



Happy anniversary, Israel!

70 years of Israeli achievement

(ISRAEL21c)—Take a journey through the last 70 years to discover how Israel has become one of the most creative and innovative countries in the world.

Israel was founded on May 14, 1948.

In the Hebrew calendar, it was 5 Iyar, 5708 (which is on April 20 this year).

- Israel is founded a few hours before the British Mandate is due to expire. Eleven minutes later, the United States becomes the first country to recognize the Jewish state when it grants Israel de facto recognition. On May 15, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria invade Israel. The War of Independence lasts 13 months.

- The Supreme Court of Israel is inaugurated, the Israeli lira replaces the Palestinian pound, the Israeli flag becomes the state's official flag.

- El Al, Israel's new national airline, operates its maiden flight, bringing Israel's first president, Prof. Haim Weizmann, home from a diplomatic visit to Geneva.

- The new country's population numbers 806,000.

Operation Magic Carpet begins in 1949

Some 49,000 endangered Yemenite Jews, and some from countries including Saudi Arabia, are airlifted to Israel in a secret operation involving 380 flights by British and American transport planes taking off from Aden.

The Law of Return is formally enacted—1950

Israel's Law of Return, approved by the Knesset on July 5, entitles anyone of Jewish matrilineal descent, or a Jewish convert, to immigrate to Israel and obtain full citizenship.

The law was later amended to state that the same rights are also vested in a child and a grandchild of a Jew, the spouse of a Jew, the spouse of a child of a Jew and the spouse of a grandchild of a Jew, except for a person who had been Jewish and voluntarily changed his or her religion.

Conquering the desert—1953

- The Israel Prize, the state's highest cultural honor, is awarded for the first

time. The nine recipients represent the fields of Jewish studies, literature, education, social science, medical science, fine arts, exact sciences and life sciences.

- The Conquest of the Desert world's fair opens in Jerusalem, focusing on the themes of reclamation and population of desert area. Some 600,000 people visit the fair.

Israel pledges to help the developing world—1957

MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, is founded by Golda Meir after a visit to the newly independent African states, to share Israeli expertise with developing nations. Since its establishment within the Foreign Ministry, MASHAV has trained close to 270,000 course participants from approximately 132 countries in Israel and abroad and has developed dozens of demonstration projects. MASHAV provides technical and emergency assistance across the globe.

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Congratulations to the Yom HaShoah Creative Arts Contest winners



Shown here are the children who are the winners of this year's Yom HaShoah Creative Arts Contest. The awards were presented at the annual Yom HaShoah commemoration ceremony on April 8.

Each year the Holocaust Center sponsors a student creative arts contest that's open to all students (public, private, and home schools) in Central Florida. All stu-

dents who enter the contest receive a certificate and prizes are awarded to winning entries. The Holocaust Center's theme for the 2018 Yom HaShoah Creative Arts

Contest, Remembering the Holocaust, provides students an opportunity to explore various themes from the Holocaust through artistic representation.

S.C. 1st to define anti-Semitism laws

(JNS)—South Carolina became the first state to pass legislation to protect students from anti-Semitic acts.

The State Senate overwhelmingly approved the legislation, H3643, in a 37-4 vote on Thursday as part of a larger spending package. The bill passed the State House of Representatives in March in a 116-2 vote. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster has expressed support for the bill and is expected to sign it into law.

"Anti-Semitism, and the forces that have led to its resurgence, are not representative of the values of South Carolina," said State Representative Alan Clemmons, who authored the legislation.

The South Carolina bill will help break down the barriers in the fight against anti-Semitism by providing educators and administrators with a clear and uniform definition to recognize anti-Jewish bigotry, according to the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under the Law.

"There has been an alarming increase in anti-Semitism nationwide, and particularly on our nation's college campuses," stated LDB's director of legal initiatives Aviva Vogelstein. "This bill gives South Carolina the tools to protect Jewish students' and all South Carolina students' right to a learning environment free of unlawful discrimination."

The definition included in the bill is similar to the one used by the U.S. State Department and the International Holocaust Remembrance

Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism that has been adopted by 31 countries.

That definition states: "Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

The legislation comes amid an uptick in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States and on college campuses.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, anti-Semitic incidents in America increased by 60 percent in 2017, and nearly doubled on American college campuses. The same report found that anti-Semitic incidents at non-Jewish elementary, middle and high schools increased 106 percent in the same period.

"We have been dismayed by the rise of anti-Semitism, including harassment, intimidation and vandalism against Jewish students," StandWithUs CEO Roz Rothstein said in a statement.

"This bill adopts the State Department definition of anti-Semitism and gives law enforcement an important tool for protecting students against unlawful acts motivated by prejudice," she said. "With a clear definition of anti-Jewish bigotry, law enforcement and administrators will be better equipped to prosecute and prevent hate crimes."

Heritage Human Service Award

It is that time of year once again when Heritage Florida Jewish News is putting out feelers for one outstanding person in the Jewish community who has given his or her time or talent or monetary gifts to better the Orlando Jewish community. Nominations for the 2018 Heritage Human Service Award are now being accepted and the award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando in August.

"For more than 28 years, individuals who have made major, voluntary contributions of their talent, time, energy and effort to the Central Florida community have been honored with the selection and presentation of this award," said Jeff Gaeser, editor and publisher of the Heritage. Last year's recipient was Sara Stern. Former recipients have included Bernie Raff (2015), Loren London (2014), and Nina Oppenheim (2013).

According to Gaeser, "Each recipient chose their own path, but made considerable

and long-lasting contributions to the Jewish community. Nominees for the 2018 award are individuals who do not look for recognition, but perform tikun olan—repairing the world—out of internal motivation."

Nominations should be emailed to news@orlando-heritage.com with the subject Human Service Award, or typed on 8 1/2" x 11" paper and sent by mail to Heritage Florida Jewish News, Human Service Award, 207 O'Brien Road, Suite 101, Fern Park, FL 32730. Included should be the name and phone number of the nominee, a documented list of his or her accomplishments, and the name and phone number of the nominator(s).

The Heritage is accepting nominations until Friday, June 8.



MAGAL students celebrate Mitzvah Day and support community



Toddlers, preschoolers, and parents attending the Bagels & Blocks “me and my grown-up” session.

Kindergarten through second-grade students in the Meitin Alliance for Growth and Learning (MAGAL), Temple Israel and Temple Shir Shalom’s collaborative religious school, participated in their first annual Mitzvah Day on Sunday, April 8. Toddlers, preschoolers, and parents attending the Bagels & Blocks

“me and my grown-up” session also took part in the day after learning about mitzvot, sharing snacks, singing songs, reading a story, and playing games.

All participants created colorful, handmade birthday cards to donate to the Foundation for Foster Children in Winter Park, whose mission is

“enhancing the lives of children in foster care through support and advocacy to create opportunities for a brighter future.” The Foundation for Foster Children has a Celebration Club that ensures children’s birthdays and special achievements are recognized and celebrated with cards, cake, and gifts.



MAGAL students make birthday cards for the Foundation for Foster Children’s Celebration Club.

The Mitzvah Day birthday cards were brought to the foundation, along with birthday candles, gift bags, and gift cards. In all, MAGAL created about 25 birthday cards and collected more than \$350 in gift cards to help the foundation make such purchases as birthday gifts, educational incentives, athletic equipment, prom and interview

attire, and more. To carry on the birthday party theme, students also collected cake mix, frosting, and sprinkles throughout March to donate to the JFS Pearlman Food Pantry. Each week, MAGAL students collect food for the pantry based on a fun theme. These hands-on service projects encourage students to focus on the community in

which they live and learn about how they can help other people in meaningful ways.

If you are interested in learning more about MAGAL, please stop by the school open house on Sunday, April 29, from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., or visit during religious school hours on Wednesdays from 5 - 6:30 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Rep. Soto—a modern-day Mordechai for Florida and Israel

By Marilyn Shapiro

In early winter 2017, Sheri Morton, a thirty-year resident of Osceola County and a political activist, was very concerned about the upswing in anti-Semitic incidents that were occurring throughout Florida and the nation.

“I was scared,” said Sheri, who is Jewish, “and so were many of my friends.”

Morton’s fears were supported by statistics. According to the Anti-Defamation League’s report, anti-Semitic incidents in the United States had surged more than one-third in 2016 and jumped 86 percent in the first quarter of 2017. There was a massive increase in the amount of harassment of American Jews, particularly since November 2016, and a doubling in the amount of anti-Semitic bullying and vandalism at non-denominational K-12 grade schools.

Morton contacted Darren Soto, who had been elected in November 2016 to represent Florida’s 9th Congressional District. Prior to being elected to Congress, Soto had served for four years in the Florida

Senate and five in the Florida House of Representatives, representing parts of Orlando and the Central Florida area. Morton and Soto had been in contact throughout his political career.

“Can you do anything to help?” Morton asked.

Soto, originally from New Jersey and the son of a Puerto Rican father and Italian mother, knew many Jews from his background as well as his law practice and political experience. He suggested planning an event during Purim. The annual holiday commemorates an historical event that took place in ancient Persia in which Jews, threatened by those who wished to hurt them, survived because of the actions of Jews and non-Jews working together to defeat an evil force.

Representative Soto wished to recognize the relevance of the holiday to the current political climate. On March 12, 2017, he and his staff hosted the first public Congressional event ever held in the 9th Congressional District for the Jewish community, a Purim gathering at his office in Kissimmee. Over 50 people

from the surrounding Jewish communities, including members of local synagogues and Solivita’s Shalom Club, shared hamantaschen that Soto’s staff provided from New York City. Joining Soto were John Cortes, who represents Northern Osceola County in the Florida House of Representatives, and Russell Gibson, Sheriff of Osceola County.

“By coming forward and welcoming the Jewish community into his office,” said Morton, “Darren took a stand against prejudice and racism.” Morton said that Soto’s actions set an example for other government officials throughout Florida, encouraging others to work against the racist acts that have targeted the Jewish community.

The event was so successful that Rep. Soto decided to make the “Purim Forum” an annual event. On March 2, 2018, the Jewish community was again invited to his office for hamantaschen and a light lunch. Morton introduced the congressman to the group of over 60 people. Marilyn Glaser, the president of Congregation Shalom Aleichem in Kissimmee, retold the story



Shown here (l-r): Marilyn Glaser, president, Congregation Shalom Aleichem; Congressman Soto; and Sheri Morton at Purim Forum on March 2, 2018.

of Purim that was rightfully interrupted with noisemakers each time Haman, the villain’s name, was mentioned.

During the event, Rep. Soto shared stories of his recent visit to the Holy Land, which he detailed in a later interview with me.

Soto and other members of

a Democratic Congressional Delegation traveled to Israel in August 2017 as guests of the American Israel Education Foundation, a branch of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. The five-day tour included visits to key strategic sites, including defense and technology projects; Gaza,

Syrian and Lebanon borders; the Golan Heights; Jewish, Christian, and Islamic sites; and Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum. On Aug. 7, both Democratic and Republican members of Congress met with President

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Why did the Jewish people rejected the Christian Messiah?

By Rabbi Yanky Majesky
Chabad Lubavitch of
North Orlando

There’s the old joke about the Jewish atheist who refused to send his son to a Jewish school but wanting a private school education for his child, he sent him to Trinity School, despite its denominational roots, it was a great school and completely secular. After a month, the boy came home and said casually, “By the way, Dad, I learned what Trinity means! It means ‘The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.’”

The father could barely control his anger. He grabbed his son by the shoulders and said, “Listen here Boychick, there is only one God... and we don’t believe in him!”

Like many Jewish jokes, there is often a message with some wisdom and a kernel embedded in the humor—even the so-called atheist Jew rejects Christianity, but why? Why have the Jewish people rejected the Christian Messiah for 2000 years? We have been killed, expelled and treated as second class citizens over the centuries by the Inquisition, the Crusaders and many others while we stubbornly held on to our Torah, why didn’t we convert and live happily with our neighbors?

Today, in the free world, where thank G-d, Jews are well integrated in to every facet of society, we no longer face the choice our ancestors were forced to face—the sword or the cross. However,

almost every American Jew has encountered a friend, co-worker or neighbor who at some point has approached them with a statement or question like “I wish you would be saved and be with me in heaven”; “Weren’t the first Christians Jews?”; “Wasn’t their leader a rabbi?”; “Don’t you know the virgin birth and the suffering servant were foretold in the Torah by Jewish prophets?”

Despite the fact that Judaism existed for hundreds of years before the rise of Christianity, and the verses quoted had a completely different understanding and meaning for our ancestors, many Jews simply don’t know the answer as to why our grandparents held on to our Torah on the pain of death.

To help answer some of these questions, Chabad in Orlando presents “Why The Jewish People Rejected The Christian Messiah? An analysis of the biblical sources and an exploration into the Jewish view of this fascinating topic” with Rabbi Zalman Kravitz MBA of Jews for Judaism. Kravitz is the director of Jews for Judaism, an international organization with its mission to preserve Jewish identity through education, counseling and outreach programs that enable Jews of all ages to rediscover and strengthen the connection to their heritage. Founded in 1985 as a response to deceptive proselytizing targeting Jews for conversion, their unique programs have provided hundreds-of-thousands of

people with tools to respond to religious harassment and discover the spiritual richness of Judaism. They are a respected resource for all ages and all denominations within the Jewish community. Under his stewardship, Jewish for Judaism has become an innovated movement with multifaceted programming for a new generation.

The lecture will be hosted in two convenient locations: On Sunday evening, April 22, at Nate’s Shul in Longwood—for more information please visit www.JewishNorthOrlando.com or call 407-636-5994.

Monday evening, April 23, at the Chabad of South Orlando—for more information please visit www.JewishOrlando.com or call 800-



Rabbi Zalman Kravitz

765-7905. This event, as all Chabad events is open to the entire community regardless of affiliation.

Contributors to the U.S.-Israel relationship

Leon Uris

(Embassy of Israel in Washington via JNS)—JNS is proud to partner with the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C., to celebrate 70 of the greatest American contributors to the U.S.-Israel relationship in the 70 days leading up to the State of Israel's 70th anniversary.

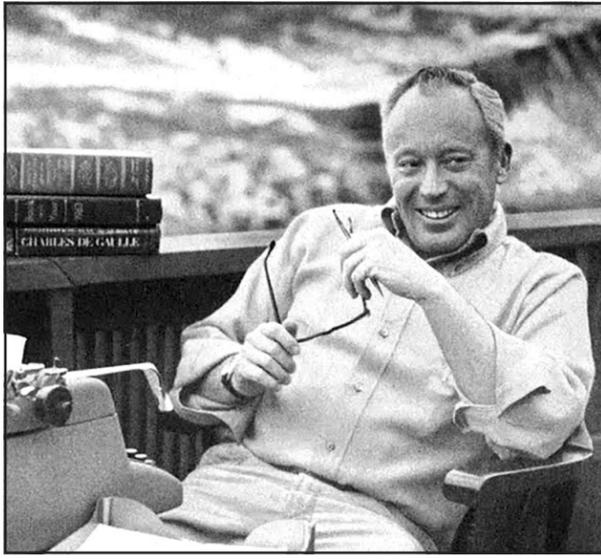
An American author of historical fiction, Leon Uris was known for his commitment to historical accuracy and extensive research. The people of Israel can be especially grateful that this literary giant brought the early history of Israel to the attention of millions of people throughout the Western world, making them sympathetic to the newly established Jewish state.

He achieved this through his epic 1958 novel "Exodus," which was so successful that it was later made into a film directed by Otto Preminger and starring Paul Newman. It is said to have been the best-selling novel in the United States since Gone

with the Wind in 1936. By the mid-1960s, sales exceeded 5 million copies.

Uris's complex plot focused upon the 1947 efforts to take the SS Exodus into harbor in Palestine with its 4,500 refugees on board. Through the travails and romances of his characters, millions learned about the obstacles faced by the Jewish Agency in the 1940s, the oppression of British mandatory rule and the brutal hatred of the Arabs who followed the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. Most of all, millions learned about the majestic achievement of Israel's creation.

Uris's novel reflected his astonishing research and his determination to get the smallest details right. To that end, he reportedly conducted more than 2,000 interviews in writing the book, and many of its characters are based on real people. While this was his method of writing for all his novels, Uris's connection with Israel was especially in-



Leon Uris

tense and passionate, reflecting his family's history. His father had fled tsarist Russia for Palestine, and though eventually emigrating to the United States, he changed the family name from Yerushalemsky to Uris—a variant

of Yerushalemi, in honor of the capital.

Uris wrote other novels that told important Jewish stories, including "QB VII" about the Holocaust, "Mila 18," a depiction of the Warsaw-ghetto uprising, and "The Haj," about



John Hagee

a Palestinian Arab family caught up in the area's historic events of the 1920s–1950s.

But "Exodus" remains his greatest work. A fictional portrait based upon true events, David Ben-Gurion held it in high regard, asserting that

"it's the greatest thing ever written about Israel."

John Hagee, Christians United for Israel

(Embassy of Israel in Washington via JNS)—John Hagee

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2,000-year-old rare coins discovered in Jerusalem cave

By Rebecca Stadien Amir

A trove of rare bronze coins, the last remnants of a four-year Jewish revolt against the Roman Empire, has been discovered in a cave near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

During the digs at the Ophel excavation site, led by Hebrew University archaeologist Eilat Mazar, dozens of coins as well as broken pottery vessels, jars and cooking pots were found dating back to the Great Revolt period (66-70 CE).

It is believed that these 1.5cm bronze coins were

left behind by residents of Jerusalem who hid in a 7-by-15-meter cave for four years during the revolt—from the Roman siege of Jerusalem until the destruction of the Second Temple and the city of Jerusalem. The coins are well preserved, which Mazar says is because they were only in use for a short time.

The majority of the coins are from the final year, known as "Year Four" (69-70 CE). While coins from the earlier years of the revolt were inscribed "For the Freedom of Zion" (in Hebrew), those from Year Four were inscribed "For the Redemption of Zion."

"A discovery like this—ancient coins bearing the words 'Freedom' and 'Redemption'—found right before the Jewish Festival of Freedom, Passover, begins is incredibly moving," Mazar said.

The coins are decorated with Jewish symbols including the four plant species associated with Sukkot: palm, myrtle, citron and willow; and a picture of the goblet used in the Temple service.

Mazar said that the cave, located below the Temple Mount's southern wall, was left undiscovered and undisturbed since after the Second

Temple period, making it a time capsule of life in Jerusalem during the revolt.

The findings were all uncovered during renewed Ophel excavations within the Walls Around Jerusalem National Park, directly above a Hasmonean period layer at the base of the cave.

The excavations were funded by the Herbert W. Armstrong College of Edmond, Oklahoma, whose students participate in the digs.

A similar number of "Year Four" coins were found near Robinson's Arch, near the Western Wall, by Prof. Benjamin Mazar, Eilat Mazar's



Eilat Mazar/Hebrew University

Bronze coins discovered in cave near Jerusalem Temple Mount.

grandfather. He conducted the Temple Mount excavations right after Israel's

Six-Day War on behalf of Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology.

Analysis: Latest Israeli airstrike in Syria likely stopped new Iranian threat

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS)—The recent missile strike on a military airbase deep in the central Syrian desert looks like the latest installment in a long-standing Israeli campaign to police its red lines against highly dangerous developments to its north.

Usually, such strikes are driven by incoming intelligence of threatening activity underway in Syria—activity that breaches Jerusalem's ban on Iran from constructing military bases in Syria, from setting up weapons factories there and from using Syria as a transit zone for the trafficking of advanced arms to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Iran is keen to cash in

on its heavy investment and bloody involvement on behalf of the survival of Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime. That means attempting to expand the Iranian military presence on Syrian soil. Israel is determined to stop this at all costs.

By chance or not, the strike also comes amid fallout from the Syrian government's use of chemical weapons against rebel-held areas over the weekend, leading to warnings from President Donald Trump of likely military strikes in retaliation.

Nevertheless, the precise reason that triggered the latest strike remains unknown and can probably only be found in classified intelligence reports.

What is clear, however, is that over the past several years, Israel has reportedly carried out a series of strikes targeting the Iranian-led axis in Syria. If left unchecked, Iran would flood Syria with Shi'a militia groups and terrorist organizations, arm them with rockets and missiles, and set up terrorist cells.

Iran's Quds Force, the elite overseas unit, and Hezbollah use Syria to manufacture and smuggle precision-guided ballistic missiles, heavy rockets, advanced surface-to-air missiles and surface-to-sea missiles. Israel has reportedly

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The Syrian Tiyas Military Airbase, also known as the T-4 Airbase located in Homs province.

Chemical attack shows world cannot stop another Holocaust

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The latest alleged chemical attack on a town in Syria by government forces shows that the international organizations established after the Holocaust to prevent genocides have failed, a Yad Vashem official said.

Avner Shalev, chairman of the Holocaust memorial and

museum in Jerusalem, also condemned the indifference of the world community to such "crimes against humanity."

"In light of the horrific images emanating from Syria over recent days of the mass killings of civilians, including children, in the chemical attack, it would appear that

the mechanisms and international bodies developed after the Holocaust to prevent the recurrence of crimes against humanity are failing," he wrote in a statement released Tuesday by Yad Vashem.

"The terrible scenes we are witnessing, right across our border, are a result of and continue to occur due to the

indifference of the world. I call on the global community not to stand on the sidelines, but to act determinedly to put an end to the human suffering and provide humanitarian aid to the victims."

Shalev made his remarks ahead of Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, held annually in Israel on the

anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

At least 40 people were killed Saturday in an alleged chemical attack on the rebel-held town of Douma, located east of the capital, Damascus. Video footage released online Sunday showed the dead, including whole families, lying on floors with white foam

around their mouths, signifying possible nerve agents. Other footage showed full clinics where workers were hosing down patients and treating them with respirators.

President Donald Trump on Monday called the attack "heinous" and promised a "forceful" response.

On Zionism, progressives take page out of socialist playbook

By Ben Cohen

(JNS)—There is a tragic account of the last moments of Grigori Zinoviev, the veteran Russian Bolshevik leader of Jewish descent who was executed by Stalin in 1936. According to the historian Donald Rayfield, on the journey from his prison cell to the execution cellar, the broken Zinoviev “clung to the boots of his guards and was taken down by stretcher.”

“This scene,” Rayfield continues in his book on Stalin’s crimes, “was re-enacted several times at supper at Stalin’s dacha, the bodyguard Karl Pauker playing the part of Zinoviev—begging for Stalin to be fetched and then crying out, ‘Hear, O Israel’—until even Stalin found the charade distasteful.”

The image of a Jew desperately mumbling the Shema as he prepares to meet his executioner certainly inspires pity, even a Jew like Zinoviev, who spent his entire career building a totalitarian state apparatus that crushed the Soviet Jewish community while at the same time proclaiming anti-Semitism to be the enemy of the workers.

But more than any of this, embedded in this

story are deeper lessons about the relationship between Jews and the left that warrant closer attention—irrespective of whether you are someone convinced that the left can be rescued from its present, destructive obsession with a caricature of Zionism, or whether you believe that this same caricature is hard-wired into the left’s worldview.

At the heart of the spectacle in Stalin’s dacha was contempt—not just for Zinoviev as a supposed “traitor,” but also as the embodiment of the feeble, ingratiating Jew who will say or do anything to preserve himself. This anti-Semitic stereotype long predated the period of Communist rule, of course, but its persistence was entirely in keeping with a revolutionary program that regarded any expression of Jewish identity—whether religious, secular, cultural or national—as “counter-revolutionary.”

That is essentially why the Jewish encounter with socialism in most of its forms has been a disaster. In Russia and Eastern Europe more widely, this was true under Lenin, when a special Jewish section of the Communist Party was created for the express purpose of

shutting down separate Jewish institutions; and it was true under Stalin and his successors, whose discriminatory campaigns in the name of “anti-Zionism” terrorized Jews—whether or not they were members of the Communist Party—across Russia, as well as in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland and other Warsaw Pact countries.

In the West, while many centrist social democrats have been among the greatest friends of Israel and the Jewish people, the remainder of the left largely incorporated ideological hostilities reminiscent of the Soviet regime. When the “New Left” emerged in the 1960s, its libertarian suspicions of the repressive Soviet society didn’t prevent the adoption of a demonized view of Zionism straight out of the Soviet playbook; some of the movement’s graduates (in Germany, ironically) were even recruited by Palestinian terrorist groups to organize attacks on Jewish and Israeli targets. Meanwhile, in this century, the moderate centrist left, with some honorable exceptions, has been at best passive in the face of a virulent, Soviet-style campaign against “Zionism” that has involved boycotts, harassment and occasional violence not against the Israeli military or government, but directed at ordinary Jews in Western Europe, South Africa and North America.

This recent past matters because the present figureheads of the left are either in denial about it or, in some cases, actually complicit in it. In the United States, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has spoken out against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign, but he has never questioned whether a political

movement whose core goal is to return Jews to the situation they faced in 1945 should be considered “progressive” in the first place. In France, the leader of the populist left, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, is an enthusiastic advocate of boycotting Israel, declaring last week that the French Jewish leadership is composed of unpatriotic “communalists.” In Britain, Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn on one day offers an assurance that anti-Semitism has no place in a party that has recorded more than 300 internal anti-Semitic incidents since 2015; the next, he attends a Passover Seder organized by a radical Jewish group that proudly excludes any Jews with basic sympathies for Israel (i.e., most of them) from its events.

At that same seder, a modified “Haggadah” invited guests to pause and “consider hows**t the State of Israel is.” Such puerile obscenities are, sadly, the price of being accepted as a Jew on the far left. But as relevant history demonstrates, that’s not an aberration of our own time, but entirely consistent with the established patterns of the past.

As comforting as it may be for many Jews to observe the rhetorical and thematic overlaps between biblical prophets and modern-day socialists, the bald truth is that the revolutionaries themselves never saw it that way. Nor, it would seem, do their inheritors.

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

Harvard’s Jewish students flunk ‘Israeli History 101’

By Stephen M. Flatow

(JNS)—Radical Jewish students at Harvard University are planning to hold a late “Liberation Seder” to “protest the continuing occupation by Israel.”

On Thursday, April 5, six days after all other Jews around the world held their Passover seders, the Progressive Jewish Alliance held its event to protest “our community’s support for the occupation” and to ask “Are you for endless occupation, or for freedom and dignity for all?”

I have a question for these students: Have you ever taken a course in the history of modern Israel?

Either the answer is “no,” or they took it and flunked. Because anyone who is familiar with even the most cursory facts about the Mideast knows that Israel’s occupation of the Palestinians ended 23 years ago.

Here’s a very brief history lesson for the Harvard students.

When Yitzhak Rabin was elected prime minister in 1992, he faced a dilemma. On the one hand, he recognized that establishing a Palestinian state in Judea-Samaria-Gaza would pose a grave threat to Israel’s existence. Israel would be just nine miles wide in its middle, living next to a state run by terrorists and fascist dictators.

On the other hand, Rabin didn’t want Israel to continue ruling over the Palestinian Arabs who reside in those territories. So he and his aides devised the Oslo Accords, which ended Israel’s occupation of the Palestinians and gave them something close to statehood, but without endangering Israel.

In 1995, Rabin withdrew Israel’s forces from the cities in Judea-Samaria, where 98 percent of the Palestinians reside. Ariel Sharon later withdrew from all of Gaza. The Israeli occupation of the Palestinians came to an end. The only “occupation” of the Palestinians currently in force is the 23-year occupation by the Palestinian Authority and the occupation of Gaza by Hamas, which is now entering its 11th year.

The Palestinians’ schools are run by Palestinian principals and teachers. The courts have Palestinian judges. The streets are policed by the Palestinian police and security forces.

When elections are held, the candidates and the voters are all Palestinians. Pretty much the only thing that the Palestinian Authority can’t do is import tanks, planes, Iranian “volunteers” or North Korean missiles.

The only time Israeli troops enter Palestinian areas is when they are chasing terrorists. Going into some Palestinian town for an hour or two to catch a bomb-thrower or a sniper hardly constitutes an “occupation” of the Palestinians.

The current situation in the territories is not a perfect solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. But we live in an imperfect world.

Thanks to Rabin, today’s status quo ensures Israel’s Jewish majority, retains Israel’s defensible borders and guarantees all faiths free access to their religious sites. It also allows nearly all of the Palestinians to live under their own government. The Israeli military is not patrolling the Palestinians’ cities. Palestinian Arabs live in an entity that is close to statehood in every respect, except the few aspects that would most endanger Israel’s existence.

Dear Harvard students: I admire your idealism. Too many students get so caught up in the pursuit of personal professional success that they forget what’s happening in the world around them. I’m glad you care about something bigger than yourselves.

And I respect your creativity. You’re not satisfied with the dry, uninspired repetition of Jewish rituals and ceremonies. Judaism is indeed relevant in today’s world. The themes of the Passover seder do have something to say to us. You are right to look deeper into its meaning.

But I’m sorry to say that in this case, you’ve got it all wrong. You made assumptions about the “occupation” without actually reading up on its history, and learning how the situation has developed and changed.

There! I just saved your parents several thousand dollars in tuition for the spring semester.

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



Everywhere

Progressive Jews playing a dangerous game

By Mel Pearlman

Despite the incredible contributions the Jewish people have made to civilization throughout history, envy and irrational hatred continue to plague them. It is one of the ironies of history that we have never had the luxury to not be concerned with our security, even in the lands in which we are relatively safe, and in which we enjoy full citizenship.

We are living in a very complex time of political polarization and intersection of issues in which we try to support groups who have faced discrimination and injustice, but who in turn spurn their Jewish supporters with their anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist views.

The American Jewish community, who marched with Martin Luther King and supported the civil rights movement of the 1960’s, who have consistently supported woman’s rights, gay rights, gender equality civil marriage, and a host of civil rights causes are now supporting Black Lives Matter. Unfortunately, this movement has incorporated into its platform condemnation of Israel and Jews as oppressors of a people who have made terrorism their mantra and the destruction of the Jewish state their goal.

A large segment of the American Jewish Community who call themselves “progressives” are also supporting an otherwise legitimate woman’s movement led in part by Muslim women who support terrorism, not only against Jews, but also against their own moderate co-religionists. These bigoted feminist leaders and activists claim that Jewish women cannot be feminists and Zionists at the same time.

The progressive Jewish reaction to these blatant examples of anti-Semitism has been timid at best. Instead of vigorously condemning these perpetrators of hate and prejudice and challenging their leadership, they focus their attention on condemning extreme right wing anti-Semites and white supremacists.

While the Neo-nazis and haters on the right do in fact pose a danger to the Jewish community, the anti-Semites and anti-Zionists on the left are no less threatening to the Jewish community. The intruder who enters through the back door is just as menacing as the intruder who enters through the front door.

American support for Israel is very much dependent on the Jewish community’s strong support for Israel. The tepid, and in some cases non-support, of the American declaration to recognize Jerusalem as the legal and

eternal capital of Israel is another example where progressive Jews have dropped the ball. There are valid reasons for hating the Trump Administration, but it does not follow that every decision of this administration is a bad one. I am reminded that even a fool occasionally makes a wise decision.

The rabbinical leader of Reform Jewry myopically encourages his members to withdraw financial and other support from Israel because of the Israeli government’s practical policy decision to postpone the promised implementation of the plan for egalitarian access to the Western Wall. By doing so, he either did not understand or ignored the negative impact this would have in undermining general American support for the Jewish State.

Ultimately, Israel will adopt egalitarian access to the Western Wall. The Cabinet’s decision to maintain a stable government was not based on religious ideology, but on the current critical security situation facing the nation from Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah.

Jews in America have the ability and moral responsibility to fight anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism wherever and whenever it occurs; they do not have the luxury to ignore it whether from the right or the left. There are political and social developments on the left and right in our country that present a gathering storm which could change the climate for all Jews and others in America. Progressive Jews are playing a dangerous game by ignoring the gathering winds of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism blowing from the left; and they do so at their own peril and that of the entire Jewish community.

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

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

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

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VIEWPOINT

HERITAGE encourages readers to send in their opinions for the Viewpoint column. They must be signed; however, names will be withheld upon request. Due to space limitations, we reserve the right to edit, if necessary. Opinions printed in Viewpoint do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the paper.

Our time is desperate for civic education

By Daniel H. Coultuff

I should have read “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave” before I turned 50, in high school or college, as it is as vivid a portrait of American slavery, the almost immutable triumph of greed over conscience, and the dehumanization of both slave and master as one could ever read.

I wonder about human nature, or make it my nature—how much of my comfort would I give up for conscience? A question as old as Noah, the ambiguous “a good man for his age.” Is the real insight that the triumph of conscience is the rarity, that a good society or epoch is the exception to a perpetual Hobbesian environment where the strong abuse the weak, nobody stops the

bully and fear of loss of station, standing and wealth pin otherwise decent people into going along with the system?

“The Fragility of Goodness” by Tzvetan Todorov describes the rare societal uprising against evil; the Bulgarian Jews survived the Holocaust because the Bulgarians were the only Nazi occupied people to refuse a deportation order to send the Jews to the death camps. “Evil once introduced into public view it spreads easily, whereas goodness is temporary, difficult, rare and fragile.” It takes otherwise flawed people to be brave enough, to have the courage of conscience, to stop its spread.

We should ask why Douglass’ “Narrative” is not read together in high school with Twain’s “Huckleberry Finn.” Does the exclusion of Douglass’ “Narrative” illustrate our society’s bias in favor of the progressive white (Twain’s

portrait of Huck kissing Jim’s feet displays the nobleness to be found in a black slave) over the portrait of Douglass who emerged from slavery against all odds to intelligently and evocatively eviscerate any myths about slavery and black inferiority?

While both “Narrative” and “Huckleberry Finn” are timeless in that they get at the heart of human character and societal nature, “Narrative” is especially relevant for our time. For example, listen to the ad hominem attacks and appeals to fear in our current immigration debate. Douglass describes being rented out by his owner to a Baltimore shipyard and observing that skilled blacks and whites worked together cooperatively for months until it was verbalized that more trades jobs for blacks meant fewer jobs for the whites. Douglass was then

nearly beaten to death by a small group, as the majority of whites stayed silent.

This particular Barnes & Noble edition of “Narrative” was also made more interesting by appending contemporaneous 1845 reviews evidencing how American opinion makers perceived Douglass’ portrait of evil. Some struggled with “Narrative” because Douglass, a black as formidable a rhetorician as the greatest orators of the time, attacked sacred institutions, i.e., churches that preached clothing the poor and uplifting the heathen, but lent theological support to slavery and dehumanizing blacks by even forbidding teaching reading.

Douglass’ epiphany was education, realizing that reading was important when overhearing his master explain why it was dangerous to teach slaves to read. A

meaningful tribute to Douglass would be to include books such as “Narrative” in our educational curriculum. “Narrative” reminds us where we were, teaches us the danger of dehumanization, awakens our consciences and causes us to think about our societal direction. In other words, this is civics and civics means a humane, functioning republic. Our time is desperate for civic education, and our silence on educational content enables the radical right and radical left to suppress speech, dictate content and otherwise defeat our American experiment of government by the people and for the people.

Daniel Coultuff is one of the top rated business litigation attorneys in Orlando, Fla. He specializes in construction law with Latham, Shuker, Eden & Beaufine, LLP.

Trump repeats Obama’s mistakes on Syria

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS)—After eight years of dealing with an American president who considered establishing more “daylight” between the United States and Israel, the last 15 months has been a whole lot easier for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Unlike his predecessor, U.S. President Donald Trump doesn’t think it’s his duty to disregard the verdict of Israeli democracy and “save Israel from itself,” or to tilt the diplomatic playing field in the direction of the Palestinians in the vain hope that they will make peace. Trump’s instinctual contempt for “experts” served him when he corrected a historic injustice on Jerusalem, as well as on his attempt to reverse President Barack Obama’s appeasement of Iran.

But this week, Netanyahu got a different view of the Trump presidency—and he didn’t like it one bit. Ac-

counts of a phone conversation between the two leaders held last week following Trump’s public declaration that he intended to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria as soon as possible describe it as “tense.”

Like Trump’s national-security team, the Israelis are alarmed by the prospect of the United States preparing to cut and run in the wake of the defeat of ISIS terrorists. The consequences of such a move are as ominous as they are obvious. Though the White House partially walked back his unscripted promise of a pullout, subsequent accounts of the behind-the-scenes discussions report that Trump is adamant that all U.S. forces leave Syria within six months.

That’s consistent with the president’s campaign promises. While Trump pledged to defeat ISIS, he has always made it clear that he wants no part of “nation-building,” a term he regards with almost as much hostility as “illegal

immigration.” The idea that America is being played for suckers by foreigners while domestic needs go begging is a quintessential Trump attitude and one that remains popular with a war-weary public.

Yet it’s also true that what Trump is planning on doing in Syria is virtually identical to the same policies of Obama that he repeatedly condemned.

In short, the rise of ISIS was made possible by two factors.

First, Obama’s decision to avoid enforcing that “red line” concerning Syrian President Bashar Assad’s use of chemical weapons was primarily motivated by his desire to avoid antagonizing Iran. The U.S. refusal to take action in Syria created a vacuum in that country that was matched by the one in Iraq after Obama precipitately withdrew all U.S. troops. With America eschewing the necessary (if dirty) work of

rebuilding the areas it had reclaimed from terrorists, what Trump would now be doing is to replicate the same conditions that spawned ISIS on Obama’s watch. Another U.S. bugout will mean ISIS or some new Islamist group would almost certainly rise again.

That’s bad enough, but the stakes in Syria are even higher now than they were a few years ago.

Because second, Iran’s successful intervention in the Syrian civil war has led to its establishing a military presence on Israel’s northern border. Though Israel has made it clear that it will not tolerate the creation of permanent Iranian bases, Tehran has continued to dig in despite occasional Israeli strikes intended to take out anti-aircraft installations or to interdict the transfer of Iranian weapons to its Hezbollah auxiliaries in Lebanon. Iran has acted with the acquiescence of

Russia, which, thanks to Obama’s decisions and now those of Trump, has become the pre-eminent power in the region.

To date, Iranian adventurism has been checked by the presence of U.S. and other coalition forces in Syria and Iraq, reinforced by the strength of Kurdish fighters who were a key element in defeating ISIS. A U.S. pullout will allow Iran to establish what will be for all intents and purposes a land bridge to Hezbollah and the Mediterranean. That will make Israel’s northern border even more insecure. It will also leave the Kurds, who are under constant attack from Turkey, isolated and vulnerable.

When Trump outlined the details of his “America First” foreign policy in December, his assurances that he would not let the terrorists or the Iranians get the upper hand or leave allies in the lurch proved encouraging. But if Trump’s desire to abdicate

U.S. responsibilities prevails over the justified concerns of his foreign-policy team—and his Israeli and Saudi allies—then all of the cogent criticisms he made about Obama’s mistakes will apply with equal vigor to his own policies.

A desire to avoid the perplexing complexities of the long-term struggle against Islamists is understandable. So, too, is being wary of long-term commitments in conflicts that have no end game in sight. But the fight against Islamist terror is a generational war, rather than one that can be quickly ended by a military victory. Trump deserves great credit for unleashing the U.S. military in a way that defeated ISIS after a stalemate under Obama. But if he pulls out of Syria without putting in place a nation-building force to ensure stability, then he will be throwing away his vic-

Trump on page 15A

Don’t let hate stop you from being human!

By Matthew Finkelstein

(JNS)—Being a Jew on left has become more and more difficult, and the apparent mainstream acceptance of Louis Farrakhan’s anti-Semitic lies, rooted in hate, rightfully enraged our community. But as I learned by joining the Zioness Movement—a national group for progressive Zionists—the antidote to being dehumanized is that we must show our humanity.

I have been bitter and angry, hell-bent on attacking anti-Semites and anti-Zionists. I was stuck in a shtetl mentality of helplessness and desperation with the feeling that the walls have been closing in on American Jews; I’d thought that the way to liberation was outrage, and hammers to the walls and the people erecting them.

Anti-Semitism is real, but the truth is that the walls the anti-Semites have been erecting are mostly in the minds of the Jews they target. That’s where the biggest barrier is: the barrier to participation. If they can get us to feel that it’s not safe to be ourselves in public, they know they’ve won. If they can reduce us to

marginal reactionary anger, they’ve won.

I about lost my lunch when Linda Sarsour, in essence, claimed that “Zionism and Feminism are incompatible.” I remember how viscerally angry I was at the Chicago Dyke March, when three Jewish women were harassed and thrown out of the parade for daring to be proud LGBTQ Jews. Finally, when Tamika Mallory couldn’t stop gushing over Farrakhan without so much as a word concerning his anti-Semitism, I became incensed.

I’ve always set out to try and bring anti-Semitism itself into the limelight. I’ve highlighted as much as possible and with much vitriol every single incident of anti-Semitism on the left to my fellow leftists.

The thing is that this kind of activism creates a wall between myself and the people I want to reach. The desire to attack anti-Semitism directly is important, but what I’ve learned through Zioness is that it’s not the most effective framework to stop it from taking root.

The best answer to anti-Semitism on the left is the as-

sertion of progressive Zionist identity in complete solidarity as feminists, as gun-control advocates and in so many other progressive causes. It’s to be a loud, proud, Zionist Jew in sincere solidarity with our progressive allies.

I have seen this when marching with Zioness, most recently at the “March for Our Lives” in Sacramento, Calif., where I helped lead a contingent. There were so many people who were surprised that Zioness existed, and the creation of that possibility contingent in their minds is the most powerful antiseptic to anti-Semitism conceivable. Imagine this. Until the moment they met us, many people didn’t even believe that such a combination of progressivism and Zionism was possible, much less an inherent identity.

And the effect of our presence was two-fold: Many Zionists came up to us and gathered under our banner. The moments they spent with us meant the world to them. They left that space with a sense of empowerment and hope. We affirmed their identities, and they are better able to speak up for our com-

mon causes as Zionists and progressives.

Don’t get me wrong; attacking and deconstructing anti-Semitism is important, but Zioness taught me one thing above anything else. The simple act of representing our shared identity and standing with our shared values is far and away the more emotionally fulfilling, personally impactful, constructive and proactive way for an individual to fight anti-Semitism. It is the simple act of fearlessly

being ourselves in public, and sharing our identity and experiences as human beings. There is no antidote more potent to this dehumanization that’s been on offer. There is nothing so potent as the radical act of simply being who we are: progressive, Zionist and proud of it.

If American Diaspora Jews are going to stop anti-Semitism on the left—if we want to make sure that what is happening in the United Kingdom does not happen in the United States—

then Jews on the left cannot check our identity as Zionists at the door. Our people have a long history in fighting for and leading progressive change in America, and we must continue to do this—as Jews, as Zionists and as Zionesses.

Matthew Finkelstein is a Sacramento Zioness leader who has helped lead contingents in both the Women’s March and the March For Our Lives. He is also a co-founder of the California Democrats for Peace and Justice.



What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT
APRIL 20
 7:36 p.m.
APRIL 27
 7:40 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, APRIL 20

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

The Roth Family JCC—Celebrates Israel's 70th anniversary at Lake Eola from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: Leah Sandler, 407-645-5933
 Chabad of North Orlando—"Why did the Jewish people reject the Christian Messiah?" lecture with Rabbi Zalman Kravitz MBA of Jewish for Judaism at Nate's Shul in Longwood. Time and information, call 407-636-5994 or visit www.JewishNorthOrlando.com.

MONDAY, APRIL 23

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.
 Chabad of South Orlando—"Why did the Jewish people reject the Christian Messiah?" lecture with Rabbi Zalman Kravitz MBA of Jewish for Judaism. Time and information, call 800-765-7905 or visit www.JewishOrlando.com

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

Correction

In last week's Scene Around column, we ran a photo of whom we thought was Noor Salman, the woman found not guilty of being an accomplice with her husband in the Pulse nightclub shooting tragedy. The photo was not Salman, but Noor Tagouri, a journalist (see photos). Heritage was not the only newspaper to make this mistake. Apparently, the online news outlet Raw Story also ran Tagouri's photo instead of Salman's.

Heritage apologizes for this error.



Noor Salman



Noor Tagouri

Adoption sought for two-month-old girl with special needs

Spence-Chapin is currently seeking a loving family for baby Emma. Emma is an adorable, two-month-old baby girl with light brown hair and blue eyes who was recently diagnosed with Down syndrome. Emma's parents are looking for a loving, Jewish home.

At birth, Emma weighed six pounds, eleven ounces. She has no reported medical complications and was in the well-baby nursery after

birth. Since then, Emma has been eating, sleeping and gaining weight consistently. She recently had her first smiles!

If you think you could be an adoptive family for Emma, please complete the free on-line pre-application and send Spence-Chapin a copy of your current home study (completed within the past 12 months), conducted by a licensed adoption agency. All

families who have completed the online pre-application and submitted their current home study are considered active prospective adoptive families. We will contact you if your family is a potential match for a current or future waiting child.

For additional questions, please contact our Adoption Team at 212-400-8150. Please see Emma here: <https://www.spence-chapin.org/emma-wc>.

Quote of the Week

"In the Jewish tradition, there is at the same time Jerusalem in the heavens and Jerusalem on the ground. Jerusalem is a living city, but also the heart, the soul of the Jewish people and the state of Israel."

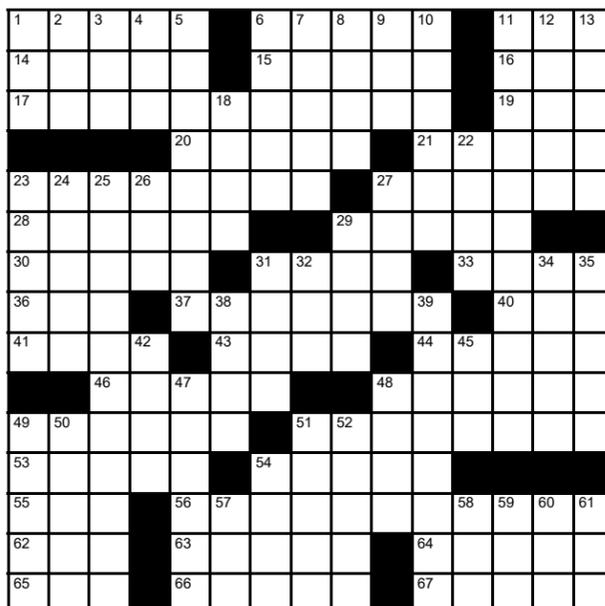
— Yitzhak Rabin

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

Across

1. Prepare for surgery
6. Flu symptoms
11. "Mean Girls" screenwriter and costar
14. "La Bohème," e.g.
15. 9-Down, in Hebrew
16. Game whose name is said near it's end
17. Status for one splitting time between Israel and America
19. City close to Ben-Gurion Airport
20. Basic monetary unit of Sweden
21. "La ___ Vita" (1960 film)
23. Fighting back
27. Weekly reading
28. Gives a new lease
29. Lavender bloom
30. Not ___ in the world
31. Like the Zohar, to some
33. Lose weight
36. Part of a breath mint
37. Ben (Cohen) & Jerry (Greenfield), e.g.
40. "Good Grips" kitchenware brand
41. 6'11" Kanter of the Knicks
43. Have guests for Shabbat
44. Five-pillared faith
46. Spice's partner
48. Clinton claimed he didn't do it
49. Israeli novelist of "A Perfect Peace"
51. Bobka and meltaway cake, often
53. Dietetic, on packages
54. Majority of those that observe 44-Across
55. The Dead Sea, compared to everywhere else
56. Words you don't want to hear from a captain... or a hint to solving 17 and 37-Across & 11 and 25-Down
62. Brave one, Cockney style
63. Larry whose son Larry is now on the Cavs
64. Mark papers

65. Biblical father of Abner
 66. Kind of management
 67. David who created "The Wire"
- Down**
1. Groundskeeper's supply
 2. "Brain" of a computer
 3. Portman's "V for Vendetta" co-star
 4. Bookmarked thing
 5. Retreat
 6. Follow, as a suggestion
 7. Sound after "cha"
 8. "Prince of Egypt" singer
 9. First palindromic name in the Bible
 10. An Israeli might wear one instead of a loafer
 11. Complete ride, to Brandeis
 12. Son of Cain
 13. "Echad Mi ___"
 18. Purple blossom
 22. "...___ I like to call it..."
 23. Captivate a crowd, perhaps
 24. Pie choice
 25. Synagogues and temples
 26. "___ the ramparts ..."
 27. Line or dream
 29. Catholic observance
 31. ___ Yikra (Shabbat song)
 32. "Independence Day" assailants, briefly
 34. Aggrandize
 35. Features of some stadiums
 38. King before Hezekiah
 39. Some salon activities
 42. City of the Purim story
 45. Word for a female
 47. Did really well on a test
 48. "That ___ longer an option"
 49. Kind of wrench
 50. "This Is Us" star
 51. Fool
 52. He got "Game"?
 54. Competed on "The Voice"
 57. Bar
 58. Lanka land
 59. It's not on a kosher menu
 60. Courtroom affirmation
 61. Signature piece?



See answers on page 14.

"I'm lost without it!"

"It's inexcusable!"

"My week is not complete without it!"

"I can't live without it!"

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

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

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Birthright from the 'sabrá' side: The Israeli perspective



Racheli and American participants at Masada.

Eliana Rudee



Group photo of Mayanot 322.

Eliana Rudee

By Eliana Rudee

(JNS)—While it is well known that Birthright trips provide American participants with a transformative, often life-changing experience, it is perhaps less known that the young Israelis who accompany the participants on the trip often have similarly transformative experiences. Young Israelis Ayelet,* a 23-year-old computer scientist, and Racheli, a 22-year-old speech therapist, accompanied a Mayanot Birthright trip from March 12-19 with the goal of traveling the country with contemporaries eager

to learn more about the life of young Israeli adults. Both reported that contrary to what they had expected before the trip, the experience made them question stereotypes about Americans, contemplate their Jewish identity, and boost their pride about their own society and land. Ayelet, who is in the midst of planning a summer trip abroad with friends, hoped that the experience would shed light on what it's like to meet foreigners and travel with the same group of people for a week. Racheli, who has family in the United States, wanted to

get to know other American Jews in hopes of doing another national service in America or joining a U.S. summer camp in the future. Even after the first few days of the program, the American participants surprised both women, who had admittedly expected them to be a bit naive. Ayelet, who had "heard a lot about Taglit and Americans," said she was "amazed and surprised" when she found the participants to be "very nice and mature," as well as good conversationalists. Racheli noted that she could tell from their many questions that they "really

wanted to know more, feel and discover Israel." "In the desert star-gazing experience, I was so surprised about how people shared such deep thoughts," said Ayelet. "I was thinking about myself and my life in a particular way, and to hear how [broadly] others were thinking was really touching." Racheli, who also found the desert experience particularly "deep and touching," added: "I can tell they had a goal when they came." She told JNS that "the way they chose to share was amazing. In the desert, some people said such deep things about

their families and challenges, and shared them with us." **'Not something you take for granted'** According to tour guide and Mayanot tour educator Daniel Charter, who led Ayelet's and Racheli's group, the connection between the American and Israeli participants is his favorite part of Birthright. "Being a part of this is my most important work; on the other hand, it is completely not dependent on me," he told JNS. One of Mayanot's central programs of every Birthright trip is a workshop about Jewish identity, where partici-

pants and Israelis are asked to express what being a Jew means to them. According to Charter, this activity—and Birthright, in general—"gives the Diaspora and its great challenges to Jewish life in a new light, while showing them what a special place they live in and what huge opportunities there are for making an impact while creating an adult life here." Racheli reflected on this activity... "I had so many questions for the participants. We are all Jews, but it is so dif-

Birthright on page 14A

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Israel/Russia no longer cozy



Kobi Gideon / GPO via Getty Images

Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a joint news conference at the Israeli leader's Jerusalem residence, June 25, 2012.

By Ben Sales

(JTA)—Israel attacked Syria, just like it (reportedly) has countless times before.

The difference now is that Russia is angry about the strike—and showing it.

Russia has called out Israel publicly, condemned the attack and summoned the Israeli ambassador to “discuss developments.” The alleged strike, which the Israeli government has not acknowledged, came soon after a Syrian chemical weap-

ons attack on civilians. But the two attacks might not be connected.

Here's a quick rundown of why Israel is bombing Syria, why it officially pretends it isn't, and why Russia is upset about it.

Israel has attacked Syrian targets many, many times.

Israel does not like Syria—and it hates Syria's ally, Iran.

Israel and Syria are technically in a state of war, but have not engaged in sustained armed conflict since the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Instead,

the two sides have fought through Syrian-funded proxies like the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah. When the civil war in Syria began in 2011, Israel stayed neutral, providing some humanitarian aid to victims on the border but otherwise remaining out of the fray.

The exception has been Israeli strikes against Syrian weapons convoys en route to Hezbollah. When Syrian President Bashar Assad's government was at risk of collapse in the past, Israel worried that it would send its most powerful ordnance to Hezbollah, which has a stated aim of destroying Israel.

Now, as Assad is nearing the defeat of the Syrian rebels, Israel is worried that Iran will set up permanent military bases in the country, at Israel's doorstep. Iran's leaders have pledged to wipe Israel off the map, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

incessantly accuses Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons that would existentially threaten Israel.

In February, Israel and Iran engaged in rare direct conflict over Syria: Iran launched a drone from a Syrian base into Israel, and Israel responded by bombing the base. Syria shot down an Israeli plane.

Monday's Israeli strike targeted the same base as in February, killing 14 people. It came shortly after Assad reportedly murdered at least 40 of his own citizens with chemical weapons, but Israel's attack does not appear to be in response.

Russia is angry this time.

Ever since Russia increased its involvement in the civil war in 2015, sending soldiers and materiel to Syria, Israel has tried to stay on Russia's good side.

That year, the two countries agreed to coordinate military

plans over Syria so they would not accidentally attack each other. And Netanyahu has tried to cozy up to President Vladimir Putin in various other ways—publicly thanking Russia for the Soviet Union's role in defeating the Nazis, and staying silent on Russia's seizure of Crimea and its invasion of Ukraine.

But Russia-Israel relations have always been fraught. The Soviet Union cut off ties with Israel after the latter's victory in the 1967 war, re-establishing them only as the Soviet government was collapsing. And today, the two nations find themselves on opposite sides of the international order. Israel is allied with the United States, while Russia is still allied with Syria and Iran, two of Israel's worst enemies.

Monday's strike targeted a base where Russian personnel might have been present, and Russia is complaining that it

was not told of the strike in advance. So this time it's not letting Israel's bombings go unmentioned.

Israel usually keeps quiet about the attacks.

How many times has Israel attacked Syria since 2012? Few people, if any, know the exact number, so reports have relied on estimates like dozens, scores, even hundreds.

Israel does not want to be seen as supporting one side of the complex conflict or becoming involved directly in the war. When Israeli officials do allude to the strikes, they focus on preventing threats to Israel, not bolstering Assad, the rebels, Islamists or anyone else.

Netanyahu acknowledged these strikes last year. And on Monday, following the strike, he did say “We have one clear and simple rule, and we seek to express it constantly: If someone tries to attack you, rise up and attack him.”

Retired players being shortchanged by MLB pensions

By Douglas J. Gladstone

Stephen Hertz, who managed the Tel Aviv Lightening in the Israel Baseball League after playing for the Houston Colt .45s and coaching nearly three decades at Miami-Dade Community College, is one of 644 retirees who do not receive Major League Baseball pensions because of a change in the vesting requirements that occurred over the 1980 Memorial Day Weekend.

The union was offered the opportunity to give its members the following deal: one game day of service credit to buy into the league's umbrella health insurance plan, and 43 game days of service for a pension, which is currently worth as much as \$220,000.

Another former Houston

Colt .45 player, 86-year-old Don Taussig, is in the same boat. A Jupiter, Florida, resident, Taussig, who also played for the San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals, had a career .262 batting average. His post-baseball life saw him owning a squash business and self-publishing his own book.

The problem for these pre-1980 players was that the union forgot to request retroactive coverage for all the men like Hertz and Taussig.

You'd think the suits who run the national pastime would be above this sort of thing. After all, the league recently announced that its revenue was up 325 percent from 1992, and that it has made \$500 million since 2015. What's more, the average value of each of the 30 clubs

is up 19 percent from 2016, to \$1.54 billion.

But even though Forbes recently reported that the current players' pension and welfare fund is valued at \$2.7 billion, former Detroit Tigers All-Star first baseman Tony Clark, the first player ever to be the executive director of the union representing today's players, the Major League Baseball Players Association, has never commented about these non-vested retirees, many of whom are filing for bankruptcy at advanced ages, having banks foreclose on their homes and are so sickly and poor that they cannot afford adequate health care coverage.

And then there's the sad case of Alan Koch's widow.

Koch, who died in 2015,

is buried in the Bnai Jeshurun Cemetery in Demopolis, Alabama. He was also one of the retired players who didn't receive a MLB pension. A pitcher for the Washington Senators and Detroit Tigers, he appeared in 42 career games over parts of the 1963 and 1964 seasons. He hurled a total of 128 innings, was credited with four wins and had one complete game to his credit.

For more information about Koch's life, read this transcript of an interview he gave to Sandra Berman of the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta, Georgia—<http://www.thebreman.org/Portals/0/Oral%20History%20Transcript>

MLB on page 14A

Bar Mitzvah

Jonathan David Eichenholz

Jonathan David Eichenholz, son of Robyn Eichenholz and Jason Eichenholz of Winter Park, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Sunday, April 22, 2018 at Congregation Beth Am in Longwood.

Jonathan attends Quest Kids Academy. His hobbies and interests include music, Pinterest, Google Maps, theme parks, and car rides. He is a food connoisseur and a huge fan of cooking videos.

Sharing in the family's simcha will be Jonathan's sister Ella; grandparents Dan and Susan Bachrach, Harold and Roberta Eichenholz, and grandfather Gene Blau; uncles Jeff Blau, Keith Eichenholz and Elliot Eichenholz; aunt Ellen Gershman; and cousins Joshua and Eric Gershman and Katie Liberman.



Guess who came to Shabbat dinner?

Some people remember her as Blossom on the NBC TV show of the same name from 1991 to 1995, others know her as Amy Farrah Fowler on CBS's “The Big Bang Theory.” She is Mayim Bialik, and she was recently here to perform at the Phillips Center. The night before her show, she was the guest of a private Shabbat dinner hosted by JLife magazine at The Roth Family JCC.

Bialik is a close friend of Samantha Taylor, publisher of JLife, whom she met at a Hillel event when both women were in college. Shown here is Bialik with Barbara Abramson.

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Scene Around

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

A reflective thought...

What ever happened to “Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breath free”?
(Just saying.)

I received a letter...

The letter I received was sent from DAVID HARRIS, CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC). I pass it along to you in part:
“The Jewish stories handed down through our three-thousand-year-old tradition recount instances of persecution and hatred, but also examples of resilience and survival.



David Harris

Now, let me ask you to consider a current story. It's the story of hate and anti-Semitism resurfacing in our own backyards. We saw synagogues vandalized... cemeteries desecrated... and throngs of white supremacists marching in our streets, waving Nazi flags alongside the Stars and Stripes. These are just a few examples of the anti-Semitism we've recently witnessed across the United States, and the situation in some European countries is even worse.

The hate we thought was waning has returned with a vengeance, as new anti-Semitic attacks are committed with alarming frequency. These attacks are intended to disrupt our lives, to make us feel weak and vulnerable. The AJC will not allow this to happen.”

For further information, you can contact the AJC at 212-891-1456 or online at <ajc.org/actnow>.

Remembering Jewish history...

On Feb. 5, 1997, Three Swiss banks—Union Bank of Switzerland, the Swiss Bank Corp. and Credit Suisse—initially agreed to allocate the equivalent of \$71 million to a humanitarian Holocaust reparations fund as a good-faith gesture after years of pressure from the World Jewish Congress (WJC) about banking policies during and after World War II that were inimical to world Jewry.

Veteran scams...

As the widow of an Army veteran, the mother of a Navy veteran and an active Navy officer, I am concerned about scams against veterans.

Our veterans deserve a lot of things... praise, honor, security, respect...

Here's what they don't deserve: attempts to take advantage of their service. Yet every day, scammers attempt to defraud our veterans of their hard-earned benefits, steal their identity, or take their savings.

What can we do about it? To find out more, phone 877-908-3360 or go online to <AARP.org/fraudwatchnetwork>
(And thank you!)

Urgent action needed to help remaining Holocaust survivors

NEW YORK—The Blue Card, the only organization in the United States with the sole mission of providing ongoing support for medical care, rent subsidies, food and other basic needs to indigent Holocaust survivors, is urging that at the same time we remember the atrocities of the past, we act to secure the future well-being of Holocaust survivors.

April 11-12 marked Holocaust Remembrance Day or Yom HaShoah, a memorial of the six million Jewish people who died during World War II. The time to “never forget” has never been more vital. The Anti-Defamation League tracked that anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. surged nearly 60 percent in 2017.

Now more than seven decades later, the majority of Holocaust survivors living in the U.S. today find themselves below the poverty level, trying to get by on less than \$23,000 a year.

From financial donations to volunteering, there are a number of ways to get involved and help Holocaust survivors today:

- Offer your time—a little companionship can go a long way. Companionship, affection and emotional support are basic relationship needs for us all, but can be priceless for Holocaust survivors. Many survivors have lost their families and do not have a strong support network that they can rely on, especially when an emergency happens. In fact,

an estimated 75 percent of survivors live alone and many of these seniors have difficulty performing the routine activities of daily life. Providing company and friendship to elderly Holocaust survivors produces strong emotional health benefits for individuals that already went through so much. This could be a visit to their home for tea, a visit to their nursing home for a game of cards or driving them to the drugstore to run errands.

Learn about volunteering opportunities through outreach to organizations such as UJA-Federation, your local JCC or The Blue Card, which has a program that organizes visits to Holocaust survivors in the hospital

- Don't underestimate the

power of listening. Listening to the experiences of survivors of the Holocaust who are still with us, in addition to recorded testimonials, will help give voice to a generation that will largely be lost to us in the next 10-20 years. Unfortunately, the window to hear first-hand testimonials is quickly closing. Whenever possible, take the opportunity to connect with survivors in your community so that their stories will live on after they are gone. You can find temples or community centers in your local area that host panels, guest speakers and movie screenings.

- Give back through activities that give you joy. You can

Action on page 15A



Iris Elon and daughter Adi

Speaking of veterans...

My spouse was a veteran of the Korean War who is buried in the Military Cemetery at Bushnell. Just recently, two of his dear relatives from Israel, visited on a U.S. tour that took them to, among other places, New York, Washington, D.C. and Orlando, Florida. My son Ron (a Navy veteran) and I went to meet them. They were staying at the very posh Rosen Plaza Hotel not far from the theme parks.

IRIS ELON and her daughter, ADI, were a delight to spend time with. Iris is the beautiful daughter of cousins MENASHE and EVA ELON, and Adi is their adorable granddaughter. It had been many years since we were visited by Menashe and Eva so this was a particular treat for us.

(Incidentally, Iris and Adi agreed that of all the places in the U.S. that they visited, they loved Orlando best! And of all the places I've visited in the world, I loved Israel best!)

Speaking of Israel...

On Sunday, April 22, there will be an Israel Independence Day Festival to celebrate Israel's 70th birthday!

It will take place from 10 a.m until 4 p.m. at the Lake Eola Amphitheater, 195 N. Rosalind Avenue, Orlando.

There will be kosher food, live musical performances, children's activities, local vendors, Israeli dancing, photo ops and more!

(Hope to see you all there!)

For more information, contact ROBBY ETZKIN, executive director at 407-621-4031 or online at RobbyE@orlandojcc.org.

Cinema Sundays...

The next movie featured will be “Jackie” starring NATALIE PORTMAN and PETER SARSGAARD. It starts at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, in the Senior Lounge of the Roth Family JCC in Maitland. Refreshments are also available.

JCC39ers Meet & Mingle Mondays...

On Monday, April 23, beginning at 1 p.m. in the Senior Lounge of the JCC in Maitland, there will be a meeting followed by a special program presented by SHELDON BROOK. It is a video titled “The Jewish American.”

One for the road...

Ruth had just stepped out of the shower when she heard her doorbell ring.

“Who is it?” she shouted downstairs.

“It's the blind man,” came the reply.

Ruth decided it didn't matter if she opened the door without any clothes on because the man was blind. In fact she thought it would be a rather daring thing to do.

So she opened the door wide and he said, “It's Macy's Department Store, downtown Orlando. Where do you want me to put these blinds?”

HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

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Sudoku (see page 14 for solution)

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

Israel at 70: How Israelis like me relate to a country that's an ocean away

By Ofra Daniel

SAN FRANCISCO (J. The Jewish News of Northern California via JTA)—My Dear Land, It is almost your birthday.

At 70, you are not a young country anymore. Some will consider me a stepdaughter because I left you, deciding to move an ocean away. I left behind me the battles, the traffic, the heat and the politics to become a citizen of the world.

Whenever I am asked where I am from, I hesitate a minute before I answer, then I carefully monitor the interlocutor's response. Some have no idea where you are on the map. Some give me a look that says oh, that country again. Some share with me their observations and opinions of you. I listen with curiosity, thinking to myself, don't they realize I am still a part of you?

First, I need to educate them about who you really are. Then I need to make sure

they hear your side of the story, and to those with a very strong sense of justice, I tell them to mind their own business and attend to their own backyard. You need to know that I defend you openly, although sometimes it isn't an easy task.

Working my way up as an immigrant in the Bay Area, I founded an Israeli theater company, producing plays by Israeli playwrights. Your stepsons and stepdaughters here are thirsty to connect with you through stage performance and live theater. We keep your language, celebrate your culture and preserve the identity you have given us. When I am among them, I find myself pointing out your flaws, calling out your awful mistakes and worrying for your future. I also make sure they do not shut the door to others who claim that they love you. You see, loving you at times is not an easy task.

When I was a little girl, I believed that one day all the

Jews of the world would move in with you because you are gigantic, sacred and the only home we have. "The Land" is what we call you. As if the entire world is composed of water and you are the only piece of land there is. Those of us living in the Bay Area say we only came here for a few years, to taste the water, broaden our possibilities and then return. Gradually, in the dead of night, we moved our books and poems, our family albums and childhood memories. We built temporary communities that resemble you, pretending we never really left. We adjusted to a time zone in which we are kissing you goodnight while we are waking up. We never fully realized that we have actually moved out. Admitting that is also not easy.

Perhaps it is a mature process of separation and individuation that pulled us apart. Perhaps the distance and perspective has allowed us to see you better, support

you and present you to the broader world community, stating proudly that we, too, are your children. Maybe your diverse human kaleidoscope, your endless conflicts, your multi-religious focal points and the never-ending arguments of who owned you first is what makes us see the world from multiple perspectives, oftentimes antithetical one to the other, yet rich in human experience. Discovering that loving you from afar is just as good and just as possible.

We all need our Zion, a place that we call home, a place we long for, defend, belong to, move away from, criticize, come back to, care for, protect and claim as our birthright. Luckily, you will outlive us, age gracefully and be even more attractive, while we will grow old, and return to die and be buried on your Land.

Your daughter,

Ofra

Ofra Daniel is the co-founder and artistic executive director of the Jewish Circle



Cheshiredave Creative

Ofra Daniel as the lead character Tirza in her play "Love Sick."

Theater. A native of Israel, Ofra is an accomplished playwright and performed with the Beit Lessin Theatre Company in Tel Aviv before moving to the Bay Area. She wrote this piece for J. The Jewish News of Northern California.

Houston, we've got your back!

By Jeff Rum

(JNS)—As a child, I remember hearing the story of Noah in Hebrew school. In a class of 5-year-olds, we drew pictures of animals walking into the ark two-by-two in an orderly fashion. And I remember a rainbow.

There was no ark the night of Aug. 26 as a flood of biblical proportions devastated Houston—a city that in no way could expect Hurricane Harvey's strength, breadth or destructive aftermath. Like many areas and neighborhoods, the Jewish community was hit hard.

On a recent fly-in mission to Houston organized by the Jewish Federations of North America and the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, a Jewish mother of three recounted her fears that night: "Can I get everyone out of the window and sit on the roof until someone comes



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Martinez

An aerial view of the historic flooding in Houston during Hurricane Harvey.

to rescue us? Is the roof too sloped? How will I hold my twin infants? How can I make sure to have enough special formula? Can my toddler swim? And for how long?

This young mother put her children on a boat with a stranger, who steered them down their street and docked at the firehouse. They made it. Thank G-d.

This story is just one of thousands about people stranded and praying for their lives. Today, while the debris is gone from the streets, the pain for the Houston community remains raw. People introduce themselves to one another by how many inches or feet of water they had in their home. They are still debating whether to rebuild, raise their home (at a price tag of \$200,000) or even leave. It will take years before Houston will fully recover.

The world may have moved on—to Puerto Rico, Parkland, increased partisanship—but the need remains great in Houston, and federal resources for infrastructure alone are mired in bureaucracy.

Nearly six months after Hurricane Harvey, I met people who can no longer send their children to Jewish day school, who can't afford summer camp this year, who are living day by

day. Many are still in temporary housing. Families of five sleep in one-room apartments. This is not the Jewish community in strife-ridden Ukraine. This is Houston 2018. And probably most concerning, people are moving out from the centers of Jewish life in the metropolitan area to more distant parts of the county. The landscape of Jewish Houston is changing as we speak.

Kids today in Houston are scared when it rains. Will it flood again? The post-traumatic stress in this community runs rampant. Parents are trying to hold it together, but the tears come out as soon as they talk about that Saturday evening in August when the skies opened up. How does a community find the resources to help every family? Jewish Family Services is now supporting members of the community who just months earlier were significant donors and contributors. Never did they imagine that they would be on the receiving end of assistance.

The needs in Houston are overwhelming. Synagogues and Jewish agencies are still assessing damage. Some are rebuilding. Others are making tough decisions to rebuild or not. Day schools and summer camps are looking at reducing

fees for families struggling post-storm. They are also paying for the costs of rebuilding facilities. Where will the funding come from?

Despite the overwhelming difficulties, I see resilience, too. Rabbis from all streams of Judaism working together, providing each other with emotional support, as well as space for meetings, holiday meals, simchas (Jewish celebrations) and services. Families there for each other, planning playdates so parents can spend hours a day on the phone with insurance companies.

Just after Harvey, the JCC turned a tennis center into a distribution center, and then again into a preschool for children to continue learning. It was hard. But life went on, and the Jewish community pulled together.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston's CEO, Avital Ingber, started her position just weeks following Harvey. She noted of the group that participated in the fly-in mission: "Even though the news cycle moved on long ago, you have shown us the broader Jewish community is still here for us and with us."

That's the headline. Hous-

Houston on page 15A

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CARDINAL MONUMENTS

OBITUARIES

BETTY LOOMAS

Betty Loomas (born Elizabeth A. Schick) passed away at the age of 90 on Feb. 1, 2018, at Winter Park Memorial Hospital in Florida of complications from pneumonia after an extended illness.

Betty graduated with a 5-year college degree from Villa Nova College in 1945; and, was married 1 year later.

Betty and her best friend and associate, Susie Wright, began the 1st Practical Nursing Program in the late 1950s with 15 female students, who would each earn a 2-year degree. They later revised the program to include LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) accreditation.

Betty and Susie worked with the capitol to learn state and commonwealth standards, the adoption of which allowed their program to gain wide acceptance by college and nursing state boards. They were successful and gained collegiate acceptance as a 2-year college degree as an LPN program. Betty worked with this program from 1958-1972. She felt the changing times needed updated teachers certified to carry on this program. It still exists today.

She moved to Orlando's College Park area in 1972 where she resided until her death.

Betty was preceded in death by her first husband when she was 32 years old, and later Jerry (73), and Manny (80). She

was also predeceased by her son Tom (65); her grandsons Michael (35) and Steve (37); her parents, Gertrude and Lew; and, all of her husband's family members all before the age of 40.

Betty is survived by her three daughters: Barbara (Concord, NC), Sue (Orlando) and Jan (Orlando). She is also survived by her grandson Greg (North Carolina) and local grandchildren Aubrey (Bree) and David Suberman, who all had a close knit relationship with their grandmother; and those out of state are several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She will be missed by her family and close friends: Rose, Jerry, Pat, Jim and Doris, Bob and Deann Carr and, of course, her cat Pretty Girl, who resides at her home.

Donations may be made to a nursing school of your choice or to Hospice of the Comforter. <http://www.hospiceofthecomforter.org>

Please sign the guestbook at www.WoodlawnFuneral-HomeGotha.com.

BERNARD "BERNY" RAFF

Berny Raff, age 91, of Longwood, passed away on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at Quality Health Care Center in Winter Garden. "Super Berny" to everybody who met and knew him, was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, on Feb. 14, 1927, to the late Harry and Elsie Savidonsky Raff. Berny

served in the United States Navy during World War II. After relocating to the Orlando area in 1975 for a sales and marketing position in the education field, he joined Congregation Ohev Shalom and quickly became president of the Seniors Group, a position he held for more than 30 years.

In 1988, Berny married the former Eleanor Benmeyer Gordon who predeceased him on June 1, 2013. They had been married for 28 years.

Berny is survived by his sons—Howard, and daughter-in-law, Andrea, of Connecticut and Ira of Minnesota; granddaughter Erin and husband Geoff Smith of Pennsylvania, and the numerous and countless friends that he considered family and loved with all his heart. Sisters Ethel Raff Gilman and Florence Raff Tunis of New Jersey had predeceased their brother.

The funeral service with Navy Military Honors was held at the Pavilion at Ohev Shalom Cemetery with Rabbis David Kay and Aaron Rubinger officiating. Interment followed in the cemetery.

In memory of our "Super Berny," the family has requested contributions in his name to the COS Seniors Fund, 613 Concourse Parkway S, Maitland FL 32751.

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.ohevshalom.org; Shabbat service, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Congregation Shalom Aleichem (R), 3501 Oak Pointe Blvd., Kissimmee, 407-935-0064; www.shalomaleichem.com; 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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ZOA/Mort Klein convinced Qatar to cancel anti-Semitic Al Jazeera 'Jewish Lobby' series



Joseph Savetsky

ZOA President Morton Klein

The Emir of Qatar, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, came to America last week to meet with President Trump, Secretary of Defense Mattis, Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, and other top U.S. officials. With the focus on Qatar, this is thus, the appropriate time to announce the following.

The Zionist Organization of America and its president, Morton Klein, are proud and pleased to announce that it was through ZOA's and Klein's efforts, that Qatar agreed to cancel and not allow the release of a viciously anti-Semitic Al Jazeera "undercover" film series on the so-called "American Jewish lobby." (Al Jazeera is a Qatar-based media outlet funded by Qatar) It was

expected that the film series would have been the American version of Al Jazeera's 4-part "undercover" film series on the "Jewish lobby" in Britain. In that film series, Al Jazeera misleadingly portrayed Israeli and British Jewish groups' legitimate efforts to combat anti-Semitic boycott, divestment and sanctions as something nefarious. According to reports, the targets of the Al Jazeera American film series would have included entities and/or officials of Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, AIPAC, the American Jewish Committee, and the ZOA.

In addition to stopping the anti-Semitic Al Jazeera series, Klein's meetings in Qatar also

resulted, after a two-hour meeting with the Emir in his palace, in Qatar agreeing to remove anti-Semitic books from the Doha book fair. The Fair is an important annual cultural event, where hundreds of publishing houses representing 29 Arab and foreign countries exhibit their publications; which are then purchased by school systems, libraries and bookstores from throughout the Middle East and the world. The 2017 Doha book fair had almost 24,000 individual and almost 10,000 "professional" (libraries, bookstores, etc.) visitors, according to the International Publishers' Association.

In 2022, the Doha book fair will be held in conjunction with the World Cup, resulting in more attendees than ever. The Simon Wiesenthal Centre-Europe has expressed alarm for years about the previous anti-Semitic offerings at the Doha book fair. ZOA incorporated information from the Wiesenthal's Centre into the extensive report presented by Klein to Qatari officials in January demanding changes.

Klein was first invited to meet with Qatari officials in September 2017, but turned down the invitation due to concerns about Qatari actions and the potential that Klein's visit could be used for

propaganda purposes. Klein received repeated invitations over the next few months from the Emir's agents, who advised him that Qatar wants to change, wants to stop funding terrorism, and wants to become a better country. At the end of October, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced increased Qatari-US cooperation in combating terrorism financing.

Qatar announced that Israeli athletes were welcome to participate in its sports events unlike other Arab countries, (the 2020 World Cup being held in Qatar) and Israel sent its handball, volleyball teams and an Israeli tennis player to participate in tournaments in Qatar. After Israeli athletes won a bronze medal, Qatari officials and the Israeli athletes posed for a picture, which was released publicly.

In addition, throughout the fall, other top pro-Israel leaders met with Qatari officials, including Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations CEO Malcolm Hoenlein, the Orthodox Union's Rabbi Menachem Genack, pro-Israel radio personality John Batchelor, American Jewish Congress President Jack Rosen, and Religious Zionists of America President Martin Oliner. Harvard Law School

Professor Alan Dershowitz and Governor Mike Huckabee planned and did visit in January, thereby minimizing the possibility that a visit by Klein would provide a significant propaganda boost to Qatar.

At that point, ZOA and Klein finally decided that the significant potential upside of meetings with Qatari officials and fighting on behalf of the Jewish people in Qatar outweighed the minimal potential downside. Indeed, throughout history, Jewish leaders and leading rabbis have met with hostile leaders on behalf of the Jewish people.

"Since my meeting, Qatar has taken some important steps in the right direction by stopping the anti-Semitic Al Jazeera series and the anti-Semitic books at the Doha book fair," Klein stated. "We also note that on Jan. 15, 2018, the White House announced that President Trump 'thanked the Emir for Qatari action to counter terrorism and extremism in all forms, including being one of the few countries to move forward on a bilateral memorandum of understanding.' The leaders discussed areas in which the United States and Qatar can partner to bring more stability to the region, counter malign Iranian influence, and defeat terrorism."

However, Qatar does need to do much more. The ZOA will continue pressing Qatari officials, to whom ZOA now has access, to take important additional steps, including ending official statements and Al Jazeera propaganda falsehoods that promote hatred, violence and demonization of Israel and Jews. ZOA's previous extensive report also described other important steps that Klein raised that Qatar needs to take, including reopen the Qatari trade office in Israel which Qatar had in the past; establish relations with Israel; publicly condemn Hamas, Hezbollah, the Muslim Brotherhood and Al Qaeda as terror groups; clearly prove Qatar's stated position that they no longer provide funding to terror groups; reject all known terror leaders who have been residing in Qatar; and work to obtain the return of Israeli bodies and kidnapped Israelis held by Hamas.

In an encouraging step this week, former Qatari Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani tweeted "Israelis have a right to live in their land in peace and safety, this is my conviction. I've had this conviction for many long years, and I still do." Former PM Hamad Al Thani wrote this in Arabic, which added to its significance.

Separated by the Holocaust, old friends find each other 76 years later

By Gabrielle Birkner

LOS ANGELES (JTA)—When Alice (Gerstel) Weit last saw Simon Gronowski, she was 13 and he was 10 and, by Alice's recollection, "the most adorable boy ever." When they reunited this week, 76 years later, "I opened the door and there he was, a frail, little old man," she said.

At the threshold of Alice's apartment here, the old friends embraced, and they wept.

"They weren't talking; they were speaking with their eyes," said Simon's grandson Romain De Mys, 24, who witnessed the April 10 reunion.

Two days later, Alice and Simon were guests of honor during the Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah, program at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

Until recently, Alice had long believed that Simon—the little brother of her childhood best friend, Ita—had perished with his family at Auschwitz. It wasn't until last summer, after a family member's Internet search turned up Simon's memoir, that

she learned he had survived the war.

"I broke down and cried like a little baby," Alice said.

A few weeks later, she found out that Simon was still alive and working as a lawyer in Brussels.

Simon was just as emotional when he received an email from one of Alice's sons saying that his mother was looking to reconnect.

"I replied right away that I want to see her," Simon said.

It's no wonder, given their families' unique connection. For 10 harrowing days in October 1941, as Alice, her mother and two siblings waited to be smuggled out of Nazi-occupied Belgium, they hid above the Gronowskis' leather goods store, which was frequented by Nazi officers. The Gronowskis risked their own lives to shelter the Gerstels.

When Alice and her family left that day, "I said goodbye, but I believed I'd see them again," Simon told JTA. "At this moment, I didn't know Auschwitz."

The Gerstels managed to escape Europe, traveling

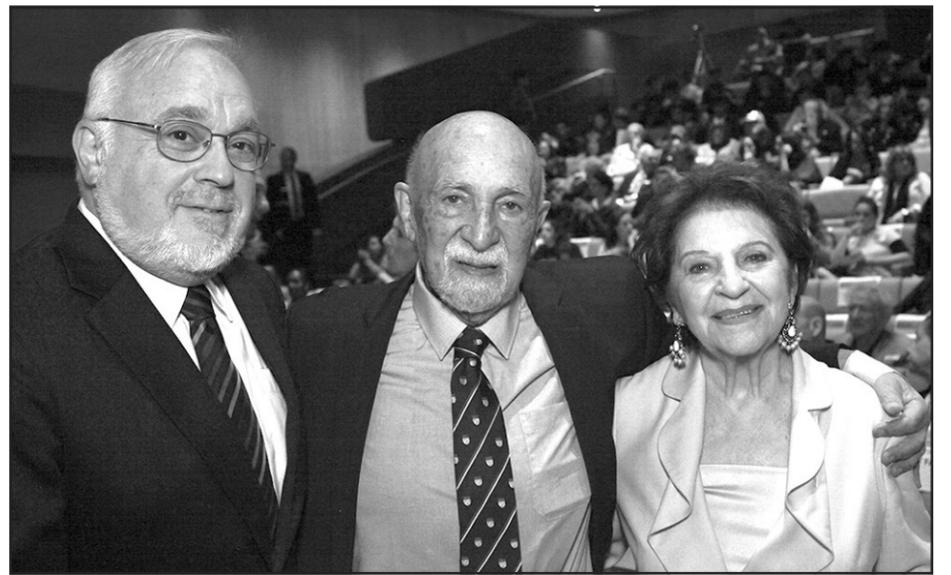
through France and Morocco before boarding a ship bound for Cuba. They ultimately resettled in the United States, where Alice married, had two children and worked as a real estate agent.

The Gestapo arrested Simon and his family in February 1943. They were sent to the Mechelen transit camp, then put on a train bound for Auschwitz. En route, the train was breached by the Belgian resistance, and some passengers were able to flee. With his mother's help, 11-year-old Simon jumped from the train and escaped through the woods. His mother, Chana, and sister Ita, who was on a subsequent convoy, would die at Auschwitz.

Young Simon was aided by a Belgian police officer, and he spent the remainder of the war sheltered in the homes of Catholic families. Simon's father, Léon, also survived the war in hiding, but died shortly thereafter, when Simon was only 13.

Years on, Simon put himself through law school, married (now divorced) and had two children. An amateur jazz pianist, Simon was invited in 2014 to play alongside filmmaker Woody Allen at New York's Carlyle Hotel, where Allen performs regularly with his band.

But for decades after the war, Simon did not talk about what he had endured. In 2002 he published a memoir, "The Child of the 20th Convoy," and began speaking in schools about what happened to his family during the Holocaust. When he stood before the crowd Thursday



Bart Bartholomew/Simon Wiesenthal Center

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, with Simon Gronowski and Alice Weit, who had a reunion 76 years after being separated by the Holocaust, at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles where they were honored, April 12, 2018.

at the Museum of Tolerance, he said he ultimately decided to share his story "on behalf of victims of all barbarities," including those who died in the 20th century genocides in Armenia and Rwanda. He also decried the pernicious forces of hate and Holocaust denial, and called democracy "a struggle of everyday."

At Thursday's event, Alice praised Simon's mother, whom she credits with saving her family.

"Your mom was the personification of the saying, 'If you save one life, you save all humanity,'" she said.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which runs the Museum of Tolerance, told JTA that Holocaust

memory is at a critical moment, as "a generation of perpetrators, victims, liberators and bystanders are all leaving the stage of history."

"The question is how will we be remembering the Shoah [Holocaust] after the eyewitnesses are gone?" said Cooper, citing Holocaust denial abroad, the rise of far-right candidates in the United States and a new study showing that many U.S. millennials lack a basic knowledge about the Holocaust.

The study found that 22 percent of respondents between the ages of 18 and 34 had not heard of the Holocaust or weren't sure if they had heard of it. The same survey, spearheaded by the Conference on Jewish Mate-

rial Claims Against Germany, also revealed that 41 percent of respondents of all ages could not identify the concentration camp Auschwitz.

Against this backdrop, Cooper said Alice and Simon's reunion "is a sign of hope, but also a challenge, a reminder to step up."

In advance of Simon's arrival this week, Alice spent days preparing "a Yiddishe meal" of chopped liver, gefilte fish, matzah ball soup and brisket for her friend.

The reunion gave Simon an opportunity to connect with the closest thing he has to his lost family, said Dann Netter, one of Alice's sons.

"For us," Netter said, "it provides the opportunity to say thank you."

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Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Madoff victims to receive \$500 million more in relief

(JTA)—The Madoff Victim Fund began distributing \$504 million in funds to victims of Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme.

The funds, whose distribution began on Thursday, will be sent to over 21,000 Madoff victims around the world, according to a statement by the Justice Department.

The distribution is the second in a series of payments that will eventually return over \$4 billion to Madoff victims.

"In one of the most notorious and unconscionable financial crimes in history, Bernie Madoff robbed tens of thousands of individuals, pension plans, charitable organizations and others, all the while funding a lavish personal lifestyle," Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in the statement.

"We cannot undo the damage that Bernie Madoff has done, but today's distribution will provide significant relief to many of the victims of all time," Sessions added.

Madoff, a Jewish New Yorker, used his position as the chairman of his investment securities company to swindle billions of dollars from tens of thousands of investors from the early 1970s until his arrest in 2008.

The uncovering of the Ponzi scheme revealed the tens of billions of dollars in fake profit that victims believed they had earned through Madoff. Many prominent Jewish nonprofits also suffered big losses, with Yeshiva University taking a \$140 million hit, Hadasah \$90 million and Elie Wiesel's foundation losing \$15 million.

In 2009, Madoff pleaded guilty to 11 federal felonies and is serving a 150-year sentence in a federal prison in North Carolina. He was also ordered to forfeit nearly \$171 billion.

Quebec legislator criticizes Jewish colleague for wearing kippah in Parliament

MONTREAL (JTA)—A separatist Quebec legislator backtracked after criticizing a fellow parliamentarian for wearing a kippah in the legislative chamber on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

During a raucous session, Opposition leader Jean-François Lisée of the Parti Québécois criticized David Birnbaum, the only Jewish legislator of the governing Liberal Party, for wearing the skullcap.

Lisée said doing so may have violated a rule forbidding partisan symbols in Parliament. He was responding to Quebec premier Philippe Couillard, who had criticized Lisée for wearing his own party's lapel pin in the legislative hall.

Lisée said allowing the kippah while banning his pin constituted a "hierarchy between some convictions and others."

An angry Birnbaum defended his actions. "I can wear that kippah anywhere," he said.

"To suggest that a Jewish [parliamentarian] should be

forced to hide his religious identity—on Yom Hashoah, no less—is grotesque and unacceptable," B'nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn said.

On Thursday, Lisée posted a statement on Facebook conceding that Birnbaum did indeed have the right to wear the kippah, but said religious rights should not supersede others.

Students find 1,400-year-old oil lamp inscribed with menorah

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Students working to build the "Sanhedrin Trail" in Israel's Galilee unearthed a 1,400-year-old oil lamp bearing the symbol of the Jerusalem Temple's menorah, according to the Israel Antiquities Authority.

"The discovery of a lamp decorated with a menorah, a symbol of the Jewish people, is without doubt exciting, especially at a site with such a unique heritage in part of the Sanhedrin Trail," IAA archaeologist Dr. Einat Ambar-Armon, an expert on ancient clay lamps, said in a statement.

Thousands of students have worked for several months on what will be a smart trail, on which dozens of large "smart" stones will transmit relevant, useful information and activities directly to the hikers' mobile telephones.

The nearly 45-mile long trail running from Beit She'arim to Tiberias across the lower Galilee is divided into five sections and traces the movements of the sages of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish tribunal that met in the ancient Land of Israel.

The trail will be inaugurated on April 22.

In addition to the oil lamp, the student volunteers have uncovered pieces of glass believed to date to the glass industry mentioned in rabbinical texts, and ornamental items dating back 1,800 years. One student discovered a gold coin on the trail bearing an inscription of the sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, builder of Jerusalem's city walls. Only two other such coins have been discovered.

Haaretz publisher removes tweet after charges of racism

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The publisher of the left-wing Israeli newspaper Haaretz deleted a response to a critical reader that many took as racist.

Amos Schocken was responding on Twitter to reader, Ravit Dahan, who tweeted at Schocken that it was because of the ideology of those on the right that he was able "to continue and live here like a king and publish your surreal newspaper without interruption."

Schocken responded: "Insolent woman. My family led the Zionist movement when you were still swinging from trees. The Schocken family has been here for 83 years, and we got along very well without your ideology, and we will continue to do so."

Readers suggested that Schocken chose the insult because Dahan is a traditionally Sephardi surname.

He later deleted the tweet

though it was captured in screenshots by several Twitter users.

Schocken later attempted to clarify that his tweet was not meant to be racist.

"When I wrote the tweet, I used an expression that, as far as I'm concerned, has no racial or ethnic connotation, but one that applies to all races," said Schocken. He said he only meant to point out the tweeter's "ignorance."

Schocken is the scion of a German-Jewish family of publishers; his grandfather arrived in Palestine in 1933 and bought Haaretz in 1935.

Amos Schocken was responding to criticism over the cover story for the newspaper's main weekend supplement, in advance of Israel's Independence Day. The story asked reporters to choose "the most hated Israeli song." Leading the list was the country's national anthem "Hatikvah," followed closely by Naomi Shemer's Six-Day War song "Jerusalem of Gold."

Readers took to social media to criticize the newspaper for making criticism of the national anthem the subject of an article in honor of Yom Haatzmaut.

Filmmaker Milos Forman, director of 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,' dies at 86

(JTA)—Filmmaker Milos Forman, famous for the Academy Award-winning film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Amadeus," has died.

Forman, who was born in Czechoslovakia and came to the United States at the end of the 1960s, died on Saturday at a hospital near his home in Connecticut at the age of 86.

Forman's parents, who were Protestant and members of the anti-Nazi underground, were killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust; his mother died in Auschwitz and his father died while being interrogated by the Gestapo in the Mittelbau-Dora concentration camp. Forman later learned that his biological father was a Jewish man with whom his mother had an affair, who survived the Holocaust and that the filmmaker later found living in Peru. Forman was raised by foster parents in Czechoslovakia and attended film school in Prague.

He moved to the United States after the invasion of communist troops in Czechoslovakia known as the Prague Spring, which squelched artistic freedom. He became a U.S. citizen in 1977.

In his memoir, Forman said the producers of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," Michael Douglas and Saul Zaentz, asked him to direct because "I seemed to be in their price range," the New York Times said in its obituary. The film went on to receive five Academy Awards for Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay. "Amadeus" won eight Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Director.

Other Forman films include "Hair," "Ragtime," and "Man on the Moon."

4 Israeli police injured in haredi Orthodox draft riot

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Four police officers were injured during clashes with haredi Orthodox demonstrators protesting in Jerusalem against mandatory conscription.

The police used riot control measures, including stun grenades and water cannons, to break up the violent demonstration on Sunday night.

The demonstration took place in front of the Israel Defense Forces recruitment center in Jerusalem. Demonstrators reportedly also threw objects at police officers and passing cars.

The riot reportedly was sparked by attempts by the military police to arrest a woman, who was at the IDF recruitment office, for refusing to enlist.

Several demonstrators also were reported injured.

Police units in Jerusalem dispersed an ultra religious illegal demonstration with stun grenades after 4 police officers were injured lightly

Argentine Jews honor Europe's great pre-war Zionist sports clubs

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (JTA)—Two Jewish sport clubs in Argentina honored their counterparts in Vienna and Warsaw, which were shuttered by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

The Buenos Aires-based Hacoaj and Macabi sports clubs, as part of Holocaust Remembrance Day activities, wore authentic uniforms of the Hakoah Vienna and Makabi Warsaw teams during a match on Sunday.

Sunday's tribute game, titled "The match that didn't happen," recreated the atmosphere of a World War II-era game between the two clubs.

In 1909 followers of Zionist Max Nordau founded Austria's first Jewish sport club, Hakoah ("The Power") Vienna. On a tour in 1921, Hakoah became the first continental club to defeat an English team on their home pitch, when they thrashed current Premier League team West Ham United, 5-1. The team also won the Austria championship in 1925 and then visited the U.S. in 1926.

The iconic European Jewish club was formally shut down by the Nazis in 1938. With more than 5,000 members, the club was especially successful in swimming and soccer. It was reopened in 2008.

Makabi Warsaw was founded in 1915 and had 3,000 members who practiced sports such as basketball, soccer, wrestling, fencing, tennis and rowing.

The Jewish Argentinean sport organization, Macabi, produced a replica of the same uniform worn during soccer matches during the Holocaust.

The replica T-shirts are included in the current exhibition at one of the Argentina main soccer clubs.

NYU says students' pledge to boycott pro-Israel groups 'is at odds with our values'

NEW YORK (JTA)—New York University said it opposes boycotts of student groups after 51 campus orga-

nizations pledged to boycott pro-Israel groups.

"The University opposes any kind of boycott or official refusal by some student groups to interact with other student groups because of differing points of view. It is at odds with our traditions and values, especially our core belief in the free exchange of ideas," university spokesman John Beckman said in a statement on Monday.

Last week, 51 student organizations signed a resolution in which they pledged not to co-sponsor any events with two Israel advocacy campus groups—Realize Israel and TorchPAC—as well as eight off-campus groups, including Birthright-Taglit, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee and the Anti-Defamation League. The groups also promised to boycott Israel and expressed support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against the Jewish state.

NYU's chapters of Jewish Voice for Peace and Students for Justice in Palestine organized the resolution, and its signatories included groups such as the African Student Union, the Black Students Union, College Libertarians, the Mexican Student Association and the Muslim Students Association.

In its Monday statement, Beckman said NYU encourages conversations between groups with opposing opinions.

"We would suggest that student groups proposing the boycott to find a pathway forward to engage in constructive dialogue. The University, as always, stands ready to facilitate this," he said.

On Friday, leaders of the two pro-Israel groups singled out in the resolution told JTA that they were surprised by the momentum it had gained.

Realize Israel President Adela Cojab, 21, described the climate surrounding Israel at NYU as "one of animosity."

Auction house offers antique Jewish Bible stolen by Goering

JERUSALEM (JTA)—An antique Bible, or Tanach, that was stolen from the library of a wealthy French Jewish doctor by Nazi leader Hermann Goering, will be sold at public auction.

Goering, who stole many valuable items of Judaica, was interested in Jewish treasures. According to its bookplate, the book was stolen from the home library of a Jewish doctor by the name of J.N. Pellieux of Beaugency, France sometime after the Nazi conquest of France in 1945.

According to a second bookplate, glued opposite the front page, the book was "taken from Goering's private collection in Berghof in the Berchtesgaden region." A stamp of the French Division of the Red Cross, whose soldiers captured the compound on May 4, 1945, appears on the bookplate.

The Kedem Auction House in Jerusalem said in a statement that the Bible was printed by Menasseh Ben Israel in Amsterdam in the 17th century, "one of a few bibles printed by a Jew at the time."

After World War II, Goering was captured and convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity at the Nuremberg trials. He committed suicide by taking cyanide the night before he was to be hanged. The book was one of hundreds of items that he stole to enhance his own private collections.

In 2005, the stolen book was bequeathed as a gift to a Mr. Rosenfeld of London by a chaplain of the French division that stormed Goering's house at the end of the war, according to Kedem.

"This item, which was recently presented to us, is one of supreme historic value. We are hopeful that it will end up in one of the prominent Holocaust museums around the world," said Maron Eran, a Kedem owner.

Birthright founder gives middle finger to protesters outside gala dinner

(JTA)—Michael Steinhardt, the co-founder and major funder of Birthright Israel, flashed his middle finger at protesters outside a gala dinner in honor of the 18th anniversary of the free trip to Israel for young Jewish men and women.

More than 150 students from colleges in the New York and New England areas protested in front of the Ziegfeld Ballroom in New York, where the annual gala was held on Sunday evening. The students represented groups including Jewish Voice for Peace, Students for Justice in Palestine, the Palestine Solidarity Alliance and the Democratic Socialists of America, all of which support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel.

The protest was led by Return the Birthright, a campaign supported by Jewish Voice for Peace and Independent Jewish Voices. It calls on young Jews to boycott Birthright and to support the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in Israel. During the event, the anti-occupation group IfNotNow, which does not take a stance on the BDS movement, projected on the ballroom building an image with the words "Birthright Lied To Us," and "Jewish Youth Demand the Truth."

A quote attributed to the evening's honoree, billionaire philanthropist Sheldon Adelson—"Israel Isn't Going to Be a Democratic State—So What"—also was projected on the wall.

Adelson, a major Birthright funder, was presented with the "Guardian of the Jewish Future" award at the event.

The student protesters wrapped themselves in personalized Jewish prayer shawls and demonstrated by returning symbolic Birthright plane tickets. They also read out the names of Palestinian villages destroyed 70 years ago, and the names of the 32 protesters in Gaza killed in the past three weeks during the Great Return March protests.

A photo of Steinhardt and protesters was posted on Instagram by a photographer for Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency.

Soto

From page 2A

Netanyahu. The goal of the visit was to learn about issues critical to the United States-Israeli relationship and international security.

Rep. Soto said that the trip was both exhausting and enchanting. He climbed up

to Masada and floated in the Dead Sea. He met with traditional, secular, and Hasidic Jews; African Christian Arabs, and Muslim Arabs. While visiting the Golan Heights, he spoke to a veteran of the 1967 Six Day War while mortar fire sounded in the background. He met with a young Israeli soldier whose young children lived only three miles from

the Lebanon border. "We can't afford to make mistakes," she told Soto. He also had an "eye-opening meeting" with the commerce secretary of the PLO.

Israelis garnered Soto's respect in other ways. The people are "hard working, very liberal minding regarding equal rights and democracy," he said. Soto was also

impressed with "fierceness of political debate" among Israelis that is balanced with respect for each side.

Rep. Soto was surprised by the overwhelming number of olive trees the Israelis have planted. "The trees literally stopped at the Israeli border," said Soto. "To me it is symbolic of the cultivation—the sweat and toil—the Jewish people

have put into the former desert."

Rep. Soto compared the Jews who came to Israel to the Cuban people, many who live in his district. "It is a sheer miracle that both groups not only survived but also were able to do so many wonderful things," he said. "We know how fragile Israel is, and the country—one of

our strongest allies—requires American commitment."

Rep. Soto reflected on Israel's upcoming 70th anniversary, commenting that the milestone shows the fortitude of the Jewish people. "A strong American-Israeli relationship has fostered that security," said the congressman. "We need to make sure to continue those investments going forward."

Contributors

From page 3A

is an evangelical pastor based in San Antonio, Texas. Having served in the ministry for more than five decades, Hagee leads a church with 20,000-plus active members. He is a Christian Zionist, who believes that the Bible commands all believing Christians to support the State of Israel and the return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland.

As such, Hagee has had a

long and generous relationship with the Jewish state. He has visited Israel numerous times and has met with every Israeli prime minister since Menachem Begin. His organization, John Hagee Ministries, has donated tens of millions of dollars towards humanitarian causes in Israel. For example, the ministry group donated millions of dollars earmarked for enabling Jews from the former Soviet Union to immigrate to Israel.

Hagee's spirited advocacy for the Jewish state has been a constant of his career. In 1981, his church hosted its inaugural "Night to Honor Israel"—an annual event held in San Antonio every year since—that celebrates the Jewish state and stresses the importance of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. As a mark of its great success, the 2017 dinner raised more than \$2 million for Israeli and Zionist charities and organizations. Since its

inception, the "Night to Honor Israel" has raised more than \$100 million for Jewish charities and the Jewish state.

In 2006, Hagee founded Christians United for Israel (CUFI) to give political expression to the voices of millions of devout Christians across America who support Israel. A testament to Hagee's commitment and vision, this grassroots organization has rapidly grown and now boasts some 4 million members.

CUFI has become the largest pro-Israel Christian group in the United States, and one of Israel's most significant and vital sources of support in America. In addition to helping fund initiatives geared towards supporting Israel, this group also has dedicated significant resources for combating anti-Semitism around the world. As part of his activities for CUFI, Hagee has addressed members of the United States Congress, exhorting them to support

Israel in any way they can by using their positions of power within the government.

John Hagee has been a true and devoted friend of Israel. His public and vocal support has been no small factor in solidifying the strong relationship between American evangelical Christians and Israel. In turn, this special relationship has been an important and lasting element in Israel's connection with America, its most crucial ally and friend.

Analysis

From page 3A

disrupted these activities on a regular basis.

Lebanon is already a well-established Iranian rocket base, filled to the brim with 120,000 rockets embedded in 200 Shi'a Lebanese villages. All of these projectiles are pointed at Israel. Under

Iran's plans, Syria, too, would become a major threat.

The military base reportedly struck in the latest attack, known as "T4," has a history. In early February, Israeli fighter jets destroyed an Iranian drone control cabin that was stationed there, after Iranian operators sitting in it flew a drone into Israeli

airspace. It's likely that the Iranian operators were killed in that attack.

According to reports that emerged on Monday, Iranian military personnel were killed in Monday's strike as well. That would seem to indicate that whatever was going on at the T4 airbase—hundreds of kilometers from the Israeli border—constituted a serious security threat to Israel, and that Iran has again tested the waters, seeing how far it can go in building up its military presence before provoking an Israeli response.

This dangerous pattern looks set to continue. Each incident represents a potential escalation point that can spiral into a wider conflict between Israel and the radical Shi'a axis that is taking over much of the Middle East.

The Russian complication What makes this situation more tense is the fact that Russia acts as the air force of the Shi'a axis in Syria. Russian

airpower helped turn the tide of the war in Assad's favor, a fact that has probably given the Syrian dictator the confidence to unleash the horrors of chemical warfare on Sunni areas and make a mockery of the international community in the process.

Russia has, through its waves of airstrikes in Syria, gained a warm-water port at Syria's Tartus naval base, and it has an airbase at Hmeimim on the Syrian coastline. It has moved advanced air-defense batteries to Syria. Moscow has used its intervention to position itself as a superpower actor in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the United States has decreased its influence in Syria to a bare minimum.

Israel seeks no conflict with Russia but is unwilling to ignore the activities of Moscow's allies—something Israel has communicated to Russia repeatedly.

The Russians have so far been able to help de-escalate

the situation by convincing their radical and dubious allies to tone down their responses to Israel's self-defense actions. The Iranian axis may not have needed much convincing; it remains fundamentally deterred by Israel's vast firepower and intelligence capabilities. Iran is intent on consolidating its control of Syria at this stage, rather than opening a new active front against Israel right now, which would risk its entire Syrian project. But if it succeeds in its goal of converting Syria into a new base of hostility towards Israel, there can be no doubt that, sooner or later, it will activate this front.

These events put Russia's project in Syria at risk, and this poses a complication. Any full-scale conflict that erupts would place the Assad regime in existential danger, and Russia could see its investment go down the drain.

Statements released by Moscow on Monday indicate

Russian displeasure at Israel's alleged actions.

Yet Israel has responded that it will not blink when it comes to defending its security.

It's also hard to ignore the fact that the alleged Israeli strike came hours after a horrendous chemical massacre was carried out, once again, by the Assad regime against a rebel-held area. Scenes of men, women and children murdered through the use of chemical-weapons agents have once again flooded the world, with an ally of Iran and Russia—the Assad regime—again committing a ghastly crime against humanity.

As a result, it cannot be ruled out that the latest attack also served as an Israeli signal of intolerance to the usage of chemical weapons in the region.

Whatever triggered the strike, one thing seems certain: Iran will continue to test Israel's lines, and Israel will continue to enforce them.



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Birthright

From page 7A

ferent. Everyone experiences Judaism as a completely different thing." She maintained that the activity made her delve into her own Jewish identity.

"It's easy to be Israeli and Jewish," she told JNS. "All my friends are Jewish, and I experience Israel every day. I don't get to think about [identity] that much. I just realized how hard it is to be Jewish in a non-Jewish country. I now think about it not as something you take for granted."

Similarly, Charter maintained that "it is a great irony of history that the current and next generation of Israelis take for granted the most amazing and even miraculous project of the Jewish people: the State of Israel."

MLB

From page 8A

scripts/Koch,%20Alan%20Transcript%20MASTER%2010819%20Ready%20for%20Web%20R1262016.pdf

In April 2011, the league and union tried to remedy the problem by giving men like Hertz, Taussig, and Koch \$625 for each 43 game days

Ayelet also discovered that while she loves being secular, the trip and its experiences helped her understand "how important it is that if I go abroad, I will keep Jewish traditions." She found it sad that many American Jews were only "Jew-ish," and before the trip didn't even grasp the enormity of the Holocaust, which she believes "is important because it's who I am."

In addition, both young Israelis (like the New Yorker who has never been to the Statue of Liberty) were able to visit important sites that—even living in Israel their entire life—they had not been to, such as Israel's Independence Hall in Tel Aviv. "It made me want to explore more of Israel, both new places and the places I already know," said Racheli.

of service they accrued on an active MLB roster, up to \$10,000. But when the man passes, the payment passes with him.

So now Linda Koch, who uses an oxygen tank every day, gets squat.

In my opinion, Linda Koch, as well as Hertz and Taussig, are being shortchanged by

Touring the country and seeing Israel from others' eyes actually opened the eyes of the two Israeli women as well. "The Americans said that what they really liked the most about Israel are the people. I knew that Israeli society was warm and accepting, but to hear it again makes me proud to live" here, Racheli told JNS. "I am more proud to be Israeli now."

Likewise, Ayelet said that after visiting the Taglit-Birthright Israel Innovation Center—a display of Israeli technology, entrepreneurship, and advances in research and development—"I knew we were awesome! I really love Israel and it's a good place to live, but I realized at the innovation center how special we really are. When Israelis

want to make a difference, we do it."

She added that she hopes the participants come away with a similar message and image, noting concern over the way the international press often covers Israel in a one-sided manner regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and status of the Palestinians. Ayelet wants them to represent the "true Israel"—the positive, progressive people that they are—and to keep the negativity at bay.

Likewise, Racheli wants them "to get something from this journey for the rest of their lives, something that will change the way they see—and to feel and know they belong here."

* Name has been changed to protect privacy.

pond? Given the economics of the sport, \$6.44 million is chump change.

It's about time these two chumps realize that.

Douglas J. Gladstone is the author of "A Bitter Cup of Coffee: How MLB & the Players' Association Threw 874 Retirees a Curve." His website is www.gladstonewriter.com.

Timeline

From page 1A

National telephone dialing is introduced linking Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa.

El Al flies nonstop from New York—1961

El Al Israel Airlines, established in 1948, begins flying nonstop between Tel Aviv and New York, setting a world record for the longest nonstop flight.

Water to the desert—1964

• The National Water Carrier is completed, bringing water from Israel's north to the parched south. The development is a major step forward in enabling Israel to turn the Negev Desert into the center of crop production in Israel.

• Osem introduces Bamba, Israel's favorite peanut snack. In 2015, a British study proved what Israeli parents had long suspected, that this addictive treat, given to children in Israel from a young age, could help prevent peanut allergies.

• Batsheva Dance company is founded by Martha Graham and Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild. It has become Israel's premiere dance troupe.

• Motorola becomes the first US corporation to set up an R&D unit in Israel. The center initially develops wireless products and later moves into chip production.

Three million and counting—1967

The three millionth citizen arrives in Israel on Jan. 12. Absorption Minister Nathan Peled presents certificates to a 62-year-old Russian Jew, his wife and daughter. The daughter's husband was not allowed to leave the USSR.

Introduction of the shekel—1980

The lira is replaced by the shekel (1 shekel = 10 lirot) as Israel's national currency. The word "shekel" derives from a biblical unit of weight of approximately one ounce (12 grams). The "new Israeli shekel" (NIS) introduced on Jan. 1, 1986, is still in use, available in coin and banknote forms.

Operation Moses brings Ethiopians to Israel—1984

7,000 Ethiopian Jews are flown to Israel from Sudan in a covert mission called Operation Moses to rescue them from famine and civil war. Over a seven-week period, 30 flights



New passports were issued to all those returning to the Land.



The shekel



Nati Shohat/FLASH90

Former United States President Bill Clinton is flanked by former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and former King Hussein of Jordan during the peace treaty signing in Aqaba, Jordan.

each bring around 200 Ethiopians to Israel. In 1991, Operation Solomon brings a further 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel over a period of 36 hours.

Russian Jews begin to emigrate to Israel en masse—1989

Start of mass immigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union. Between 1989 and 2006, more than one million Russians emigrated to Israel, transforming the culture, high-tech industry, education system and politics of the

country. Many of the well-educated new immigrants gave Israel's developing high-tech industry a valuable boost. Migrants from the former Soviet Union now make up 15 percent of the Israeli population, and one in four staff members at Israel's universities are native Russian speakers, with an even higher concentration in the sciences.

Peace with Jordan—1994

Israel and Jordan sign a peace treaty and subsequently



A young Yemenite nurse reading to new immigrants at a camp in Rosh Ha'ayin.



Israel shipped essential supplies to Africa in response to the Ebola outbreak in 2014.

open their borders, allowing tourists, business people and workers to travel freely between the two countries.

First desalination plant opens—1997

Israel opens its first reverse osmosis desalination plant, in Eilat. Since then, five more desalination plants have opened along Israel's Mediterranean shore—in Ashkelon, Palmachim, Hadera, Soreq and Ashdod—providing about 60 percent of domestic water needs. Though not without some environmental issues, these plants have helped relieve Israel's chronic water shortages.

• Jaap van Rijn files his sec-

ond patent for a unique zero-discharge system for fish farming anywhere, using extremely limited amounts of water and without harming the environment, enabling farmers to raise fish even in the desert.

Tel Aviv celebrates its centennial—2009

Tel Aviv celebrates its 100th anniversary. In the last decade or so, Tel Aviv (which has both more vegans per capita and more dog owners per capita in the world) has won accolades from all over the world, being named third best city in the world by Lonely Planet, ultimate party city, best gay city, one of the world's top action-

packed cities, best beach party spot on the planet, best culinary destination, and even home to the most beautiful people in the world.

Israel ranks in top 10 most powerful, innovative nations—2018

• U.S. News and World Report ranks Israel the eighth most powerful nation in the world. Bloomberg News names the Jewish state the 10th most innovative worldwide, edging out the United States.

To read more of Israel's accomplishments in the last 70 years, visit www.israel21c.org/70-years-of-israeli-milestones-in-165-seconds.

Action

From page 9A

volunteer to fundraise for Holocaust survivors through a variety of events and experiences such as endurance walks or runs. Joining a race through a charity team is a great way to give, while also getting to have an amazing personal experience with friends and family. The Blue Card takes part in various

sporting events including the TCS New York City Marathon, the Miami Marathon and the New York City Triathlon. You can also give back while doing an everyday task like shopping online. Many organizations participate in Amazon Smile. When you enroll in the program, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the charitable organization that supports

Holocaust survivors of your choice.

• Contribute what you can—any amount helps. Holocaust survivors that are now in their 80s, 90s and 100s have a steadily growing need for financial assistance to afford basic necessities from food to rent, and growing medical bills for dental care and cancer care. Donate what you can

to improve the quality of life for your community members and neighbors. Engage with your employer to encourage a matching donations program. Share The Blue Card's mission with your friends and encourage them to get involved and/or donate.

"The Blue Card has seen requests for assistance from Holocaust survivors grow

year by year due to an increasing number of medical issues, the rising cost of living and the uncertainty of a changing healthcare system. These challenges leave survivors struggling to live their remaining years in dignity," said Masha Pearl, Executive Director of The Blue Card. "There are so many ways to connect and give back to Holocaust sur-

vivors. Whether it's making a donation, spreading awareness about those in need or listening to someone tell their story—even the smallest gesture can have a big impact on improving lives."

You can learn about volunteering opportunities, make a donation online or arrange for a bequest in memory of a loved one, by visiting www.bluecardfund.org.

Houston

From page 10A

ton needs us now more than ever. If ever there were a time when the federated Jewish community needs to join together and take care of our brothers and sisters in Houston, that time is now.

As it turns out, there was a rainbow at the end of the story of Noah; it wasn't just my faded memory from He-

brew school. Furthermore, the Torah states: "And Noah began to be a master of the soil, and he planted a vineyard." Let us all live up to these values, planting and rebuilding for the Houston community (Genesis 9:14). Let's help them find a rainbow.

Jeff Rum of Washington, D.C., is co-chair of the Jewish Federations of North America's National Young

Leadership Cabinet, Jewish Federations' elite leadership-training program for people ages 30-45.

To learn more about NYL Cabinet, visit: <https://jewishfederations.org/young-leadership-cabinet>. To help the Houston Jewish community, see: https://secure3.convio.net/jfna/site/Donation2?df_id=3860&mfc_pref=T&3860.donation=form1.

Trump

From page 5A

tory—just as Obama threw away the victory achieved by the Iraq surge. Doing so will make life difficult for U.S. allies that Trump cares about, as well as undermine U.S. interests.

There's no denying that while Trump's support for Israel is exceptional, his isolationist tendencies are

placing the Jewish state in potential peril as it looks to a future in which the Iranians will have a knife at its throat with only an indifferent and possibly hostile Russia there to restrain them.

This is one instance when Trump needs to listen to his advisers and avoid telegraphing—much as Obama did about his planned pullouts—U.S. strategy in a way that

will embolden America's enemies and leave Israel holding the bag. Trump has rightly criticized Obama for dreadful mistakes that made the world less safe. He should think twice about doing the exact same thing.

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

Seventy years of sacrifice: A global salute to Israel's fallen soldiers



Israeli soldiers at a ceremony on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem.

By Deborah Fineblum

(JNS)—If you've ever been in Israel for Yom Hazikaron—the Memorial Day for those

who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the Jewish homeland—chances are you will never forget it.

Even if you somehow miss

the official ceremonies honoring the fallen, there's no way to sleep through the siren sounding across the Jewish state at 8 p.m. and

then again at 11 the next morning. At that moment, Israelis everywhere freeze in mid-air—mid-bank deposit, mid-math lesson, mid-email or mid-carpool—while traffic screeches to a halt, and folks climb out of their cars and stand completely silent.

Both instances represent a long minute of stillness in a country not known for its reticence, when the entire nation of Israel stops to remember the 23,632 soldiers and security forces who have given their lives to defend the State of Israel.

Unless you are Israeli or related to someone who gave their life for their country, you might not see the bereaved parents, brothers, sisters, wid-

ows and orphans who gather every year at Mount Herzl on this day to mourn and reflect at the gravesites of loved ones.

The Mizlavi family is among the throngs who congregate there every year to pay their respects to brother-uncle-cousin Tzadok Mizlavi, a 28-year-old graphics artist at The Jerusalem Post who was killed in the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

"Most Israelis have lost someone," says his younger sister, Tzadika Mizlavi. So when asked to participate in a new project to honor the 23,632 for Israel's 70th anniversary this spring, Mizlavi, a teacher at the Shulamith School for Girls in Brooklyn, N.Y., was quick to say "yes."

"Not only is it special for me, but we really want our girls to understand the sacrifices made so we could have Israel," says Mizlavi, who was 24 when her brother was killed. "I'll never forget my father saying at the shiva: 'May he be the last to die.'"

'Keep their memories alive'

This year, in addition to established traditions, a new way exists for Jews around the globe to honor these fallen heroes. By this Yom Hazikaron on April 17-18, each one of the 23,632 should have at least one kind or sacred act done in his or her memory.

Launched in February, "Yizkereim: Honor Israel's Fallen" (Yizkereim is Hebrew for "remember them") has already collected more than 21,000 acts of chesed ("kindness"), be it public service, prayer, Torah learning or tzedakah ("charity") by a Jew somewhere in the world in the memory of the fallen.

Project of the international Jewish outreach organization Olami, in partnership with the Afikim Foundation and Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, Yizkereim is designed to "keep each soldier's memory alive with positive actions done in their memory," says Karen Hochberg, who runs community programming for Afikim. "I'm so impressed with the creative and caring actions people have already performed."

When they're posted on the website (www.honorisraels-fallen.com), bereaved families can read about these acts done in their loved one's name. And hundreds of them, Hochberg reports, have asked to be connected with the Diaspora Jews who are honoring their fallen soldier.

Though many of these good deeds are planned, Steven Grutman's tribute to Shlomo Ashkenazi was a spontaneous one. Strolling through the streets one afternoon in Washington, D.C., the University of Maryland junior spied a man who appeared homeless and hungry. "I told him I was going to get some dinner and did he want to come with me." The man quickly accepted, adding that he'd never eaten Mexican food before but was willing to try.

Over dinner, the man said he'd been out of work for a few years. "And he loved the Mexican food," adds Grutman. "Feeding him felt like the right thing to do in this soldier's memory."

To date, some 190 schools, congregations and groups had signed on to the project, and more than 21,000 positive ac-

tions have been performed or pledged in soldiers' memories. Hochberg's goal: "To use each act of goodness to keep their memories alive."

As part of the effort, the schools receive a film, banners, a poster and yahrtzeit candles. In addition, each act of chesed leaves a "lit" virtual candle "burning" on the website. A culminating event for "Yizkereim: Honor Israel's Fallen" is scheduled for Yom Hazikaron, on April 17 at the Queens Museum in Queens, N.Y., the same building where the United Nations voted to approve Israeli independence back in 1947.

Rabbi Joel Landau of San Francisco's Adath Israel Congregation had an extra motivation for pledging his congregants to honor 100 fallen soldiers: He served in the Israel Defense Forces in the 1980s and saw friends die for the cause. "But besides my personal connection, I believe Israel is the land of all Jews, and these are our boys who died for our homeland. They paid the price for all of us, so we owe them a huge debt of gratitude."

It's especially powerful, adds the rabbi, when families take on the project together, "when it's not their teachers or their rabbi, but their parents showing how important Israel and these heroes are by doing something meaningful as a family in their memory."

'We're one people'

At 37, Olami COO David Markowitz is too young to recall most of the wars that resulted in these casualties, but old enough to appreciate the impact their sacrifice has on contemporary Jewry. And, like other Olami partnership programs—connecting 25,000 students and young adults to Jewish engagement, learning and practice each week—the Yizkereim campaign is also active on college campuses. "When we get to know about our fallen soldier's life and then we grow ourselves in some way Jewishly to honor him, it pulls Diaspora Jews and Israelis together," says Markowitz. "It reminds us that we're one people."

To maximize participation, the website has been translated into Russian, Spanish and French, along with Hebrew and English.

This project is a rare opportunity for Diaspora Jews to honor Israelis who've made the greatest sacrifice, stresses Michal Nordmann, a Tel Aviv mother of three who moved to Israel five years ago and now directs communications for Olami. "When we lived in America, there was no siren on this day, no ceremony where we could sing 'Hatikvah' with a thousand other Jews," she says. "These soldiers gave up their lives not so we'd have a nice place to vacation, but so we would have our ancient homeland back—a place that all Jews around the world can call home."

Educator Mizlavi of New York says that "to have a Jewish teen in America doing something in the name of our brother so many years later, it means so much. None of us ever dreamed something like this would happen."

To sign up your family, school, club or congregation for Yizkereim, visit: honorisraelsfallen.com.



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