



UCF's Knights for Israel celebrate Israel's birthday

Happy 70th birthday, Israel! Knights for Israel Outreach Coordinator Riley Shurack organized an Israel at 70 celebration in partnership with Central Florida Hillel and AEPI fraternity.

Henri Landwirth dies at age 91



Henri Landwirth

Founder of Give Kids the World and a loyal philanthropist to the Jewish community, Henri Landwirth died on Monday, April 16, 2018. He was 91 years old.

Landwirth and his twin sister, Margot Glazer, were born March 7, 1927, in Antwerp, Belgium. His father and mother were killed by the Nazis. He and Margot were imprisoned in Auschwitz and Mauthausen Nazi death camps between the ages of 13 to 18. Both miraculously survived and were reunited after the war.

Landwirth worked his way to America on a freight ship, arriving with \$20 to his name. After serving in the Army, he used his GI benefits to learn hotel management. In 1954, he became manager of the Starlight Motel in Cocoa Beach. It was here that Landwirth met many of the first American astronauts and news reporter and anchor Walter Cronkite.

He had a successful career in the hotel industry that spanned 50 years, and owned several hotels in Orlando, including the Holiday Inn Maingate East where in 1989 he developed the plans for the Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, Fla., which has

now given more than 160,000 children with life-threatening illnesses and their families all-expenses paid vacation experiences. Give Kids the World Village is now a 79-acre resort with 144 villas.

"Henri was a remarkable man who worked tirelessly to help our precious children and their families. He has left behind an enduring legacy of compassion and love," Pamela Landwirth, president and CEO of Give Kids The World and Henri's former wife, told the Orlando Sentinel.

In appreciation of volunteer work for GKTW, Landwirth also refurbished the Roth Family JCC's Senior Lounge.

In 2000, Landwirth founded Dignity U Wear, an organization that provides homeless, abused or abandoned children with new clothes. He also started Hate Hurts, a program that teaches forgiveness and ending hatred.

Landwirth was named "Most Caring Individual in America" by the Caring Institute, Humanitarian of the Year by Parents Magazine, and in 1994, he was named Orlando Sentinel's "Floridian of the Year."

Landwirth on page 14A

Jewish Academy of Orlando student wins International Heritage Competition

Maya Brenner, a fourth-grade student at the Jewish Academy of Orlando, was one of 50 winners in the 2018 Worldwide Jewish International Heritage Competition. The competition, called "My Family Story," is now in its 23rd year and is sponsored by Beit Hatfutsot, the Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv, Israel. The competition has students competing from 160 institutions, representing 28 countries worldwide. Participating countries include: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, England, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Latvia, Mexico, Paraguay, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, USA and Venezuela. There are approximately 20,000 Jewish youth who participate each year; this is the second year that the Jewish Academy has

participated and the first time a student has won.

As a winner in the competition, Maya is awarded a free trip to Israel to be part of the presentation of the projects in June. The projects are displayed at Beit Hatfutsot throughout the year.

"We are so excited for Maya and her family and that she will be representing our school and community in Israel," said Alan Rusonik, head of school. "This project is an important component of our Hebrew and Judaic Studies curriculum which helps our students connect to and strengthen their Jewish identity."

My Family Story is a fun-filled, meaningful, personal, global and multigenerational Jewish heritage journey to the past, where the exploration of one's Jewish family story, genealogy and traditions culminates in an artistic work.

My Family Story goes

Brenner on page 15A



Maya Brenner

Barbara Bush was 'gold standard' for first ladies



Barbara Bush

(JTA)—Barbara Bush "was the gold standard for what it means to be First Lady," the Republican Jewish Coalition said following her passing Tuesday night in Houston.

The wife of the 41st president, George H.W. Bush, as well as the mother of the 43rd, George W. Bush, died at her home with her husband by her side. She was 92 and had been battling COPD, a lung disease, and congestive heart failure, according to reports.

Barbara Bush was known for her large fake pearl chokers and grandmotherly appearance, and her no-

nonsense attitude. As first lady from January 1989 to January 1993, Bush reportedly often polled as more popular than her husband.

"Barbara Bush was an extraordinary woman," Norm Coleman, national chairman of the Republican Jewish Coalition and a former U.S. senator from Minnesota, said in a statement. "She dedicated her life to public service, and worked tirelessly to help sick children and people in need. She inspired millions and helped countless others. She

Bush on page 15A

Miller seeks seat in US Congress

Meet Loretta Miller. She is a Constitutional Republican running for Florida US Representative, District 15.

"We need a strong representative who is not in the large corporation's pockets," she stated in a straight-forward manner. "The people of Florida are sick and tired of our representatives voting for what big corporations want."

What will she fight for? Straight and to the point she states: "We need jobs. We cannot rely on the tourist industry. We need to produce, manufacture, improve education, and make English the official language of the country and protect our citizens. We need to educate those in English who claim they do not speak English."

Miller also sees the bigger picture. "I am for everyone," she said. "When elected, I will fight not only for District 15, but for all of Florida and the United States."

Miller will also fight passionately for better Medicare coverage. "I watched my husband die in my arms for lack of medical care on Medicare. I understand how the elderly are struggling on Social Security without a decent cost of living increase and now the congressional right-

Miller on page 15A



A special dual-language Shabbat service at Temple Israel

The Jewish Community Relations Council and Temple Israel are joining forces to welcome Fuente Latina at a special Shabbat and presentation. The event, which is open to the public, will be at Temple Israel on Saturday, May 5.

After a dual-language

Shabbat service, Gloria Garcés, Fuente Latina's Media Outreach director based in Miami, will lead the program about Fuente Latina's work connecting informed and unbiased speakers with Spanish-language news programs.

"The work Fuente does is

invaluable to Israel as well as Jews in the diaspora," said Ben Friedman, director of community relations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando. "Connecting with a Spanish-speaking audience directly, rather than through translation, lends credibility to a speaker in a way that many in the Jewish community are unable to achieve."

Fuente Latina's roots trace back to 2011, when the government of Iran founded a Spanish-language news network that aimed to promote Iran's message and undermine Israel's credibility in Hispanic and Latino communities. Seeing the need to combat this deliberate effort to take anti-Semitism mainstream, Fuente Latina was founded to connect Spanish news coverage with journalists and speakers familiar with Middle Eastern issues and unbiased in their coverage of Israel.

This is not the first time Temple Israel has shown interest in building bridges with the Latino community.

"As an initiative to expand Spanish-language outreach in our Jewish Community, we started a monthly Latino Shabbat a few years ago at Temple Israel. This has provided us the ability to welcome and embrace Spanish speakers and provide them with the opportunity to experience Judaism, many for the first time," said Natan Brenner, vice president of Temple Israel, who founded and currently leads Latino Shabbat. "I'm thrilled to join forces with the JCRC to welcome Fuente Latina to Temple Israel, to hear their experience in Spanish-language outreach, and to talk more about how we can be part of the ongoing effort to strengthen the relationship between our communities."

Garcés, who was born in Guatemala, holds a bachelor's degree in International Journalism from Florida International University and previously worked as an Executive Producer for Mira TV (formerly CNN Latino).

"Our deepest thanks to the Jewish Community Relations Council for helping to facilitate this conversation and to Temple Israel for



Gloria Garcés

welcoming us into their congregation," Garcés said. "I am looking forward to addressing the Jewish and Latino communities of Central Florida, especially in a forum which has already shown leadership in multicultural outreach."

Friedman said that many people might be unaware that the government of Guatemala joined with the United States in recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, "and Fuente Latina was instrumental in that process. Their diplomacy can be echoed locally as the Jewish community reaches out to make new connections and partnerships with the growing Latino population in Central Florida."

As for the goal of the community presentation, Garcés summed it up, saying "We hope to shed light on how the Jewish and Latino communities can and should collaborate to defeat anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias, and we look forward to developing a lasting relationship with our new friends in the Orlando area."

The presentation will begin at 12:30 p.m., immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service at Temple Israel. The presentation and Shabbat are open to the public. For more information, contact Ben Friedman, JCRC director, at bfriedman@jfgo.org or by calling 407-645-5933 ext. 233.

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Celebrate Israel under the stars



Noa Geffen

The Jewish National Fund's Women for Israel is hosting "A vision for Israel's future through the preservation of its past" program, featuring Noa Geffen. The event will be held 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, at the Star Tower Building Rooftop, 260 S. Osceola Ave., Orlando.

As the executive vice-chairwoman of the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites, a JNF partner, Gefen plays an instrumental role in

restoring, preserving and maintaining important historical and heritage sites throughout Israel. She previously worked in human resources development for TIM Global, Bar Group and Stanford University.

RSVP by May 9 to jnf.org/orlandowfi

Tickets are \$48 for general admission. For more information, contact Laura Abramson, director, at labramson@jnf.org or 407-804-5568.

COS Sisterhood's end-of-year event

On Sunday, May 6, at 10 a.m. the COS Sisterhood will hold its end-of-year brunch featuring mentalist Mark Stone.

Stone is one of the nation's most sought after entertainers. He acquired an interest in ESP and began developing his skills early in his senior year at the University of Maryland. By year's end, Stone had put together a short show and he

performed it for the members of his college dormitory.

A natural comedian, he added comedy to his routine, and he was called to appear on the Dick Cavett show. He has also performed on the Johnny Carson Show, and amazed Oprah, Regis Phibin, Chevy Chase and Maury Povich, to name a few.

Now Stone performs his "Mentalmania" for all kinds

of audiences. Even if you have seen his performance before, it will still amaze and surprise you.

The cost of this entertaining event is \$18 for Sisterhood members; \$24 for non-Sisterhood members.

Please RSVP by May 3 to Linda Wallerstein at 954-295-2467 or pinkylyw@aol.com or Es Cohen at 407-765-6806 or essie755@yahoo.com.

League of Women Voters meeting

The League of Women Voters Orange County will present its first League Showcase/Orientation Session of 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, at the Winter Park Community Center, 721 W. New England Ave., Winter Park (free and plentiful parking).

Open to men and women, young and old, the non-

partisan LWV has been doing due diligence during this year's Florida Legislature session, keeping legislators' feet to the fire on the gun safety issue as well as such other watchdog issues as affordable housing, the environment, immigration and education.

Hear about those subjects, as well as voter registration

efforts for this year's mid-terms, at the free May 15 session, open to current members, new members and future members. There will be wine, snacks, conversation and League info. For reservations, go to LWVOC.clubexpress.com. More information: membership co-chairman Pat Grierson, 407-608-2300.

Walking in the footsteps of those who battled in 1948

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS)—Members of the Israel Defense Forces and Israeli civilians are jointly commemorating the decisive battles of the 1948 War of Independence ahead of national celebrations of Israel's 70th year of Independence.

"When you study the War of Independence, which is fascinating, in an in-depth manner, you see that the IDF was born in this war," Education Officer Lt.-Col. Shuli Ben Moha, who is running the commemoration tours, told JNS.

"In this war, the IDF built itself up. Its values were born in it. Its DNA was formed. This is the incredible aspect of the War of Independence. The things that were born in it can be seen to this day. It is moving to learn and read about this," she added.

Ben Moha said the walking tours took place in Israel's north, central and southern

regions on consecutive days in early April, with each day containing four routes for civilians to choose from.

Those who walk down the routes heard about the battles that raged there seven decades ago, as the newly born Israel fended off an attack by the states of the Arab League and local militias.

Participants of the tour learned about acts of bravery that turned events around and left a big mark on Israeli history, added Ben Moha.

"We are using this wonderful opportunity of marking 70 years since the War of Independence, which was a seminal event of great significance, to bring people closer to the war's legacy. We have a real opportunity to do that," she said.

The war's most significant and unique battles were chosen for the tours, Ben Moha said, describing those battles as having the most amount of influence on the

outcome of the conflict. These include the site of Ramat Yochanan, east of Haifa, "where the Druze sect sealed its blood pact [with the Jews of Israel] that exists to this day. We remember a significant battle there."

In central Israel, the IDF and civilians will walk along the Convoys Ridge, which is located on the approach to Jerusalem from the coastal plain. This is the site where convoys of armored supply vehicles broke through the Arab siege on Jerusalem and entered the city, rescuing its Jewish inhabitants.

In the south, walking tours heard "the incredible story of how southern communities stood firm [in the face of assaults by Arab League forces]," said Ben Moha.

Members of IDF brigades will, on some of the routes, walk along the sites where soldiers from the same brigades fought 70 years ago for independence.

Lt. Guy Shtuser, Squad commander in the 401st Armored Corps Reconnaissance Company, spoke to the JNS from Metzudat Koach, near Kiryat Shmona, the site of significant War of Independence clashes, which resulted in Israeli control of this strategically important area. Some 150 civilians joined 30 military personnel from the Armored Corps, the Paratroopers and the Engineering Corps on the tour.

"We see this, first of all, as something that the military is doing for civilians. It is creating a bond that is a little different from the daily routine," said Shtuser. During the walking tours, civilians also asked the military personnel about their current activities and heard about the fateful events from 1948.

Shtuser's squad is a part of the reconnaissance unit of the 401st Brigade—a unit whose members travel on



Yaakov Lappin

Israeli soldiers visit a 1948 battle site in Malkia, near the Lebanese border.

foot in front of tanks, setting up lookouts and securing the territory.

Shtuser, who has been a squad commander for almost a year-and-a-half, noted that the message from the 1948

war resonates with him to this day. "We know we have to safeguard the borders because if we will not be there, if we will not be ready," he said, "what we are defending won't be there for us."

US envoy blasts Palestinian negotiator's 'empty, self-indulgent rhetoric'

By Batya Jerenberg
World Israel News

Jason Greenblatt, President Donald Trump's Special Representative for International Negotiations, hit back Friday after being accused of automatically "repeat[ing] Israeli talking

points" while "omitting any word of condemnation" of Israeli forces at the Gaza border fence, where daily violence orchestrated by Hamas has been ongoing.

Chief Palestinian Authority negotiator Saeb Erekat had leveled these highly critical accusations at Greenblatt and

the American administration in a letter sent to all foreign diplomats in Ramallah last week. Not for the first time, Erekat also dismissed the idea that Washington could serve as an impartial peace broker since, as he put it, "those who do not consider that the lives of Palestinians and Israelis are

of equal value cannot possibly promote any plan that will be remotely close to a just and lasting peace."

Greenblatt was equally blunt in his response to the charges, calling them "empty, self-indulgent rhetoric."

"Saeb Erekat's personal attack on me is a symptom of the difficulties in the path to peace," he tweeted. "Saeb knows there's no truth to his accusation. This outburst, like all his recent outbursts, is merely intended as a distraction from the important work that lies ahead."

Greenblatt urged the

Palestinian negotiator to join with the United States and "get to work" on the peace process instead of continuing on a path that would get them "pretty much nowhere."

What appears to have triggered Erekat's attack on the US envoy was a series of social media messages that Greenblatt had posted, calling out Yahya Al-Sinwar, Hamas's leader in Gaza, for saying that the Palestinians would "tear down the wall and tear out their (meaning Israelis') hearts." Such a statement was "monstrous," the Greenblatt said, adding

that "if [Hamas] wants to join the REAL world, it must renounce violence, recognize Israel, and decide to abide by past agreements. It's time for Hamas to make some real decisions."

However, Greenblatt had also specifically backed a longstanding PA demand by calling on Hamas to relinquish its control of Gaza to the Ramallah government. Also, the PA notably did not call on the Palestinians under its control to open a second front of protests, which would seemingly be a natural step if it had actually approved of what Hamas was doing.

Christians United for Israel announces new leaders

(JNS)—Christians United For Israel, one of the nation's largest pro-Israel organizations, announced new leadership team on Monday as the group seeks to build on its success in strengthening Christian support for Israel in the last decade.

According to the organization, Diana Hagee and Shari Dollinger will take on the roles of co-executive directors. Hagee previously served as chief-of-staff to her husband, CUFI founder and chairman Pastor John Hagee. Dollinger has served as CUFI's associate director since 2007.

"With great success comes great opportunity, Diana and Shari are perfectly equipped to handle the organization's

day-to-day affairs, as well as plan for what we see on the horizon," said Pastor Hagee.

He added: "For years, Diana and Shari have been working hand-in-hand behind the scenes to harness the power of the American Christian Zionist community into an effective voice for Israel. Without their vital contribution, we would not be the organization we are today, and with these two women leading the staff, I am extremely optimistic about our future."

Former executive director David Brog, who currently heads the Maccabee Task Force, will continue to serve on CUFI's executive board, the organization said.

Additionally, CUFI announced that regional coordinators Victor Styrsky

and Randal Neal will serve as national outreach directors, and that it has added Liliya Bychuk, a former "CUFI on Campus" student, who will now serve as the organization's Congressional District grassroots coordinator.

The announcement by CUFI comes as the organization just marked a high of 4 million members. Founded in 2006, the pro-Israel Christian organization has held 3,000 pro-Israel events in cities and towns across the country; brought nearly 1,000 leading pastors to Israel; and trained more than 3,000 pro-Israel activists at some 350 universities in the last 12 years.

Each summer, the organization holds its national summit in Washington, D.C.

Iron Dome missile defense voted top Israeli invention

(JNS)—The Iron Dome missile-defense system has been voted the winner of Israel's Ministry of Economy and Industry contest ranking of the greatest Israeli inventions of all time, in honor of Israel's 70th Independence Day.

In the first stage of the competition, 70 Israel inventions were listed and then whittled down to the top nine by 52,000 participants. In the second stage, some 63,000 online participants had to

choose the single greatest Israeli invention.

In first place among the top nine came the Iron Dome missile-defense system; followed by the Waze international navigation system; the drip-irrigation targeted watering system; Disk On Key data storage; the surgical-assistance robot Watergen, which extracts water for use from the air; durable Shoshon sandals; Check Point IT security

software and hardware; and the military spy satellite Ofek.

"There is no dispute that the inventions chosen by the public as leading inventions are excellent examples of Israeli ingenuity, innovation and creativity that provide solutions to significant challenges, inspire the world and bring a lot of national pride for Israel," said Economy and Industry Minister Eli Cohen.

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Banning the kippah

By Dr. Yvette Alt Miller
Aish Hatorah Resources

The Anne House employee isn't the only person told not to wear his kippah at work.

When Barry Vingerling, a 25-year-old Dutch Jew, started working at the Anne Frank House in 2017, he might have assumed his new employers would be sensitive to his religious identity. After all, Anne Frank House commemorates a teenager who was hounded and murdered solely because she was Jewish, helping to make "never again" a reality when it comes to anti-Jewish discrimination.

Vingerling wore a kippah to his interview and got the job. Yet, when he started wearing a kippah at work, he was told that wearing a kippah might compromise the organization's "independent" message—and ordered to remove it. Garance Reus-Deelder, the director of the Anne Frank Foundation bizarrely claimed that having an identifying Jew on staff might hamper the museum's message opposing anti-Semitism. Anne Frank House's educational programs "are directed at combating anti-Semitism," Reus-Deelder

asserted, and said, "We did not want that for example a yamulke would influence that message."

After appealing the museum's no-kippah policy, Vengerling was told to wear an Anne Frank House baseball cap instead if he wanted to cover his head in accordance with religious beliefs, which he did. After six agonizing months, the museum finally informed Vengerling he could wear a kippah openly at work.

Others are not so lucky. In much of the world, it's difficult if not outright impossible—even illegal—to wear a kippah, or to engage in other traditional Jewish actions. Worryingly, this trend seems to be intensifying.

Canada

While Vergerling was awaiting his employers' decision about whether his wearing a kippah would harm the museum's "neutrality," a similar smear was being made in Quebec's legislative assembly. After Jewish legislator David Birnbaum wore a kippah to a Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony, opposition leader Jean-Francois Lisee declared he's violating a rule against wearing "partisan" symbols in Parliament.

Throughout Quebec, there are alarming levels of hostility towards Jewish men wearing kippot. That was the finding of 2013 poll: 35 percent of responders said they'd be uncomfortable seeing a doctor wearing a kippah, and a large majority, 59 percent, would not be comfortable if their child's daycare worker wore a kippah.

France

In France, it's been illegal to wear a kippah in public schools since 2004 when the state banned visible religious symbols. While the law was widely seen as an attack on Muslim headscarves, Jewish students found themselves targets since kippahs were included in the ban.

While this law is not always enforced in schools, French authorities seem to be getting more serious about outlawing kippot and other religious symbols in public. Since the start of 2018, it's been illegal to wear a kippah in France's National Assembly; kippot supposedly violate the "neutral" nature of parliament, sending a not-so-subtle message is that any legislator who sports a kippah or other religious garb can't be fully trusted.

In much of the country, wearing a kippah or other overtly Jewish signs is courting danger in an atmosphere of increasingly brazen anti-Semitic attacks in the country. "Not wearing the kippah can save lives and nothing is more important," declared Tzvi Amar, a senior Jewish community leader in Marseille, in 2016, after a teacher wearing a kippah was attacked. "If I got out of the house with a kippah I would be asking for trouble," explained Paris-based Jewish communal leader Eliyahu Elbaze.

Instead, many French Jews cover their kippot with hats or caps when out in public.

Sweden

It's not illegal to wear a kippah in Sweden, but doing so can get you threatened, insulted, even assaulted in parts of the country. That was the finding of Patrick Riley, a non-Jewish Irish journalist who donned a kippah to take a walk in Malmo, a Swedish city that's seen sky-high levels of anti-Semitism directed at the town's several hundred Jews. Riley received plenty of stares and giggles but when his kippah-clad walk was repeated in 2015 by the Swedish journalist Petter Ljunggren, he was threatened, cursed at, had eggs thrown at him and was hit. He eventually fled after being surrounded by a crowd of a dozen threatening men yelling anti-Semitic insults.

Britain

A 2013 major poll showed shockingly high numbers of people who said they don't think people should be allowed to wear kippot in Britain. 30% of Britons say nurses should not be allowed to wear kippot at work. 23% feel teachers should not be allowed to wear a kippah. 22 percent say they would oppose flight attendants being allowed to wear kippot; 13 percent of Britons would even ban accountants from wearing kippot.

Germany

72 years after the Holocaust, Germany is proud of its efforts to make German Jews feel safe. Yet in recent years, anti-Semitism has exploded, both among Muslim immigrants and

Kippah on page 15A



Everywhere

Trump may have diplomatically boxed himself in

By Mel Pearlman

The Trump administration may be patting itself on the back by playing tough guy with tariffs in its effort to convince the Chinese government to return to the negotiating table for the purpose of revising reciprocal trade arrangements. President Xi, however, may have turned the tables in China's favor with his hosting last month of North Korea's Kim Jong Un who received a very warm welcome in Beijing.

The economic brinkmanship game being played out by the two leaders of the world's two biggest economies is not occurring in a diplomatic vacuum. It already has caused major reductions in asset portfolio values across the globe irrespective of class, and the fear of widespread disruptions in both the developed and third world countries in the targeted products, services and commodities labor markets.

There is no question that the U.S. is at a disadvantage in the trade imbalance with China to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars per year, but is this really the best way to resolve this issue? Bullying is not good in the schoolyard, but it is infinitely more damaging in international relations. As the rabbit to his chagrin discovered, subtle steady movements generally win the race.

While China has matched us in gross domestic product, its economy is much less dynamic than that of the United States. Most of its technology has been derived from theft, not innovation. The United States could learn much from Israel in this regard. Instead of reducing funding for research and development, which we have been doing for several decades, we should reverse that trend, and in partnership with business and our universities, increase not only applied R&D, but also fundamental research in the natural sciences. Who knows what great discoveries lie ahead! This is what Israel has done and the fruits of that effort are self-evident around the world.

The benefits for Israel have not only been economic. Israel has benefited in the security and military spheres. It has won the friendship and support of many countries with whom Israel has shared its technology, and aided those countries with its innovative methods in agriculture, medicine, disaster relief and in a whole host of other ways.

We cannot peacefully stop Kim Jong Un from having nuclear weapons without China's assistance. While the president may have his rose-colored glasses narrowly focused on unilaterally bringing China to agree to closer trade equalization, he forgets that President Xi has a strong hand too in solving other issues that are vital to the United States.

The "art of the deal" in this instance requires less dependence on Chinese acquiescence and greater effort on our part in making Chinese exports less vital to our economy by following Israel's example of innovation, creativity and increased demand for America's unique products and services. By unleashing the genius of American scientific inquiry and discovery, which in the past has made America great, we can in the future, as the president so aptly puts it, "make America great again."

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.

Shipley speaks

Fading memories



By Jim Shipley

Truthfully? I don't remember when I first heard the word "Holocaust." In the 1940s I went to Bala Cynwyd Junior High and then Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, where out of 1500 students, less than 20 were Jews. In my senior year, Israel declared its independence. There was a discussion about it in Miss Lamb's history class. As I remember, the class was about evenly divided on whether or not Israel as a State was legitimate. I do not remember any mention, much less discussion of the Holocaust.

Perhaps it came into my consciousness gradually. Perhaps it was the first viewing of the newsreels in movie theaters of the concentration camps and the gaunt, ghostly figures of the survivors. In 1950 we moved to Cleveland and became active members of the Jewish Community. It was there that I remember hearing the stories. It is where we began to meet the survivors.

I remember absorbing the statistics. Naked, unsentimental, stark statistics. Six Million dead—mostly Jews. Eighty two percent of our scholars, teachers, rabbis—gone. One third of our people—gone. This reality is still hard to absorb.

We learned slowly. Of people like Rabbi Stephen Wise who learned of the Holocaust while it was still going on in the 1940s. Of the Jewish delegation he led to the White House to plead with Roosevelt to have American bombers bomb the railroad tracks leading to Auschwitz. We heard of the president's response—that he had enough problems with his congress as it was and that they could not afford to divert the planes and God forbid one got shot down on that mission and would these Jews prefer to have the Nazis marching down Fifth Avenue in New York?

We learned of the resistance in the State Department to offering any Jews asylum in the U.S. And we learned of the St. Louis, being turned away from the port of New York and sent back to Germany.

Slowly. In my 20s the stories and the films and then the testimonies came slowly. It seeped into our consciences. It was hard to grasp the reality. It still is. The testimony is still there. The Holocaust Center here in Orlando and the larger one in Washington, D.C., still tell the stark story to thousands every year. And the statistics show we lose an average of 13 survivors every day.

If your family is not that involved in community, if you do not have the means to have your children or grandchildren join

the March of the Living, are you going to remember? Are they going to be even aware?

Since the Holocaust there has been Rwanda, the terror in Burma, half a million dead in Syria. The world is not a whole lot safer than it was when we dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And the same philosophies that created the Holocaust are alive and well in the world today.

You saw the marchers in Charlottesville. You heard their chants. You saw the muted response from the White House. You read of the governments in Eastern Europe becoming more isolationist, more "unwelcoming." The cultural shakeup of the world's population does have a jarring effect on people. Specifically when thousands of people who dress, speak and worship differently descend on your ancient culture.

In the U.S. in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the U.S. was open to immigration. The Lady with the Lamp told the world "Give me your tired, your poor—your huddled masses yearning to be free..."

And we integrated them—us—into the amalgam that is America. That is our secret, our greatness. In Europe? The immigrants—most from Muslim countries, are kept separate, isolated. Well, we were too when we first came. But we Jews, thrust from our native countries could not wait to "assimilate"—to become Americans. Our grandparents or parents spoke Yiddish in the home and English on the street. I have written before that my grandmother, an immigrant from Russia, went to school at the age of 63 to learn to read and write English.

But: We didn't forget. We learned the stories of Jews forbidden to attend regular schools. Of living in "shtetls"—really ghettos throughout Europe. Heroes like Jabotinsky traveled through Eastern Europe in the 1920s, warning Jews of what was to come—and that was before Hitler.

He saw the Jew hatred, knew that it was only a matter of time. He was mostly ignored. Such a thing could not happen. It did. And now, here in the United States, a whole new generation is hardly aware of the Holocaust. Certainly not aware of how it came about. How the Nazis were able to become powerful.

Not aware that in many places in Poland and Russia and the Ukraine and Lithuania, the people did not wait for the Nazis and began killing Jews before they were invaded. That even today the concept of the "Other" is alive and well here in our land.

"Those who fail to learn from history are bound to repeat it."

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

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The universalist impulse and Anne Frank

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS)—In what must be considered a public-relations coup of epic proportions, the New Israel Fund announced this week that it would be benefiting from the sales of copies of Anne Frank's diary. The diary is among the most beloved books of the 20th century and the standard introduction to the Holocaust for many people. The foundation created by Anne's father, Otto Frank—the sole member of the family to survive after being captured by the Nazis and sent to death camps—receives the proceeds from the bestseller and related works, and it will now be sending money to organizations that are supported by the NIF.

The timing is particularly good for the NIF since it comes on the heels of a blistering attack on the group by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who last week accused it of sabotaging a deal to deport some of the African migrants who crossed illegally into Israel in search of work. While much of its efforts are centered on promoting somewhat anodyne causes, like protecting the rights of women and the LGBT

community inside Israel, the liberal group has also been a source of bitter controversy. Among the beneficiaries of its grants are groups that promote boycotts of Israel and anti-Zionist incitement, in addition to criticizing and attempting to hinder the efforts of the Israel Defense Forces to combat terrorism.

Acquiring the Anne Frank Foundation's seal of approval would seem to inoculate the organization from the critiques of those who point out that its support of groups that libel the Jewish state and seek its destruction contradict its avowed goal of support for Israel. As such, this places the Frank Foundation squarely in the middle of a political battle, which would seem to be the last place that an institution dedicated to Holocaust education would want to be.

Yet to anyone who knows the post-publication history of the Diary of a Young Girl and the well-known play that was adapted from it, it's hardly surprising that Otto Frank's creation would wind up in such a position. The willingness of the foundation to associate itself with the NIF brings to mind the controversy between Anne's father and Meyer Levin, the

journalist and author who did more than anyone to promote the diary's publication.

Levin, a passionate Zionist, helped get the book an American publisher and wrote a rave review of it for The New York Times in 1952. After helping Otto Frank find contacts in America, and being promised the adaptation rights for stage and screen, Levin was pushed aside. Frank and his advisers rejected Levin's theatrical version of the diary on the grounds that it was "too Jewish."

Acting under the direct influence of Stalinist writer Lillian Hellman, Frank and producer Kermit Bloomgarten opted for a less Jewish, more "accessible" Anne for the stage. Infuriating Levin, who felt that both he and Anne's true legacy were being cheated, they gave the assignment to Hollywood screenwriters Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, whose most famous movie script was for director Frank Capra's 1945 classic "It's a Wonderful Life."

With much play doctoring by Hellman and director Garson Kanin, Goodrich and Hackett produced a Holocaust play in which the fate of the Jews was sidelined in order to tell a coming-of-age story about a cockeyed optimist who would have been right at

home with Jimmy Stewart in Capra's mythical small town of Bedford Falls.

The fact that the Franks were Jewish was incidental to their play's theme. In a famous passage, they even contradicted Anne's own words. In her book, she chided her friend Peter, one of the other Jews hiding in the annex, for wanting to deny his Jewish identity, saying, "We're not the only Jews that have had to suffer. Right down through the ages, there have been Jews and they've had to suffer." Astonishingly, Kanin dismissed the passage as "an embarrassing piece of special pleading."

In the 1955 Goodrich and Hackett play, Anne says nothing of Jews, but speaks instead of minorities through the ages. "The fact that in this play the symbols of persecution and oppression are Jews is incidental," explained Kanin. Their play ended with a line taken out of context about Anne's belief in the goodness of people. There was no mention of Anne's terrible and agonizing death in a Nazi death camp. Her awakening to a sense of Jewish spirituality, which shines out from the complete version of "The Diary," was erased.

Meyer Levin had seen in the writing of young Anne

a voice who could speak for millions of anonymous Jewish victims. But the play and the movie that bore her name wished to tell a different story. As Cynthia Ozick later observed, the version of his daughter that Otto Frank had chosen was "bowdlerized, transmuted, traduced, reduced... infantilized, Americanized, homogenized, sentimentalized, falsified, kitschified."

The silencing of his own play in favor of a less Jewish version became an obsession that tormented Levin to the end of his days. He accused Otto Frank of imposing his own assimilated identity on his daughter, as well as succumbing to the influence of the viciously anti-Zionist Hellman. Foolishly, he engaged in a futile lawsuit against Frank for fraud, as well as the Goodrich/Hackett team for plagiarism. As one of Levin's friends aptly observed, that was akin to suing the father of Joan of Arc. The rest of his life was wasted tilting against the windmills of a literary and theatrical establishment that was uninterested in his story of the true Jewish Anne.

Some subsequent productions of the play have sought to correct Hellman's butch-

ery. But the play still remains a banal piece of universalizing that fails to do justice to Anne and the other victims.

It is in that context that the decision of the Anne Frank Foundation to back the New Israel Fund should be understood.

As much as Meyer Levin's critique of his choices was accurate, Otto Frank's decisions represented a vision of Jewish identity that exemplified Cynthia Ozick's famous observation that "universalism is the parochialism of the Jews." Even though it is regrettable that some of the NIF's unsavory causes will now bear the imprimatur of the most famous Holocaust martyr, it's probably in keeping with her father's outlook (though perhaps not that of his daughter). So while it would be just as futile and counterproductive for contemporary Zionists to do battle with her father's foundation as it was for Levin, neither should sensible observers be deterred by its endorsement from pointing out what is profoundly wrong with the NIF's funding decisions.

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

A raw deal: U.S. weapons for terror sponsors?

By Stephen M. Flatow

(JNS)—There was a time when a proposed U.S. sale of sophisticated rocket systems to an Arab regime that finances terrorism against Israel would arouse fierce opposition from American Jewish leaders.

So why are Jewish leaders silent in the face of the Trump administration's announced plan to sell \$300 million in advanced rocket technology to the government of Qatar?

The Emir of Qatar, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, claimed at his White House meeting on April 10 that he doesn't help terrorists. (I guess

his well-paid American PR advisers told him what he had to say in order to receive those rocket systems.) U.S. President Donald Trump offered no objection to that assertion.

Yet according to The Jerusalem Post, Qatar "has pledged more than \$1 billion to Hamas's declared campaign for Israel's destruction... Qatar is Hamas's ally, paying out hundreds of millions of so far." The U.S. House of Representatives recently adopted a resolution condemning Qatar for providing "significant financial and military support" to Hamas.

And it's no secret that senior Hamas fugitives, including terror leaders Khaled Mashal and Yusuf al-Qaradawi, are living safely in Qatar's capital of Doha. A bipartisan group of U.S. Congress members last year expressed their "deep concern" that Doha continues to serve as "a sanctuary to Hamas terrorist officials."

Not only that, but the Qatari government finances Al Jazeera, the notoriously anti-Israel and anti-Semitic international media outlet.

Given the Qatari regime's close relationship with the mass murderers of Hamas, how can we be sure that U.S. military aid to Qatar might not one day end up in the

hands of Doha's terrorist friends in Gaza?

It's a legitimate question to ask in view of what happened to some of the weapons that the U.S. provided to Saudi Arabia in the late 1970s and early 1980s. When Israeli troops overran PLO terrorist bases in southern Lebanon during the 1982 war, they discovered what The New York Times called (July 11, 1982) "surprisingly large stores of weapons." And "among those weapons," reported the Times, "were American M-16 rifles that had been sold to Saudi Arabia."

I'm sure that when Saudi Arabian officials first asked for M-16 rifles from the United

States, they promised that the weapons would never be transferred to a third party without explicit American authorization. And if Israel, or any of its American friends, expressed any concerns about giving Saudi Arabia those rifles, they were assured that the Saudi leadership is "moderate" and "trustworthy."

Yet somehow, those Saudi-purchased weapons made their way into the hands of the PLO in Lebanon. Isn't that remarkable? The rifles didn't just fall off the back of a truck. It's 927 miles from Riyadh to Beirut. Somebody had to organize a pretty sophisticated means of transportation for those rifles.

Obviously, the Saudis figured that they could get away with it. And they were right. Because even after the rifles were discovered, the U.S. didn't stop sending weapons to the Saudi regime.

What if the Qataris reach that conclusion, too? The Emir of Qatar could look back at the Saudi rifles' scandal and figure that even if it is discovered that some American rocket system reached Hamas in Gaza, Qatar can just pretend that it doesn't know how it happened—and that there probably will be no consequences.

Weapons on page 15A

Washington PLO envoy says J Street members are 'Palestinian allies'

By Jonathan Greenberg

(JNS)—The head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Washington office received a thunderous welcome on Monday afternoon from self-described "pro-Israel, pro-peace" activists at the 10th anniversary J Street conference. Despite a speech peppered with obvious agitprop, Husam Zomlot was cheered heartily by attendees.

"It warms my heart to know we have allies like you," Zomlot told the crowd. "Allies with such courage and conviction to stand up for what is right. You are not dreamers, but realists."

The J Street lobbying agenda includes extensive demands on Israel and none on the Palestinians, apparently affirming Zomlot's contention that an alliance exists between the PLO and the progressive lobbying group.

Before becoming PLO envoy to Washington in 2016, Zomlot founded the

Palestine Strategy Group, an organization created to provide strategic and public-relations strategies to "help guide the Palestinian national project," and "inform and influence policy decisions." In a 2017 profile in Politico, Zomlot claimed: "How this conflict has been depicted and portrayed in America is wrong, inaccurate and misinformed. One of my main missions is to make it accurate. We will have to redefine the discourse on this whole thing."

His speech on Monday was full of such redefinition. Zomlot laid out a platform to which he claimed the Palestinian leadership was committed. His list included a nonspecific "dignified and just peace," "two democratic and egalitarian states," and a "meaningful, genuine, credible peace process." He also said his leadership was committed to "a two-state solution on the 1967 borders" which, despite the audience's enthusiastic applause, would

leave the Old City of Jerusalem, including the holiest Jewish sites, in a foreign country. Zomlot also claimed that his leadership is committed (and always has been) to nonviolence.

The Palestinians have "done their share" for peace, he insisted. They have, he said, recognized Israel "on 78 percent of historic Palestine," a formulation that might have rung a little hollow with the minority of centrist attendees. He vowed that the Palestinians would not accept "redefining what the two-state solution means" and, again to much applause, said that there would be no interim agreements, no state without East Jerusalem, no state without Gaza, no state with provisional borders, no state without a resolution for Palestinian refugees, and no state "with even one Israeli soldier on its soil."

Despite a long history of hostility to Jewish worship at holy sites in Hebron, Shechem

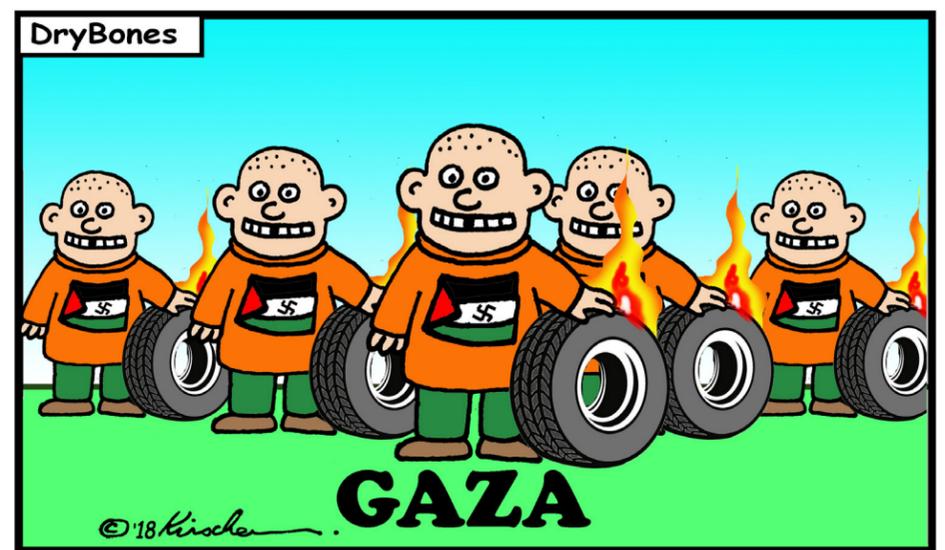
and Bethlehem, Zomlot vowed that "once peace prevails, once the state of Palestine is established, once that state has East Jerusalem as its capital, we will not only recognize the Jewish connection to Jerusalem, but we will celebrate the Jewish connection to Jerusalem."

Clapping from the crowd suggested that they believed him.

Zomlot clearly appreciated the work that J Street has done and took his 34-minute speech as "an opportunity to commend J Street—to commend the relentless work, your dedication,

your investment. You have partners in us, the people of Palestine and the leadership of Palestine."

Jonathan Greenberg is an ordained reform rabbi, and senior vice president of the news and public-policy group Haym Salomon Center. Follow him @JGreenbergSez.



What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT
APRIL 27
 7:40 p.m.
MAY 4
 7:44 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 27

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

The Roth Family JCC—34th annual 5K Road Race, 8 a.m. Finished at 1 p.m. Registration is \$35.
 JFS Orlando—40th Anniversary Gala, 6 p.m. at Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando
 COS Sisterhood—Mah jong tournament, 11 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
 MAGAL Open House—Temple Israel and Temple Shir Shalom's collaborative religious school, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or during religious school hours, Wednesdays, 5-6:30 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 30

Israeli Folk Dancing—7:30-8:15 p.m. instruction, 8:15-10 p.m., requests. Cost: Free for JCC members, \$5 nonmembers. Info: 407-645-5933.

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

TUESDAY, MAY 1

JOIN Orlando—Torah Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. No charge. More information email rabbig@joinorlando.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

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.
 SPARK—Lunch and Learn, 12:30 p.m. Join Jewish women and explore the relevance of the weekly Torah portion within modern-day life, with free lunch at 954 S. Orlando Ave., Winter Park. Info: Sarah Gittleston at sgittleston@joinorlando.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

Heritage accepting nominations for 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@orlandoheritage.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.

Quote of the Week

"There are those who seek to extinguish the light that emanates from Zion. I promise you; it will not happen."

— Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

"I'm lost without it!"

"It's inexcusable!"

"My week is not complete without it!"

"I can't live without it!"

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

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

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Challenging puzzle "A Yidishe Cupful" by Yoni Glatt koshercrosswords@gmail.com

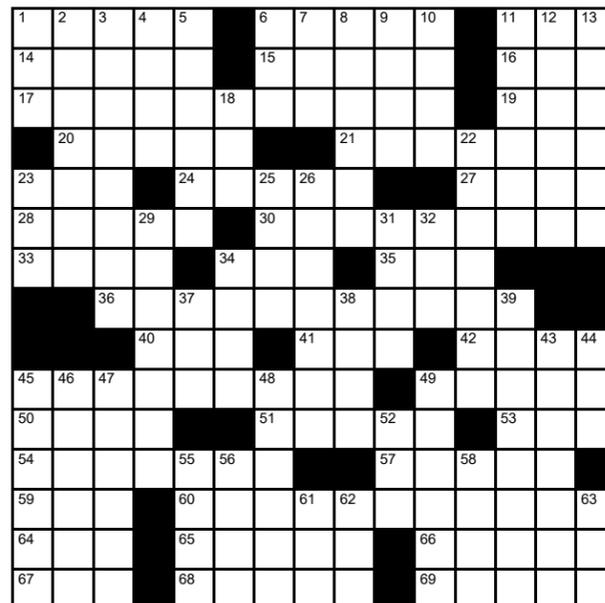
Across

1. "I Don't Want to ___ Thing"
6. Money in the bank, say
11. "___ Bom" (Shabbat song)
14. Biblical man involved in a water dispute
15. "The Hunger Games" tribute
16. Cell stuff, briefly
17. Cupful for a sweaty monarch?
19. Dad of 14-Across, for short
20. "Why?"
21. Discourteous
23. "Geez!"
24. At a quick rate, poetically
27. F or G, but not H
28. Kind of artery
30. Cupful for one who enjoys watery suds?
33. Hero Ramon
34. Cadillac hybrid
35. 1997 Lisa Loeb hit
36. Cupful for one putting cream cheese on a bagel?
40. Tool not used by one observing the sabbatical year
41. Shabbat wear, often
42. Slave girl of opera
45. Cupful for one spoofing pop hits?
49. Ma'ariv
50. Jabotinsky of note
51. Charlton's "Touch of Evil" co-star
53. Second palindrome in the Bible
54. Notable seder guest
57. In awe, visually
59. Ryerson met repeatedly by Phil in a Ramis classic
60. Cupful for a big tzedakah giver?
64. Nazareth to Tiberias dir.
65. Garden-variety
66. Remains of an ancient statue, maybe
67. Gabriel or Marino
68. Fires off, as a text
69. Browser history list

Down

1. Fire starter?
2. Half-brother of 14-Across
3. Grassy plains
4. "And G-d ___ .."
5. Genuine
6. Financing abbr.
7. "Told ya!"
8. Transitioned
9. Writer-Director Cohen
10. Creator of a bathroom cloud
11. Three cheers, perhaps
12. You might get one before a party
13. Author Norman
18. Blast, sci-fi style
22. To such a degree, with "as"
23. Picture of health, for short?
25. Up to it, not Cain's brother
26. Museum honcho
29. Herringlike fish
31. App for short videos

32. Ruckus
34. Hefer or Refaim
37. Ad ___
38. Criticizes harshly
39. Kind of essay or plot structure
43. Multifaceted
44. "I ___ no pleasant bread" (Daniel 10:3)
45. Heroic poet Hannah
46. Montana's capital
47. Dutch city where Rembrandt was born
48. Bird with a heck of a schnoz
49. Feelings of anxiety
52. Propel, in a way
55. Kiss equipment
56. Healthy Revolutionary?
58. Marseille "mine"
61. Crawled under the bed, say
62. Minyan need?
63. Big hits, for short



See answers on page 14A.

A toast to the Jewish Pavilion!



Enjoying the evening are (l-r) Yarmmys Vargas, Carina Gerscovich, Jessica Luzadder, Judi Wallace, and Jakki Kim.



Bill Yahner, Marty and Emily Glickstein.



Missy Donaghy, Julie Levitt, Terri Misek, and Judy Appleton.

More than 200 supporters of The Jewish Pavilion and members of the Citrus Club gathered together April 16 for an elegant evening downtown filled with networking and philanthropy. Attendees to the night's "United For

a Purpose" event enjoyed beautiful sunset views along with delicious drinks and apps, all while shining a spotlight on the important community contribution of The Jewish Pavilion. Carina Gerscovich, a board member of The Jewish

Pavilion, helped coordinate the night and presented a speech about her volunteer work with the charity. This was the second year The Jewish Pavilion was invited by the Citrus Club, after last year's event marked record attendance.

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Spring Fashion Show success for The Jewish Pavilion



Elyane Burke Wershil's daughters, (l-r), Bettie Greenbaum, Billie Parker and Bonnie Marsteller.

Over 100 fashionable ladies gathered at Bloomingdale's on April 12 to view the latest in spring fashion while raising funds to support the Jewish Pavilion. Among the attendees at the 2018 Elyane Burke Wershil Memorial Fashion Show were volunteers and board members, program participants, and even representatives from the facilities who benefit from Jewish Pavilion-provided programming. It truly was a day of fellowship and fun that allowed supporters of The Jewish Pavilion a chance to shop with a heart.

Event honoree Carina Gerscovich most appropriately summed up the sentiment of the generous day when she quoted Anne Frank during her speech: "No one has ever become poor by giving."

A thank-you goes out to the three daughters of Wershil (Billie, Bonnie, and Bettie) for their memorial contribution to the show. And to the family of Gerscovich for the delicious food and mimosas from Bagel King.

(Right) Honoree Carina Gerscovich models a spring fashion.



The Spring Fashion Show models having fun.

Congregation Beth Sholom May 2018 schedule

Celebrate Shabbat with the Synagogue that feels like family. Shabbat evening service will be led by Rabbi Karen Allen on Friday, May 11 at 7 p.m. Socialize with members and enjoy refreshments at the Oneg Shabbat following the service.

The Rabbi's Torah Roundtable Discussion Group with Rabbi Karen Allen of Congregation Beth Sholom will be held on Thursday, May 17 at 1 p.m. at the Sumter County Administration and Library Building (with

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

Celebrate Shabbat and Memorial Day at our Saturday Morning Service led by Rabbi Karen Allen on May 26 at 10 a.m. Congregants will remember the members of the

armed forces who died while serving our country with special readings throughout the service. A light Kiddush lunch will follow the service. The synagogue is located at 315 North 13th St. in Leesburg, with the entrance on Center Street.

The synagogue is located at 315 North 13th St. in Leesburg, with the entrance on Center Street. More information is available on the synagogue website: <http://bethsholomflorida.org/> or by calling the synagogue at 352-326-3692.

Time to tee up at the Rosen JCC

The third annual Rosen JCC Golf Tournament is coming up on Monday, May 14. It will be held at Rosen Shingle Creek Golf Club with shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Registration starts at 7 a.m. with a light breakfast. At 1 p.m. there will be a luncheon and awards program with raffle.

Event competitions include Longest drive; closest to

the pin; and long drive opportunity. The cost is \$100 per individual golfers; \$400 for foursomes. Register at <http://www.rosenjcc.org/special-events/golf>.

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A public service message from The Vision Council.





Scene Around

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

“Canada, Oh Canada”...

That’s how the song starts. I have a special feeling for Canada as my mom, Sally, was born in Montreal, Canada. Her parents, (my maternal grandparents) fled to Canada from the Ukraine before the turn of the last century with my Uncle Jack and my Aunt Betty. Jack and Betty made it to the States when they were grown and my mom came with her father (her mom was deceased) when she was a young girl. The rest is history!

Speaking of Canada...

I read this in a recent copy of the World Jewish Congress digest and pass it along to you:

“In response to a summary report of police-reported hate crimes in 2016 released by Statistics Canada, SHIMON KOFFLER FOGEL, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, a WJC regional affiliate, issued the following statement:



Shimon Koffler Fogel

“While Canada remains one of the best countries in the world to be a minority, anti-Semitism and hate persist at the margins of society. We are alarmed by the overall increase in hate crimes, the increasingly violent nature of these crimes, and the spike in incidents targeting the Jewish community.

We continue to urge federal, provincial, and municipal governments to take four practical steps to combat these disturbing trends:

- Establish uniform guidelines for gathering and publishing hate crime and hate incident data;
- Ensure police forces have dedicated hate crime units;
- Create training programs to ensure more consistent and effective enforcement of hate speech laws; and
- Launch new measures to monitor and counter the spread of hate propaganda, which often foreshadows violent radicalization”

On Sunday, May 6th, starting at 2 p.m. sharp, the Congregation Ohav Shalom Seniors will hold their next meeting in the social hall of the synagogue, 613 Concourse Parkway South in Maitland.

On a much lighter note...

The entertainment for the afternoon will feature ANDY COSTANTINI, lead vocalist, guitarist and keyboard player with ‘The Rollabels.’

He is a multifaceted musician, and will be featuring the songs of The Beatles, The Grassroots, Motown, A Little Country, and the popular standards.

(Bring your dancing shoes!)

Special admission price will be \$5 per person for all. Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends!

The modest price of admission also includes refreshments after the performance! (You just can’t go wrong!)

For further information, contact COS Seniors president JERRY LEIBMAN at 407-694-0546 or email him at jerryleibman@yahoo.com.

(And DON’T EAT MY COOKIES!!!!)

Wow! There’s more to the day...

On the same Sunday, May 6th, only later in the afternoon, the fabulous Dazzling Divas “Spring Showcase” will take place at Congregation Beth Am, 1800 Sand Lake Road in Longwood.

The show (featuring nine entertainers) will include an all you can eat Italian buffet.

Doors open at 3 pm and the show is set for 4 p.m.

The cost of the event is \$20 per person. And group rates are available.

For further information, contact KENNY LEE at 407-670-4418.

(An Italian buffet and NO calories, Yum!)

A Jewish Pavilion Mensch...

I received this recently:

“I believe the children are the future... well he’s no ‘child’ by any means, but KEITH LEVITT is one of a new group of young men that represent the best of the Jewish Community and the Jewish Pavilions future.

He has been active for several years as a volunteer, and an integral part of the Pavilion Golf Society. He has not only helped with the tournament that raises funds to keep the Orland Senior Help Desk functioning, but his foursome has won the tournament twice.

The Jewish Pavilion is honoring him at the annual tournament being held on May 6th at the Rosen Shingle Creek Golf Club. It’s going to be a great event!

Thanks to Keith Levitt for being a mensch who is leading the next generation in philanthropy... and golf!”

Cinema Sundays...

On Sunday, April 29th in the Maitland JCC Senior Lounge, the movie “Central Intelligence” starring Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart will be shown, beginning at 2 pm. Refreshments will be available.

JCC39ers Meet & Mingle Mondays...

On Monday, April 30th, in the Maitland JCC Senior Lounge, a trivia contest will be presented by SHELDON BROOK.

Shout-Out...

Recently the Grief Group that usually meets on Wednesdays at the Aloma Methodist Church held a dinner meeting at the Boston Fish House on Aloma Avenue instead.

Our fabulous waitress was ALANNA FLOWERS. (Yes, Flowers is her name and it is so well suited for her.) Alanna was on the ball with her serving and kept a big smile on her face at all times (She is indeed, a sunflower!)

One for the road...

Joshua is mega-rich and is always lavishing expensive presents on his wife, Naomi. But today, Joshua is in big trouble. He has forgotten that it’s their wedding anniversary. Oy Veh!

Naomi looks him in his eyes and says, in a very serious manner, “Tomorrow, Joshua, there had better be something for me outside our garage that goes from 0 to 200 in next to no time at all, or else...”

Naomi gets up early next morning, opens her front door and finds a small package outside the garage. She opens it and finds, of all things, brand new bathroom scales.

The funeral is on Sunday and Naomi is sitting shivah for the whole week.



Keith Levitt

HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

can be purchased at the following locations:

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

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

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OSCEOLA COUNTY

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

Sudoku (see page 14A 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.

A welcoming display at Passover

One aspect of a Jewish home is decorating with Judaica including a mezuzah and holiday decor. Many Jewish homes may have various kiddish cups, Chanukiah and wall art tastefully displayed throughout the home. There is no difference for senior living communities welcoming families and seniors of all cultures and religious backgrounds.

A warm and welcoming entrance was displayed at Serenades at Longwood for Passover. Touches like this make families and visitors feel acknowledged at holiday time. Passover was shared with the residents and staff by offering sweet and customary Passover treats.

The Jewish Pavilion thanks all of the senior living communities and long term



care facilities for presenting the beautiful displays to acknowledge the Jewish holidays.

The Jewish Pavilion is the Jewish connection for elder-care residents. Enhancing lives in senior-living communities

through friendly visits, holiday celebrations and engaging programs. Bringing smiles to residents of all faiths.

History of Israel through the eyes of a tree



Jonathan Feldstein with Yaakov Kirschen.

By Jonathan Feldstein

Seeing trees blossom and grow fruit in the Land of Israel as I leave my house every late winter and early spring morning makes me realize another way in which I am grateful to be able to live and raise my family here. When we built our house, it was important not only to plant trees, which Jews have done for more than 100 years, and where Israel has become the only country in the world to enter the 21st century with more trees than it had at the beginning of the 20th century, but also to realize the prophetic blossoming of the Land. "But you, O mountains of Israel, will give forth your branch and bear your fruit for My people Israel, for they are soon to come." (Ezekiel 36:8)

I was reminded of a visit a few months ago with one of Israel's political, social, and cultural icons as I walked out my front door recently, looking at the growing grape leaves, the branches of the apricot tree bending with the weight of the early fruit, and the lime and cherry tree beginning to blossom and show early signs of fruit from which we will benefit

in a short few months and fulfilling Ezekiel's prophesy in my front yard.

Yaakov Kirschen is the creator "Dry Bones," one of the most widely followed and enjoyed Israeli political and social cartoons. Through a mutual friend I had the privilege to meet him, the man whose cartoons and familiar characters depict Israeli society since 1971 profoundly and almost poetically. And, yes, even prophetically.

As I left my house that morning, I thought to myself, "What do I bring as a gift for a man who is synonymous with Israeli society and was hosting me at his home?" Spotting my lime tree with a few limes still growing, I picked one and brought it to him as a gift from the Land in which he has become so deep-rooted these past five decades.

Ninety minutes later, I arrived at his front door greeted by him and his lovely wife and presented my token gift. Little did I know that a simple lime grown in the Judean mountains would spark such gratitude and be symbolic of a relationship that has established roots with a man who is in his own right somewhat of a prophet.

Yaakov was excited to receive my lime and instantly asked his wife to bring out Diet Coke for us as he cut generous slices before squeezing its juice into our cold drinks. He explained that he hadn't had a lime since 1971, and told me why limes are so rare in Israel. (If you're curious why, please email me for a fascinating answer that depicts a small part of Israeli history since the early years of the state.)

Our conversation went in many different directions, about many different topics. It was as if I was having a reunion with an old friend, for the first time. And as I was leaving he gave me gifts, the fruits of his ingenuity. While not as juicy as my lime, his gifts to me were powerful and meaningful, and depicted Jewish history going back to thousands of years. One of the gifts was a copy of his book, "Trees; the Green Testament."

As all of his poetic and insightful writing, Yaakov tells stories through the eyes of his characters. He decided that he would tell a bit of the story, a concise history of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel through the "eyes" of trees. My fruit trees are less than two decades old, but

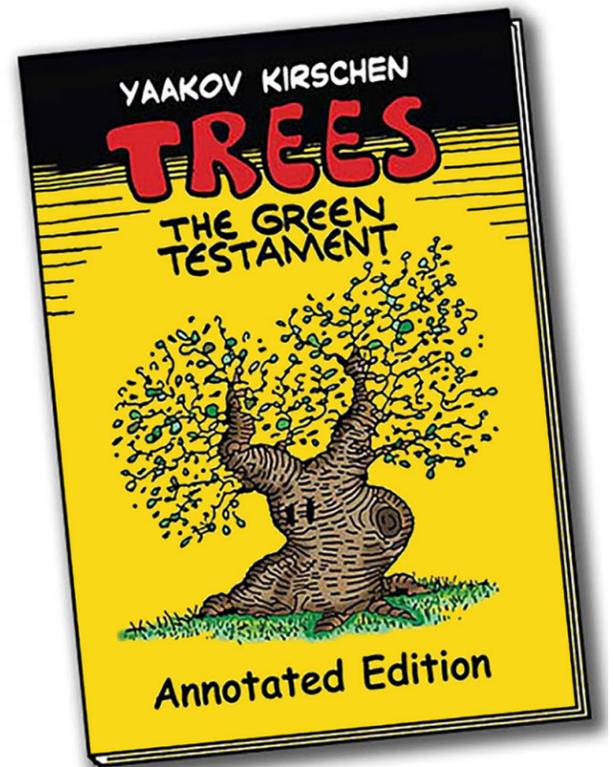
Yaakov was able to represent a vision of trees going back thousands of years. In doing so, he underscored the deep roots that the Jewish people have in the Land. Because the story is told through a cartoon, Yaakov's book is an easy, quick and yet very powerful and insightful read.

As he said, "I wanted to explain why I had moved to Israel. I wanted to explain myself, my people, our history, the Biblical prophecies that spoke to us, and our hopes for the future." A chance encounter with an old olive tree provided the inspiration and prism through which to tell that story.

He is poetic in his ability to capture important and sometimes complicated ideas and tell them through a one-to-four-image cartoon, usually with 40 to 50 words or less.

While being someone deeply rooted in the history of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel, I found several instances where he was able to pick up and highlight significant nuances that are important for anyone to understand. It's essential to note that in a world with growing delegitimization of Israel, "Trees" is an essential read for those who understand Israel's roots in its Land and one to appreciate that through a different prism.

Yaakov was a gracious host, very interested in me, my family, and my work. He not only inscribed a copy of his book for me, but also another copy along with the generous offer to draw a custom Dry Bones cartoon for a generous donor to the nonprofit for which I work. (You're able to bid on that special gift by at emailing me at FirstPersonIsrael@gmail.com to receive a personal Dry Bones cartoon of your own from a man whose insights are synonymous with the last five decades of modern Israel, and infused with thousands of years of its history.)



If you want an enjoyable and insightful book from a truly unique perspective than none other than Yaakov Kirschen could have created, you can order your own copy for yourself or as a special gift for someone else at <http://www.store.drybones.com>.

I'm long overdue for another visit with my new old friend. However, indicative of his brilliance, I now look at the history of Israel, and my life in Israel, very much through a different lens inspired by my friend Yaakov, for which I am profoundly grateful.

Jonathan Feldstein was born and educated in the U.S. and immigrated to Israel in 2004. He is married and the father of six. He has a three-decade career in nonprofit fundraising and marketing and throughout his life and career, he has become a respected bridge between Jews and Christians. He writes regularly on major Christian web sites about Israel and shares experiences of living as an Orthodox Jew in Israel. He can be reached at FirstPersonIsrael@gmail.com.

Israel boasts population growth

By United with Israel

Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) released its traditional statistics report on the citizens of Israel in honor of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, which is celebrated this year on Wednesday night and Thursday.

Israel boasts 8,842,000 citizens, more than 10 times as many as the 806,000 at the time of the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948.

On Israel's 100th birthday, in 2048, the CBS estimate that Israel's population will grow to about 15 million citizens. According to CBS projections, Israel's population will surpass 10 million some time between 2025 and 2030.

The Jewish population stands at 6,589,000 million, 75 percent of the entire population. Israel's Arab citizens constitute 20.9 percent of the total population, numbering approximately 1,849,000. Non-Arab Christians and other religious groups constitute 4.65 percent of the population.

Since last year's Independence Day, Israel's population grew by 163,000, constituting a 1.9 percent growth, including 177,000 newborn babies; 41,000 people have died.

Israel's population is young in comparison to other Western countries. Children up to the age of 14 constitute

28 percent of the population. Israel welcomed 28,000 new immigrants. Some 3.5 million people have made Aliyah (immigration to Israel) since 1948, making up 42 percent of the total population.

About 75 percent of Israel's population is Israeli-born—known as "sabras"—half of them second-generation. In 1948, only 35 percent were sabras, and their numbers have since more than doubled.

In 2018, over 70 years after the Holocaust, the largest Jewish population lives in Israel. This figure represents 43 percent of world Jewry.

At the time of the establishment of the State of Israel, only one city had more than 100,000 residents—Tel Aviv-Yaffo. Today, 14 cities have over 100,000 residents; eight of them have more than 200,000. They are Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yaffo, Haifa, Rishon Letzion, Petah Tikvah, Ashdod, Netanya, and Beer Sheva.

Israel's capital, Jerusalem, is the most-populated city, with some 882,700 residents—almost 10 percent of the population.

In 1949, Israel had merely 500 cities and towns. Today, it boasts over 1,200.

In 2018, over 70 years after the Holocaust, the largest Jewish population lives in Israel. This figure represents 43 percent of world Jewry.

Growth on page 14A

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Brooklyn synagogue pulls its money out of Chase bank

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA)—Congregation Kolot Chayeinu in Brooklyn's Park Slope neighborhood is removing its savings from JPMorgan Chase, making it the first U.S. synagogue to publicly divest from a bank or other corporation "to explicitly oppose the funding of fossil fuel and other related projects dangerous to the world in which we live," according to a statement from the congregation.

The move also puts Kolot at the forefront of Jewish organizations in doing "values-driven investing," putting money where Jewish groups' mouths are on climate change and other environmental crises.

Leaders and members of the independent synagogue will gather Tuesday afternoon at Amalgamated Bank near Sunset Park to announce their divestment, and will be joined by New York City's public advocate, City Council members and the chief of a nearby Native American tribe.

Amalgamated Bank, far smaller than JPMorgan Chase, originally was a union bank and is devoted to sustainable lending practices, according to Rabbi Ellen Lippman.

While Kolot Chayeinu acknowledges that its modest funds—under \$1 million—may not mean much to Chase, the largest bank in the United States, "we want to make a statement," Lippman said. The environmental group Oil Change International has called Chase "the largest U.S. funder of extreme fossil fuels."

"After a period of getting involved with Water Protectors of Standing Rock and learning that there are banks that fund things like the Dakota Access Pipeline and Chase is one of them, we began to develop the idea that we'd like to bank in a place more in line with our values," said

Lippman, referring to the crude oil pipeline routed through the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and under a lake in North Dakota.

Standing Rock was the site of major protests in 2016 and 2017 by Native Americans and their allies.

American Jewish organizations lag far behind church groups and other investors in identifying and divesting from banks and lending institutions invested heavily in fossil fuels, even though umbrella groups like the Jewish Council for Public Affairs have long called for immediate action on climate action and carbon emissions.

"I'm sorry to say that Kolot Chayeinu is the first Jewish organization of any kind to move their money," said Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of the Philadelphia-based Shalom Center and a longtime environmental theologian and activist. "I'm pleased it's Kolot, but if they had been the first three years ago and by now there were 100 synagogues and at least one major denomination saying its endowment fund was going to be moved, that would be far better."

Still, more Jewish groups are getting on board with the idea of values-driven investing. The JLens Investor Network has a \$35 million advocacy fund in which Jewish individuals, family foundations and Jewish federations are invested, said Julie Hammerman, the network's executive director and founder.

In December, JLens ran what it called a Jewish Impact Investing Summit in New York that attracted representatives of 84 Jewish groups. JLens provides educational and advisory services to both Jewish organizational investors and the companies in which they invest.

Hammerman said that current thinking in the field argues against simply pulling

money out of a bank. Investors in public companies prefer to try to change corporate policy from within by working behind the scenes and, if necessary, introducing resolutions at shareholder meetings.

"Divestment is the original approach, but the field has become much more sophisticated now and there are other tactics, like shareholder advocacy," Hammerman told JTA. "Moving your money to a local bank that supports the things you value is an easy first step."

"I would definitely encourage anyone before divesting to reach out to the bank with concerns. We have relationships with over 300 organizations, including Chase. Lending practices is one of the areas where we try to move the needle."

Other approaches to values-driven investing include putting money into "green bonds," which take the proceeds to develop things like water reclamation and grasslands replenishment projects. Google has raised one to put solar panels on its campuses, said Fran Seegull, executive director of the U.S. Impact Investing Alliance, which is being incubated at the Ford Foundation. Starbucks has raised a green bond to create trade finance facilities for its coffee growers, she said.

"Green bonds has exploded and is now worth \$90 billion," Seegull said. "The growth rate has been extraordinary."

Worldwide, more than one quarter of all professionally managed assets, or \$23 trillion, is invested in expressly values-driven ways, according to Hammerman. In 2016, in the United States, nearly \$9 trillion was invested in values-aligned ways, she said, citing a report by the U.S. Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investing. That was up 33 percent

Chase on page 15A

Central Florida Synagogues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

SARAH SHIRLEY FINER

Sarah Shirley Finer, age 95, of Longwood, passed away at her residence at Brookdale Island Lake, on Monday, April 9, 2018. Shirley, as she was known to her family and friends, was born to the late Henry and Rebecca Newlander Berman, on May 10, 1922, in Boston, Mass. Following high school she attended secretarial school. In 1985 she relocated to the Orlando area from Massachusetts to be closer to family.

Shirley is survived by her sons, Howard of Maitland and Alan (Kedna) of Delray Beach; and her four grandchildren—Jessica, Gabriel, Eric and Rebecca. She was predeceased by her husband, Elliot, in 1978, and her brother, Jack Berman.

Graveside services were held at Sharon Memorial Park in Sharon, Mass. Arrangements entrusted to Beth Shalom Memorial Chapel, 640 Lee Road, Orlando 32810. 407-599-1180.

LEAH T. GOLDSMITH

Leah T. Goldsmith, age 94, of Sarasota and formerly of Orlando, passed away on Friday, April 13, 2018, at Ashton Place an assisted living facility in Sarasota. A native of New York, she was born on Dec. 16, 1923, to the late Abraham and Becker Lerner Thaler. She was a high school graduate and held clerical positions when she returned to the work force. In 1945, in New York, she married Howard Goldsmith, to whom she was married for 43 years, when he passed away in 1988.

Leah is survived by her children, Kenneth (Noriko) of Edison, New Jersey, and Deborah Goldsmith and her grandchildren Mark Goldsmith and Erica Goldsmith. She is also survived by her sister, May Abrams.

A graveside funeral service was held at Ohev Shalom Cemetery with Rabbi Arnold Siegel of Jewish Family

Services officiating. In memory of Leah T. Goldsmith, the family requests contributions to Tidewell Hospice c/o Philanthropy Department, 5955 Rand Blvd, Sarasota 34238. Arrangements entrusted to Beth Shalom Memorial Chapel, 640 Lee Road, Orlando 32810. 407-599-1180.

HENRI LANDWIRTH

A private family graveside service was held at Temple Israel Cemetery with Rabbi Michael Matuson of Beth El/The Beaches Synagogue in Ponte Vedra Beach officiating. There will be a public celebration of the life of Henri Landwirth on Saturday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at Give Kids the World in Kissimmee. The family is requesting donations in memory of Henri to Give Kids the World, www.Give-KidstheWorld.org. Arrangements entrusted to Beth Shalom Memorial Chapel, Inc., 640 Lee Road, Orlando 32810. 407-599-1180.

'Schindler's List' at 25: How Steven Spielberg's deeply Jewish story spoke to the masses

By Michael Berenbaum

LOS ANGELES (JTA)—1993 was a dramatic year in the memorialization of the Holocaust.

In April, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum opened its doors; 45 million visitors later it is a fixture adjacent to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., not only telling the story of the Holocaust but demonstrating the ongoing significance of this Jewish event—this European event—to the American people, to Western civilization and to the world.

In November of that year, Steven Spielberg, widely recognized as the most influential director of this generation, released his monumental work "Schindler's List" to international acclaim. Forsaking many of the tools of his profession, including the beautifying effect of color, Spielberg created a masterpiece. Nominated for 12 Academy Awards, it won seven, including best picture, best director, best adapted screenplay and best original score. The overture to "Schindler's List," written by John Williams, is routinely played whenever Holocaust events are held. Its haunting tones evoke not only the motion picture but the event itself.

Expected to lose money, "Schindler's List" was probably greenlighted by Universal Studios because Spielberg was Spielberg, a director's director. He personally vowed not to make money on the film, saying his task was sacred, not entrepreneurial. Yet despite its length of over three hours, which made two screenings an evening difficult, it grossed \$321 million in its initial release, more than 14 times

its original cost. Spielberg donated his entire share to charity.

The story of Oscar Schindler was cherished by its survivors but little known even by experts. For years Leopold Page would tell his story to people who walked into his Beverly Hills luggage store hoping that one of his prominent customers would bring it to the screen. Australian writer Thomas Keneally walked in one day. The result was his 1982 historical novel "Schindler's Ark." For decades two New Jersey developers, Murray Pantirer and Abraham Zuckerman, named a Schindler Drive or Schindler Road in each of their New Jersey developments, honoring the man who saved their lives. Only later—much later—did residents of their developments understand who was being honored and themselves feel honored by their address.

Schindler, a Sudeten German, was an unlikely Holocaust hero. A philandering Nazi war profiteer, he used Jewish money, Jewish talent and Jewish slave labor to build his metal works business and his fortune. His transformation was gradual. He saw too much evil and then used the same cunning, and daring, to save his endangered Jews. He moved them from Krakow to Czechoslovakia along with his factory, and they survived the war. More than 1,200 Jews were rescued due to his interventions.

Spielberg resisted the temptation to valorize Schindler, who was portrayed brilliantly by Liam Neeson, warts and all. Spielberg couldn't quite end the film, perhaps because he didn't want to, so he gave filmgoers four endings: Schindler's

final speech wishing he had done more; the Jewish workers walking away into an uncertain future; a segment in color featuring real-life survivors visiting Schindler's grave; and a closing title card reading simply, "There are fewer than 4,000 Jews left alive in Poland today. There are more than 6,000 descendants of the Schindler Jews."

The film is widely recognized as one of the finest ever made and gained such a moral stature that it was aired by NBC without commercial interruptions. Ford's sponsorship of the broadcast was perhaps an act of atonement or posthumous justice: Company founder Henry Ford, publisher of the anti-Semitic Dearborn Independent and the American disseminator of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," was honored personally by Hitler.

"Schindler's List" had a monumental unintended consequence. Survivors kept coming up to Spielberg and saying "have I got a story to tell you," and the filmmaker listened with ever-growing fascination. As a man who could move millions with his work and was at the forefront of technological innovation, Spielberg vowed to record the testimonies of 50,000 survivors and preserve them for posterity. Naturally he chose video.

The result was what was then called the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which took the testimony of 52,000 Holocaust survivors in 57 countries and 32 languages, compiling the largest collection of oral history of any historical event.

At first Spielberg envisioned disseminating the collection in its entirety to five major research centers. In the years



Liam Neeson as Oskar Schindler in "Schindler's List."

since, the collection has not only been disseminated in its entirety, but community after community has made use of the testimonies of local survivors to create films and educational material.

Examples abound: In my own work with the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, the testimonies of Chicago-area survivors were turned into a dozen films. Macedonia has used Macedonian testimonies, Mexico City Mexican testimonies. It is the gift that keeps on giving as scholars have made use of it for their research. Even great document scholars, such as Christopher Browning, learned the historical importance of oral history. Related films have been made on death marches and Sonderkommandos, the prisoners who worked in the vicinity of the death camps, areas where documents are few and memories deep.

Now housed at the University of Southern California, the renamed Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education is pioneering a

video dialogue with survivors using voice recognition software. It allows a genuine conversation with holographic images of survivors, drawing on their actual testimonies. It is taking testimony from other genocides, Cambodia and Rwanda and Bosnia, as sadly the list grows. And institutions throughout the world are creating educational programs from this work.

Spielberg himself has become a major moral voice of our generation, a voice that only grew with time and with new works such as "Saving Private Ryan," "Lincoln" and most recently "The Post," to name a few—films that grapple with racism and slavery, war and memory, freedom of the press and the courage to take a stand.

Spielberg himself grew more comfortable and more profound in his Jewish identity and his ability to embrace that identity without being narrowly parochial or limiting the audiences for his films. His name is synonymous with excellence—film excellence and moral excellence. And his

stature poses a challenge to filmmakers of all generations to engage their own tradition and speak through that experience to the world.

Like the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Schindler's List" demonstrated that a Jewish story could remain deeply Jewish and yet speak to the mainstream not only of American society, but the contemporary culture as well.

In Krakow last week, I stood in line with hundreds of visitors at Schindler's factory, where a museum has been created. It attracts visitors from throughout the world, all of whom were drawn to the place because of the story Spielberg told as only he could: of a scoundrel who over time became noble. For after all, "he who saves a life, saves the world entire."

Michael Berenbaum, professor of Jewish studies and director of the Sigi Ziering Institute: Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust, was president of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation from 1997 to 2000.

Anne Frank House employee waited 6 months to find out if he could wear a kippah

By Cnaan Lipshiz

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—When Barry Vingerling asked his employers at the Anne Frank House whether it was okay for him to start coming to work wearing a kippah, he did it mostly as a courtesy.

"I hadn't expected this to be an issue," Vingerling, 25, told the Dutch-Jewish NIW weekly in an interview. "I work at the house of Anne Frank, who had to hide because of her identity. Should I have to hide mine in that same house?"

His bosses' answer to this question appeared to be "yes." Suggesting at first that he wear a hat on top of his skullcap, they dithered for six months on whether to allow it before Vingerling forced their hand by wearing a kippah without permission.

In a statement, the Anne Frank House said it did not have a policy on the wearing of religious symbols by employees and that it needed a few months to

hammer out one. They finally announced last week that they would allow employees to wear religious symbols to work.

Vingerling's predicament may have had a happy ending. But the fuss nonetheless illustrates how Jews in Western Europe are affected by a debate usually focused on Muslims, immigration and religious tolerance.

In the Netherlands, a 2015 law made it illegal to wear face-covering clothes in schools and hospitals, government buildings and public transportation. Belgium has an even stricter policy since 2011, as does France, aimed at the Muslim niqab, or face veil.

In 2016, local authorities in France banned the wearing of a full-body bathing suit, popularly known as the "burkini," favored by some devout Muslim women. Those bans divided French society -- and its Jewish community -- in an acrimonious debate.

Supporters of the ban,

including Moshe Sebbag, the head rabbi of the Grand Synagogue of Paris, said the burkini was a "political statement." But opponents said the ban was a dangerous encroachment on religious liberties that could affect French Jews, as well as Muslims and Christians.

Back in Amsterdam, the kippah issue pitted two key institutions preserving the memory of Anne Frank against each other.

The Anne Frank Fonds in Basel, a foundation set up by Anne Frank's father, Otto, and which holds the copyright for her diary, criticized the Anne Frank House for its handling of the affair.

"Otto Frank always wanted to establish in the former annex a meeting place for young people from all over the world with their different routes to talk about peace, the future and living together," Yves Kugelmann, a spokesperson for the Anne Frank Fonds in Basel, told

JTA when queried about Vingerling's case. "This should be respected and acknowledged."

At the Anne Frank Fonds, Kugelmann added, "everybody is allowed to show his religious, cultural etc. background." He also said his organization "can't comment [on] other organizations' policy," but religious tolerance is how the Frank family "lived in the open-minded Jewish environment in Frankfurt," where Anne was born, "and how the children were educated."

The two groups have clashed before on a number of issues, including on how to balance Anne Frank's particularist Jewish identity with some of her universal values.

Separately, the Anne Frank Fonds in Basel is also facing criticism for a different reason -- its newly announced cooperation with a controversial organization that funds left-leaning and Arab-rights organizations in

Israel, in addition to general civil society work.

The Anne Frank Fonds said earlier this month said it would contribute some of its proceeds to the New Israel Fund. The nonprofit funds groups in Israel like Breaking the Silence, made up of veterans who report what they say are violations of the Israeli army's own policies, and Adallah, an Israeli-Arab human rights organization that frequently criticizes the government. NIF is also critical of Israel's plans to deport tens of thousands of African asylum-seekers, leading Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accuse it of working for the "erasure of the Jewish character of Israel."

In announcing the partnership, the Anne Frank Fonds wrote that "the New Israel Fund is the leading organization promoting democracy and equality in Israel," and that "[t]his partnership with NIF is designed to strengthen Israeli civil society."

Caroline Glick, a right-leaning journalist and Jerusalem Post columnist, criticized the deal in a column for Ma'ariv Friday, stating that NIF "seeks to make Israel a country devoid of singular Jewish characteristics," whereas Frank herself was both a Dutch patriot and a proud Jew.

Kugelmann declined to say how much money the Anne Frank Fonds will give to the New Israel Fund, or whether his group will agree to fund all of the organizations receiving funding from the New Israel Fund, including Adallah and Breaking the Silence.

"We make sure that money is given in the idea and under the conditions of Anne Frank Fonds (mainly social help, education, women and children rights)," he said. The Basel-based group has "to approve [each recipient] organization. The New Israel Fund proposes projects, [then] we decide" together, he told JTA.

Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Plenty of mazel tovs to go around on birth of #RoyalBaby

(JTA)—Although the British royal family presumably does not speak a word of Hebrew, there were plenty of mazel tovs to go around after the announcement that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, aka Prince William and Kate Middleton, welcomed the arrival of a baby boy.

The baby born Monday is the third child for the royal couple and will be fifth in line for the throne.

"Mazel Tov it's a boy!" the United Kingdom's embassy in Israel posted on Twitter in both English and Hebrew, along with the official announcement from the royal family.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin immediately tweeted his and the country's good wishes on the #RoyalBaby, leading with "Mazel Tov!"

"Together with Nechama, and all the Israeli people, I send warmest wishes to Her Majesty the Queen, & all the Royal Family. Looking forward to welcoming the Duke to Israel soon," he wrote.

Mazel Tov! Congratulations to TRH the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their son #RoyalBaby. Together with Nechama, and all the Israeli people, I send warmest wishes to Her Majesty the Queen, & all the Royal Family. Looking forward to welcoming the Duke to Israel soon.

— Reuven Rivlin (@PresidentRuv) April 23, 2018

Britain's chief rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, also tweeted his good wishes, but saved his mazel tov for the end.

"Congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and to the entire @RoyalFamily on the birth of a beautiful baby boy! We wish their Royal Highnesses many years of joy from their new son. May he be a source of blessing for our country all the days of his life. Mazaltov!" Mirvis tweeted.

His predecessor as chief rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, also tweeted a "huge" mazel tov on behalf of himself and his wife.

"We hope you get much nachas from him and may he bring you much joy," he also wrote, using a Hebrew term for pride.

"Hearty" mazel tovs also came in from the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council.

Some tweeters just couldn't help themselves.

One, identified as Dutch singer Simon Oaks, suggested that if the baby was a girl (he wasn't), William and Kate could name her Analytica.

"She can call herself #DuchessofCambridgeAnalytica," he tweeted, referring to the tech company that had unauthorized access to private Facebook data.

Another tweeter felt the need to invoke Jeremy Corbyn, the embattled head of the Labour Party.

"As Duchess of Cambridge goes to hospital expecting 3rd baby, critics of Jeremy Corbyn say it makes a pleasant change to see a woman in labour being well treated," the tweet read.

Dozens of royal family

watchers had been camped for days outside the private Lindo Wing of St. Mary's Hospital in central London, where the couple's two other children were born. They popped open champagne bottles upon hearing the news that George, 4, and Charlotte 2, had a new royal sibling.

As Duchess of Cambridge goes to hospital expecting 3rd baby, critics of Jeremy Corbyn say it makes a pleasant change to see a woman in labour being well treated.

Trump reportedly asked Netanyahu if he genuinely wants peace

(JTA)—In a phone call last year with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Donald Trump asked him whether or not he genuinely wants peace, according to a new report.

Trump asked the question in the wake of news reports that Netanyahu had planned to build new settlement housing to placate members of his coalition government, Axios reported Sunday, citing three sources familiar with the call. The news website did not report on Netanyahu's answer.

The question came in the middle of a longer conversation that was "mostly friendly and complimentary," according to Axios, which said that Trump thought that Netanyahu was unnecessarily angering the Palestinians. During the course of the conversation, Trump pressed Netanyahu on the importance of arriving at a peace deal with the Palestinians.

During a Netanyahu visit to the White House in February 2017, shortly after Trump took office, the president called on Netanyahu during a news conference to "hold back" on settlement building.

White House adviser Jared Kushner, Trump's Jewish son-in-law, and U.S. Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt, who also is an Orthodox Jew, are leading Israel-Palestinian peace efforts. The announcement of a White House peace plan has been put on hold since Trump announced his recognition of Jerusalem at Israel's capital and said he would move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem next month.

A senior White House official apprised of the details of the conversation told Axios that "The President has an extremely close and candid relationship with the prime minister of Israel and appreciates his strong efforts to enhance the cause of peace in the face of numerous challenges."

The White House press secretary, Sarah Sanders, told Axios in response: "The president has great relationships with a number of foreign leaders, but that doesn't mean he can't be aggressive when it comes to negotiating what's best for America."

US human rights report drops phrase 'occupied territories' in section on Israel

(JTA)—The State Department's annual human rights report has dropped the phrase "occupied territories" when describing the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Golan Heights.

It is the first time since the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices were first filed in 1977 that the descriptive phrase has not been used.

The section on Israel this year is titled "Israel, Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza." The previous year's report called the section "Israel and The Occupied Territories."

The State Department told The Washington Post that reports issued by other parts of the government no longer refer to the West Bank and Gaza as the occupied territories and that the human rights report "is simply catching up to what is now standard practice in the administration."

In December, Israel's Kan public broadcaster reported that U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman asked the State Department to stop calling Israel's control over the West Bank an "occupation" in official documents. He reportedly recommended using the term "West Bank territory" instead of the "occupied territories."

The report said the State Department had rejected the request, but agreed to take up the subject again in the future. A State Department official at the time told JTA that the report was "misleading."

In a September interview, Friedman told an Israeli news website, "I think the settlements are part of Israel." The State Department later distanced itself from the remark.

The Washington Post said it was the "first human rights report to reflect the Trump administration's views and priorities." It also said the report on activities in 2017 "focuses less on societal attitudes and discrimination than in previous years and more on governmental actions that encourage or reward violence and bigotry."

Natalie Portman explains why she won't accept prize in Israel: It's about Netanyahu

(JTA)—Natalie Portman said she wouldn't attend a prize ceremony in Israel because of her feelings about its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and "atrocities" committed on his watch, but emphasized that she would not shun Israel itself.

The Jerusalem-born director and actor, posting Friday night on Instagram, explained her decision not to accept in person the \$2 million Genesis Prize, which calls itself the "Jewish Nobel," after a day of speculation in the media that she was turning down the prize because she was joining the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel. The prize foundation had the day before announced Portman's decision not to attend the ceremony.

"I chose not to attend because I did not want to appear as endorsing Benjamin Netanyahu, who was to be giving a speech at the ceremony," said Portman, who in 2011 won a best actress Oscar.

"By the same token, I am not part of the BDS movement and do not endorse it," Portman said.

"Like many Israelis and Jews around the world, I can be critical of the leadership in Israel without wanting to boycott the entire nation," she said. "I treasure my Israeli friends and family, Israeli food, books, art, cinema, and dance. Israel was created exactly 70 years ago as a haven for refugees from the Holocaust. But the mistreatment of those suffering from today's atrocities is simply not in line with my Jewish values. Because I care about Israel, I must stand up against violence, corruption, inequality, and abuse of power."

She did not explain what she was referring to by "atrocities." Israel has drawn sharp criticism in recent months for confrontations with Palestinian protesters on its Gaza border. Israeli troops have killed over 30 Palestinians and wounded hundreds. Israel says the protesters are not peaceful and have tossed rocks and explosive devices at troops.

Netanyahu last month also drew sharp rebukes for reversing his decision to work with the United Nations to resettle some 38,000 African asylum seekers in the country, and reverting to an earlier plan to summarily deport them to Uganda or another African nation. Among the critics were Jewish groups and figures who rarely criticize Israeli government policies.

In the wake of Portman's decision, the Genesis Prize Foundation said it would distribute the \$2 million to women's rights groups, but not those of Portman's choosing. Winners of the prize, which "honors individuals who serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Jews through their outstanding professional achievement along with their commitment to Jewish values and the Jewish people," conventionally donate the prize money to charitable causes of their choosing.

The Genesis Prize on Friday posted a tweet on its timeline attached to a story about the controversy, with the headline, "Israelis lament Natalie Portman dropping out of Genesis Prize."

The background to the Genesis Prize's Twitter page was still as of Friday evening a photo of Natalie Portman, accompanied by a message congratulating her.

Portman said in her Instagram post she would soon announce charities she would support in Israel.

"This experience has inspired me to support a number of charities in Israel," she said. "I will be announcing them soon, and I hope others will join me in supporting the great work they are doing."

Portman has previously joined efforts to support Israel. In 2015, she directed and starred in "A Tale of Love and Darkness," a Hebrew-language film adaptation of the Amos Oz book of the same name that chronicles the author's life surrounding Israel's founding.

Jewish groups' objections spur cancellation of discussion with Labour's Jeremy Corbyn

(JTA)—A roundtable discussion of Jewish groups and British Labour Party

head Jeremy Corbyn was canceled after the country's two main Jewish umbrella groups objected to the list of participants.

The meeting, billed as a "Respect and Engagement" event, had been set for Wednesday to address charges of anti-Semitism and hostility to Israel in the Labour Party. It was to take place some 24 hours after talks scheduled between Corbyn and the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council to discuss the issue.

But both Jewish groups called on mainstream community organizations to reject the invitation to the roundtable meeting, which, according to the Jewish Chronicle, they viewed as an attempt to split the Jewish community by including what they described as fringe groups such as Jewish Voice for Labour, an anti-Israel group that has derided the "myth of anti-Semitism in the Labour Party" and the "anti-Semitic smear campaign" supposedly waged against Corbyn and his backers.

Corbyn's office had sent out invitations to the event.

Labour sources told the Jewish Chronicle that the meeting had never been confirmed and had been canceled because it "didn't work logistically." The Jewish Chronicle also reported that instead of the roundtable meeting, Corbyn will work to hold separate meetings with Jewish groups and individuals in the coming weeks.

Corbyn has vowed to kick out any Labour member caught making racist or anti-Semitic statements. Dozens have been expelled, but many others accused of these actions were allowed to stay or were readmitted.

Scottish man gets \$1,100 fine for teaching dog to do Nazi salute

(JTA)—The Scottish man who was found guilty of a hate crime for teaching his girlfriend's dog to do the Nazi salute was fined 800 pounds, or about \$1,100.

Mark Meechan, 30, who was convicted last month, taught the pug, named Buddha, to respond with the Nazi salute when prompted by statements such as "Heil Hitler" and "gas the Jews." Meechan posted videos of the dog performing the trick on YouTube.

Meechan has said he will appeal his conviction, saying it sets a dangerous legal precedent against freedom of expression.

The original video, posted in April 2016 on his YouTube channel, Count Dankula, was viewed more than 3 million times before it was removed for violating YouTube's policy on hate speech. Meechan said on the video that he trained the dog to annoy his girlfriend. He later posted a video in which he apologized for the original dog clips, saying it was a joke and that he has no such political leanings.

In the sentencing Monday, Sheriff Derek O'Carroll rejected Meechan's explanation that the video was made as a private joke and pointed out that he had "not taken any steps to prevent the video being shared publicly."

"You deliberately chose the Holocaust as the theme of the video," O'Carroll said.

He added, speaking of the evidence: "I found it proved that the video you posted, using a public communications network, was grossly offensive and contained menacing, anti-Semitic and racist material."

O'Carroll also said the right to freedom of expression was very important, but "in all modern democratic countries the law necessarily places some limits on that right."

Comedian Ricky Gervais disagreed with the conviction.

"If you don't believe in a person's right to say things that you might find 'grossly offensive,' he posted on Twitter, "then you don't believe in Freedom of Speech."

Ivanka and Jared reportedly part of US delegation for Jerusalem embassy opening

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump will be part of the delegation coming to Israel next month for the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, according to an Israeli news program.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, who is Jewish, will lead the group of more than 250 U.S. delegates, including 40 members of the Senate and House of Representatives, Channel 10 news reported Sunday, citing unnamed Israeli officials.

Among those mentioned in the report as planning to attend the May 14 dedication are Republican Sens. Ted Cruz and Lindsay Graham, as well as special Middle East peace envoy Jason Greenblatt. The delegation also will include Jewish leaders and heads of pro-Israel Christian organizations.

Asked for comment, a White House spokeswoman told JTA that "there are no announcements at this time."

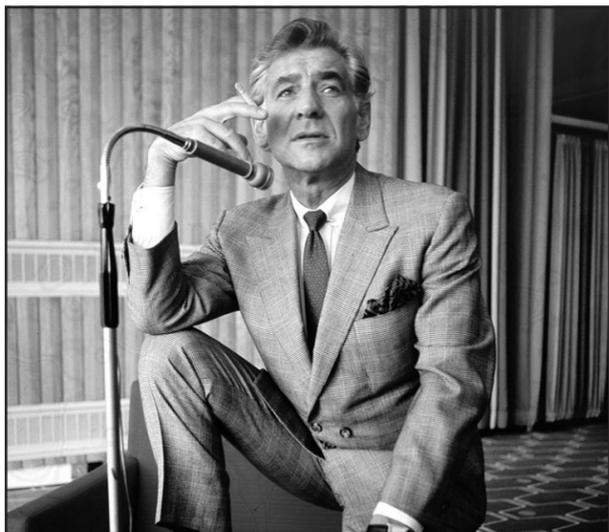
The move is scheduled for the anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel according to the Gregorian calendar.

The new embassy initially will be housed in southern Jerusalem, in the Arnona neighborhood, on a compound that currently houses the consular operations of the Consulate General of Jerusalem.

U.S. Ambassador David Friedman and some staff will begin working out of the consular section beginning in May. In the second phase, by the end of 2019, an annex on site will be constructed for a more permanent working space for the ambassador, staff and a classified processing site. The third phase, the site selection and construction of a new embassy, will take up to nine years.

Trump has heralded his Dec. 6, 2017 recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the move of the embassy as a highlight of his administration. He said last month at a White House meeting with Netanyahu that he was considering coming to Israel for the opening of the embassy.

Seven treasures from a centennial exhibit on Leonard Bernstein



Fox Photos/Hulton Archive/Getty Images
Leonard Bernstein in 1970.

By Penny Schwartz

(JTA)—From his birthplace in Boston to New York, Berlin, South Africa, China and Israel, Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), the larger-than-life conductor, pianist, composer, educator and bon vivant, is being celebrated in a two-year bonanza of concerts, stage productions and programs marking the centennial of his birth.

The American-born son of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants, Bernstein's influences spanned the musical world, from classical music to Broadway.

Thousands of events

are featured as a part of #Bernsteinat100, including "Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music," an exhibit that recently opened at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Last week, the Library of Congress got in on the act, making available online for the first time free access to more than 3,700 items including letters, photographs, audio recordings, and other material from its vast Leonard Bernstein Collection. The release nearly tripled the library's digital offerings.

Curious fans with time on

their hands can cue up "West Side Story," "On the Town" or the "Chichester Psalms," and peruse volumes of scrapbooks in the Library's collection that were meticulously compiled by Helen Coates, his piano teacher and later, his career-long secretary.

"Bernstein arguably was the most prominent music figure in America in the second half of the 20th century," according to Mark Horowitz, the collection's curator, who has been immersed in the details of the maestro's life for a quarter century. He described Bernstein as a "polymath, a Renaissance man who wanted to do it all," from music to education to social activism.

Born on Aug. 28, 1918 in Lawrence, Massachusetts, to Jennie and Samuel Bernstein, the young musician famously catapulted onto the world stage in November 1943, when he filled in on short notice as conductor for the New York Philharmonic for an ailing Bruno Walter, in a concert broadcast on national television.

Five years later, with his 1958 appointment as music director of the New York Philharmonic, Bernstein became the first American-born and educated conductor, and the first American Jewish conductor, to lead a major American orchestra.

With an estimated 400,000 items, the Bernstein Collection is one of the largest and most varied in the Library's music division, Horowitz told JTA. The archives fill 1,723 boxes that measure 710 linear feet.

Here are seven treasures from the Library of Congress collection:

1. Bernstein grew up in Boston in a deeply religious family and was influenced by the music he heard at Congregation Mishkan Tefila.

At Congregation Mishkan Tefila, his family's synagogue, the young Bernstein came under the influence of Solomon Braslavsky, a Viennese composer who became the synagogue's music director and led its choir. On Oct. 10, 1946, Bernstein wrote to Braslavsky, shortly after Yom Kippur: "I have come to realize what a debt I really owe to you... for the marvelous music at Mishkan Tefila services. They surpass any that I have ever heard."

Bernstein had a strained relationship with his father, a successful business owner, whose life was guided by Talmudic learning. While he described his father as authoritarian, he admired his

depth of knowledge of Jewish texts and thought.

2. Bernstein's Harvard years were instrumental in shaping his music.

A page in a bluebook dated Jan. 25, 1937, during Bernstein's sophomore year at Harvard University, displays "handwriting thoroughly familiar to a Bernstein scholar," according to Carol Oja, a professor at the Harvard Department of Music. In the exam book, Bernstein described Baroque-era toccatas, a musical notation for virtuosic keyboard, as "dramatic, brilliant...and very technical, difficult, effective." These descriptions "would later characterize his own compositions," Oja observed in an email.

3. Bernstein was smitten by Israel and became a devoted and influential supporter of the Israel Philharmonic.

In November 1948, during Israel's War of Independence, amidst fighting between the Israeli and Arab armies, Bernstein made his second conducting tour of Israel. He wrote a nine-page letter to his mother, Jennie, that glows with colorful, playful illustrations by Yossi Stern, a Hungarian refugee who became known as the "painter of Jerusalem."

"You can see his passion for the young state of Israel, its land, the people and the culture," according to Ivy Weingram, curator of the exhibit at the NMAJH, where visitors can see one page of the original letter, on loan from the Library of Congress.

Over his career, Bernstein conducted the Israel Philharmonic in 25 different seasons, in Israel, Europe and the U.S.

4. Following the Six-Day War, Bernstein performed a concert in Israel.

The July 1967 concert, with violinist Isaac Stern and the Israel Philharmonic, included Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem; Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto; and the final movement of Mahler's Second Symphony, known as the "Resurrection Symphony."

In his speech at the performance, handwritten on stationery from Jerusalem's Shemesh Oriental Restaurant, Bernstein recalled his exhilaration conducting the Mahler symphony 19 years earlier, during Israel's War of Independence. He marveled at the recent unification of Jerusalem, a city he envisioned would inspire peace.

"Is it too much to hope that this growing together of people in peace may radiate out to this general region ... and eventually... the world,"



"It's a marvelous town... I had a glorious Arab meal with khumus and T'hina," Bernstein wrote about a lunch in Nazareth. This is the first page from a long letter he wrote to his mother that was illustrated by Yossi Stern.

he wrote. "Why not? This is Jerusalem," with the name of the city written in Hebrew.

5. Bernstein was gay. His wife Felicia seemed okay with that.

In 1946, Bernstein married Felicia Cohn Monteleagre, a Chilean actress who performed the role of narrator in Bernstein's Symphony No. 3, the "Kaddish Symphony." They had three children, Jamie, Alexander and Nina.

Bernstein didn't hide his homosexuality and attraction to men from his wife. Early in their marriage, Felicia wrote a stirring and remarkably broad-minded letter, undated, that revealed the deep love and bond between the couple.

"You are a homosexual and may never change—you don't admit to the possibility of a double life, but if your peace of mind, your health... depend on a certain sexual pattern, what can you do?" she wrote. "I am willing to accept you as you are, without being a martyr. I happen to love you very much..."

6. "West Side Story" was originally about Jews and Catholics.

In the 1950s, Bernstein and choreographer Jerome Robbins took inspiration from William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," adapting it to the ethnic and racial tensions of the 20th century. An annotated copy of "Romeo and Juliet" in the Library of Congress collection is on view at the NMAJH exhibit and includes notes by Bernstein and Robbins. It was originally conceived as "East Side Story," about conflicts between Jews and Catholics. Audition notes for "West Side Story," which opened on Broadway

in 1957, include Bernstein's comments about a young Warren Beatty, who sought the role of Riff ("Good voice, can't open jaw—charming as hell—clean cut").

7. Bernstein had a passion for education.

Bernstein relished his role as an educator. His children often say it's among their father's most enduring legacies. Just two weeks after beginning his notable role as music director of the New York Philharmonic, Bernstein stepped up to the podium at Carnegie Hall to lead the first of his dozens of Young People's Concerts. It was the first time the series was broadcast live on national television, bringing the engaging maestro into America's living rooms.

For the Feb. 28, 1961 Young People's Concert, Bernstein captivated his audience with the question, "What Makes Music Funny?" The 39-year-old maestro started off with a joke about an elephant and a mouse. Humor, even in music, needs an element of surprise, he said. "It's like a bag full of tricks coming at you," and always has "something new and eye opening."

Throughout, Bernstein lifted his baton, leading the orchestra in selections from Haydn and Gilbert and Sullivan to Prokofiev and Brahms.

The Library of Congress is hosting a series of programs from May 12-19 including performances and film screenings. On Saturday, May 19, rarely seen materials from the collection will be on display. More details on the Bernstein events are on the Library's website.

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Landwirth

From page 1A

Paul Jeser, former executive director (1976-1984) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando called him "One of the great human beings of our day."

Landwirth is predeceased by his twin sister, Margot Glazer. He is survived by three children—Gary Landwirth, founder of A Gift for Teaching; Greg Landwirth and Lisa Landwirth Ullmann; and four grandchildren.

A private family graveside service was held at Temple

Israel Cemetery with Rabbi Michael Matuson of Beth El/The Beaches Synagogue in Ponte Vedra Beach officiating.

There will be a public celebration of the life of Henri Landwirth on Saturday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at Give Kids the World in Kissimmee. The family is requesting donations in memory of Henri to Give Kids the World, www.GiveKidstheWorld.org.

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

Growth

From page 10A

Israel boasts 63 academic institutions, as opposed to only two in 1948.

Israel was the 11th happiest country in the world in 2017, the fifth consecutive year Israel received this high ranking, after reaching 14th in the

first 2012 report. Israel came out ahead of the US, Germany, Japan, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic, Britain, Brazil, France and Mexico.

According to data from Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, over 93 percent of Israelis say they are happy or very happy with their lives.

Miller

From page 1A

winged Republican members are in the process of trying to eliminate Medicare and Social Security all together, stating it is an 'entitlement program,' which will leave the elderly and the disabled on the streets without food and medication."

Miller, who resides in Clermont, is originally from Philadelphia, Pa., She moved to Wellington, Fla., with her husband, Jordan M.

Miller, VMD, who passed away shortly thereafter. They have one son, Marcus, 39, who has his master's degree in business and is currently in a doctoral program.

Miller's political and business background is diverse. She took both business management classes as well as political science on the suggestion of the late Senator John Heinz. She was a radio hostess on WPDR in Wisconsin; a radio guest many times on the Harriet Lehrman Show on WPDR; was also a radio

hostess on Tea Party.Org blog talk radio; and she also had her own Blog talk radio show called I'm Listening America.

Miller is a life time member of Na'amat, Hadassah, and ZOA, and she supports and donates to the Chabad of Orlando.

Miller has lived in Israel, where she worked as a farmer on a kibbutz. She is also a former IDF officer and served in the Yom Kippur War. "I understand foreign affairs," she said. "I understand radical Islam and terrorism whether it is domestic or foreign. I have

seen what radical Islam and terrorism has done and how it affected the Middle East. What happened at The Pulse Nightclub was terrorism and not a lone-wolf incident and will not be tolerated by me."

Miller welcomes any and all contributions to her campaign. To donate, please visit her website, <https://electloretta.millerforcongress.com/donation>

The closed primary will be held Aug. 28 and the general election will be on Nov. 6, 2018.



Loretta Miller

Brenner

From page 1A

beyond the typical family tree. It connects the younger generation, between 10-15 years old, to their personal

stories, their family stories, and the broader story of the Jewish people.

My Family Story, a far-reaching educational initiative, is one of Beit

Hatfutsot's most innovative flagship programs. Students participate in a year-long curriculum, embarking on an engaging, personal, experiential, international

and multigenerational Jewish heritage project. Through rigorous research and inspiring creativity, the students produce a final art display illustrating their

personal exploration into their family roots and connection to the greater story of the Jewish people.

For more information about the Jewish Academy of

Orlando or to arrange a visit to our school, please contact Amy Polacek, admissions coordinator, at apolacek@myjao.org or call 407-647-0713.

Bush

From page 1A

will be deeply missed, but her legacy of charity will live on. May her memory be a blessing."

On Monday, a Bush spokesperson announced that the former first lady had made a decision to halt medical treatment and receive comfort care in her home. She also suffered from Graves' disease, an autoimmune disorder that causes an overactive thyroid gland.

George H.W. Bush held his

wife's hand all day Tuesday and was with her when she died, according to Jean Becker, chief of staff at George H.W. Bush's office in Houston. The couple had been married for 73 years after meeting as teenagers at a school dance.

Barbara Bush championed family literacy during her time in the White House, focusing on bringing awareness to early childhood education and adult literacy for parents. She launched the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

A defining moment of her

tenure as first lady was her visit to a residence for HIV-infected babies at a time when Americans were terrified by the AIDS virus, a disease that was not well understood by the public. Bush cuddled and kissed the babies with television cameras capturing the visit.

"You can hug and pick up AIDS babies and people who have the HIV virus" without hurting yourself, she said. "There is a need for compassion."

A statement issued by

the White House said that "President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump join the Nation in celebrating the life of Barbara Bush. As a wife, mother, grandmother, military spouse, and former First Lady, Mrs. Bush was an advocate of the American family. Amongst her greatest achievements was recognizing the importance of literacy as a fundamental family value that requires nurturing and protection. She will be long remembered for her strong devotion to country and family,

both of which she served unfailingly well. The President and First Lady's thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Mrs. Bush."

Bush also is being remembered as having a sharp tongue, especially if she felt a family member was under attack. One incident being recalled in the wake of her death came when her husband was running for re-election as vice president, against Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman running in a spot on a major party's ticket.

She called Ferraro a "4 million dollar... I can't say it but it rhymes with 'rich.'" Bush later called Ferraro and apologized personally.

Her funeral, which is invitation only, will be held Saturday in Houston.

She is survived by five children and their spouses, 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a daughter, and will be buried next to her on the grounds of the George Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas.

Kippah

From page 4A

among far-right neo-Nazis. That prompted Josef Schuster, President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, to publicly question whether it "really made sense" in "problem neighborhoods with large Muslim populations" to don a kippah. It "might be better to choose a different

head covering." Some German Jews have followed this advice, covering up their kippahs with hats or caps whenever they leave their homes.

In 2015, an American Jewish tourist wearing a Star of David necklace made the mistake of asking a group of shaven-headed German men for directions near the Cologne train station. The group of

skinheads attacked him, called him a "Jewish bastard", and robbed him before fleeing. Before that, in 2014, an elderly Jewish man sporting a Star of David was attacked by skinheads in a Berlin park; the victim required hospital attention after being beaten up over his Jewish star.

No country seems immune to anti-Jewish sentiment.

Anti-Semitic incidents reached new highs in many countries in 2017, including the United States, where 2017 saw a 57% rise in anti-Jewish incidents from the year before. In many cases, hostility to Jews coalesces around kippot and other overt Jewish religious symbols.

There are times when it can be downright dangerous to

wear a kippah or other Jewish markers like a Star of David. I vividly recall my son's shock after he and a group of friends were taunted and threatened by a group of boys while they visited a local amusement park; it seemed my son's and his friends' kippot attracted their harassers' attention. Even in the midst of his outrage and fear, my son

and his friends were proud to wear their kippot and to declare their Jewish identity to the world.

Yvette Alt Miller earned her B.A. at Harvard University. She completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Jewish Studies at Oxford University, and has a Ph.D. in International Relations from the London School of Economics.

Weapons

From page 5A

These are the kinds of questions and concerns that American Jewish and Zionist leaders normally would be raising. They would be meeting with White House

officials to oppose the sale, and they would be asking members of Congress to block the sale.

But something has changed. No major American Jewish or Zionist organization has criticized the proposal

to provide Qatar with \$300 million in U.S. rocket technology.

Could that have anything to do with the fact that a number of Jewish leaders recently enjoyed all-expenses-paid trips to Qatar? Did the thrill

of hobnobbing with Arabian princes dull the senses of those who should know better? Has the excitement of being treated as international statesmen compromised the judgement of those who are supposed to represent the

interests and concerns of American Jewry?

I guess the answer to those questions is to be found in the terrible Jewish silence surrounding the Qatar rocket-technology deal.

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.

Chase

From page 11A

over 2014, the report states. Its 2018 study is underway now, and expected to again reflect dramatically increased interest in environmentally and socially responsible investing.

But the Jewish community has yet to catch up, many say, particularly when it comes to connecting its principles to action.

"The Jewish community is just frozen in a laudable but outdated past" when it comes to addressing environmental issues, Waskow said. "I am both proud and ashamed that the Shalom Center is the only national Jewish organization that has defined the climate crisis as the top issue."

Yosef Abramowitz is CEO of the Israeli environmental company Energiya Global Capital, which builds solar energy fields in 10 African

countries, where sunlight is plentiful and reliable energy often scarce.

"The Jewish community has unfortunately shied away from divestment from fossil fuels, even though other religions have moved forward with having their money invested in a way aligned with their values," Abramowitz said in an interview from his home in Israel. "You will have rabbis upset about President Trump pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement, and yet allow their rabbinic pension funds to continue to invest in Exxon Mobil and other fossil fuel companies that are the worst offenders."

Perhaps the largest player in that sector is the Reform Pension Board, which manages \$1.3 billion in retirement funds for Reform movement rabbis, educators and synagogue executives. The Pension

Board just added a Jewish Values Investing fund to the other 13 options from which its members can choose to put their money. It launched for investors in January after a Jewish values-driven investing policy was approved by the denomination—American Judaism's largest—in 2014.

The fund selects 250 companies for inclusion in its portfolio of stocks based on a range of values, said Michael Kimmel, the Pension Board's executive director. Those values have been defined, he said, by resolutions issued over the past 100 years by the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.

Companies engaged in the production of tobacco, civilian firearms, landmines, coal and other consumable fuels, as well

as those involved in predatory lending, are automatically excluded, according to fund information. Then they are weighted based on criteria including environmental concerns, diversity, support for unions, human rights and stem cell research.

When it comes to the environmental screens, companies are graded on a range of factors, from the number of environmental fines they have incurred per dollar of revenue to whether they have disclosed a climate change policy. Kimmel said the fund gives extra weight to specific companies focused on generating energy from alternative sources, on energy efficiency, green building and preventing pollution. Companies with a relatively small carbon footprint based on the amount and intensity of their emissions also get extra points.

Yet on its fact sheet, the fund names Chase as one of the top 10 companies in which it has invested.

"We partner with an outside firm to build the fund," Kimmel said when asked about Chase's inclusion despite the criticism it gets from environmental groups. He was referring to Aperio, a company that creates what its website calls "hyper-customized portfolios designed to meet the specific goals and values of advisors and their clients."

The fact that this is, as JLens' Hammerman says, "a new field," may help explain why performance doesn't always measure up to stated goals.

Kimmel told JTA that Aperio's "research and methodology in many cases discerns companies' environmental practices. Their research doesn't go to

the level of lending practices of financial institutions. Over time and as we develop more experience with the fund, we may be able to drill down further to make additional decisions to invest or not invest in a particular company."

According to a Reform Jewish Values Fund fact sheet, for instance, JPMorgan Chase is one of its 10 largest holdings.

"The Jewish community is missing out on the amazing leverage we could have from the 95 percent of our communal funds that are in investments not aligned with our values, said Energiya's Abramowitz. If Jewish organizations' endowments and other investable funds were deployed to produce positive change in addition to profit, he said, "we could be even larger engines of change and reflectors of our values."

The music of Holocaust victims returns to the Dutch concentration camp where they suffered



Alan Ehrlich (r) speaking with Francesco Latoro in Amsterdam, March 25, 2018.

By Cnaan Liphshiz

WESTERBORK, Netherlands (JTA)—On a foggy Sunday, cheerful

cabaret music pierces the silence that hangs over this former concentration camp, one of the largest facilities of its kind in

Nazi-occupied Western Europe.

Blasting from the recorder of an Israeli visitor last month, the music draws disapproving looks and remarks from several locals touring the grounds in respectful silence. They find the sound of music inappropriate at a place whose name in the Netherlands is synonymous with wholesale murder.

But to the visitor and his five Jewish companions, Westerbork is perhaps the most appropriate place in the world to play these tunes. After all, the upbeat music was composed and performed here by inmates of the camp before the Nazis shipped them to their deaths at Auschwitz.

Those inmates include Max Ehrlich, a celebrated German comedian in the 1930s who settled in Holland and was sent to Westerbork after Germany invaded in 1940.

On March 25, his nephew Alan Ehrlich, an amateur historian of the Holocaust, led a tour of the camp for an international delegation that also included a musicologist and three journalists.

The visit is part of a unique project spearheaded by the Jewish National Fund in the United Kingdom that is breathing life into musical works that were written during the Holocaust and almost lost forever—and in the case of Max Ehrlich's

work, reconstructing compositions based on texts he smuggled out of the camp.

"Notes of Hope" features performances in Israel by the Ashdod Symphony Orchestra together with young musicians from Israel's south. Culminating around Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day this month, the project offers another way to teach about the Holocaust as the number of eyewitnesses dwindles, said Samuel Hayek, chairman of JNF-UK.

"Nothing symbolizes the Jewish people's revival better than Israeli musicians performing Holocaust victims' works ahead of Israel's 70th Independence Day," Hayek said.

But to Alan Ehrlich, the reconstruction of his uncle's works 75 years after their creation carries more than symbolic significance, he says during the visit to Westerbork, where he listens to those compositions playing from the recorder.

"Above all, it's a historic document that tells of the great determination to survive by prisoners who would do anything, whatever it took, to stay alive," he says.

In the case of Max Ehrlich, trying to survive meant producing with the Westerbork theater group of approximately 20 prisoners the most entertaining, witty and glitziest productions possible.

Ehrlich ultimately was deported to Auschwitz and murdered. But before that, his lives and that of his crew depended on their stagecraft. The camp's Nazi commander, Albert Konrad Gemmeker, was "stagestruck," as Alan Ehrlich describes it. Serving as a warden in a prison in a remote corner of the Netherlands, he was probably starving for the music and entertainment to which he was accustomed in Germany.

Like Max Ehrlich, other German Jewish artists fled Nazi Germany for Holland, including his fellow composer Willy Rosen. When Germany invaded, "Gemmeker suddenly found himself running a camp that had star inmates, a Hollywood cast at his disposal," says Alan Ehrlich, a New York native who lives with his wife and two children in Switzerland.

For months, Gemmeker kept the names of his theater group off the weekly transport lists of people who were to be murdered in Auschwitz, Sobibor and other extermination camps in the east.

"At the height of the Westerbork Theater Group, they had a full production crew, lighting technicians and all," Ehrlich says. "The lives of the people in that crew depended on their ability to put on a good show."

Gemmeker would invite his buddies from other SS units to show off his Jewish theater, according to research by Ehrlich and Katja Zaich, who wrote her doctoral thesis, titled "I Urgently Request a Happy Ending," about German Jewish theater productions by exiles in the Netherlands. The Nazi spectators would occupy the two front rows of a theater that was constructed especially for cultural events at Westerbork.

But Max Ehrlich, an eternal optimist who knew he wanted to be a performing artist from a very young age, nevertheless recognized that Gemmeker would grow tired of the distraction he and his crew provided.

"He sensed, he was aware of a big unrest among the people in Westerbork," Ehrlich says. "People were shipped every week on trains east never to be heard of again."

Aware that memories of the performances would be erased along with their creators and performers, Max Ehrlich approached a non-inmate who paid a rare visit by an outsider to the camp. He asked the visitor, a relative of a prisoner who Ehrlich knew, to smuggle out some lyrics, notes and scripts. Decades later, the works were found in a Dutch attic and were given to Alan Ehrlich, who donated them to a Dutch museum.

"I was deeply moved. I had works my uncle wrote in his last days before he was sent to his death," Ehrlich says.

His father, Max's brother, was a cinema owner who immigrated to the United States when Max Ehrlich went to Holland. Ehrlich says that his father's greatest regret in life was not being able to arrange a visa for Max.

"I wanted to at least bring

Max Ehrlich's last works to light as a tribute to my father, who died in 2008," Ehrlich says.

But the discovered documents contained no musical score or any other indication of a melody. Ehrlich, Zaich and Francesco Latoro, a Jewish musicologist from Italy who specializes in works written during the Holocaust, went about reconstructing the music. They recorded Westerbork survivors who either saw the performances or participated in their production. They struck gold with Louis de Wijze, a survivor who delivered an accurate rendition of several numbers and even funded a studio recording of the tunes.

One is titled "Tatata," a jaunty song in German composed by Max Ehrlich and Rosen. It describes an experience of a camp resident whose life is punctuated by the "sound of gramophone and saxophone." Another, "You Already Want Someone Else," is a jilted spouse's lament. Given the circumstances in which it was written, it may well have referred to the life that the inmates were forced to leave behind.

Max Ehrlich's songs are only a part of the repertoire of Holocaust-era works that the Ashdod Symphony Orchestra will perform on April 15, three days after this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah. Many of the works were reconstructed by Latoro and will be performed for the first time since the genocide.

To some observers today, the creation of art under the threat of annihilation is a triumph of humanism over barbarity. But to others, it's the chilling result of behavior that borders on collaboration.

Etty Hillesum, a lawyer who wrote a diary during her imprisonment in Westerbork before her murder at Auschwitz, referred to the theater group in the diary as "buffoons" fulfilling a macabre mission for the Germans. She wrote that the performances were designed to inject a false sense of normalcy into the lives of people they sought to subdue in order to facilitate their murder.

Ehrlich is not quick to dismiss this allegation.

"Was it collaboration on the part of the Jews or was it resistance? It was something that, in the very beginning, troubled me a lot, too," he says. "What is the morality of them having participated in these theater presentations?"

It's a question he has raised in interviews with dozens of survivors, especially with those who participated in the Westerbork theater group.

The most pungent answer came from Louis de Wijze, the man who reconstructed Max Ehrlich's tunes and survived Westerbork largely thanks to his superb skills at soccer.

To him, the morality debate is a moot point.

"You just do anything to survive," he told Alan Ehrlich. "Under those circumstances, surviving is your only mission in life. Everything else is a side note."

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