence has been because we are holding these conversations and are trying to intentionally break the cycles that pit our communities against each other," the organizers wrote.

For her part, Mallory tweeted a statement on Sunday that addressed the criticism without mentioning Farrakhan.

"It seems I am not being clear," she wrote. "I am and always have been against all forms of racism. I am committed to ending anti-black racism, antisemitism, homophobia & transphobia. This is why I helped create an intersectional movement to bring groups together."

CNN anchor Jake Tapper was among the first to point out Mallory's support of Farrakhan's speech. She was then vociferously criticized by Women's March participants and others for not condemning Farrakhan's anti-Semitic, anti-gay and transphobic statements, which he has repeated for decades. Some critics called for her to step down as Women's March co-chair.

Rabbi Sharon Brous, who spoke on the dais at the January 2017 Women's March, was critical of Mallory's support for Farrakhan.

"There is no room in a multi-faith, multi-ethnic coalitional movement for anti-semitism, homophobia or transphobia. Full stop," Brous, rabbi of Ikar in Los Angeles, wrote on Facebook. "You can't fight racism but excuse anti-Semitism, just as you cannot fight anti-Semitism while excusing and justifying racism or Islamophobia."

Brous told JTA that she wished that both the Women's March leadership and Mallory had responded more quickly and pointedly.

"I wish Tamika had walked out [of Farrakhan's speech] when he started saying those things or immediately posted 'I made a mistake, he is deeply flawed in his anti-Semitism and homophobia,'" the rabbi said.

Brous also said of the Women's March statement, "I

would have liked if they had said 'there's no place in this movement for statements attacking Jews or queers.' I would have liked stronger language of condemnation. However I believe they're trying to make an effort to learn from this. They're legitimately trying to learn from this and hold together a coalition that doesn't always naturally fit."

The Women's March brought 500,000 protesters to Washington, D.C., the day after President Donald Trump was inaugurated in January 2017, with millions more gathering at sister marches around the world.

Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian American and frequent critic of Israel, is another of the Women's March organizers and co-chairs. She also defended Mallory in a tweet.

"Don't hold people to standards you refuse to hold yourself to," she wrote.

Women's March organizers did not respond to requests for an interview. Neither did its communications director, Sophie Ellman-Golan, who is the daughter of a rabbi. She did tweet on Monday, "to my queer, trans and Jewish siblings: I love you. I see you. I am so sorry. We deserve more than this."

Many said Mallory's support for Farrakhan was of a piece with other progressive movements that have downplayed or tolerated anti-Semitism or harsh anti-Israel rhetoric among their allies.

"Despite all the talk about intersectionality, many of these people think it's perfectly acceptable to leave out Judaism, often for reasons that have nothing to do with faith itself or the reasons why Jews have been brutalized for centuries," wrote Lily Herman, a Jewish columnist for the young women's website Refinery29.

Brous told JTA, "It is absolutely true that the left has an anti-Semitism problem and has to reckon with that. I feel that this moment is an opportunity, this intersectional coalitional moment and feminist moment is an opportunity to put forward a different type of leadership. We don't have to hold our breath when elder statespeople [like Farrakhan] say noxious things. Instead

we need to really cleanse that language of hate out of the leadership."

Brous said she will not step away from her relationship with Sarsour and other Women's March organizers.

"It's essential that we stay in dialogue," she said. "When you're getting screamed at and insulted on social media, it doesn't open the heart to want to engage more deeply in the Jewish people's suffering. It's only the people willing to still be in conversation and say 'it hurt me' that this changes. There's a steep learning curve here."

Rebecca Einstein Schorr, a Reform rabbi and writer in Pennsylvania, is a Women's March supporter who says she feels increasingly alienated by anti-Semitism.

She loved participating in the January 2017 Women's March and was proud to hold a sign identifying herself as a rabbi. But now, she wrote under the Brous Facebook post, "How do we support a movement that continues to be led by those who support an anti-Semite? I feel really marginalized and that there is no place for me at the Women's March."

After the march organizers issued their statement, Einstein Schorr told JTA, "I'm really happy they at least addressed it. It's a great first step. It is necessary for them to acknowledge the pain we're feeling by a member of their leadership being aligned with such a complicated personality."

But, said Einstein Schorr, she is hoping for more because even she is beginning to feel sidelined within the progressive feminist community represented by the Women's March.

"Whenever the Jewish community tries to be a part of these movements, we end up getting shunted aside," she said.

Einstein Schorr said she hopes that Mallory will sit down with leaders of the Jewish community.

"It's important for us to hear why is it that Farrakhan and others like him continue to be so appealing, and for her to understand why we feel so vulnerable," she said. "And why we feel we have no place at the table."

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Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Trump administration ready to make Mideast peace plan public

(JTA)—The Trump administration is finishing up its Middle East peace plan and intends to make it public soon, The New York Times reported.

The White House must now figure out how to present the plan so that it is not immediately rejected by the Palestinians, the newspaper reported, citing three unnamed senior administration officials.

An unnamed senior aide to President Donald Trump compared the plan to Waze, the Israeli-developed traffic navigation software.

According to the report, the officials said the plan does not have a set of guiding principles. Also, they said, the plan also does not prescribe whether the outcome should be one state or two states, nor does it call a “fair and just solution” for Palestinian refugees, though it will offer suggestions on both points.

The aides told The Times that the document proposes solutions to all the key disputes: borders, security, refugees and the status of Jerusalem.

The Palestinians have said they will not consider a U.S.-proposed peace plan due to their anger over Trump’s announcement recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and his intent to move the U.S. Embassy there from Tel Aviv in May. Netanyahu is less likely to be willing to make compromises, as he faces early elections due to coalition disputes and fears fallout from possible corruption charges. The plan also comes as Trump has begun the process of dealing with North Korea.

The report points out that no one outside of the Trump administration has seen the plan document, and that the people who wrote it—Jared Kushner, Jason Greenblatt and David Friedman—had no previous experience in diplomacy. But the three men reportedly met last week with Netanyahu for several hours while he was in Washington, D.C., to address the annual AIPAC policy conference and meet with Trump.

The report comes a day before the White House convenes a meeting to address a crisis in Gaza.

“Solving the situation in Gaza is vital for humanitarian reasons, important for the security of Egypt and Israel and is a necessary step toward reaching a comprehensive peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, including Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank,” Jason Greenblatt, the White House’s top Middle East negotiator said in a statement.

The Palestinian Authority has refused to attend the session because it is still smarting from Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. UNRWA, the U.N. relief agency charged with delivering aid to Palestinian refugees and their descendants, and which is the preeminent relief provider in Gaza, was not invited. Gaza is controlled by Hamas, a terrorist group.

U.S. officials participating include Kushner, Greenblatt and staff from the National Security Council and the State Department. A White House official said the names of non-U.S. participants would be published on Tuesday.

“We are pleased with the committed list of attendees which includes many of the relevant parties and anticipate a robust dialogue,” Greenblatt said in his statement. “The challenge will be determining which ideas can be realistically implemented in light of the fact that the Palestinians of Gaza continue to suffer under the authoritarian rule of Hamas.”

Honduras and Paraguay ‘ready in principle’ to move embassies to Jerusalem

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA)—Honduras and Paraguay reportedly may join Guatemala in relocating their embassies soon to Jerusalem.

The two Latin American nations said they are both ready “in principle” to proceed with the move on the condition that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu makes an official visit to each of their countries, Israel’s Army Radio reported, citing a “senior Israeli diplomatic source.”

Last week, Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales announced during the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C., that his country’s embassy would move to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv on May 16, two days after the United States moves its own.

In December, about two weeks after President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and said he instructed the State Department to begin planning the embassy move, Morales said he would follow suit.

The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to condemn the U.S. recognition, but Honduras and Guatemala were among the eight countries to side with the United States. Although Paraguay has expressed pro-Israeli sentiment on a number of occasions, it abstained from the U.N. vote.

In September, Netanyahu made the first visit to Latin America by a sitting Israeli prime minister, but he did not stop in Paraguay or Honduras. In Argentina, he met Paraguay’s former president, Horacio Cartes, who in 2016 had been the first Paraguayan head of state to visit Israel.

Paraguay has distinguished itself among South American countries by supporting Israel in the United Nations and other international forums.

Albert Einstein’s violin sells for over \$500,000

(JTA)—The quirky Jewish physicist would have been proud.

A violin once owned by Albert Einstein sold for \$516,500 at the New York-based Bonhams auction house on Friday.

The instrument, which reportedly was gifted to the scientist in 1933 by Oscar Steger, a member of the Harrisburg Symphony

Orchestra, went for over three times its estimated price. Steger made the violin himself and inscribed it with the words “Made for the Worlds[sic] Greatest Scientist Professor[sic] Albert Einstein By Oscar H. Steger, Feb 1933 / Harrisburg, PA.”

Later, while working at Princeton University, Einstein gave the instrument to the son of Syllas Hibbs, who worked as a janitor at the school. It had remained in Hibbs’ family ever since.

‘Bookkeeper of Auschwitz’ Oskar Groening dies while prison sentence under appeal

(JTA)—Oskar Groening, the former Auschwitz guard convicted in his 90s for his role in the murder of 300,000 Hungarian Jews at the concentration camp, has died in Germany.

Reports of his death surfaced on Monday, though the German publication der Spiegel reported that he died Friday and authorities had not yet received his death certificate. He was 96.

Groening, who was sentenced to four years in prison for his crimes, died without spending a day serving his term. The man known as the “Bookkeeper of Auschwitz” was convicted in July 2015.

He had been expected to enter prison at the end of January, but the continued wrangling over the state of his health kept him from beginning to serve his sentence.

“The death of Oskar Groening just before he was scheduled to begin to serve his sentence in a German jail following his conviction three years ago for accessory to murder is quite unfortunate, at least on a symbolic level,” Efraim Zuroff, director of the Israel office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and an expert in Nazi war criminals, said in a statement issued Monday.

Zuroff pointed out that two other Nazi war criminals—John Demjanjuk, who was convicted in 2011, and Reinhold Hanning, who was convicted in 2016—also died while awaiting decisions on their appeals.

“As fate would have it, [Groening] too has now escaped justice, casting a shadow of sorts on the judicial processes,” he said. “Without at least symbolic justice these trials, as important as they are, lose an important part of their significance. Their victims never had any appeals, nor did their tormentors have any mercy, consequently these perpetrators don’t deserve either.”

A clemency plea filed by Groening’s attorney with German prosecutors was rejected in January, and earlier this month he asked the justice minister of Lower Saxony, the northern German state where his 2015 trial took place, to pardon him so that he did not have to go to prison. A federal appeals court had rejected his appeal a year ago.

Groening had admitted to being tasked with gathering the money and valuables found in the baggage of murdered Jews and handing it over to his superiors for

transfer to Berlin. He said he had guarded luggage on the Auschwitz arrival and selection ramp two or three times in the summer of 1944.

During the trial, Groening asked for forgiveness while acknowledging that only the courts could decide when it came to criminal guilt.

Same-sex Jewish wedding takes the spotlight in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA)—A same-sex Jewish wedding ceremony held in the iconic Brazilian hotel frequented by kings and queens has made headlines in Latin America’s largest nation.

It is the first Jewish same-sex wedding to go so public and is believed to be the first Jewish ceremony between two women in Brazil.

Some 200 guests attended the lavish nuptials held Saturday at the luxurious Copacabana Palace Hotel, where pharmacist Roberta Gradel and economist Priscila Raab were married under a huppah. Gradel is Jewish and Raab is not.

“And they said ‘I do’” read the headline of the Monday edition of Rio’s most influential newspaper, O Globo, next to a large photo of the brides kissing under the canopy. Social media in the country were flooded with photos and videos of the couple during the ceremony.

“I am very happy to be able to participate in the overthrow of the wall of prejudice and false moralism that prevented same-sex unions,” party planner Ricardo Stambowsky, who was organizing his first gay wedding ceremony, told the local media.

It was the first time in 95 years that a same-sex wedding took place at the Copacabana Palace—the first choice for kings and queens visiting Rio. It’s an iconic art deco masterpiece standing opposite the white sandy Copacabana beach.

Same-sex marriage has been legal in Brazil since 2013 following a National Justice Council decision, which orders notaries of every Brazilian state to perform same-sex marriages. In four years, 15,000 same-sex couples have officially registered to be married, according to the agency. Same-sex unions had already been legally recognized since 2004.

Gradel and Raab followed strict Jewish wedding traditions, including not seeing each other during the week prior to the wedding and walking in seven circles around one another as a symbol of each one becoming the epicenter of the other’s life. Both women also broke a glass under the huppah.

David Alhadeff, a long-time cantor at Orthodox, Conservative and Reform synagogues, performed the ceremony.

“It was not a Jewish marriage because one of the brides is not Jewish, it was a spiritual marriage with a Jewish symbology,” he told JTA. “It is very important to welcome the union of two people who love each other, regardless of faith, gender or anything else. I feel very

happy and honored to be able to bless a union where love, which should have no boundaries or limits, is sovereign.”

Alhadeff is not employed by any synagogue and therefore declared himself to be free to perform any type of wedding, including interfaith and same-sex marriages.

“I follow my perception of what I consider to be the needs of Judaism these days,” he said. “The Jewish bride is very tied to the traditions and asked me to reproduce the symbolism of a Jewish marriage because of the importance it had for her.”

The first Jewish same-sex wedding ceremony in Latin America was celebrated at a Buenos Aires synagogue, where some 300 guests watched Victoria Escobar and Romina Charur exchange rings at a rite conducted by Rabbi Karina Finkelstein.

Hundreds of prospective immigrants to Israel learn what it takes to make the move

(JTA)—Nearly 1,500 prospective immigrants to Israel attended a mega-event to learn about what it takes to make aliyah.

The Mega Aliyah Fair held in New York City at John Jay College drew singles, families and retirees looking to prepare themselves for such a big move.

The event, which grew out of much smaller aliyah fairs originated by the Nefesh B’Nefesh organization, provided information and workshops on subjects such as financial planning and budgeting, choosing a community, building a strategic job search plan, navigating the Israeli health care system, and buying or renting a home in Israel.

There also was programming for children, visits by Israeli vendors and service providers, and an Israeli-style market.

Some attendees were in the beginning stages of planning their moves, while others were gathering information to help them decide whether to make the move.

Additional aliyah fairs are planned this month in Los Angeles, Montreal and Toronto.

Nefesh B’Nefesh, Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, The Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael and JNF-USA co-hosted the event.

What will the future of medicine look like? Haifa and Stanford hospitals will explore together.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa and Stanford Medicine established a co-operation agreement to work together on the future of medicine.

The institutions announced Friday that they will cooperate in areas including medical innovation; research in collaboration with Big Data and Machine Learning; cutting-edge drug development; and trauma and emergency preparedness.

The announcement came in California during the Stanford Medicine-Rambam Symposium on Planning for the Next Generation, an

event where the two institutions explored ways to share resources and collaborate.

Rambam is a regional hospital with 1,000 beds and 130,000 visits to the emergency room annually, and an annual budget of \$400 million. Stanford is a 600-bed hospital with 60,000 visits to its emergency room annually and a budget of \$7 billion a year.

“During the conference we discussed precise, personalized health issues and the issue of health in Israel, including the complex relations in Israel between its local diverse population and with its neighbors,” Rafi Beyar, the director of Rambam, said in a statement.

Argentina’s Jewish community honors country’s first female submarine officer, who remains missing at sea

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (JTA)—The first female submarine officer in Argentina, who remains missing in the Atlantic Ocean, was honored by the country’s Jewish community on International Women’s Day.

Eliana María Krawczyk, 35, who is Jewish, is one of 44 crew members of the Argentine submarine ARA San Juan, which remains missing in the Atlantic four months after it fell off the radar with a one week supply of oxygen on board.

Some 500 guests attended the event Friday honoring Krawczyk at a Buenos Aires hotel to hear the stories of struggle and success by Argentine women in politics and business. The Argentine Jewish political umbrella organization, DAIA, organized the tribute.

“Any woman’s value is far more valuable than the best gemstones. Eliana Krawczyk is our gemstone from the sea,” Rabbi Alejandro Avruj told the crowd as a friend of Krawczyk accepted the tribute from DAIA President Ariel Cohen Sabban.

Krawczyk was born in the northeastern province of Misiones and joined the Navy in 2004, after responding to an advertisement online. In 2012 she graduated from dive and submarine school as the first female submarine officer not only in Argentina but, at that time, also in South America.

With a grade of lieutenant, she was the third in command of the lost submarine. Argentina’s Navy lost contact with the ARA San Juan on Nov. 15, shortly after its captain reported a failure in the electric system.

The search began the next day, following the last contact. The vessel was on a mission to combat illegal fishing near Patagonia, in the southern part of the country. Governments from around the world and from NATO sent ships, airplanes and submarines to provide logistical support and information exchange during the search.

One week after the Navy reported the submarine lost, Jewish institutions held a prayer service for the return of its crew.

Government officials and others also spoke at the DAIA tribute.

Austria hosted Europe's largest conference on anti-Semitism



Joe Klamar/AFP/Getty Images

Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, right, of the Austrian People's Party and Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache of the Freedom Party give a news conference in Vienna after their first Cabinet meeting, Dec. 19, 2017.

By Cnaan Liphshiz

VIENNA (JTA)—Until December, Milli Segal's main challenge as a producer of Jewish-themed events in Austria was balancing her duties at work with her hands-on approach to being a Jewish grandmother of four.

As an organizer of prestigious Holocaust commemoration projects, Segal, 63, is on a first-name basis with some of the country's most senior politicians, and draws on 20 years of experience to prevent or solve most any complication.

Last year alone, she headed the communications efforts around the unveiling of memorial monuments at the Aspangbahnhof train station and the Herminengasse subway station. That's while she was negotiating the relocation of a museum that Segal had established recently in this capital city for child survivors of the Holocaust.

But Segal has new dilemmas since the far-right Freedom Party entered the Austrian government in December. She and a community that has boycotted a party established by former Nazis in the 1950s must now work with ministries and officials who are either under the party's control or working closely with it in government.

"It's not as simple as before, you need to use a lot of diplomacy" now that the Freedom Party is in the government, Segal said.

Her latest challenge ended last week with the conclusion of a five-day conference on anti-Semitism where Segal handled media for the European Jewish Congress and three other co-organizers. The prestigious event at the University of Vienna featured government ministers and some of the world's best-known scholars on anti-Semitism. It came off despite

her organization's initial discomfort at holding a summit against anti-Semitism under the auspices of the only government in Europe with a far-right party in its ruling coalition.

The Austrian government is led by the center-right Austrian People's Party of Chancellor Sebastian Kurz. The Freedom Party, which clinched 25 percent of the popular vote in October's parliamentary election, is its only coalition partner.

With the Freedom Party entering the government, the event's co-organizers wondered whether Austria was an appropriate host for what was to be one of the largest academic events of its kind in Europe in recent years.

"We tore the hairs off our heads," said Dina Porat, chief historian at the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Jerusalem. "Of course we had our doubts."

Porat decided to remain as a co-organizer to make a stance against the Freedom Party. Besides, she said, changing the venue on short notice would have meant the event's cancellation.

Last month, officials representing the Jewish community of Austria boycotted the parliament's annual Holocaust commemoration event over the participation of government officials from the Freedom Party, which the community was not able to block.

Segal said there are other complications impeding commemoration efforts in Austria—a country that only accepted its culpability in the Holocaust decades after its partner in crime, Germany.

"I am organizing a commemoration exhibition with a large company," she said. "I told an official from that company we don't want at the event any officials from the Freedom Party."

That's tricky because the party heads a government ministry that works closely with the company.

The Austrian Jewish community and its representatives try to avoid events where Freedom Party officials will be present. But when that proves impossible, Segal said, "we certainly will not shake hands with a Freedom Party official."

No Freedom Party officials were at the conference on anti-Semitism. But their shadow was strongly felt.

Israel's president, Reuven Rivlin, who is an unusually blunt and outspoken critic of the party, declined an invitation to attend the conference, which had the French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy as its keynote speaker. The Israeli Foreign Ministry's

representatives were embassy staff—an unusually low-level delegation for an event that featured addresses by a government minister and the head of the opposition in Austria, as well as prominent members of academia.

During a speech by one of those officials, Education Minister Heinz Fassmann, Jewish students unfurled a banner reading "Mr. Kurz! Your government is not kosher!" before being escorted out of the university hall.

Conference organizers anticipated such scenes, Porat said.

"Besides, we did feel this is the right time and place to have such a conference exactly because of the problematic aspects of the Freedom Party," she added.

Nearly 20 years ago, at least one large Jewish group did decide to cancel an event in Austria over the Freedom Party. The Conference of European Rabbis was supposed to meet in Vienna in 2000, when the Freedom Party entered the coalition governing coalition for the first time.

"As an act of protest, we moved the summit to Bratislava in Slovakia," Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, the organization's president, recalled.

The Freedom Party was founded in 1949 by a former SS soldier, Anton Reinthaller, and changed its name to the Freedom Party in 1956. Before it styled itself as a party focused on blocking the spread of Islam into Austria, anti-Semitic rhetoric was the party's calling card and political currency.

In recent years, the Freedom Party under Heinz-Christian Strache has kicked out several members who engaged in anti-Semitic rhetoric, which he said has no place

in his movement. Strache, who has visited Israel, and other party officials have spoken favorably about the Jewish state. He said in December that he would have liked to see the Austrian Embassy move to Jerusalem—against the European Union's stance.

But Austrian Jews, and consequently the State of Israel, are not convinced of the makeover.

On Tuesday, Oskar Deutsch, president of the Jewish community in Vienna, called the Freedom Party an entity "that still tolerates anti-Semitism to an alarming extent." He cited a slew of incidents, including a 2016 article in a Freedom Party-affiliated newspaper alleging that the survivors of the Nazis' Mauthausen concentration camp were "mass murderers."

In November, Freedom Party lawmakers declined to stand in parliament during a moment of silence for Holocaust victims. Earlier this month, a former regional minister from the party resigned following the revelation that his university fraternity published anti-Semitic songs in its publications. The songs prompted Strache to announce an internal review of his party.

To Segal, this "ability of the Freedom Party to speak with two tongues is perhaps the most worrisome development," she told JTA. The Freedom Party that entered the government nearly 20 years ago "was far less dangerous than the one that's in it now," she added.

Once dismissed as the political home of the impressionable, its penetration of universities has made it a party of ideologues with "an advanced academic degree," Segal said.

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Trump wants to visit Israel to open Jerusalem embassy

President Donald Trump says he may visit Israel in May for the opening of a new US Embassy in Jerusalem. Trump commented during an Oval Office meeting Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The new embassy is set to open in May, and Trump says he'll head to Israel for the dedication ceremony "if I can."

A ribbon-cutting for an interim facility is being planned to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Israel's inde-

pendence. Trump also said his embassy decision was "appreciated in a big part of the world."

Netanyahu arrived at the White House on Monday for meetings with Trump. The two are holding talks and sitting down to a working lunch

before Netanyahu speaks later in the week at the annual conference of the pro-Israel group, AIPAC.

The visit comes as Israelis and Palestinians await Trump's Mideast peace plan, which has yet to arrive.

Wershil

From page 1A

"She valued what [the Jewish Pavilion] did," said Bettie. "She valued that they went into nursing homes and did different things. That they went into venues and brought Judaism to people

who ordinarily wouldn't have had the opportunity. The fact that they brought in Shabbat always resonated with her in a positive way."

Circling back to the family's decision to honor their mom at this year's fashion show, the sisters reflect on

Wershil's dedicated love of fashion.

Bettie, describing her mom's closet, declares it was "very colorful." "Everything was color coordinated. All shirts that were beige were hung together. All the shirts that were red were hung together. She was very into the palettes."

"When we went to clean out her closet it was like, 'Oh my gosh. She had so many clothes,'" said Billie, adding that her mom "loved purses and loved shoes."

There was even a mink stole that Wershil would complain she never got to wear. So she would every so often make the choice to wear it to the grocery store.

Her legendary look of black pants, black shirt and a colorful jacket was her hallmark.

In her later years, when use of a walker became a necessity,

Mardi Gras beads added a touch of pizzazz to her walker.

When asked how it feels to have the fashion show named in their mother's honor, Bettie said, "It's amazing that we are able to have something that is so appropriate to her personality."

"It's very special to have someone remember her in such a grand way," continued Bettie. "We all think of her every day because she was such a grand person. But it's nice to have other people remember her in such a special, meaningful way."

The Elayne Burke Wershil Memorial Fashion Show takes place Thursday, April 12, at 10:45 a.m. The event will be held at the Mall of Millenia, inside Bloomingdale's on Level 2. Ticket prices range from \$25-500 and can be purchased online at JewishPavilion.org.

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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. A public service message from The Vision Council.

THE VISION COUNCIL

Oscars

From page 1A

notable for their absence from the proceedings.

Foremost was Steven Spielberg, arguably Hollywood's most respected personality. The director of "The Post," about journalists facing down the U.S. government in the Vietnam era, was omitted from the list of five director nominees, although the film itself was nominated for best picture.

James Franco was expected as late as January to be a best actor nominee for his work in "The Disaster Artist." Franco won the Golden Globe for the role, but between that triumph and the deadline for Oscar nominations, he was accused by five women of inappropriate or sexually exploitative behavior. Although he denied the accusations,

enough Oscar voters apparently decided to ignore his name.

Israel's Gal Gadot, a box office sensation in this year's "Wonder Woman," presented the award for best makeup and hairstyling to "Darkest Hour," and herself became the buzz of social media for the Art Deco-style necklace from Tiffany's that she wore. She also joined a gaggle of stars who handed out free snacks to unsuspecting moviegoers at the theater next door to the Oscars venue on Hollywood Boulevard.

In the best foreign language film category, Israel's entry "Foxtrot" had made the initial long list of nine nominees, but was eliminated when the list was whittled to five.

The elimination of "Foxtrot" so annoyed Kenneth Turan, chief film critic for the Los Angeles Times, that he wrote a column saying the

judges "should be ashamed of themselves."

It is somewhat risky to deduce a national trend from an evening of Hollywood awards, but the conclusions from watching more than three hours of the Academy Awards seem fairly clear.

Coming in the wake of the sexual harassment scandals that engulfed mega-producer Harvey Weinstein and other industry names, the presentations put the #MeToo and Time's Up movements front and center.

Host Jimmy Kimmel noted in his opening monologue that Weinstein, who was accused by more than 50 women of crimes ranging from rape to sexual harassment, was the first person to be kicked out of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences since actor Carmine Caridi.

Caridi got in trouble in 2004 for unauthorized shar-

ing of videos available only to academy members.

"Carmine Caridi got the same punishment as Harvey Weinstein for giving his neighbor a copy of 'Seabiscuit' on VHS," Kimmel said.

Throughout the night, the loudest voices—and applause—were for women's job and pay equity, the achievements of immigrants, the box office might of the black superhero film "Black Panther" and the growing presence of Asian-Americans in film.

One Latino actor gave a brief nod to the historically outsize presence of Jews in the film industry. Osar Isaac, who starred in the Star Wars sequel "The Last Jedi," was asked on stage why he seemed to understand the bleeps and bloops of one of the film's robot characters, known as BB-8.

"I speak Yiddish," joked Isaac, who was born in Guatemala.



Craig Sjodin via Getty Images

Armie Hammer (l), and Israeli actress Gal Gadot presenting the Academy Award for best hair and makeup at the Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles, March 4, 2018.

Israel

From page 1A

shooting," she told ISRAEL21c. "They have no frame of reference."

That's exactly what the Israeli team came to provide. ITC members Yotam Dagan from Natal Israel Center for Trauma and Resilience, and Alan Cohen from the Community Stress Prevention Center, led sessions for about 600 community leaders in the Parkland area.

Returning to normalcy

"We got there the first day teachers went back to school and the day before students went back to school, so we were very relevant in teaching them how to handle that period with some kind of normalcy," Dagan, a seasoned clinical psychologist, told ISRAEL21c.

"The psychological shockwaves of the event have

been tremendous. Almost everyone had a connection with someone on the scene. We met as many community members as we could, enabled them to talk about their trauma and then shared Israeli best practices for the day after."

"What was really apparent was that the experts from Israel really knew what they were talking about," said Teitelbaum. "They have deep experience and long-term insight from what they've seen at home and from crises they've helped deal with all over the world."

Dagan felt that most of the professionals and lay people are now better equipped to understand what they went through and to intervene using practical tools developed in Israel. But there is more to be done.

"The situation in the Park-

land area didn't end when we left," said Dagan. "There is still work to do and we will go again soon. As we did in the Philippines four years ago, in Florida we hope to select a smaller group to be trainers, leaving our model in place when we go back home."

Currently, ITC is actively assisting communities in Houston in the wake of Hurricane Harvey last August; in Mexico after a deadly September earthquake; in Las Vegas following a mass shooting in October; and now in Florida.

"So many disasters are happening in the world and we always try to see if we can help," said ITC Director Talia Levanon, a clinical social worker who has flown to several countries—in addition to overseeing ITC's work in Israel—to train leaders in

community-based healing and resilience.

Helping the helpers

The ITC was created in 2002, a year of unrelenting terror attacks in Israel, to harness the collective knowledge, expertise and experience of Israel's governmental and non-governmental trauma management organizations.

Originally focused on direct care, the umbrella organization expanded to professional training for community resilience and national emergency preparedness in Israel and elsewhere. Thus far, ITC has sent 17 delegations abroad—usually two or three professionals from ITC partner organizations who speak the local language.

"Outside of Israel, 95 percent of the time we do not provide direct care,"

Levanon explained. "It's the local professionals who know the community and the culture. Our purpose is to train them in wellbeing, resilience and coping skills and provide tools to take care of themselves and others."

"Wherever we go, we always focus on the strengths of the people and how they cope as individuals or as part of the community. When someone from the outside comes to help they bring a fresh perspective and can see your pain and your strengths."

ITC's sessions in Florida were coordinated by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Consulate General of Israel in Miami, Behavioral Health Associates of Broward-Counseling Centers of Goodman JFS and the Jewish Federation of Broward County.

Ongoing ITC trainings in Houston, with three more scheduled for this year, are funded by the UJA-Federation of New York. ITC's work in Las Vegas, funded by Jewish Nevada, is getting started with a "mapping mission" to identify local partners, needs and resources. In Mexico, local Jewish federations are supporting ITC training through the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

Michael Balaban, president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Broward County, said, "We know that the need for these kinds of resources is, unfortunately, going to be long lasting, and we know that we have a partnership with the ITC that allows us to lean on them for that expertise over the long haul."

Windsor

From page 4A

To entirely pin the blame for this unsettling indifference toward Israel on the Arabists at the British Foreign Office, who have been in a state of penance ever since the Balfour Declaration of 1917, would do Elizabeth a great disservice. True, unlike her forebears, her divine right to rule has been severely tempered by the more modern rule of law. But that manifestly does not

mean she is a plaything of the British government, blissfully unaware of the soft power and international legitimacy that a royal visit grants.

The bald fact remains, then, that a monarch who was crowned when the wounds of the Holocaust were still fresh, who witnessed at least three attempts by Arab states to eliminate the Jewish state and who always maintained a cordial relationship with Britain's Jewish community,

never asserted the importance of a visit to the land where Christianity was born.

Yet she made her way to Germany in 1965, at a time when most Britons could still remember the Luftwaffe's decimation of cities like Manchester, Coventry and London. Most of the Middle East's autocracies—Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Qatar, Iran under the Shah, Turkey—received a visit, too. There are few major democracies or

Western allies that have not received one.

It beggars belief that the shrewd Elizabeth has not herself recognized this anomaly, and for whatever reason, has willingly complied with a stance of pretending that Israel doesn't exist. Even if one could make a realist case that a visit to Israel during the mid-1970s would have been unwise in the face of the Arab oil weapon, what held the royals back in the comparatively

more peaceful times of the late 1990s? When Arab leaders and the leaders of Israel's former Communist enemies can and have made the trip, why has Elizabeth not done so?

Perhaps we shall discover the reason in a diary fragment that emerges in future years. Or perhaps it will always remain an odd secret that will be largely forgotten a decade from now. Because at that point, if all goes to plan and barring a scientific miracle,

the Queen will have been replaced by King Charles III. Prince Charles, you see, and not William, is Elizabeth's direct heir, and coincidentally, has never paid an official visit to Israel either.

William will, I am sure, say most of what needs to be said when he arrives in Israel in May. But as you listen to him, do remember that his grandmother should have said exactly the same a long time ago.

Price

From page 4A

Israel and the Palestinian Authority as if they are morally equivalent. Israel is America's democratic ally. The P.A. is a terror-sponsoring, America-hating totalitarian regime.

Israel has spent 70 years surrendering territory, tearing down Jewish communities, releasing dangerous terrorists and stopping

military operations prematurely. It should not be expected to make any more concessions.

And what ever happened to all those statements by President Trump and other administration spokesmen that the United States will support whatever solution the Israelis and the P.A. both want? Why should America now present a plan of its own? The only

conceivable purpose of such a plan would be to embarrass Israel into accepting it. That's no way to treat an ally.

It's remarkable that the administration would consider proposing a plan that even remotely resembles what has been reported since the Palestinians have consistently rejected much more generous offers many times in the past. Whether it was the 1947 plan

that would have internationalized Jerusalem and given the Arabs large parts of what is Israel today (including much of the Negev and the Galilee), to the reported offers by prime ministers Ehud Olmert and Ehud Barak to give them a Palestinian state close to the 1967 lines, the Palestinians have always responded with "no."

Be that as it may, there is

good reason to fear that the Trump administration intends to forge ahead. Friends of Israel need to act now, before the plan is publicly announced and set in stone.

American Jewish leaders need to make it clear to the Trump administration that any international control over any part of Jerusalem is unacceptable; that the mass expulsion of Jews from their

homes is immoral; and that the creation of a Palestinian state in Israel's backyard would pose a mortal threat to the Jewish state.

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.

Parkland

From page 5A

with the March For Our Lives gun control demonstrations throughout the U.S. led by American teens. Through an initiative called Generation Now Voices, The Jewish Education Project will invite, collect and disseminate teen

sermons that speak to the issues of our time, spark debate and inspire change.

On a personal level, as a recently naturalized American citizen, I urge every adult to offer teenagers the resources and transportation, and if need be to act as chaperones, so that they can show up to

demonstrate. I would also urge every nonprofit organization to consider including teenagers on their boards as active voices and decision-makers, particularly if their voices can provide important or missing perspectives. I encourage every gathering, conference and demonstra-

tion, no matter what the issue, to find an impassioned teen to speak to that issue. In the weeks leading up to March 24 and beyond, I urge all clergy to yield their pulpit to a teenager in their congregation.

These steps are not lip service. They are recogni-

tion that today's teenagers have something fiercely real to say; that they are here and that they have a voice worth hearing. These steps also reflect our recognition that we adults might not have all the answers, and that sometimes we might be best served in actively withdrawing to offer

those better suited to fill that space.

David Bryfman, PhD, is the chief innovation officer of The Jewish Education Project. View The Jewish Education's Projects resources for Responding to Parkland: Supporting our Students from Grief to Activism.

Five reasons Israel is ready for war with Hezbollah in Lebanon



Ali Dia/AFP/Getty Images

A view of the border between Lebanon, left, and Israel near the village of Kfar Kila, Feb. 7, 2018.

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had a simple, straightforward message this week when he toured Israel's border with Syria and Lebanon with top security officials.

"Our face is turned toward peace, we are ready for any eventuality, and I don't suggest anyone test us," he said Tuesday in a video message he posted on Twitter, the sound of helicopter blades whirring in the background.

The mixed message signaled Israel's ambivalence about taking on the terrorist group Hezbollah 12 years after Lebanon and Israel were left gutted by a summer war.

The 2006 war was costly for both sides: Hezbollah, the pre-eminent militia in Lebanon, lost political capital for inviting a devastating response to its provocations along Israel's border. Israel's military and political class at the time paid a price for not decisively winning a war that precipitated a

mass internal movement of civilians southward.

Yet the sides are making increasingly belligerent noises. Here are five factors contributing to increasing tensions along the border.

Syria may be winding down, and Iran is winding up.

The Assad regime, along with its allies Russia, Iran and Hezbollah, Iran's proxy in the region, have the opposition in Syria's civil war on the run. Iran and Hezbollah are striking while the iron is hot, establishing preeminence in the region. Iranian brass recently toured southern Lebanon and Tehran, according to Israeli reports, and Iran is financing a military factory in Lebanon.

Israeli officials reject a permanent Iranian presence on its border—a message that Netanyahu delivered to Russian President Vladimir Putin when they met last month in Moscow.

"I told him that Israel views two developments with utmost gravity: First is

Iran's efforts to establish a military presence in Syria, and second is Iran's attempt to manufacture—in Lebanon—precision weapons against the State of Israel," he said after the meeting. "I made it clear to him that we will not agree to either one of these developments and will act according to need."

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Mahmoud Zayyat/AFP/Getty Images

Members of the Hezbollah movement in the southern Lebanese city of Nabatieh, Nov. 8, 2017.

A U.S. leadership vacuum is creating anxiety.

President Donald Trump ordered a missile strike on a Syrian missile base last year after it was revealed that Syria used chemical weapons against civilians, but otherwise the U.S. engagement with shaping the outcome of Syria's civil war has been desultory. Russia is filling the vacuum, which is stoking Israeli anxieties. Despite generally good relations between the Netanyahu and Putin governments, Israel cannot rely on Russia to advance Israeli interests in the same way it has with the United States.

"As the shape of the Syrian war changes, Israel may find its working relations with Russia undermined by Moscow's desire to exercise influence in Syria generally from afar, and by its shifting relations with Iran," Shoshana Bryen, the senior director at the Jewish Policy Center, wrote this week in *The Algemeiner*.

Absent focused U.S. leadership, Israel may strike out on

its own to prevent Hezbollah from becoming the pre-eminent force in the nations to its north.

There are signs that the Trump administration, albeit belatedly, is noticing what its absence has wrought: Last month, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said 2,000 U.S. troops currently in Syria to assist pro-Western rebels would remain stationed there to mitigate against a permanent Iranian presence in Syria.

New fences make restive neighbors.

Israel is building a wall on its northern border along a line demarcated by the United Nations in 2000, when Israel ended its 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon. Israel is building the wall in order to prevent the deadly Hezbollah incursions that spurred the 2006 war, which claimed 1,200 Lebanese lives and more than 60 Israeli lives.

But neither Lebanon nor Hezbollah accepted the demarcation as a permanent outcome, citing disputes over small patches of land that

extended back to the 1949 armistice, and the Lebanese government and Hezbollah have threatened action.

Oil and gas

Lebanon last month approved a joint bid by Italian, French and Russian oil companies to explore seas off its coast. Israel claims a portion of the waters. Israeli leaders have called for a diplomatic solution to the dispute, but the competing claims are aggravating tensions between the countries.

Hezbollah, intermittently, has also threatened to attack Israeli platforms in the Mediterranean extracting natural gas.

Gaza

The Gaza Strip also is restive, with an increase in rocket attacks from Hamas and Israeli retaliatory strikes after Trump in December recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital. An Israel distracted by an engagement with Hamas and other terrorist groups in the south could be seen by Hezbollah as an opening to strike in the north.

The Indian-Jewish chicken recipe you're going to crave

By Sonya Sanford

(The Nosh via JTA)—There is no substitute for eating a dish in its place of origin, preferably made in a home kitchen by hands that hold the muscle memory of thousands of meals. For me, a close second is stumbling across a recipe, trying it out, and feeling transported to a new place by its flavors. The vastness of the Jewish Diaspora has gifted us with a wealth of interesting types of culinary mergers, and I particularly love exploring the Jewish food of India, where Jewish communities date back thousands of years.

There are three distinctive Jewish Indian groups that happened to be largely isolated from each other: the Cochin Jews of Kerala in South India, the Bene Israel Jews of India's West Coast and Mumbai, and the Jews of Kolkata in East India (formerly known as Calcutta). In *The Book of Jewish Food*, Claudia Roden recounts how Shalom Cohen from Aleppo was the first known Jew to settle in Kolkata in 1798. Soon after, Syrian and Iraqi Jews followed and developed a strong community there, where they worked as merchants and traders and lived in harmony with their neighbors. Things changed in 1947 when India gained independence, and again in 1948 with the creation of the State of Israel; anti-Semitism grew as the Jews became associated with the colonial British power. During that time, most of the Jews from Kolkata immigrated to Israel, the U.S., England and Australia. This once vibrant Jewish Indian community is now all but gone from Kolkata.

While only a handful of Jews still live in Kolkata, the food from this community has traveled with its people. Their style of cooking involves a combination of ingredients and preparations from the Middle East, with the spices and techniques of Indian cuisine. There are several cookbooks and articles devoted to Sephardic foods and Indian Jewish cookery that have documented some of the dishes of the Jews from Kolkata.

I was first struck by a recipe I found in both *Copeland Marks' book, Sephardic Cooking*, as well as in *Indian Jewish Cooking*, by Mavis Hyman. Mukmura (or Mahmoora) is a dish of chicken and almonds in a slightly sweetened tangy lemon sauce. I like any recipe that looks like it is simple to prepare but still offers big flavors, and this clearly fit that description. This

chicken dish calls for easy-to-find and bold ingredients such as ginger, garlic, ground turmeric, lemon juice and fresh mint. The chicken is braised, which means the meat won't get dry, and it can easily be made in advance for entertaining, Shabbat and holidays. By slowly simmering all of the ingredients together, you develop a slightly sweet and sour sauce with all those warm spices and aromatics. This dish is simultaneously comforting and exciting.

Ingredients:

4-5 lb. chicken, cut into 8-10 serving pieces

1 tsp kosher salt, or to taste

2-3 Tbsp oil

1 medium white or yellow onion, chopped fine (about 1½ cups)

2 large garlic cloves, minced fine

1 Tbsp freshly grated ginger

1-1/2 tsp ground turmeric

1 cup water

1/4 cup raisins, rinsed

1/4 cup sliced or slivered unsalted almonds, without skin

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice, about 2 lemons

1-1/2 Tbsp agave syrup (nectar) or 2 tsp sugar

2 Tbsp chopped fresh mint, or to taste

lemon wedges, for garnish

Directions:

1. Cut the chicken into 8-10 pieces; reserve the backbone for chicken broth if desired. You can also find a pre-cut whole chicken, or you can use 4-5 lbs. of your preferred bone-in skin-on chicken parts.

2. Season the chicken pieces with a teaspoon of kosher salt.

3. On medium high heat, heat a large Dutch oven or deep skillet with a lid. Add a drizzle of oil to the pot and then brown the chicken pieces on each side, about 2-3 minutes per side or until golden brown. Brown the chicken in batches if needed so as not to overcrowd the pot. Remove the browned chicken and reserve.

4. Over medium heat, add the diced onions to the same pot so the browned bits that remain on the bottom can absorb some onion flavor. Add an additional drizzle of oil if there is not enough remaining chicken drippings. Sauté the onion until softened and beginning to turn golden but not browned, about 5-6 minutes.



Sonya Sanford

Mukmura chicken

5. Add the minced garlic, grated ginger, and turmeric to the onion mixture. Sauté for another 1-2 minutes, or until fragrant.

6. Add the reserved browned chicken back to the pot in a single layer. Pour the water over the chicken.

7. Bring the liquid up to a simmer and then lower the heat and cover the pot. Simmer for 20 minutes.

8. Add the raisins, almonds, lemon juice, and agave syrup to the pot. If your water has significantly reduced, add a little more water so there's liquid in the pot. Cover the lid again and simmer an additional 15-20 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through with an internal temperature of at least 165°F. Taste and season with more salt if necessary.

9. Transfer the chicken to a serving dish, pour the sauce over the chicken, and top everything with freshly chopped mint and a few lemon wedges. Serve with rice or your favorite side. Note: Chicken can be made a day in advance and reheats well.

Sonya Sanford is a chef, food stylist, and writer based out of Los Angeles.

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