



Scene of disaster during flooding in Israel's south.

Gill Yaart/Flash90

## Death toll in Dead Sea flash floods rises to 10 as last missing teen found

(JNS)—The death toll from flash floods that hit a group of teenage hikers in southern Israel Thursday rose from nine to 10 after a body found overnight was identified as the last missing teen Friday morning.

The ten victims, nine girls and one boy of around 18 years old, were killed during a field trip Thursday during flash floods that pummeled Israel. A group of 25 students, ages 17 and 18, who were accepted to the Bnei Tzion pre-military academy in Tel Aviv for the coming year, were hiking in the Judean Desert along the Nahal Tzafit riverbed trail, that empties into the Dead Sea.

Fifteen other students missing for several hours, were rescued during a massive search and rescue operation that included Israeli Police, the Air Force's 669 rescue team and a regional search and rescue unit. Two were lightly wounded. Israel's Ministry of Education claims



The young people killed in a flash flood April 27, 2018.

that it was not made aware of the trip, as per protocol. Its director has been arrested for suspected negligent manslaughter.

Minister of Education Naftali Bennett said in a statement, "A heavy tragedy has

struck the state of Israel. Our hearts are with the families of the teenagers who found their deaths in flash floods in the south," while adding that "the Ministry of

Floods on page 14A

## Zionistas transition to new local ZOA

Nearly eight years ago, four women met and discussed what they could do to support Israel and how they could encourage others, whether Jewish or Christian, to join them. Thus, the organization "Zionistas" was born. The founders—Sandi Solomon, Eva Ritt, Judy Shujman, and Diana Scimone—had the foresight and dedication to

grow the organization to over 250 people.

Recently the Zionistas board reached out to the Zionist Organization of America, one of the oldest pro-Israel organizations in the country, to find out if they could transform the Zionistas group into an active ZOA chapter.

The group is pleased to announce that because of the community's involvement these past eight years, they are able to continue pro-Israel efforts, activism, and education here in Central Florida through ZOA.

Helping with transitioning Zionistas into a ZOA group and continuing pro-Israel activities, are Dr. Daniel Laysish of Orlando, Joe Davis of Orlando, and Sharona Whisler (swhisler@zoa.org), executive director of ZOA Florida (based in South Florida).

For more than 120 years, ZOA has been the preeminent, unapologetic advocate for a strong, independent, sovereign and safe Jewish homeland in Israel, with an undivided Jerusalem as its capital and with the right to protect its citizens.

The organization works to strengthen U.S.-Israel relations through various educational activities, as well as



The founders of the Zionistas (l-r), Judy Shujman, Sandi Solomon, Eva Ritt and Diane Scimone.

combating what it perceives as anti-Israel bias in the media, textbooks, travel guides, and on college campuses. They also sponsor educational and cultural programs in Israel.

ZOA lobbyists in Washington, DC, maintain strong ties to U.S. legislators and law makers, ensuring that Israel's interests are always considered and that the bond between The United States and Israel remains solid. For those who are interested in lobbying with ZOA this year, please register for ZOA's Lobbying Mission to Capitol Hill, using this link <https://zoa.org/mission-events/zoa-mission-to-washington/washington-mission-2018/>. They'd love to have a strong Central Florida representation!

ZOA's Center for Law and Justice is committed to securing the safety of all Jews, fearlessly tackling every form of anti-Semitism, on a college campus, in the media, or in your neighborhood. Learn more about ZOA's Center for Law and Justice here <https://zoa.org/center-for-law-and-justice/>

ZOA's Campus Division and ZOA's Fuel for Truth program for young professionals, is educating and empowering the next generation of Zionists, providing them with the knowledge and the skills necessary to ensure that our Zionist mission is eternal. Learn more about ZOA Campus here <http://campus.zoa.org/>

Zionistas on page 14A

## AIPAC to host Israel at 70 event

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee is hosting "Israel at 70," featuring Yossi Klein Halevi on Tuesday, May 15. The event will be held at The Roth Family JCC, 851 N. Maitland Ave. in Maitland. At 5:45 p.m. there will be a Club member pre-reception and book signing. The program will begin at 7 p.m. This event is open to the community. There will be dessert and coffee.

Yossi Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Together with Imam Abdullah Antepli of Duke University, he co-directs the Institute's Muslim Leadership Initiative. Yossi is the author of "Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem" and "Divided a Nation," published by HarperCollins in 2013, which won the Jewish Book Council's Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award. Halevi writes for the op-ed pages of lead-



Yossi Klein Halevi

ing American newspapers. Halevi's first book, "Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist," told the story of his teenage attraction to, and subsequent disillusionment with Jewish militancy. The New York Times called it "a book of burning importance." His next book is being released in May and titled "Letters to my Palestinian Neighbor."

For more information about the event, call 954-382-6110.

## Judea/Samaria not 'occupied'

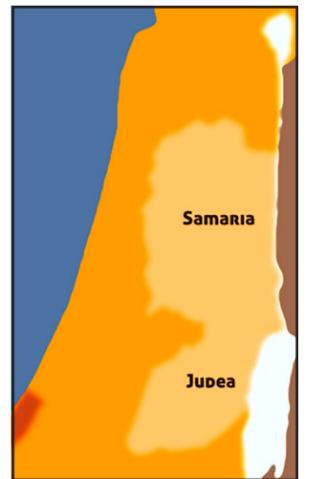
By World Israel News

In a US State Department annual report on human rights, the controversial term "occupied" was largely eliminated in references to various territories in and adjacent to Israel. While the term "occupied" had been used in such reports since the Carter administration, the 2017 version drops this term, which is generally used pejoratively to criticize Israeli policy following military victories through which the Jewish state acquired control of various territories.

Whereas previous publications of the report on human rights had a section on "Israel and the Occupied Territories," this year's document refers instead to "Israel, Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza."

In addition, the report contains a new note about the status of Jerusalem, in light of President Trump's decision on Dec. 6, 2017, to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. It states that "issues primarily related to Israeli residents of Jerusalem are covered in the 'Israel and the Golan Heights' section. It is the position of the United States that the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem are subject to final status negotiations between the parties."

The change comes after US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman advised the



Map of Judea and Samaria.

department in December to stop using the "misleading" term "occupied" in references to Judea and Samaria.

At the time, Friedman remarked in an interview, "I think the settlements [in Judea and Samaria] are part of Israel," which "was always the expectation when [UN] Resolution 242 was adopted." He added, "The 1967 borders were viewed by everybody as not secure. There was always supposed to be some expectation of [Israeli] expansion" into Judea and Samaria.

"It is about time that the State Department stopped

Judea on page 15A



# Keith Levitt honored at this year's Pavilion Golf Society Tournament



**Keith Levitt**

By Julie Capps

When golfers hit the greens on Sunday, May 6, for the sixth annual Pavilion Golf Society Tournament, not only will they be raising funds for the Orlando Senior Help Desk, they will be giving a Tiger Woods celebratory fist pump to this year's tournament honoree Keith Levitt.

Levitt's involvement in the community is well-known throughout Orange County. Born in Queens, NY, and raised in Maitland by parents

Ken and Jackie, Levitt has been a member of The Roth Family JCC since its beginning. For over 15 years Levitt, along with fellow community volunteer Eli Bercovici, helped organize and run the JCC's annual 5K fundraiser. Levitt is an active runner himself, having completed a lifetime goal of running a marathon in all 52 states, and has now completed 83 marathons total.

"Keith is a tremendous guy," said Bercovici. "He believes in community. He's very Jewish-oriented and he's willing to help for all different causes."

Along with his father and two brothers, Scott and Brett, Levitt operates Oakley Signs & Graphics, a national supplier of real estate signs and innovative display marketing products geared toward real estate agents. Ever since the first Pavilion Golf Society tournament, Levitt and his company have been providing signage to the event for free. Considering the geographical spread of an 18-hole event, the donation of supplies and time is quite generous.

"Keith is very attached to

the mission of The Jewish Pavilion," said Nancy Ludin, CEO of The Jewish Pavilion. "His dedication to supporting our programs through both his volunteer time and creation of event materials has been invaluable."

For Levitt, volunteering with The Jewish Pavilion has always been an integral component of his family's volunteer efforts in the community. Two of his grandparents participated in Shabbat and Jewish holiday parties. His mother, Jackie, was involved with The Pavilion for many years before she and Ken relocated to Tucson, Arizona, two years ago. And his children, Brandon and Brooke, have also volunteered at Pavilion events with Levitt and with their mother, Julie Grossman Levitt, who is a program director with The Pavilion.

Speaking on the overall mission of The Jewish Pavilion and his motivation for continued support, Levitt said, "The Jewish Pavilion has been a great source of information for seniors to lean on and to participate with and give them encouragement, excitement, and motivation."

"It's always great to give back, to be philanthropic, to help others," adds Levitt. Regarding his multiple years of participation in the Pavilion Golf Tournaments, he said, "Being able to help raise money with friends and friends of friends from all over for this charity creates unity, which is just so great."

When asked why someone should come out and play at the tournament, Levitt provided several reasons. "One, it's a fantastic golf course, Rosen Shingle Creek

being one of the better golf courses in Central Florida," said Levitt. "Two, the course is conveniently located to the highway. And three, the group you hang out with will be a great group, the luncheon food is fantastic and there are lots of great gifts and prizes for playing."

The Pavilion Golf Society Tournament takes place Sunday, May 6, at the Rosen Shingle Creek golf course and benefits the Orlando Senior Help Desk. Early tournament registration can be

done online at <http://www.JewishPavilion.org>. Day-of-event registration takes place from 7:15-8:15 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. A catered luncheon will follow the tournament. Tickets to the luncheon only are available for \$40. Call the office at The Jewish Pavilion to learn more: 407-678-9363.

The Orlando Senior Help Desk is operated by The Jewish Pavilion and provides both resources and guidance to Central Florida seniors and their families at no cost.

## Holocaust Center new executive committee/board members



**Ellen Wise Lang**



**Michele Brennan**



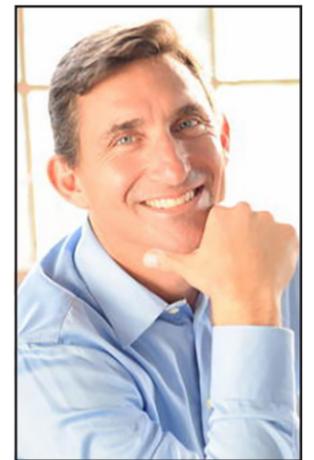
**Michelle Feinberg**



**Ronald Schirtzer**



**Monte Starr**



**Mark Freid**



**Jeffrey Miller**



**Malika Harrison**

The Holocaust Center is pleased to announce the appointment of its 2018 Executive Committee, and its newest board members. This year's board was installed at the Center's annual meeting in January.

Ellen Wise Lang is now serving as the Center's board president. Lang has been involved with the Center since 1990 and has been an active board member since 1994. Lang is also the daughter of the Center's founder, Tess Wise. When asked why she feels it's important to sustain the Holocaust Center's work Lang replied, "For two reasons: there were good people who helped my mother escape the Nazi's, and these people have been my role models, so I try to take a similar approach—to be responsible for what goes on in the community and in the world around me. I do my best to pay it forward. We also now understand what compels someone to actively protect someone else as so many rescuers did during the Holocaust. We can now define and examine the personal characteristics that motivate

and empower an individual to stand up for other people. I want the Center to be able to teach those traits to everyone, especially our children."

The Executive Committee includes:

Ellen Wise Lang, Wise Brothers—board president

Michele Brennan, City of Orlando—vice president

Michelle Feinberg, community leader—vice president

Ronald Schirtzer, attorney, Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial—vice president

Monte Starr, partner, Holland & Knight LLP—vice president

Mark Freid, owner, Think Creative, Inc—immediate past president

Jeffrey Miller, attorney, Seifert Miller—past president  
Malika Harrison, director of Social Responsibility for the Orlando Magic and Melanie Becker, director of Government Relations for Universal Orlando are the newest members of the Holocaust Center's board.

## See what's happening at the JCC's annual meeting

The 45th annual JCC meeting will be held Tuesday, May 22, from 6:15-8 p.m. in The Roth Family JCC auditorium. Join in the fun as the community looks back over the year and see what's to come in the next year.

During the meeting

there will be the presentation of awards, including the J's Leadership, Volunteer of the Year, and Amy Schwartz Kimlat Innovation and Creativity Award. On the business side, there will be the installation and discharge of Board of

Directors and amending of By-Laws.

A complimentary dinner will be provided as well as complimentary babysitting (ages 2-12)—with advance RSVP by going to <https://orlandojcc.org/calendar/jcc-annual-meeting>.

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# Pompeo confirmed as U.S. secretary of state, reportedly planning to visit Israel



Mike Pompeo

(JNS)—The U.S. Senate easily confirmed Mike Pompeo as secretary of state on Thursday, elevating the former CIA director as the nation's top diplomat amid a slew of foreign-policy challenges.

In a 57-42 vote, which included several moderate Democrats, Senate lawmakers moved quickly to confirm Pompeo, aware that the new secretary of state faces a number of serious international issues, including whether or not to remain in the Iran nuclear deal, tensions with Russia, the breaking of ice with North Korea and the ongoing Syrian civil war.

While his confirmation went smoothly, uncertainty surrounded his confirmation

process within the Senate Foreign Relations Committee over objections by Democrats. However, a last-minute switch to a "yes" vote by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) staved off an embarrassing rejection by the committee.

Several American Jewish groups, including the Anti-Defamation League, openly opposed Pompeo's nomination over his views regarding Muslims. The ADL claimed that Pompeo had "demonstrated a consistent pattern of casting doubt in the minds of constituents about the trustworthiness of their Muslim neighbors."

Following his confirmation, the ADL wished Pompeo success in his new job.

"Now that he is Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo will have an opportunity to play a leading role in shaping American foreign policy—to help build respect for the United States around the world and help to ensure its security," said ADL CEO Jonathan A. Greenblatt.

Nevertheless, the group urged Pompeo to uphold his pledges made during the confirmation process, including "to manage affairs of state fairly and equally, defending the human rights and dignity of every U.S. citizen and State Department employee, and his assurances about the importance of U.S.-Israel relations, denying nuclear weapons to Iran and promoting Middle East Peace."

The American Jewish Committee also congratulated Pompeo on his confirmation.

"As longtime admirers and supporters of the State Department's defense of American interests and values across the globe, and as proud civil society partners in that vital mission, AJC congratulates you on your swearing-in as Secretary of State," said AJC CEO David Harris.

Both the ADL and AJC urged Pompeo to assign a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism as soon as possible.

"Given rising anti-Semitism globally, we urge Secretary Pompeo to appoint a qualified person to serve as the congressionally mandated position of anti-Semitism envoy as one of his first orders of business," said Greenblatt.

Almost immediately after his confirmation, Pompeo was set to fly to Brussels to attend a NATO foreign-ministers trip. The new top diplomat will also visit several other countries next week, including Israel, a senior

Israeli official told Israel's Channel 10 news station on Thursday.

It was also rumored in recent days that Pompeo could also lead a delegation to Israel next month to open the new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem.

## Romania will move its embassy to Jerusalem

By AP and United with Israel staff

Liviu Dragnea, the chairman of the Social Democratic Party who effectively runs the Romanian government, said in a television interview late Thursday that the government had decided to move the nation's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

His statement coincided with Israel's 70th Independence Day celebrations.

On Friday, President Klaus Iohannis, who is in charge of Romania's foreign policy, said he hadn't been informed and that the decision lacked "a solid... base." However, he said such a decision could be made "after a deep analysis which takes into consideration all the foreign policy consequences and implications."

The statement seemed to be an attempt to downplay Dragnea's assertion that the

country was ready to soon join the US and move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

Romania's foreign ministry said authorities were analyzing the situation and would consult and coordinate with "strategic allies."

In December, Dragnea said Romania "should seriously consider moving its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. We should think about it very seriously."

"All Israeli central institutions are in Jerusalem, and the ambassadors and embassy's staff are commuting from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," he said.

He made his remarks shortly after President Donald Trump's historic recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and his announcement that the US embassy in Israel would move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

A few countries have shown support for Trump's move,

including the Czech Republic which recognized western Jerusalem as the capital of Israel following Trump's policy changes on the city.

The Czech government's move on western Jerusalem follows the Czech Parliament's approval of legislation in May that recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

In April 2017, the Russian Foreign Ministry made a similar move to recognize "west Jerusalem" as the Israeli capital.

Earlier this month, lawmakers in Honduras voted to relocate the country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Honduran lawmakers approved the measure 59-33, which now must be confirmed by the executive branch.

In March, Guatemalan President Morales announced that his country's embassy will move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May.

## House passes bill to help Holocaust survivors

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill to help Holocaust survivors and the families of victims obtain restitution or the return of Holocaust-era assets.

The measure approved Tuesday requires the State Department to report on the progress of certain European countries toward the return of or restitution for wrongfully confiscated or transferred

Holocaust-era assets, including property, art and other movable property. It also requires a report specifically on progress on the resolution of claims for U.S. citizen Holocaust survivors and family members.

The Senate unanimously approved its version of the bill in December. Sens. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., and Marco Rubio, R-Fla., are its lead sponsors.

The World Jewish Restitution Organization praised the bill's passage.

"This is a powerful statement of America's unwavering commitment to supporting Holocaust survivors in their quest for justice," Gideon Taylor, the WJRO chairman of operations, said in a statement.

The bill now goes to President Donald Trump for his signature.

## May 14 opening of US Embassy in Jerusalem

By Yori Yalon and Israel Hayom Staff

(JNS)—As part of the May 14 ceremony to mark the official opening of the US Embassy, a mezuzah will be affixed to the embassy building.

According to a Channel 20 report, organizers decided on the unusual move of holding a religious ceremony to install the mezuzah as a gesture to Israel and following the recommendation of US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman.

At a special event to mark the 70th anniversary of Israel's founding at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem on Monday, Friedman said he sees Jerusalem as a religious place.

"I hope that young Jews, in particular children, will connect to their Jewish and Israeli roots," he said.

Meanwhile, preparations ahead of the May 14 transfer of

the US Embassy to Jerusalem are continuing apace. Work is being carried out on the site on David Flusser Street in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood that currently provides U.S. consular services. When the embassy first officially moves, the U.S. Embassy will be situated in what is now the US Consulate building. According to reports, the US later intends to build a larger facility to serve as the embassy on an adjacent property.

Prior to the initial opening, the US is paving an additional access road to the consulate building for Friedman and his staff, along with another escape route to be used in case of emergency. In addition, a new lighting system is being installed around the consulate to better illuminate the complex and make it easier to secure the site.

A large security team has been stationed on the roads leading to the consulate

building to carefully surveil individuals and vehicles approaching the compound.

While most local residents say they are happy about the US Embassy's transfer to Jerusalem, some fear that the move will negatively impact their quiet residential neighborhood. Some residents have complained about the plan to erect a tall wall around the entire compound, which presently is surrounded by a tall see-through fence only on three sides. Yet while some residents have already filed their objections to the plan, those objections are expected to be denied, as moving the embassy to Jerusalem is considered an issue of national importance.

The Jerusalem Municipality, along with Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, has been assisting the US to make sure the move of the embassy to Jerusalem goes as smoothly as possible.

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# Does Natalie Portman's snub of Netanyahu make her the face of liberal Zionism?

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Natalie Portman's statement explaining why she declined to attend an award ceremony in Israel in her honor was a pointed rebuke, and of a particular individual.

"I did not want to appear as endorsing Benjamin Netanyahu," she said of the Israeli prime minister.

But it also was an intimate and tactile embrace of her native land, covering its flavors, its images, its vision, even its movement.

"I treasure my Israeli friends and family, Israeli food, books, art, cinema, and dance," the Jerusalem-born director and actor said late Friday in an Instagram post explaining why she would not take part in the festivities surrounding the 2018 Genesis Prize.

The argument that one may love Israel and despise its leaders is as old as the state and has

traversed the political spectrum: In Israel's first years, the famed screenwriter and Zionist Ben Hecht accused the Labor Party leadership there of betraying the country's rightists.

Yet something about Portman's decision not to travel to accept the Genesis Prize, given to celebrities who exemplify "the core traits of the Jewish character and values of the Jewish people," has resonated like no similar statement in decades.

JTA's initial story about her non-appearance is among the most-read in the news service's online history, and the intensity of the response from Israelis was white hot, with government ministers accusing Portman of borderline anti-Semitism.

"Like many Israelis and Jews around the world, I can be critical of the leadership in Israel without wanting to boycott the entire nation," Portman said.

J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East

policy group, had sustained support for a decade on essentially that principle, and it is one also embraced by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., a 2016 Democratic presidential candidate. In fact, Sanders anticipated Portman's case just days before at the J Street annual conference.

"As someone who believes absolutely and unequivocally in Israel's right to exist and to exist in peace and security," the Jewish lawmaker said, "we must say loudly and clearly that to oppose the reactionary policies of Prime Minister Netanyahu does not make us anti-Israel!"

The J Street crowd ate it up, but the comment went largely unremarked upon outside of the conference. Why did Portman's comment draw such heat?

"This is the most prominent figure in American entertainment who has delivered this message," Jeremy Ben Ami, J Street's president, said.

Not only has Portman won an Academy Award (in 2011 for "Black Swan"), but her Jewish bona fides are unassailable: She was born in Israel. She made the Hebrew-language movie "A Tale of Love and Darkness." And as a Harvard student, she served as a research

assistant to attorney Alan Dershowitz for his 2003 book "The Case for Israel."

Mik Moore, a strategic consultant to liberal groups, including a number of Jewish groups, said Portman's fame was critical to advancing the topic because it attached a name and face to liberal Zionists. As a group, Moore said, liberal Zionists have felt squeezed by the pro-Israel right on one side, and on the other by the non- and anti-Zionist left, including advocates of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement targeting Israel, or BDS.

"Portman occupies a gray area where many American Jews live: hating Bibi while maintaining love or at least affection for Israel and Zionism," Moore said, using Netanyahu's nickname.

Jill Jacobs, the director of T'ruah, a rabbinical human rights groups, said Portman provided relief from the squeeze that liberal Zionists feel from both sides.

"It's the people on the right and far left who are collaborating to erase this space and to insist on a false dichotomy between pro-Israel and anti-occupation/pro-democracy," she said on Facebook.

Portman on page 15A

## Well-meaning American Jews helping import anti-Semitism

By Lyn Julius

(Sephardi Perspective via JNS)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel has finally woken up and smelled the coffee.

Speaking after a 19-year-old Syrian refugee lunged with a belt at an Israeli wearing a kippah, Merkel denounced a "different type of anti-Semitism" that has taken root in her country.

"We have refugees now, for example, or people of Arab origin, who bring a different type of anti-Semitism into the country," Merkel said in an interview with Israel's Channel 10.

Jews have been among the first to "virtue signal" their compassion for refugees from the Syrian civil war.

When the refugee crisis broke, Jewish organizations coordinated their responses. They launched appeals for emergency aid. U.S. rabbis signed a petition asking Congress to welcome the refugees in. Meetings were packed with people who wanted to know what they could do to help. In conjunction with Islamic Relief US, the Jewish relief agency HIAS is providing legal services to Syrian refugees in Greece.

The HIAS slogan is "welcome the stranger." After all, Jews, of all people, should empathize with Syrian refugees. As former US President Barack Obama told them: "In the Syrian seeking refuge today, we should see the Jewish refugee of the Second World War."

When news of the refugee crisis first broke, during a meeting in the Syrian-Jewish heartland at a synagogue in Brooklyn, N.Y., New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio urged the congregation to show compassion for the Syrian refugees.

But the congregants shifted uneasily in their seats. They only applauded the mayor when he vowed to protect the city's Jews against terrorist attacks.

"I was sitting next to a woman who is a Syrian [Jewish] refugee, and she really reacted and it was uncomfortable," one congregant told the New York Post.

Another congregant whose family fled Syria commented: "The difference between me coming here in 1991 with my family is that we were kicked out for being Jewish."

"The Jews never had a history of being destructive," said another.

The Syrian-Jewish congregants of that

Brooklyn synagogue could have warned Angela Merkel before she opened Germany's floodgates to a million Syrian refugees that she was in danger of unleashing the demons of anti-Semitism.

The Syrian Jews' ordeal and escape were still fresh in their memories: They were rescued as recently as the 1990s from the clutches of the Syrians. The regime spied on them, treated them as hostages, abducted their leaders and murdered those trying to escape, while the people at large nurtured a fearsome level of anti-Jewish hatred. The same anti-Semitism the refugees are now importing into Europe.

Chastened Western governments have revised their "open door" policies toward refugees. Scandinavian governments have sent back the sizeable numbers who are not bona fide refugees and asylum-seekers.

There are hardly any Jews left in Syria. Today, the locus of Muslim hatred is on the Syrian Christian refugees, who have been avoiding official camps for fear of harassment. Their priests have had their throats cut. More Christian than Muslim refugees were admitted to the United States in the first months of the Trump administration, reversing a trend that had seen Muslims outnumber Christians in the final fiscal year under President Obama.

But among Jews in the West (and not for the first time), the Syrian-Jewish refugee narrative has been eclipsed by the Ashkenazi refugee experience.

For a variety of reasons, the analogy between Middle East refugees and Jews escaping the Nazis does not fit.

As the Syrian-Jewish refugees know only too well, there is a difference between people who are driven from their homes by war and people who have been singled out because of who they are.

But liberal opinion and Jewish-relief organizations are still adopting too broad-brush an approach toward the refugee crisis. They need to wake up to the acrid smell of anti-Semitism they are helping to propagate.

Lyn Julius is the founder of Harif, the UK Association of Jews from the Middle East and North Africa, and the author of "Uprooted: How 3,000 Years of Jewish Civilisation in the Arab World Vanished Overnight" (Valentine Mitchell).

## Blacklist of BDS supporters hurting efforts to defend Israel

(JTA)—We are Jewish and pro-Israel students who are active within our Jewish communities on college campuses across North America. Many of us have helped organize against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions-affiliated movements throughout our time on campus.

Over the course of our time fighting BDS campaigns, Canary Mission was brought to our attention repeatedly. Canary Mission is an anonymous site that blacklists individuals and professors across the country for their support of the BDS movement, presumed anti-Semitic remarks and hateful rhetoric against Israel and the United States.

As a group of conscientious students on the front lines fighting BDS on our campuses, we are compelled to speak out against this website because it uses intimidation tactics, is antithetical to our democratic and Jewish values, is counterproductive to our efforts and is morally reprehensible.

This blacklist aggregates public information about students across the country under the guise of combating anti-Semitism. It highlights their LinkedIn profiles, Facebook pictures, old tweets, quotes in newspapers and YouTube videos. The site chronicles each student's involvement with pro-Palestinian causes and names other students and organizations with whom the given student may be affiliated.

We view much of the rhetoric employed to villainize these individuals as hateful and, in some cases, Islamophobic and racist. In addition, Canary Mission's wide scope wrongfully equates supporting a BDS resolution with some of the most virulent expressions of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel rhetoric and activity.

Throughout our time on campus, many among us have been active in the fight against BDS. Some of us have campaigned against BDS, others have vigorously spoken out against BDS, and some have even cast votes on our central student governments against BDS. We have opposed, and continue to oppose, BDS because we believe that BDS delegitimizes the State of Israel, aims to isolate it as a pariah, paints the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a zero-sum and oversimplified issue, continually reinforces double standards and polarizes our campuses in the process.

Given our experiences on our campuses, we believe that the best way to combat such ideas is through open discourse and critical analysis of the issues surrounding the conflict.

That said, we condemn all forms of hate in the strongest possible terms, which includes any and all anti-Semitic rhetoric used by some pro-Palestinian activists.

However, we believe that promoting a negative perception of Muslims, particularly Muslim students on our campuses, as Canary Mission does, is similarly hateful. As students on the front lines, we hope that Jewish and pro-Israel communal organizations will trust

us and work more collaboratively with us to handle this fight in a credible, respectful and moral manner among our student communities. We believe that Canary Mission is antithetical and destructive to our shared cause of supporting Israel and eliminating anti-Semitism on campus. Instead, we expect credible Jewish and pro-Israel communal organizations to help us combat anti-Semitism on college campuses, and around the world, in a diplomatic manner that seeks to protect our community rather than shaming the other side anonymously, as Canary Mission does.

We wish to highlight how counterproductive this blacklist is to our efforts refuting BDS on campus. In some cases, such as at the University of Michigan, fear of being blacklisted led pro-BDS students to successfully argue in support of a secret ballot, which made student government members less accountable to their fellow students. It also granted them anonymity to vote in favor of seemingly advancing Palestinian human rights while disregarding the nuance of the conflict.

At George Washington University, not only did the student government plan to hold a secret ballot, but the extremist tactics used by Canary Mission discouraged pro-Israel students from wanting to fight BDS due to fear of association with the shadowy blacklist. Canary Mission obstructed pro-Israel George Washington students from pursuing inclusive and respectful dialogue to combat BDS.

The passing of BDS-affiliated legislation in many of this year's student government votes across the country showed us how the apparent intent of Canary Mission, to combat BDS, actually has the opposite impact. It only makes it easier for BDS-affiliated legislation to pass.

It seems that somewhere along the way, a disconnect has formed between the goals of our Jewish peers and institutions (to combat anti-Semitism and create a positive campus climate) and the true impact of their efforts. Unfortunately, the disconnect has created a situation in which we feel the Jewish values we hold deep, such as "loving our neighbors as ourselves" and "all of Israel being responsible for one another," are being misrepresented and perverted.

It is time to bridge that gap. As students devoted to this issue, we will work to promote strong education and programming around Israel that does not demonize one side over the other. We will work to figure out how we can share our passion for Israel with others at our universities while fostering a positive, inclusive and educated student body. Finally, we will work to call out anti-Semitism for what it is, in all of its modern nuanced forms, and hold our fellow students and professors accountable for their remarks and actions.

BDS on page 15A

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

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# The duplicitous diplomat: Seven deceptions Iranian FM Zarif told 'Face the Nation'

By David Gerstman

There's a famous quote attributed to Henry Wotton that "An ambassador is an honest gentleman sent to lie abroad for the good of his country."

If one takes this aphorism to heart, it is not limited to ambassadors, but to anyone in a nation's foreign policy establishment.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is not an honest gentleman, has taken the art of lying for his country to a new level. He brazenly lies about easily verifiable facts. He claims that his nation that is currently exporting its revolution across the Middle East is the unfair victim of the United States. And he claims that Iran has never sought a nuclear weapon.

Zarif's serial dishonesty was on display this weekend when he appeared on the CBS news show, "Face the Nation," and answered the questions asked by the show's moderator, Margaret Brennan.

We do not mean that Zarif engaged in only seven deceptions, but these appeared to be the most egregious.

1. "Well, first of all it will lead to U.S. isolation in the international community."

This was Zarif's answer to what the "unpleasant" consequences would be to the United States for withdrawing from the nuclear deal. However, as sanctions expert Richard Goldberg explained in February, the nature of sanctions law would now mean that if the U.S. were to re-impose its toughest sanctions and secondary sanctions, "banks around the world would immediately be at risk of losing their correspondent accounts in the United States."

So if sanctions of any kind—nuclear or ballistic missile-related—are imposed,

the United States has the economic power to isolate Iran.

2. "What is important is for the Europeans to bring the United States into compliance because Iran has been in compliance with the deal."

The fact is that Iran has not been in compliance with the deal. And it is by standards that Zarif himself set out in 2015, that Iran can be seen as violating the deal. Iran has refused to allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to enter military sites, so we don't really have a complete picture of Iranian compliance or non-compliance with the deal.

In Congressional testimony last year, former weapons inspector and head of the Institute for Science and International Security, David Albright, said that the IAEA had never judged Iran to be fully compliant with the deal. He criticized the agency for a lack of transparency in reporting on Iranian violations. Albright described the violations as "flirting with violations in several areas." These areas include its development of advanced centrifuges, twice exceeding its limits on heavy water, suspicious nuclear procurement efforts, and seeking to exceed the allowable cap on low enriched uranium.

In addition, Iran has continued to develop ballistic missiles—United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, which implemented the nuclear deal, explicitly called on Iran to stop it. The United States, as well as its European allies, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, all consider the launch of a satellite last year to be a violation of 2231.

As Albright noted, Iran has also violated the provisions of 2231 governing "conventional weapons sales and transfers and against making procurements for its military and missile programs without UN

Security Council authorization." In January of this year, a UN experts panel found that Iran had violated a UN arms embargo on the Houthi rebels in Yemen. Though the panel was focused on a different resolution governing the conflict in Yemen, the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 are quite clear.

Iran doesn't consider its violations of UN Security Resolutions to be significant. In August 2015, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, one of Iran's nuclear negotiators and currently a deputy foreign minister, said, "JCPOA is attached to the resolution; its violation breaches the resolution; while violation of the resolution is not a breach of JCPOA." (Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has made similar comments. It appears that Araghchi's comment isn't the careless comment of a rogue bureaucrat, but actual government policy.)

Aside from the dubious logic, a party that intends to keep its side of an agreement would not make a statement like this. Essentially, Iran has declared that it will only observe the parts of the agreement that it agrees to.

In order to believe, as Zarif asserted, that Iran is in compliance with the nuclear deal, requires a massive suspension of disbelief.

3. "Well, note President Trump has made it very clear that it is trying to dissuade our economic partners from engaging with Iran and that's a clear violation of the deal."

The United States was obligated to lift nuclear-related sanctions on Iran due to the deal, but is free to impose other sanctions targeting Iran's support for terror, destabilizing actions, and human right abuses. President Donald Trump has, until now, renewed the waivers that allows the United States sanctions to remain lifted. Still,

the Trump administration has targeted the Iranian regime "for its appalling mistreatment of its citizens, including those imprisoned solely for exercising their right to freedom of people assembly and for censoring its own people as they stand up in protest against their government." In addition, the United States under Trump has targeted Iran with sanctions for its "ballistic missile program and destabilizing activities."

In another egregious lie, Zarif, in a talk at the Council on Foreign Relations on Monday said that "since President Trump came to office, not a single license has been issued, not a single OFAC license, in 16 months." In fact, the United States Treasury Department last month issued two OFAC licenses to enable regular Iranians to access the Internet.

4. "We never wanted to produce a bomb."

Later on Zarif reiterated this, saying, "Iran commits itself never to develop a nuclear weapon."

In fact, a 2007 National Intelligence Estimate assessed that Iran had sought to develop a nuclear weapon until 2003. The IAEA, in 2015, prior to implementation of the nuclear deal in January 2016, determined that Iran was attempting to design a nuclear weapon at least until 2009. Iran also failed to answer all of the questions asked of it about its nuclear program by the IAEA prompting The New York Times to observe, "Iran's refusal to cooperate on central points could set a dangerous precedent as the United Nations agency tries to convince other countries with nuclear technology that they must fully answer queries to determine if they have a secret weapons program."

Iran has tried to develop nuclear weapons in the past and no matter what's written on a piece of paper (that Iran never signed), Iran can be expected to do so in the future.

5. "Our judiciary is an independent organ."

This answer was given with respect to the five Americans currently being held in Iranian prisons. Zarif's claim is bogus. Three American hikers who had been arrested in 2009 were freed after the Oman paid \$1.5 million in bail to Iran.

Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian was convicted of espionage in October 2015 but was released along with four other Americans in January 2016, after the United States released \$1.7 billion in frozen Iranian assets as part of the nuclear deal.

This money did not go to the judiciary, it went to the regime. The judiciary targets the hostages and puts them through an opaque process, which leaves no room for appeal, only payment for one's freedom. Or to put it in cruder terms: ransom.

6. "Who used the chemical weapons?"

Zarif got self-righteous when he was asked why Iran hadn't asked Bashar al-Assad to stop using chemical weapons. He launched into a sermon about how Iran opposes all use of chemical weapons because it was the victim of chemical weapons at the hands of Saddam Hussein.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, Iran not only has a chemical weapons program, but actually used the proscribed weapons in 1987 against Iraqi troops. German intelligence reported that Iran sought chemical weapon technology in 2015. A year ago, Benjamin Weinthal, a research fellow at the

Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, reported that Iran had helped build Syria's chemical weapons program. Earlier this year, he reported that German parts that had been sold to Iran were used in Syrian chemical weapons attacks.

In addition only Syria, which has a known stockpile of sarin, is likely to have used that toxic gas for attacks. Furthermore, only the Syrian regime, not the rebels, has the helicopters, which are capable of dropping barrel bombs filled with chlorine.

It's clear who has been behind the chemical attacks and there are strong indications that, despite Zarif's indignation, Iran helped Assad build his chemical weapons capacity.

7. "Israel has continued its violations with international law."

This statement was made in response to a question about whether Iran's establishment of bases in Syria was a provocation. Zarif deflected the question by speaking of Israeli incursions into Syria. In addition to preventing Iran, whose leaders threaten Israel's existence, from establishing bases in neighboring Syria, Israel also has struck in Syria to prevent Iran from giving Hezbollah "game-changing" weapons. (It is thought that one of the strikes was to keep illicit chemical weapons from the Lebanese terror group.)

But Zarif's self-righteousness here is misplaced. Iran is forbidden from sending arms to Hezbollah by UN Security Council Resolution 1701. In the absence of any enforcement mechanism, Israel is forced to defend itself from Iran's serial violations of

Zarif on page 15A

## Mission not accomplished

By Ron Prozor

(Israel Hayom)—The five days it took the U.S. administration to respond to a chemical attack in Syria were vital in order to on one hand consolidate a diplomatic coalition with two other U.N. Security Council member states and on the other hand define the military targets that would send a clear message the use of chemical weapons crosses a red line, while not serving to undermine the foundations of Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime, and as a result, change the rules of the game with Russia.

From a military perspective, the Americans did not need the British and the French to carry out the attack. But the cooperation between the three countries lent the airstrikes political legitimacy, including at the U.N. Security Council.

The attack also sent another important message—and that is that in the year 2018 and in a world of competing narratives, facts still matter. Assad used chemical weapons against his own people

last week, and it was not for the first time. Period. End of story.

The odd claims by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that the chemical attack on Douma was "fabricated" by a foreign intelligence agency, along with Russia's sweeping denials that it was behind the poisoning of Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England, are indicative of a deeper phenomenon the world's democracies will need to address in future conflicts. U.S. President Donald Trump's actions are an echo of the words attributed to the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, according to which: "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."

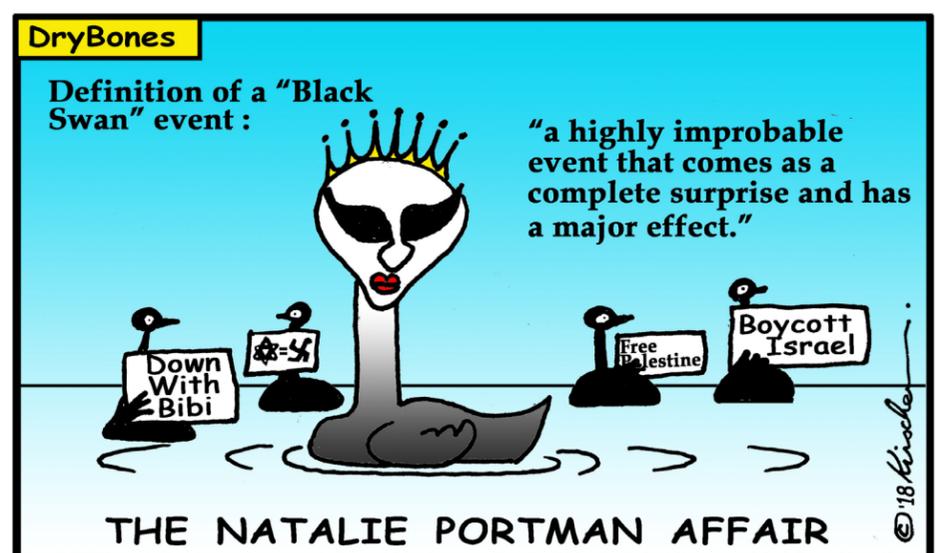
While the U.S. airstrikes may well be behind us, the Syrian front continues to heat up. Israel must continue to carefully navigate this front, working to prevent Iran from establishing itself militarily on the northern border. It must also avoid pushing the

limits so much that the Russians position advanced S-300 or S-400 missile batteries in Syria, leaving Israel with little room to maneuver either there or in Lebanon.

My greatest fear is that the U.S. airstrikes will be the final act in America's involvement in Syria. U.S. military action must not conclude with a limited tactical victory; that would only result in a long-term strategic loss for the United States.

The United States must maintain and increase its presence in Syria in order to stand up to Russia and stand with its allies, including Israel, Saudi Arabia and the other Persian Gulf nations that realize that America's presence in Syria can prevent a Russian and Iranian takeover of the country. This is not just in Israel's interest, but in the interest of the Middle East and the entire world.

Ron Prozor is head of the Abba Eban Chair of International Diplomacy at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya and Israel's former ambassador to the United Nations.



# What's Happening

## A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT  
**MAY 4**  
 7:44 p.m.  
**MAY 11**  
 7:49 p.m.

### 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.

# HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

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### FRIDAY, MAY 4

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

### SATURDAY, MAY 5

Cornerstone Hospice—Volunteer training, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 5655 S. Orange Ave., Orlando. Lunch and refreshments provided. Info: 888-728-6234.  
 Temple Israel—Jointly with the Jewish Community Relations Council, a special Shabbat and presentation of Fuente Latina with guest speaker Gloria Garces will be held at 12:30 p.m. The presentation and Shabbat are open to the public. Info: Ben Friedman, at bfriedman@jfgo.org or 407-645-5933, ext. 233.

### SUNDAY, MAY 6

Jewish Pavilion—Sixth annual Pavilion Golf Tournament at Rosen Shingle Creek Golf Course. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. Shotgun at 8:30 a.m. Info: 407-678-9363.  
 JOIN Orlando—Kids in the Kitchen, 1 p.m. Info: ANabatian@joinorlando.org  
 COS Sisterhood—End of Year event, 10 a.m. at Congregation Ohev Shalom, featuring Mentalist Mark Stone.

### MONDAY, MAY 7

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 8

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

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

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 11

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown  
 The Holocaust Center—Dinner of Tribute, 5:30 p.m., at the Rosen Plaza on International Drive. Visit holocaustedu.org.  
 The Roth Family JCC—J-Lunch, "Navigating Tax R 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Reform for Private Sector Businesses." Cost: \$25 per person; \$20 JCC members by May 7; After then, \$30 per person; \$25 JCC members. For info: 407-621-4036.

## Quote of the Week

"In Israel, a land lacking in natural resources, we learned to appreciate our greatest national advantage: our minds. Through creativity and innovation, we transformed barren deserts into flourishing fields and pioneered new frontiers in science and technology."  
 — Shimon Peres

### Easy puzzle

"Yaakov's Descendants?" by Yoni Glatt  
 koshercrosswords@gmail.com

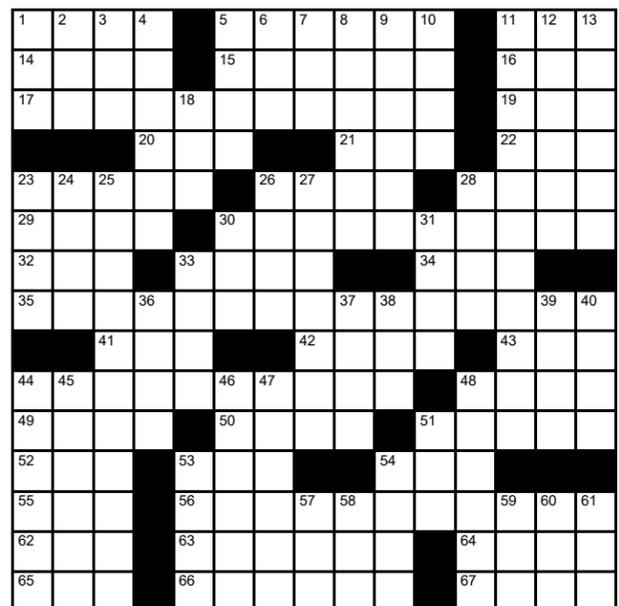
#### Across

1. "Big bad" pig harasser
5. Auto collision safety device
11. Abbr. on a dumbbell
14. "Lion King" villain
15. Peanut butter choice
16. "Exodus" hero Ben Canaan
17. 2014 NL Rookie of the Year on the Mets
19. Droop
20. Efron of "The Greatest Showman"
21. "\_\_\_ Poetica" (Horace)
22. Spike TV, once
23. Promoted aggressively
26. Costa follower
28. Ein \_\_\_\_, Israel
29. Blessing follower
30. Walter Matthau's frequent co-star
32. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport's code
33. Plate needed for scoring
34. Swimming distance
35. Explorer who knew a lot about 50-Across
41. Where Switz. is
42. \_\_\_ question (say part of Ma Nishtana)
43. Slump
44. CNN anchor
48. \_\_\_ fide
49. Adoring poems
50. They need to have fins and scales to be kosher
51. Painful experience, often
52. "\_\_\_ Got Rhythm"
53. Oktoberfest drink
54. Adam, literally
55. Puppy's bite
56. He won an Emmy for playing Rabbi Hyman Krustofski
62. Tel Aviv to Jerusalem dir.
63. \_\_\_ to an end
64. Cincinnati athletes
65. Actor James Van \_\_\_ Beek
66. Changes the color again
67. "Judge me by my size, do you?" speaker

#### Down

1. NYC financial newspaper
2. \_\_\_rina (instrument)

3. The Clippers, on the scoreboard
4. 2013 Disney blockbuster
5. Australia's most successful band
6. Rage
7. Gas station abbr.
8. Donald's predecessor
9. Ethically indifferent
10. Bodybuilding buildings
11. 1987 Best Picture winner, with 'The'
12. Marlon who famously yelled "Stella!"
13. Add one's name to a guest book
18. Like Jezebel
23. Islamic pilgrimage
24. Where "it's fun to stay" in a 1978 hit
25. UN worker placed between warring parties
26. Los Angeles football team
27. Arctic coverings
28. MBA hopeful's exam
30. Mike's predecessor
31. Queen in 4-Down
33. Offended
36. "Jeopardy!" response: Abbr.
37. Shalom or shamayim predecessor (in song)
38. Black Sea nation: Abbr.
39. Rachel, to Judah
40. Where Bryce Canyon is located
44. Became a member
45. Provide counsel
46. Engulfed in fire
47. Assembled, with "together"
48. Kind of digital code
51. Emeril Lagasse word
53. Slightly open
54. Toddler's often make one
57. Eloise's creator Thompson
58. Suffix with "salt" or "carb"
59. One of its letters stands for "optimization"
60. "Couple" for 30-Across
61. Hush-hush govt. group



See answers on page 14A.

# 'Three Billboards'-style campaign against anti-Semitism in Labour Party fails to sway Brits

By Cnaan Liphshiz

LONDON (JTA)—Keith Walker was having a sandwich in Parliament Square when he saw something that made him sit up straight and cut short his lunch.

What did the 42-year-old activist for disabled people's rights find so fascinating?

It was three billboards on wheels that circled around the square for several long minutes last week during one of its busiest days of the year. They carried text accusing Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn of tolerating anti-Semitism in the party.

Inspired by the award-winning American film "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," the billboards were part of a series of unprecedented street protests by British Jews against a leader of the party that used to be their political home.

The April 17 protest coincided with a rare parliamentary debate on anti-Semitism that focused on Labour. During the discussion, Jewish Labour lawmakers like Ruth Smeeth and Luciana Berger recounted the many verbal attacks that they have encountered since 2015, when Corbyn was elected party leader.

The row over anti-Semitism in Labour under Corbyn has been raging for two years inside the party and beyond.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews and other Jewish groups have accused Corbyn, a hard-left politician, of tolerating and at times encouraging expressions of anti-Semitism disguised as anti-Zionism or anti-capitalism by thousands of supporters who joined the party under him.

Corbyn has vowed to fight racism. His party has kicked out some members caught engaging in anti-Semitic rhetoric. But under Corbyn—who in 2009 called Hamas and Hezbollah his "friends" whom he said he was "honored" to host in parliament—Labour has also readmitted or refrained from punishing others who made statements perceived as anti-Semitic.

The signs, which cost \$6,300 that organizers raised online from dozens of donors, reflect a new development in the dispute, in which Jewish criticism of Corbyn over anti-Semitism in Labour has moved from Facebook and dinner table conversation onto the street.

But if the organizers of the signs initiative and other street actions in recent weeks have sought to turn Corbyn's supporters against him over these issues, then they have had only partial results.

"I think it's a load of bollocks," an outraged Walker told JTA as he engaged one of the drivers. "Who's paying you, bruv? Who'd you work

for? Is it the Tories or Tony Blair?" he demanded as he snapped pictures of the vans with his cellphone.

Walker's suggestion that protests by Jews against Corbyn are orchestrated by the ruling Conservative Party or the center-left former leader of Labour is typical of how the allegations are strengthening his popularity with some die-hard supporters rather than weakening it.

"It's obvious, innit, they're trying to smear him to keep him from redistributing wealth and taking it from the rich to give to the rest of us," Walker said.

Igor Martynowski, a 26-year-old cartoon artist, also was "disgusted" by the protest.

"Instead of doing something with the potential of helping someone, or the environment, they're just spending money smearing someone else. It's just sad," he said about the signs, which spoke about "Holocaust deniers harbored by Labour" and "institutional anti-Semitism in Corbyn's Labour."

Carina Garret, a 21-year-old student from Liverpool, said she agreed that Labour has an anti-Semitism problem, "but Corbyn's not it." Some of his supporters are the problem, she said. Garret called the initiative of the three signs and other initiatives targeting Corbyn a "distraction" and a "real shame."



Van-mounted billboards in central London were the latest escalation in British Jews' publicized row with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Her schoolmate Dave Aldwinkle said Corbyn's Jewish critics have "gone too far."

Aldwinkle and Garret, who are not Jewish, both said they support Corbyn for prime minister.

"He's an activist, not a politician, and that's his strength," Aldwinkle said.

Garret said she could think of no weaknesses or faults preventing Corbyn from being a good prime minister. Aldwinkle said Corbyn at times was "too soft" on his critics instead of "fighting back."

Amid intense and unprecedented scrutiny by the media

over Labour's anti-Semitism problem, Corbyn won 40 percent of the vote in the 2017 parliamentary elections despite predictions that Prime Minister Theresa May of the Conservative Party would win handily.

But among Jews, Corbyn is so unpopular that some, including Jonathan Hoffman, an organizer of the tree signs initiative and former vice chair of the Zionist Federation of Britain, are saying they would leave Britain if he is elected prime minister.

Last month, hundreds showed up at a rally protesting

Labour anti-Semitism organized by the Board of Deputies of British Jews outside Parliament under the banner "Enough is Enough." On April 8, hundreds of demonstrators gathered at a rowdier rally by a British Jewish group, the Campaign Against Anti-Semitism, in which speakers accused Corbyn personally of being an anti-Semite.

The street-level mobilization follows recent cases in which Corbyn was implicated personally in a speech deemed anti-Semitic, according to

Billboards on page 15A

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# Strawberry and Cream Rugelach recipe

By Chaya Rappoport

(The Nosh via JTA)—I had never been much of a rugelach baker until this recipe. While I gravitated toward challah and babka, I always found store-bought rugelach to be a bit bland and disappointing.

But to my great delight, rugelach is supremely easy to make. Most recipes rely on a 1-to-1 ratio of butter and cream cheese in the dough for flavor and flakiness. I stick with that classic method (don't mess with perfection!), but also add a bit of sour cream for an extra tender texture. The dough comes together in seconds with the help of a mixer (or food processor) and, after a short rest, it's ready to be rolled out. But don't forget to rest and chill your dough!

These rugelach are perfect for spring, for Shavuot, or just because homemade rugelach are delicious.

Notes: These will store well in an airtight container for

up to 1 week at room temperature, and will freeze well for up to 3 months.

Ingredients:

For the dough:

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, cubed  
1 1/2 teaspoons fine sea salt  
1/2 pound cream cheese, chilled and cubed  
2 tablespoons sour cream  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
raw sugar, for decorating

For the strawberry filling:

3/4 cup good strawberry jam  
2 tablespoons sour cream  
3 ounces cream cheese  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
pinch salt  
1 teaspoon lemon juice

Directions:

1. Add your cubed butter and flour to your mixer with the paddle and attachment and mix until the butter is broken up well and the mixture looks like wet sand.

2. To the mixing bowl, add in the salt, cream cheese, sour cream and sugar. With the paddle attachment on medium speed, mix everything together quickly, until the mixture is crumbly, wet and mostly coming together.

3. Turn the dough out onto a sheet of foil, press down on it slightly, and form the dough into a thick disk. Wrap the disk tightly in the foil and chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour.

4. Make the filling: Using a stand mixer fitted with paddle, beat the sour cream, cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and salt on low speed until smooth, about 1 minute. Scrape down the sides of the bowl, add 1/4 teaspoon of lemon juice and mix to combine. Taste filling—add more juice if needed. Transfer to a bowl, cover with plastic and refrigerate until ready to use.

5. When your dough has chilled, preheat your oven to 375 F. and line a few baking trays with parchment paper.

6. Sprinkle the parchment paper with some raw sugar.

7. Remove the dough from the fridge and unwrap the dough. Flour your work surface extremely well, roll the dough into a ball, then press it down until it's about 3/4-inch thick. The sides may crack a bit at first, but just keep



working it until you have a smooth sided disk, adding more flour as needed.

8. Roll the dough out into a 13- to 14-inch circle of even thickness.

9. Fold the dough into a half-moon and use a pizza cutter or sharp knife to cut away any uneven sides, as you want the circle to be as symmetrical as possible for even cookies. Unfold the dough so it's a full circle again.

10. Brush the dough with the cheese filling and then top with the strawberry jam. Swirl the jam over the cheese.

11. Use a pizza cutter or sharp knife to cut the circle into 16 equal-sized wedges.

12. Roll up each wedge, starting with the bigger side, tightly and carefully, to make the classic rugelach shape. Place the rugelach seam side down onto your parchment.

13. Brush each cookie with egg wash and sprinkle with raw sugar.

14. Bake for 20-25 minutes, rotating the trays halfway through baking, until the cookies are a nice golden brown. Allow to cool before moving and serving.

Chaya Rappoport is the blogger, baker and picture taker behind [retrolillies.wordpress.com](http://retrolillies.wordpress.com). Currently a pastry sous chef at a Brooklyn bakery, she's been blogging since 2012 and her work has been featured on *The Feed Feed*, *Delish.com*, *Food and Wine* and *Conde Nast Traveler*.

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

## Bar Mitzvah

Evan Lawrence Richman

Evan Lawrence Richman, son of Scott and Gwen Richman of Gotha, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, May 12, 2018, at Congregation of Reform Judaism in Orlando.

Evan is in the seventh grade at Gotha Middle School where he is a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

His hobbies and interests include basketball, karate and spending time with friends.

Sharing in the family's simcha will be Evan's sister, Jenna; brother, Jaret; Bubbe Barbara Richman; grandparents Karen and Jerry Tumbush; and family and friends from across the country and Israel.



THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ISRAEL AT 70

Yossi Klein Halevi

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018 ★ 7:00 PM ★

ROTH FAMILY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER ORLANDO  
851 N. MAITLAND AVENUE, MAITLAND, FL 32751

5:45 PM Club Member\* Pre-Reception and Book Signing

7:00 PM Program Open to the community.

Dessert and coffee will be served.

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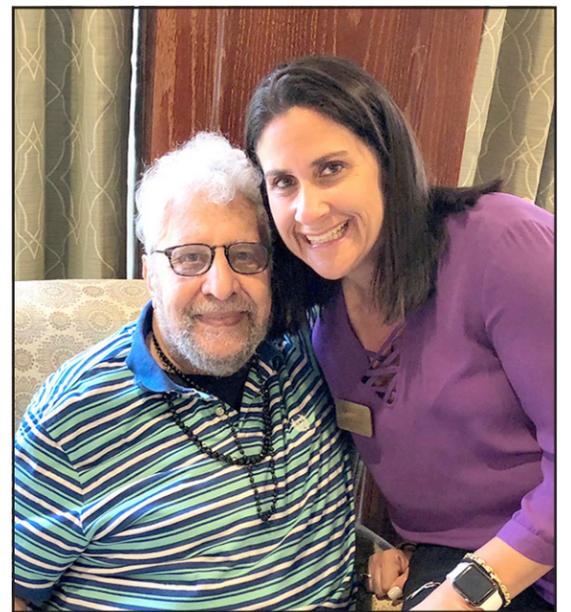


Yossi Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Together with Imam Abdullah Antepli of Duke University, he co-directs the Institute's Muslim Leadership Initiative. Yossi is the author of *Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation*, published by HarperCollins in 2013, which won the Jewish Book Council's Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award. Yossi writes for the op-ed pages of leading American newspapers.

Yossi's first book, *Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist*, told the story of his teenage attraction to, and subsequent disillusionment with Jewish militancy. The New York Times called it "a book of burning importance." His next book is being released in May and titled *Letters to my Palestinian Neighbor*.

\* Club Member Pre-Reception is reserved for those who have generously contributed a minimum of \$1,800 to our 2018 Campaign. For more information regarding the Club Member Pre-Reception or to RSVP, please contact Jake Shapiro by emailing [jashapiro@aipac.org](mailto:jashapiro@aipac.org) or contact the Florida AIPAC office at (954) 382-6110.

For security purposes, advance registration is required.



## Heart-warming experiences

Julie Levitt has been a program director at the Jewish Pavilion for close to eight years. At some point, this transitioned from a job to a heart-warming experience for her.

"The residents that I have been planning holidays and parties for are no longer 'residents in a community,' but each one of them hold a place in my heart," she shared.

Levitt is pictured here with dear friend, Bill Frigen, from Brookdale Lake Orienta.

"Special people like him are the reason The Jewish Pavilion exists!"



# Scene Around

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



Barbara Bush

**A wonderful lady...**

We lost a lovely lady, a former first lady of the United States just recently. She was admired and loved by most, including me. The wife of a president and governor, she was a force in her family. May she rest in peace. She will be missed.

**Wow! Talk about posh!...**

I recently visited a new facility in Winter Park, took the tour with a group of others and had a lovely lunch. The name of the place is Allegro, which refers to upbeat musical tempo. (Anything musical appeals to me as I

am a professional singer.)

On the tour I met two lovely ladies that will remain as friends. They are LUCY HULSEY and HELEN ZAIS. (Helen is a member of our Jewish community). As luck would have it, they were even looking for a Bridge player and, although I don't play Bridge, my buddy JUDY COTTER, who was with me on the tour, plays and plans to join Lucy and Helen!

Allegro is magnificent and the food we had for lunch was scrumptious. What was also scrumptious? Our fabulous waiters, JERRY PETION and BRANDON BULLOCK. (They are very good-looking too! No, I'm not a cougar!!)

**According to "Huffpost"...**

I recently received this article in the mail. It really has upset me. It came from the American Jewish Congress. I pass it on to you in part:

"The recent focus on the Jerusalem issue is a telling reminder that Israel is treated according to a totally different standard than other countries in the international system.

Of course, Israel deserves attention and scrutiny as does every other nation. But it also merits equal treatment... nothing more, nothing less.

First, Israel is the only state whose capital city, Jerusalem, with which the Jewish people have been umbilically linked for more than 3,000 years, is not recognized by almost all other countries.

Imagine the absurdity of this. Foreign diplomats live in Tel Aviv while conducting virtually all their business in Jerusalem, where the Prime Minister's office, the Knesset (Parliament) the Supreme Court, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are located.

In fact, look at listings of world cities, including places of birth in passports, and you'll see something striking... Paris, France; Tokyo, Japan; Pretoria, South Africa; Lima, Peru; and Jerusalem, sans country... orphaned, if you will.

Second, Israel is the only UN member state whose very right to exist is under constant challenge.

(Who wouldn't be upset?)

This received by the American Jewish Congress...

Sent to you in part:

"Today, 70 years after the State of Israel declared its independence, her right to exist is still under assault... at the United Nations, by the boycott Israel movement, on college campuses, and among many in the diplomatic community.

Each year, the UN General Assembly hits Israel with 20 or more hostile resolutions. Meanwhile, supporters of the boycott, divestment, sanctions campaign continue their insidious efforts to isolate, demonize, and delegitimize the Jewish state. And Israel's harshest critics use every available means to poison mainstream public opinion against her. This unjust treatment of Israel has to stop!

(Amen)

**A reminder...**

On Sunday, May 6th at Congregation Beth Am, 1800 Sand Lake Road, Longwood, will present the Dazzling Divas "Spring Showcase."

The festivities begin at 4 p.m. but the event is open at 3 p.m.

Their will be an "All you can Eat Italian buffet" and nine fabulous entertainers.

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

(I'm hesitant about attending, only because these divas are very beautiful and I can't handle competition!)

**Another reminder...**

The Congregation Ohav Shalom Seniors will hold their next meeting with entertainment on Sunday, May 6th, beginning at 2 p.m. in the synagogue social hall.

ANDY COSTANTINI, a fabulous musician and vocalist will perform. You will love him. Bring your dancing shoes because you will want to move to his beat!!

Everyone is welcome to attend. The cost is \$5 for all.

And, of course, there will be refreshments after the show... and my cookies!!

For more information, phone JERRY LEIBMAN at 407-694-0546.

**One for the road...**

It's the funeral of Moshe the cardiologist and Avraham and Hymie are there to pay their last respects. Behind Moshe's coffin stands a huge red heart covered in hundreds of flowers. Following the eulogy, the heart suddenly opens, the coffin moves slowly inside and the heart shuts, enclosing Moshe inside the beautiful heart forever. Avraham immediately bursts out laughing.

"What's so funny?" asks one of the congregants.

"I'm sorry," replies Avraham, "but I can't help thinking of my own funeral - I'm a gynecologist."

Hymie, the proctologist, then faints.



Kenny Lee

## HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

can be purchased at the following locations:

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# Homemade kreplach that are actually worth the work

By Shannon Sarna

(The Nosh via JTA)—Kreplach seem like the kind of dish only your bubbe would make. Especially from scratch. And I always felt intimidated to even try it. You have to make the dough, make the filling and shape it just right. (Turns out, actually you don't.)

But last year I was lucky enough to spend time with

a real bubbe and cookbook author (and also my friend), Ronnie Fein, who shared with me her tried-and-true method and recipe.

Turns out it's easier than I thought: The kreplach don't need to be perfectly shaped to be delicious, and they are definitely something you can tackle with a little planning and determination. You will need to make (or buy) some kind of filling ahead of time.

(Note: You can buy some pre-cooked brisket or pot roast instead of making it from scratch.)

Many thanks to Ronnie for sharing her expertise and recipe with us.

Ingredients:  
For the dough:  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
3 large eggs, beaten  
3 teaspoons cold water, approximately

For the meat filling:  
2 teaspoons vegetable oil  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 medium clove garlic, finely chopped (optional)  
3 cups chopped, cooked beef (about 12 ounces—can be either ground beef or finely chopped leftover brisket or roast)  
1 large egg  
1 teaspoon paprika  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Directions:  
To make the dough: Place the flour, salt and beaten eggs in a food processor. Process while gradually adding just enough water to have the dough form into a ball. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and let rest for at least 1 hour.

To make the filling: Heat the vegetable oil in a sauté pan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook, stirring frequently, for about 2-3 minutes, or until the vegetables have softened. Place the chopped meat in a bowl. Add the softened onion (and garlic), egg, paprika and



salt and pepper to taste. Mix thoroughly.

Roll the dough, a portion at a time, on a floured surface until it is very thin (less than 1/8 inch). Cut dough into 2 1/2- to 3-inch squares.

Place 1 heaping teaspoon of filling in the center of each square. Fold the dough over the filling to make a triangle. Pinch the dough together to seal the edges (if necessary wet two sides of the square).

Bring a large soup pot of water to a boil. Cook the kreplach about a dozen at a time

for about 15 minutes, or until they are tender.

To serve, place the cooked kreplach in chicken soup and cook for 4-5 minutes. You may also fry the kreplach in vegetable oil. Serves 12-18 kreplach.

Shannon Sarna is the editor of The Nosh.

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



## A genial inter-generational game of 'Israel Jeopardy'

Monday, April 23, was Israel Jeopardy at the Jewish Pavilion's Inter-Generational meeting at Village On The Green with the residents and students of Congregation Ohav Shalom led by Amy Settleis Geboff. The game began with the residents telling the students what they remember from 1947/48 when Israel gained Independence. There was then some competition between the two split teams. At the end of the night there were handshakes and hugs all around.

The program was sponsored in part by Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando.

## Happy, sad Israeli holidays: Two sides of the same coin



Yet, Israel Independence Day takes place right after Yom Hazikaron—the Memorial Day for fallen Israel Defense Forces soldiers. Placing the two holidays so close together is a reminder that Israeli independence has come at the very highest cost—the lives of sacrificed soldiers.

So what does this combination look like in Israel? In Beit She'an, Israel, a tombstone commemorates Captain Tzvi Kaplan, aged 28 when he died in Operation Protective Edge in 2014. (This was a military operation aimed at stopping frequent rocket fire from Gaza into Israel.)

Kaplan was known to be a particularly kind and spirited individual. Friends of his built a stream passing through a park near where he lived honoring his memory.

At the other end of the spectrum, Yom Ha'atzmaut's happy festivities ring out in Jerusalem, and everywhere in Israel. It's often the kids who truly take holiday celebrations to heart. Ice cream cones, dress up, or flag-waving anyone?

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CARDINAL MONUMENTS

By Jane Edelstein

How do Israelis celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day? Like many

Israeli holidays, there's a lot of singing, dancing, and eating. Family and friends gather to reminisce of both victory and statehood.

# What it's like to support Israel at NYU



Josefin Dolsten  
*Student organizers of an Israel Independence Day event at New York University, April 19, 2018. They include Adela Cojab, Jenny Labovitz and Esther Bildirici, front row, left to right, and Gabe Hoffman, back row, right.*

## By Josefin Dolsten

NEWYORK(JTA)—Though it was raining, students still gathered to celebrate Israel's Independence Day at New York University's downtown Manhattan campus. Passers-by mostly rushed by as organizers blasted pop music, displayed Israeli flags and shouted "Happy Birthday, Israel!" Some stopped to grab a blue-and-white cookie.

One person shouted at an organizer of Thursday's event who was draped in an Israeli flag, and someone else criticized the group for a poster featuring a quote by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. praising the Jewish state, but there were no major disruptions.

The relative lack of negative reactions put things in perspective for Adela Cojab, a Jewish student leader on campus who said a recent resolution signed by over 50 student groups pledging support to the movement to boycott Israel had made it "the worst week of my life."

"Watching people who walk by and smile reminds me that a list of 50 clubs sounds really big, [but] in a school this big, most people have no idea that this is happening," Cojab, 21, told JTA on Thursday.

Last week's resolution, signed by 53 student groups among the some 300 on campus, was spearheaded by the NYU chapters of Jewish Voice for Peace and Students for Justice in Palestine. In addition to calling on the university to boycott companies that do business with Israel, the groups also pledged not to co-sponsor any events with two Israel advocacy campus groups—Realize Israel and TorchPAC—as well as eight off-campus groups, including Birthright-Taglit, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Anti-Defamation League.

The NYU resolution is part of a campaign on college campuses by BDS activists to isolate Israel and its supporters. On Wednesday, the student government at Barnard College, a women's college affiliated with Columbia University, said that nearly two-thirds of students voted to ask the administration to

divest from eight companies doing business with Israel.

Both Barnard and NYU have large Jewish student populations, suggesting to some that the tide against Israel has swelled even—or precisely—at campuses that should be friendly to Israel.

But the reality is more nuanced. Following the resolution's publication Cojab, who serves as president of Realize Israel, described the atmosphere on campus surrounding Israel as "one of animosity." But at Thursday's event, she felt relief.

"The climate that exists is mostly among the activism community and the students who are highly involved in campus life," Cojab said.

The NYU administration criticized the resolution, whose signatories included groups such as the Asian American Women's Alliance, the Black Students Union and the Muslim Students Association. A university spokesman said that boycotting student groups "is at odds with our traditions and values," and NYU President Andrew Hamilton denounced BDS at a public forum on Friday. (He had previously said in 2016 that the school would not acquiesce to a demand by its graduate student union to cut its Israel ties.)

Gabe Hoffman, who serves as treasurer for Realize Israel, believes that many of the groups who signed the resolution have overlapping membership.

"I still think it's a group of 15, 20, 30 students that are running 50 groups on campus and it's kind of their choir, and their echo chamber doesn't like our echo chamber," he said.

Hoffman, 21, said that despite the resolution, he is comfortable identifying publicly as Jewish and pro-Israel on campus.

"It's unfortunate that it happens to be those student groups that are running the [student] government, but I still feel proud to walk around with a kippah on my head, proud to walk around with [an Israeli] flag on my back," he said.

Still, Realize Israel member Marci Brustman, 19, said the

resolution changed her level of comfort about speaking about Israel.

"Once this protest came out, I feel like I have to hold my tongue in some places," she said.

Between handing out cookies and singing along to Hebrew songs, Brustman said she was nervous there would be a confrontation at the Yom Haatzmaut event.

"There definitely is a pit in my stomach right now," she said.

Earlier this month, the NYU student government passed a resolution urging the university to look into its policies at a program the university runs in Tel Aviv. The resolution cited an Israeli law enacted last year that bans entry into the country for foreigners who call for a boycott against Israel and said that members of NYU's Jewish Voice for Peace and Students for Justice in Palestine would be affected by the law.

Two of the resolution's signatories—the Asian American Women's Alliance and Brownstone Publication, a black student publication—said they decided to sign the resolution because they sympathized with the struggles of Palestinians.

The Asian American Women's Alliance was approached by the resolution's sponsors and invited to learn more about the struggles of Palestinians, Vice President Julia Yuge told JTA in an email.

Yuge said her group "learned that the Israeli state systematically violates Palestinians' rights under international law, including the right to education." In her group's decision to sign the petition, she also cited the fact that academic bodies—including the Association for Asian American Studies and the National Women's Studies Association—have endorsed boycotts of Israel.

"There are many ways in which Asian-American women relate to their human rights being stripped away, such as the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II," Yuge added.

Brownstone Publication

NYU 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](http://www.JewishCelebration.org); 407-566-9792.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Congregation Beth Shalom (R-C)**, 315 North 13th St., Leesburg, 352-326-3692; [www.bethsholomflorida.org](http://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](http://www.mybethshalom.com); Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

**Congregation Ohev Shalom (C)**, 613 Concourse Parkway South, Maitland, 407-298-4650; [www.ohvshalom.org](http://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](http://www.shalomaleichem.com); Shabbat service, 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Hurricane Harvey destroyed our synagogue—here's how we're moving on



The United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston being demolished.

By Barry Gelman

HOUSTON (JTA)—Over a four-day period at the end of August, Hurricane Harvey drenched this city with over 50 inches of rain, inflicting \$125 billion in damages.

The result of the flooding was especially devastating for the tight-knit and geographically close Jewish community of Houston. Seven major Jewish institutions have been severely impacted by Harvey, and an estimated 2,000 Jewish families were affected by the floodwaters.

United Orthodox Synagogues was particularly hard hit, as approximately one-third of our member households was damaged by the flood. The waters also destroyed our beautiful sanctuary, and ruined our

daily and High Holidays prayer books as well as our extensive Judaica library.

Our current building has been the home of our merged congregation since 1960. Harvey was only the latest in a series of floods, including in 2015 and 2016. As I write these words, the main sanctuary, executive wing and classrooms are being demolished. A room that holds memories of so many happy occasions has become a place of tears.

We recently held a “farewell” to the building and joined together one last time in our beautiful sanctuary for morning services. It was a morning of mixed emotions as many spoke about memories of growing up in our synagogues. Others spoke about the “end of an era,” while oth-

ers sat alone in small groups or alone and just cried.

I shared some thoughts with the congregation:

These walls brought together three different congregations and ultimately combined them into one united synagogue. The seats of this sanctuary cradled generations of families... grandparents, parents and their children, who came to pray here, to cry here and to rejoice here.

These walls have absorbed the sounds of our prayers and the wisdom of our Torah. This room has been the setting where we offered thanksgiving for our greatest triumphs and called out to God in turbulent times.

We have expressed our greatest hopes and dreams here.

Echoing off the walls of



A room in United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston that was stripped of its furniture and floors.

this holy chamber is the lifetime of our community... the multigenerational and diverse sounds that can only be created by a community like ours.

So many of us have seen our kids graduate from UOSGMS [the local Jewish Montessori preschool/kindergarten program] and RMBA [Robert M. Beren Academy, our Modern Orthodox day school] on our bimah. And how many hundreds and hundreds of lollipops have been distributed up there... reminding our kids that Torah, shul and community are the sweetest treats they will ever get.

Yet there was also hope in the room that day. While it is simplistic and often insensitive to say things like “it’s just a building” or “it’s just stuff,” the community is resolute

in believing that its strength derives from our members.

We are facing a choice of how to rebuild our synagogue and where exactly in the neighborhood it will be. These are important questions, even as we know that we are each others’ most important resource. For now we will hold services and events in Freedman Hall, a nearby building that has the advantage of being elevated. It’s important that we try to save the monumental stained glass mural that serves as a dramatic backdrop to our bimah.

Since the flood, our community has seen its prayer books and library replaced, and funds have been raised to help our families recover from the devastation. The outpouring of concern, expressed by hun-

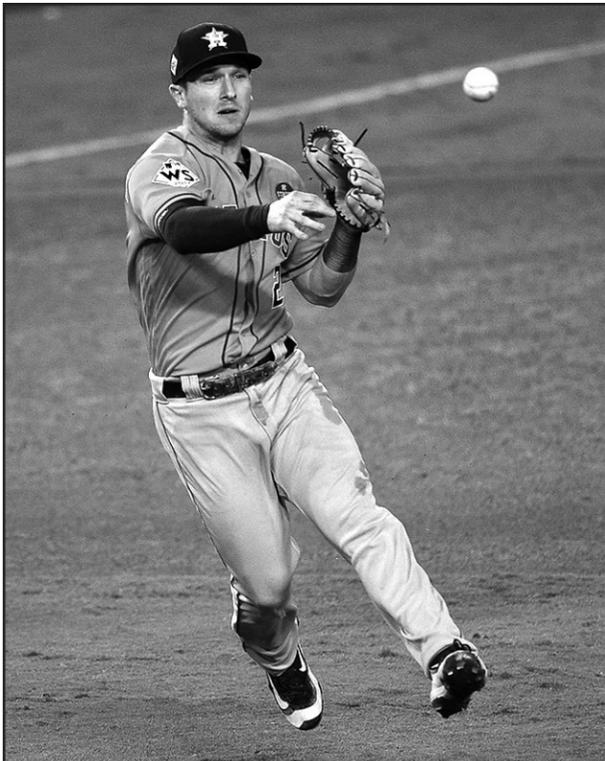
dreds of volunteers coming to our neighborhood to help and provide food for flooded families for a full month after the hurricane, have been nothing short of extraordinary.

One of the most astonishing aspects of our recovery, however, is how flooded families have been helping each other.

Despite individual suffering and anguish, members of our community have continued to reach out to others. It is so easy (and understandable) for those suffering from loss to close in on themselves and focus only on their own challenges, of which there are many—economic, psychological, social. I have not seen that. I have seen the opposite.

Rabbi Barry Gelman is rabbi of United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston.

## Alex Bregman is baseball's next Jewish star



Kevork Djansezian/Getty Images

Alex Bregman makes a play in Game 7 of the World Series at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Nov. 1, 2017.

By Hillel Kuttler

WEST PALM BEACH (JTA)—Sitting on a couch near his locker at the Houston Astros’ spring training facility here in mid-March, Alex Bregman is reflecting about an encounter his father had at the World Series last fall.

It was in Los Angeles, between innings of the opening game. Sam Bregman was headed for a Dodger Stadium concession stand to grab a

nosh wearing his Astros jersey with the No. 2 and his surname stitched on the back—a facsimile of his son’s uniform. The young Bregman, a third baseman, had just slugged a home run off Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw.

A fan grabbed Sam Bregman’s arm.

“Are you Alex’s dad?”

“I am,” the elder Bregman replied.

“Is he Jewish?”

“Yeah.”

The man was a Dodger fan, but still he flashed what Sam Bregman described as “a look of great contentment” at the ballplayer’s heritage.

“I got such a kick out of it,” Sam Bregman said in a phone interview near his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. “It made me feel so proud.”

Alex Bregman’s take on the encounter: “It’s definitely cool to have fans around the world give their support. It keeps you motivated to know that everyone has your back.”

Bregman can expect to have more fans on his bandwagon, Jewish and otherwise, following a strong 2017 season and the first World Series title for the Astros—to which he contributed mightily. He knocked in a run in each of the first five games, added a second home run, threw out a runner at home plate to preserve a scoreless tie in Game 4 and had the run-scoring single that ended an epic Game 5 in the 10th inning, 13-12.

During the 2017 season, the former No. 2 overall draft pick out of Louisiana State averaged .284, pounded 39 doubles and 19 home runs, and stole 17 bases.

Two days after the Game 7 road victory, Bregman celebrated at the championship parade in Houston. Thousands of fans lined streets in a city still recovering from Hurricane Harvey flooding a couple of months earlier.

“To see their pure joy,” Bregman said, “gave me the chills.”

The experience capped a memorable year for Bregman that began with his playing for the U.S. team that won the World Baseball Classic title in March.

Israel’s squad, which finished sixth overall in the WBC, had sought his services.

In retrospect, he said, “I probably should’ve” played for Israel “because I got [just] four at-bats” playing as a backup for the American team. Regardless of who comes calling in 2021, Bregman said, he’s unlikely to participate.

His Astros will start defending their championship on Thursday in Arlington, Texas, against the Rangers. Bregman will turn 24 the next day.

“There are a lot of things I want to accomplish in this game. Winning is right there at the top,” Bregman said. “We have a great team to repeat as champs.”

Astros manager A.J. Hinch said he expects Bregman to “build off the momentum he generated in the postseason and throughout the whole season last year.”

“While he’s established himself as a major league player... he’s not even close to what he’s going to be,” Hinch said.

He called Bregman “a true baseball rat,” someone who “loves the game, loves practice, loves being around his teammates.”

But his mother, Jackie,

will tell you that her son is more than about baseball. His foundation, AB for AUDS, provides computer tablets to children with autism and Down syndrome. Brady Columbus, a son of Bregman’s former hitting coach and Bregman’s godson, is autistic.

Jackie Bregman spoke of her son’s kindness.

“Alex is so patient with people, and I’m really, really proud of him for that,” she said in a phone interview.

She recalled her son defending elementary school classmates being bullied. And he was also on the other end: A boy made fun of Alex’s pending bar mitzvah as he was leaving school to meet with the cantor, and a Chinese-American teammate on Alex’s basketball squad stood up for him.

The experiences, she said, “taught him what it was like to be marginalized.”

Years ago, the family attended an appearance by several players of the minor league Albuquerque Isotopes. One player was aloof.

“Sam and I said to Alex, ‘Don’t ever be like that,’” she recalled.

But Jackie Bregman also knows her son is driven to excel on the field.

“He would not mince words. ‘I don’t just want to play baseball; I want to be the best,’” Jackie Bregman remembered her son saying. “He was determined.”

In junior high in Albu-

querque, Bregman attended a University of New Mexico baseball camp. The Lobos’ baseball coach, Ray Birmingham, preached dedication to greatness.

“Alex took that so literally that he’d hit in the batting cages until he got calluses,” recalled Sam Bregman, who had grown up on the field at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, where his late father, Stan, worked as a lawyer for the Washington Senators. It was Stan, “Grandpa Zayde,” who gave his grandson a card set of Jewish baseball players.

Someone else who witnessed that commitment was Darvin Ham, who coached the New Mexico Thunderbirds, an NBA Development League team the Bregmans owned.

In postgame conversations and at the Bregman home, Alex Bregman “was like a sponge” of information about the makings of athletic achievement, said Ham, now an assistant coach with the Atlanta Hawks.

“He was a very good listener. He took mental notes,” said Ham, who considers Alex Bregman “a little brother.”

Bregman explained his early competitive drive.

“Coach Birmingham said you have to decide,” he recalled. “I woke up at 5 a.m. to go to the cage to school to the cage: defense and hitting. I did that every day for years, [beginning at] probably age

Bregman on page 15A

# Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

## 'Iran lied big time' about nuclear program, Netanyahu says in describing secret files

JERUSALEM (JTA)—"Iran lied big time" about the nature of its nuclear program, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu on Monday evening unveiled copies of half a ton of material that make up part of what he identified as Iran's secret nuclear files. He first delivered his presentation in English in an effort to reach the widest possible audience.

The files, which the Israeli leader calls "new conclusive proof of Iran's secret nuclear weapons program," include 55,000 pages of information and 55,000 files on 183 CDs. He said the files had been stored in a secret atomic archive in Tehran, where it was moved last year, locked in massive safes. The original materials, Netanyahu said, "are now in a very safe place."

Netanyahu did not appear to present evidence of ongoing nuclear activity in violation of the deal signed in 2015 between Iran and six world powers, which traded sanctions relief for a rollback of Iran's nuclear program.

President Donald Trump is set to decide by the middle of next month whether it will remain in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the deal is known.

Netanyahu said that Israel has shared the information with the United States and "the United States can vouch for its authenticity."

Among the documents, Netanyahu said, is proof of the existence of Project Amad, a program to design, build and test nuclear weapons. The program was scrapped in 2003 after the Gulf War, but work continued in other guises and with the same personnel, according to Netanyahu, citing the documents. Other documents also proved that the Fordow uranium enrichment facility was not intended to produce medical isotopes but uranium for nuclear weapons.

"Iran is brazenly lying when it says it never had a nuclear weapons program," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu said he is certain that Trump will "do the right thing" in deciding whether to stay in the nuclear deal.

"The right thing for the United States. The right thing for Israel. And the right thing for the peace of the world," he said.

Reactions were mixed to Netanyahu's address, with many nuclear experts saying the intelligence confirmed what had been known when the nuclear deal was signed.

"[W]hen Iranian officials claim—as they often do—that Iran [never had] a nuclear weapons program, they were lying," James Acton, co-director of the nuclear policy program at the Carnegie Endowment, tweeted. "But, we knew that already. The JCPOA was designed on that basis."

Opponents of the Iran nuclear deal said it confirmed that Iran cannot be trusted.

Conservative commentator Ben Shapiro wrote that the documents demonstrate "that the Obama administration lied constantly and repeatedly to the public about

Iran's newfound moderation in order to scam the public into approving Obama's Iran nuclear deal — a deal that allowed Iran to maximize its regional power with income from the West."

## Netanyahu, Trump speak by phone about threat from Iran

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Donald Trump spoke by phone about the threat from Iran.

The two leaders spoke on Saturday, according to a readout of the conversation released Sunday by the White House. They discussed the "threats and challenges facing the Middle East region, especially the problems posed by the Iranian regime's destabilizing activities," the White House said. The call came hours before Netanyahu met in Israel with new U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Trump has said he will decide by May 12 whether the United States will remain part of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or Iran nuclear deal signed in 2015 between Iran and six world powers, including the United States.

Following Sunday's meeting between Netanyahu and Pompeo, the Secretary of State said of the Iran deal: "President Trump's been pretty clear. This deal is very flawed. He's directed the administration to try and fix it, and if we can't fix it, he's going to withdraw from the deal. It's pretty straightforward. Unlike the past administration, President Trump has a comprehensive Iran strategy that is designed to counter the full array of threats emanating from Tehran."

He added: "As part of the President's comprehensive Iran strategy, we are also working to counter the broad set of non-nuclear threats: Iran's missile systems, its support for Hezbollah, the importation of thousands of proxy fighters into Syria, and its assistance to the Houthi rebels in Yemen. We look forward to working closely with strong allies like Israel in countering these threats and rolling back the full range of Iranian malign influence."

Pompeo had noted earlier on Sunday that Trump remains undecided about whether the United States would leave the deal.

Pompeo also noted regarding Jerusalem that the United States is "incredibly proud to be opening the new embassy on May 14th, well ahead of the original timetable. This step comes as Israel celebrates its 70th anniversary of independence and 70 years of recognition as steadfast support for Israel from the American people as well. By recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the seat of its government, we're recognizing reality."

## American-Israeli teen who made bomb threats against JCCs allegedly threatens Israeli schools from prison

(JTA)—The American-Israeli man accused of making hundreds of bomb threats to Jewish community centers in the United States is suspected of making another 100 hoax bomb threats in Israel from prison.

Bomb threats received by the Israel Police against schools in Tel Aviv and Kfar Saba on Sunday were traced to Michael Kadar, Israeli news channels reported. Kadar, 19, of Ashkelon, is being held in Nitzan Prison in Ramle pending his trial. His name is barred from publication in Israel.

In a hearing Monday in Magistrates' Court in Rishon LeZion on the new charges, police said there have been more than 100 such threats to several schools recently that originated from the prison, and that police searches of the schools did not turn up any bombs.

Kadar was charged in Israel in April 2017 with thousands of counts on offenses that include publishing false information, causing panic, computer hacking and money laundering. He had been arrested in Israel the previous month in a joint operation with the FBI.

Early last month, Kadar was indicted by the U.S. Justice Department for federal hate crimes. The hoax threats to the JCCs and other Jewish institutions in the first three months of 2017 forced widespread evacuations and raised fears of a resurgence in anti-Semitism.

Kadar, who holds dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship, also was indicted by grand juries in Florida, Georgia and the District of Columbia, according to the Justice Department statement.

Kadar's parents and lawyer have not disputed his involvement in the bomb threats but asserted in his defense that he has a brain tumor and a low IQ.

## Top Senate challenger in California is white supremacist with anti-Semitic agenda

(JTA)—A top challenger to longtime U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California is a white supremacist who espouses anti-Semitic views.

Patrick Little, a Republican, is polling at 18 percent behind Feinstein, a Democrat who has served more than four terms in the Senate. Feinstein is polling at 39 percent in the race, which will pit the top-two vote-getters against each other in the general election in November.

The primary is set for June 5.

Little has been endorsed by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, but has complained that "alt-right" media outlets such as The Daily Stormer have not been supportive of his campaign.

Right Wing Watch outed Little's white supremacist views in an article last week.

In a campaign video posted to YouTube earlier this week, Little said he "woke up to the Jewish question and dedicated my life to exposing these Jews that control our country."

In a post last month on his blog, Little wrote: "We all want what has been taboo until now to say aloud, we want to be around other whites, safe from non-whites. But unless we start voicing that sentiment regularly at the ballot box, all of the places we have retreated to will be eventually overrun by non-whites."

Little on his Twitter account has accused Israel's Mossad intelligence agency of

playing a leading role in the 9/11 attacks in 2001 and said that "No man in history saved more Jewish lives than Adolf Hitler." His Twitter account was suspended earlier this year over statements amounting to Holocaust denial.

## Brazilian soccer legend Ronaldinho opens academy in Israel

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA)—The Brazilian soccer idol Ronaldinho has launched a soccer school in Israel aimed at both native-born and immigrant children and youths.

Ronaldinho, who spent last week in the Jewish state, announced Thursday the establishment of the Ronaldinho Soccer Academy for children aged 6 to 16. The goal is to combine the passion and fun of Brazilian soccer with a strong teaching methodology and friendship values.

The school will launch in the summer as a camp for some 100 youths before opening in September.

"I am very excited to help Israeli children of all faiths raise their game to the highest levels," Ronaldinho said at a news conference. "I see the school as a first-class educational tool that helps in acquiring skills, tools for life, discipline, teamwork and more. Israel has a tremendous potential, countless talents and a great love for the game."

The Christian athlete recently affiliated himself with an evangelical political party in Brazil, so opening a school in the Holy Land is a special excitement.

The project was established in cooperation with the Beitar Nordia Jerusalem soccer team along with local partners.

"Our mission is to bring new values to Israeli children and make the sports they are passionate about collaborate in their upbringing, promoting well-being, health, compliance and social engagement," Mauro Rozenszajn, the Brazilian-born CEO of the new academy, told JTA. "Teachers will be cordial and patient educators."

Ronaldinho, 38, had a full agenda while in Israel. The former soccer star visited the Beitar Nordia facilities, participated in a match with Israeli players, and visited Raanana, the city with the largest Brazilian community in the country, where he broadcast a table soccer game on Instagram.

"Soccer is the most aggregating activity in the world," Rozenszajn said. "Israel has many children coming from abroad. We want to bring joy to these children and their parents, and help them have a 'klita kala,' an easy integration."

The Israeli academy is the 10th global unit following branches in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Korea, India, Azerbaijan and the United States.

Ronaldinho is often considered one of the greatest players of his generation and regarded by many as one of the greatest of all time. Throughout his playing career, he accumulated numerous honors, including the FIFA World Player of the Year award twice and a Ballon d'Or. Ronaldinho played 97 matches for the Brazil national team, scoring 33 goals and representing his

country in two FIFA World Cups.

## Otto Warmbier's parents sue North Korea over their son's torture and death

(JTA)—The parents of Otto Warmbier, the American college student who was tortured while being held in a North Korean labor camp, filed a federal lawsuit in the United States against North Korea over their son's death.

Warmbier, 22, a Cincinnati native, was traveling on a student tour of North Korea in early 2016 when he was arrested and sentenced to 15 years of hard labor for stealing a propaganda poster. After international outrage and over a year of imprisonment, North Korea released Warmbier in June, saying his health had deteriorated after a bout of botulism. Warmbier's doctors said he suffered extensive brain damage. He died on June 19, 2017, in Cincinnati.

The 22-page lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, alleges that Otto Warmbier was "brutally tortured and murdered" by Kim Jong Un's "criminal" regime.

The lawsuit, filed on Thursday, comes as President Donald Trump prepares to meet with the North Korean leader late next month or in early June in order to effect "denuclearization" of the hostile country.

Trump has raised Warmbier's death repeatedly in public statements in attempts to bring North Korea to the nuclear negotiating table.

The White House was aware the lawsuit would be filed and did nothing to discourage the Warmbiers from bringing it, NBC News reported, citing an unnamed source familiar with the case.

Fred Warmbier said in a statement that his son was "taken hostage, kept as a prisoner for political purposes, used as a pawn and singled out for exceptionally harsh and brutal treatment by Kim Jong Un. Kim and his regime have portrayed themselves as innocent, while they intentionally destroyed our son's life. This lawsuit is another step in holding North Korea accountable for its barbaric treatment of Otto and our family."

The lawsuit asks the court to determine a monetary award for punitive damages related to Otto Warmbier's mistreatment and death, as well as the emotional suffering of his family.

The family had hidden Warmbier's Jewishness during negotiations for his return. Warmbier, whose mother is Jewish, became active at the University of Virginia campus Hillel following a 2014 Birthright trip to Israel.

## 3 Palestinians attempting to infiltrate Israel from Gaza killed by soldiers

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinians in two separate incidents on the Gaza border.

In one of the Sunday evening incidents, soldiers shot at two Palestinians trying to damage the security fence and infiltrate into Israel, killing one, the Israeli army said. The other was taken into custody for questioning.

In the second incident, two Palestinians broke through the security fence and began throwing firebombs at soldiers, who responded with gunfire, killing both infiltrators.

Earlier in the evening, two Palestinians armed with knives and tools meant to damage the border fence were arrested after they infiltrated into Israel on the border with southern Gaza, according to the Israeli army.

Also Sunday, a fire broke out in the Gaza border-area Kissufim forest after a kite carrying a Molotov cocktail launched from Gaza landed there. The blaze was brought under control by firefighters.

## Airstrikes hit military bases in northern Syria, killing at least 26. Is Israel responsible?

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Overnight airstrikes that targeted military bases in northern Syria reportedly have killed at least 26, mostly Iranian pro-Syrian government fighters.

At least 60 fighters were wounded and some also remain missing in the Sunday night attacks on the military bases in Hama and Aleppo, according to reports citing the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Israel's Security Cabinet convened an emergency meeting on Sunday afternoon in response to the strikes.

The human rights monitor reportedly said that Israel is "probably" responsible, and several news outlets pointed the finger at Israel, noting that Israel refused to comment on the attacks. Israel generally neither confirms nor denies such airstrikes. Other media outlets blamed the United States and British forces for the attacks.

A Syrian military source said on state television Sunday night that "Syria is being exposed to a new aggression with some military bases in rural Hama and Aleppo hit with enemy rockets."

On Sunday, Israel's defense minister, Avigdor Liberman, in an onstage interview at The Jerusalem Post's annual conference in New York City said that Israel would react if Russia delivered its S-300 advanced missile-defense system to help it protect itself against such rocket attacks.

"No doubt we will take the action," Liberman told Jerusalem Post editor-in-chief Yaakov Katz.

"We will keep our freedom of operation in all of Syria. We have no intention to attack Russia or to interfere in domestic Syrian issues," he said. "But if somebody thinks that it is possible to launch missiles or to attack Israel or even our aircraft, no doubt we will respond — and we will respond very forcefully."

On Friday, Liberman told a think tank in Washington, D.C., that Israel will take action if Iran begins setting up military bases in Syria.

"What we will not allow is for Iranians to establish a forward base in Syria against Israel," he said.

Israel in the past reportedly has struck arms shipments to Syria from Iran, as well as the T-4 Syrian military base reportedly housing Iranian military installations.

# A Montreal pilgrimage in the footsteps of Leonard Cohen



Ben Harris

Leonard Cohen's grave, next to three generations of his family, in the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim cemetery in Montreal.



Ben Harris

A photograph of Leonard Cohen, front right, from his 1949 Hebrew school graduation hangs in a foyer at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal.

**By Ben Harris**

MONTREAL (JTA)—Just inside the gate of the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue off Boulevard du Mont Royal, a gravestone bears an unusual Star of David, the sharp angles of its two opposing triangles—one reaching heavenward, the other aimed at the earth—softened into the shape of hearts. A dozen red

roses scattered on the ground are signs of recent visitors, and an overflowing mound of stones on top, in keeping with the Jewish custom, is evidence of many more. The footstone is engraved in Hebrew with the name of the deceased, Eliezer the son of Nissan HaKohen. And beneath that, the name by which he is known to the world: Leonard Cohen.

The legendary singer, songwriter, poet and novelist was interred here in a private ceremony in 2016, just hours before his family would inform the world that he had died days earlier, at the age of 82, at his home in Los Angeles. Though Cohen had been suffering from cancer and knew his death was looming, he died peacefully in his sleep after a nighttime fall. His grave is in the family plot beside three generations of his forebears.

“He came into the world a Montreal Jew and he left the world a Montreal Jew,” said Gideon Zelermyer, the cantor at Shaar Hashomayim, who presided over the burial with the synagogue’s rabbi.

It’s little surprise that a steady stream of visitors continues to make its way to Cohen’s gravesite more than a year after his death. Already well into his 70s, the singer achieved something rare in popular music—a late-career renaissance. It included five years of worldwide touring, hundreds of sold-out shows and several celebrated albums including “You Want It Darker,” which was released just weeks before he died, earning him his first solo Grammy Award.

With his passing, interest in Cohen has surged even more, particularly in his hometown.

Musee d’Art Contemporain du Montreal recently wrapped up a five-month multimedia exhibition that featured works by 40 artists commissioned by the museum in “loving tribute” to Cohen. A 10,000-square-foot portrait of the singer, barely-

there smile shadowed by his trademark fedora and hand held over heart, towers over Crescent Street in the heart of downtown. Another nine-story mural of Cohen was completed last year. And in November, a star-studded tribute concert at the city’s Belle Centre featured appearances by Sting, Elvis Costello, Seth Rogen and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The Montreal Jewish community that nurtured Cohen in his early years has not been overlooked in the Cohen surge. For a while, media interest in Shaar Hashomayim was so intense that the leadership had to issue a statement asking people to stay away.

Inquiring at the city’s Jewish institutions today inspires knowing smiles from people who have grown accustomed to fielding questions about Cohen. “At least the third today,” said an official at the cemetery when a visitor asked for directions to Cohen’s grave.

Cohen first encountered the biblical metaphors and liturgical themes that would inspire so much of his life’s work at Shaar Hashomayim, a fortress of a synagogue built by his ancestors that today occupies the better part of a city block. Cohen’s childhood home, at 599 Belmont Ave., is just up the hill, and a photograph of a teenage Cohen in double-breasted jacket at his Hebrew school graduation in 1949 still hangs on the wall.

Music remains central to the service at Shaar Hashomayim, with a cantor leading prayers in the now

nearly obsolete choral tradition once prevalent in Europe. It was that sound that Cohen sought out for “You Want It Darker,” which features Zelermyer and the synagogue choir providing backing vocals.

But Cohen’s connections to the affluent Montreal Jewish community of his youth was never without complications. He fled the city’s confines early and often—first to study literature at Columbia, then to the Greek island Hydra, and eventually to Southern California, where he lived in a Zen monastery for years. Montreal was a place to which he returned occasionally “to renew my neurotic affiliations,” he once wrote.

Liel Leibovitz, author of a 2014 book exploring Cohen’s artistic evolution, points to a 1964 speech that Cohen delivered to a symposium at the Montreal Jewish Library as the moment he found his prophetic voice. In the speech, which Leibovitz reconstructed from notes found in Cohen’s papers, the singer lambasted Montreal Jewry for worshipping a “hideous distortion” of God.

“Bronze plaques bearing names like Bronfman and Beutel were fastened to modern buildings, replacing humbler buildings established by men who loved books in which there were no plaques at all,” Cohen said.

Today, the library has migrated from the cold water flat it once occupied to a modern campus in the western suburbs of the city, a symbol of the very Jewish fixation on buildings decried by the young poet. Yet Cohen never severed his connection to Montreal and its Jews, and the embrace only seemed to intensify as the years passed.

“There are times when you want to show the flag, when you want to indicate that there is nourishment to be had from this culture, that it is not entirely irrelevant to the present situation, that it does not serve a nation’s best interests to reject and despise it,” Cohen told an interviewer in 2016.

And the synagogue reciprocated, proudly waving the flag of its most celebrated alumnus.

Outside the sanctuary, across the lobby from where the faces of Cohen’s grandfather and great-grandfather, both past presidents of the synagogue, peer down from austere Victorian portraits, a glass case houses a vinyl copy of “You Want It Darker” and the Juno Award the album won from the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Facing the case is a display showcasing Canadian Jewish history that prominently features a photo of Cohen onstage in a section about the community’s cultural contributions.

After Cohen’s death, Zelermyer chanted the El Malei Rachamim memorial prayer for Cohen during Shabbat services, sung to the tune of the singer’s iconic “Hallelujah.”

“It was such a validation of the fact that we hang on to these traditions,” Zelermyer said of Cohen’s enduring connection to the synagogue. “I go and I teach cantorial students and I tell them the same thing: You never know who that young person is going to be sitting a few rows away from the pulpit and how the experience of being in shul and listening to someone praying with intention, how they’re impacted by that. I just find it remarkable.”

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## Floods

From page 1A

Education will continue, over the coming hours and days, to closely escort the educational staff in the schools the students attended.”

Bennett also thanked the search and rescue teams “for their determined work to rescue the boys and girls.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wrote on Twitter, “The state of Israel grieves the promising young lives that were cut short by this tragedy in the Arava [Desert Region]. We embrace the families in grief, and pray for the speedy recovery of the wounded.”

In Israel, rivers fill up with

water during the winter rain season, which typically ends around the Passover holiday. The river had been dry for several weeks before unseasonable torrential downpours struck the country on Wednesday and Thursday. During heavy rains, the water in the rivers can rise quickly leading to flash floods. Hikers are warned to steer clear of riverbeds during inclement weather, when they can be notoriously dangerous. When dry, riverbeds are popular hiking destinations.

Two Bedouin teenagers were killed in separate incidents during floods on Wednesday.

## Zionistas

From page 1A

and ZOA’s Fuel for Truth here <http://www.fuelfortruth.org/>

“The ZOA is a dynamic organization and we hope you will consider becoming a part of it,” said David Moldau, Zionistas board member. “Please remember, today Israel needs us more than ever. ZOA member or not, we hope you will continue advocating for Israel, whether with us or with other organizations.”

If you wish to become a member of this new ZOA chapter and receive emails about upcoming programs and initiatives, click on the link below or go to the website <https://zoa.org/donate/florida/> for an application. The dues are \$50 a year.

If you have questions, feel free to contact either Dr. Dan Layish at [dlayishmd@gmail.com](mailto:dlayishmd@gmail.com) or Sharona Whisler, [swhisler@zoa.org](mailto:swhisler@zoa.org).

## Judea

From page 1A

referring to land in Israel as ‘occupied territories,’” said Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel, president of Christians in Defense of Israel, and founder and president of Covenant Journey. “I

applaud the Trump administration for this welcome change. The media often uses terms like ‘occupied territories’ and ‘refugee camps’ to delegitimize Israel. Most people hearing the words ‘refugee camp’ visualize a makeshift tent city, when in reality these places are established neighborhoods with businesses and schools.

I am pleased the State Department has eliminated the derogatory and false term ‘occupied territories’ language,” said Staver.

The term “occupied” is considered by many to be a loaded phrase intended to demonize Israel with regard to its activities in disputed areas. According to policy expert Dan Diker of the

Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA), “Friedman is advancing Trump administration policy to correct past mistakes and misconceptions of American diplomats. Since the Oslo Accords in 1995, the most densely Palestinian populated areas in the territories are designated as ‘Area A’ and ‘Area B,’ which are under Palestinian

autonomy, and are certainly not legally occupied.”

Mark Zell, who heads Republicans in Israel, commented to World Israel News in December that “Ambassador Friedman is fighting back against bureaucratic inertia and State Department Arabists.”

In response to the State Department’s subsequent

change in terminology, Israel’s Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman tweeted over the weekend, “The lie of the occupied Palestinian territories begins to be revealed. They say that a lie repeated often enough becomes true, but the truth is forever stronger. The State Department report is proof of that.”

## Portman

From page 4A

Libby Lenkinski, the vice president for public engagement for the New Israel Fund, said her group, which funds liberal Israeli advocacy groups, hoped Portman’s statement would bring attention to its agenda, noting that Portman in her statement said she was exploring Israeli charities to support.

“The right celebrity can open up more space on an issue and give more permission to more people to reflect their position,” Lenkinski said. “It can be a catalyst.”

A number of liberal Zionists who praised Portman were aggravated by the patronizing

responses the actor received from the right and the left, particularly the insistence on both sides that she was indeed embracing BDS, despite her denials.

“While the far left and right are bent on mischaracterizing Portman’s stance as BDS, we take her at her word,” Debra Shushan, the director of policy for Americans for Peace Now, said in an email. “Natalie Portman is more dangerous [to Netanyahu] than the BDS movement because she can’t be dismissed as an anti-Zionist Israel hater.”

So, like Reagan Republicans, is “Portman Zionism” going to become a thing?

Not so fast, said Lev Grin-

gauz, a student at the University of Minnesota and a reporting fellow for New Voices, a Jewish campus magazine.

The viciousness of the response from Netanyahu’s defenders, which included calls for Portman to have her citizenship revoked, might discourage like-minded people, he said in a Twitter interview.

“When you get attacked quickly on all sides for so much as trying to be nuanced, even if imperfectly so, that means the space for conversation is too narrow for any of us to operate in anymore,” Gringauz said.

For the pro-Israel right, Portman was the latest in

a long line of liberal pos-turers, especially when she decried “the mistreatment of those suffering from today’s atrocities.” Many interpreted those words as referring to Israeli troops who have killed more than 30 Palestinians protesting along the Gaza border in recent weeks. (An Israeli television station reported Monday night that Portman originally told the Genesis Prize that she was canceling her participation in the award ceremony over Gaza.)

“She didn’t express love for Israel,” Ari Teman, an entrepreneur and stand-up comic, said on Facebook. “At most, she expressed love for

hummus and dancing. She stabbed Israel in the back for defending itself from Hamas, a terror organization sworn to kill Jews everywhere, and she knew exactly what message she was sending and how it would be used by Israel-haters.”

Josh Block, CEO of the Israel Project, said in an interview that there was a lesson for both Portman and her critics: Portman should be heeded as an intimate of Israel, but should also be cautious in how she expressed her criticism.

“People ought not be working overtime to turn an ally into an adversary, and those with special platforms and such deep ties to Israel

need to take care that when expressing their legitimate disagreements, they don’t take actions that as Daniel Patrick Moynihan would say, could be seen as ‘joining the jackals,’ he said, recalling the late New York senator. “The better approach for her would be to go to Israel and give a speech and highlight the values important to her in the presence of people she wants to persuade.

“The better response is not to disengage and cede the discussion to others, but to engage more deeply, on the ground, in Israel, with the only—and necessarily imperfect—nation state of the Jewish people.”

## BDS

From page 4A

At the same time, it is time that Jewish and pro-Israel organizations stand up for what is right. It is time to call out and put pressure on those in our community whose efforts are counterproductive and immoral. We are thankful to the few Jewish

and pro-Israel organizations that have engaged with us on this issue and promised to work with us.

However, we are disappointed that in many of our conversations with other organizations, we have been told that the organization is tied, unable to say or do anything because of their

donors. This lack of moral compass cannot go on. It is time that we strengthen our backbone and stand true to our Jewish values by wholeheartedly condemning Canary Mission and pursuing justice for all.

If you find this issue concerning and/or are interested in speaking more about it

or getting involved in our efforts, please reach out to jgold@umich.edu and gabilana@umich.edu.

*Signed,*  
*Hillel Governing/Executive Boards: University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Ohio State University*

*Campus Pro-Israel Or-*

*ganizations: University of Michigan: Hillel Israel Cohort; Ohio State University: Buckeyes for Israel; University of Minnesota: GopherIsrael; University of Wisconsin: Badgers for Israel, Madison Student Alliance for Israel; University of Maryland: Terps for Israel; and George Washington Uni-*

*versity: George Washington for Israel*

*This letter was also signed by 107 students at seven universities.*

*The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.*

## Zarif

From page 5A

international law and, specifically, its support of Hezbollah. Zarif is aware of the threat

Hezbollah presents to Israel, as he assured Hezbollah’s leader Hassan Nasrallah in August 2015 that the nuclear deal would present the terror

group with “a historic opportunity” to threaten Israel. Iran’s financing of Hezbollah has allowed it to build a massive rocket arsenal with which

to threaten Israel.

Zarif is quite adept at feigning indignation, but most of his responses in this interview were deflections of the ques-

tions about Iran’s record, not answers. He has no real answers for Iran’s aggressive and destabilizing behavior. But Zarif does possess the

quality identified by Wotton: the ability to lie.

*David Gerstman is senior policy analyst at The Israel Project.*

## Billboards

From page 7A

Hoffman, who called it a “tipping point.”

Corbyn recently has had to apologize for his 2013 defense of a London mural widely seen as anti-Semitic. It shows stereotypical Jewish men playing Monopoly on the backs of black men. After the media dredged up his Facebook post on the mural, Corbyn deleted it.

He was also found this year to have been a long-time member, until 2015, of a private Facebook group rife with anti-Semitic hate speech.

“In the past, Corbyn was able to hide behind criticism of Israel to dismiss al-

legations of anti-Semitism,” Hoffman said. “But the mural had nothing to do with Israel, and Corbyn was personally a member of the anti-Semitic Facebook group.”

In an apparent bid to mollify his Jewish critics, Corbyn on Passover attended a seder dinner—organized, however, by a fringe, far-left group called Jewdas. But even this gesture backfired when the Jewish media highlighted how Jewdas’ Haggadah, the text used during the seder dinner, was an alternative version featuring a prayer for Israel’s destruction.

Whereas Corbyn has shown himself capable of transcending his Jewish detractors in elections, the

issue is nonetheless exposing him to scathing criticism within his own party. And it has cost his party several major donors, including Jewish ones, while widening the gulf between Labour centrists who resent Corbyn and those further to the left.

During the parliamentary debate last week on anti-Semitism, Smeeth, the Jewish Labour lawmaker, denounced inaction on anti-Semitism within her own party. She read out in Parliament one of the thousands of anti-Semitic emails she says she has received since 2015.

“Hang yourself, you vile treacherous Zionist filth, you’re a cancer of humanity,” one email said.

She and Berger both received standing ovations in the House of Commons, the Parliament’s lower house, after sharing the abuse they had received.

But even Smeeth conceded that opposition to the alleged proliferation of anti-Semitic rhetoric within Labour is causing some Corbyn supporters—known in Britain as “Corbynistas”—to rally around him.

“For every comment like those you just heard,” she said of the anti-Semitic emails she had read aloud, “you can find 10 people ready to dismiss it, to cry ‘smear,’ to say that we are weaponizing anti-Semitism.”

As the debate grinds on,

the Corbyn effect is making itself felt in very tangible ways in some Jewish households in London.

Mark Ruben, a 57-year-old hotelier, recently sold his \$7 million property in London, which he called his “dream home,” partly out of concern over Corbyn winning an election and imposing a mansion tax, as his party has vowed to do.

Another consideration in favor of selling, Ruben said, had been the proliferation of anti-Semitic rhetoric and incidents. In 2017, they reached a new record for the second straight year, at 1,382 cases.

“The prospect of Corbyn becoming prime minister is

deeply worrisome to me also because of anti-Semitism,” he said. “It’s suppressed now, and he’s denying being anti-Semitic, but it could all be reversed the day he’s in power.”

But the concern of Jews—a population of 250,000 in a country of 65 million—is of little interest to the average voter in Britain, Ruben said.

“We’re just a small minority,” he said. “Even with all the headlines about anti-Semitism, Corbyn will get the Muslim votes, he’ll get the votes of students whose loans he’s promising to repay because he’s offering something that doesn’t exist and they’re too young and naive to realize it.”

## NYU

From page 11A

said it decided to sign the petition because it supports “the liberation of all people.”

“This includes the people of Palestine,” the group told JTA

in a statement. “That is why we have given our support to BDS. We are happy to stand alongside them and support their efforts to obtain justice for the people of Palestine.”

Jenny Labovitz, a Realize

Israel board member, said the point of the Yom Haatzmaut celebration and similar events was to show pro-Israel students that there are others who share their opinions.

“[I]t’s more important, not

necessarily to counter JVP, but to provide a space for pro-Israel students to say it’s OK to celebrate Yom Hazikaron [Israel’s Memorial Day], it’s OK to celebrate Yom Haatzmaut with us,” said Labovitz, 21.

Even so, fellow group member Esther Bildirici, 20, said she did not generally feel comfortable speaking about Israel in class.

“Somehow it became the cool thing to do, to be

anti-Zionist on the college campus,” Bildirici said. “In school or in class, I have a very hard time ever admitting that I’ve been to Israel and I’ve studied in Israel.”

## Bregman

From page 12A

12 or 13. I never went to the school dance.”

On this day, Bregman departed for a practice field and chatted in Spanish with fellow infielders Jose Altuve

and Carlos Correa, natives of Venezuela and Puerto Rico, respectively, at second base during a running drill. Bregman is fluent in the language.

Jerick Paquinto, a 19-year-old from Houston wearing a Bregman jersey, was among

hundreds of fans watching.

“I like that he’s not the biggest guy and he has a lot of heart,” Paquinto said of the 6-foot Bregman, words similarly applicable to the 5-foot-6 Altuve, last year’s American League MVP. “I liked him

since he was at LSU [where Bregman was a first-team All American at shortstop]. I saw him hit a homer, and I fell in love with him as a player.”

The trio jogged toward a batting cage, Bregman stopped to sign autographs after he fin-

ished hitting. He’ll be signing plenty more when the Astros come home next week for their opener at Minute Maid Park. His parents will be there.

Sam Bregman joked about guarding the championship ring his son will receive.

“I know that the Jewish community around the country is so proud of him,” Jackie Bregman said. Referring to the card collection of Jewish players, she added, “I hope that one day he’s in that collection.”

# In Krakow, Jews celebrate their community's 'revival' amid rising xenophobia



Jakub Wlodek

A participant at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Jewish Community Center in Krakow blowing a shofar, April 22, 2018.



Jakub Wlodek

Jonathan Ornstein lighting fireworks at the 10th anniversary celebration of the JCC Krakow, April 22, 2018.

## By Cnaan Liphshiz

KRAKOW, Poland (JTA)—At one of Poland's plushest synagogues, leaders of this city's small but vibrant Jewish community welcomed visitors from around the world to a celebration of what the hosts call their minority's "revival" in this country.

The occasion for the party Sunday at Tempel Synagogue was the 10th anniversary of the adjacent Jewish Community Center of Krakow, located in the heart of the city's historic Jewish quarter, Kazimierz.

Since its opening in 2008, the three-story building, with its club for some 60 Holocaust survivors and newly opened Jewish kindergarten, has become a symbol for the return of Jewish community life to the city near Auschwitz, where the Nazis obliterated centuries of Jewish presence.

"As we have grown, we have also been able to share the story of Krakow's Jewish revival with hundreds of thousands of visitors," a beaming Jonathan Ornstein, the New York-born director of JCC Krakow, told the 200 people attending the anniversary party. "Thank you for letting me be a part of the bright, beautiful Jewish future we are building together."

Many of Krakow's hundreds of Jewish residents acknowledge the progress made since communism, which drove underground what little remained of its Jewish com-

munity. But not all of them share Ornstein's optimism in a country whose nationalist government recently unleashed what critics say is one of the worst waves of anti-Semitic rhetoric in decades.

Several blocks away from the JCC, volunteers of the Czulent association of Jewish students are converting the cellar of their building—a former apartment synagogue, or shtiebel—into what Czulent founder Anna Makowka-Kwapisiewicz calls a "safe space." It's essentially a room where Jews can hole up in the event of an emergency.

"It's not something I thought I'd be doing in Poland even five years ago," she said about the shelter.

Makowka-Kwapisiewicz said her confidence began to recede two years ago, when five men harassed and intimidated Jewish boys playing at a playground in a poor area of Krakow because one was wearing a kippah. One of the men spat on a Jewish child at the playground while shouting at both kids.

The boys' parents never pressed charges, which is why the incident was not widely reported in the media, said a mother of one of the boys, according to Makowka-Kwapisiewicz, who works for the international nonprofit National Democratic Institute.

Since the fall of communism, such incidents were unheard of in Krakow, a tourist magnet for its Jewish

heritage sites and one of the few old Polish cities that was spared major damage during World War II.

The city celebrates its ancient Jewish heritage at the annual Jewish Festival, one of the largest events of its kind in Europe. The city's seven large synagogues—of which three are active—swing open their doors for one night a year, attracting thousands of visitors.

On the way to the nearby museum on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp, hundreds of thousands of tourists pass through Krakow's picturesque streets, some of them featuring Jewish-flavored shops and restaurants with Yiddish signs. Many visit the grounds of Oskar Schindler's factory, where the German industrialist saved hundreds of Jews.

The playground incident came one year after the 2015 election of the right-wing Law and Justice party, which some leaders of Polish Jewry and others accuse of encouraging or tolerating a wave of xenophobic incidents, including against Jews.

The taboo on open expressions of hatred toward Jews in Poland, where the Nazis killed millions of Jews in the 1940s, began to loosen in 2015, said Makowka-Kwapisiewicz. That year, a far-right activist burned the effigy of a haredi Orthodox Jew during a march against Muslim immigration in Wroclaw.

"I never expected I would

live in such circumstances," she added.

More recently, in November, tens of thousands of nationalists marched through Warsaw shouting "Jews out" and other racist slogans while carrying banners against Islam. Two weeks after the march, a Warsaw mosque that for years was targeted with threats was vandalized.

"When places of worship are being attacked, we need to prepare," Makowka-Kwapisiewicz said of the shelter her group is preparing.

Against this backdrop, the president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland, Leslaw Piszewski, and Anna Chipczynska, who heads the Warsaw community, wrote last year to a founder of Law and Justice to say that they are "appalled by recent events and fearful for our security as the situation in our country is becoming more dangerous."

Things went from bad to worse following a row between Poland and Israel over Warsaw passing a law in January that criminalizes blaming the Polish nation for Nazi crimes. The dispute unleashed the worst wave of anti-Semitism since the fall of the Iron Curtain, according to Rafal Pankowski, co-founder of the Polish anti-racism group Never Again.

In the wake of the fight over the law, he told JTA: "In the space of one month, I have seen more anti-Semitic hate speech than in the previous 10 years combined."

At least one person reported an assault that he suspected was anti-Semitic: The Catholic journalist Bogdan Bialek said he was attacked by a person who shouted about Bialek's efforts to commemorate victims of an anti-Semitic pogrom in Kielce in 1946.

Poland lacks a systematic effort by the state to collect data on attacks against minority groups, according to Amnesty International, "meaning that authorities have no way of knowing the scope of the problem," the group said.

The tsunami of hate speech about Jews was conducted mostly on social networks, where calls to "stuff TNT up Pankowski's ass" and "punch him" were recorded after a government official singled him out for attack on Twitter. But since January, several

Polish politicians and prominent figures have joined the Twitter rabble.

Beata Mazurek, the spokeswoman for Law and Justice and a deputy parliament speaker, favorably tweeted a quote from a Catholic priest who said that the Israeli ambassador's criticism of the Holocaust bill "made it hard for me to look at Jews with sympathy and kindness."

TVP, a public television station, aired an interview with a priest who said that the Jews' perception of the truth is whatever is "beneficial" to them or Israel. And the Do Rzeczy conservative weekly published a drawing showing two silhouettes—one bearing a swastika and the other a Star of David—pointing a gun at a third figure emblazoned with the Polish flag.

Last month, Kornel Morawiecki, a former senator whose son, Mateusz, became prime minister last year, said in an interview that Jews moved gladly into ghettos during the Holocaust to avoid having "to deal with those nasty Poles," as the ex-senator put it.

Government officials have consistently vowed to act tough on nationalist extremism, "but at the same time they are encouraging it, creating a schizophrenic attitude," Makowka-Kwapisiewicz said.

Despite the rhetoric, many Poles still say their country is safer for their religious minorities than many Western European countries, where Islamists and other extremists are responsible for hundreds of physical assaults on Jews, including deadly ones.

"OK, the situation is less comfortable than one year ago," Peter Nawrocki, a 44-year-old computer science university professor, told JTA at the JCC celebration. "Extremists are a problem. But this is not France."

Nawrocki is confident that Poland is good place to raise his 1-year-old son, Shimon.

"I think Poland is one of the safest places in Europe to be Jewish," he said, citing the absence in recent years of a violent hate crime attack on a Jew.

Anna Swies, a Jewish-American investment consultant with Polish roots, traded Chicago for Krakow six years ago and married a local man.

She said she feels "connected" to her true identity here. Having a luxury Jewish kindergarten for her two children, aged 4 and 6, for a fraction of what a comparable institution would cost in the United States "also helps," she said.

But like Makowka-Kwapisiewicz—she said she would like to leave at least for one year or two—other JCC regulars are having a tough time envisioning a future for themselves here because of rising xenophobia.

Serhii Chupryna, a Ukrainian-Jewish student who settled in Krakow in 2013 for his studies, said he feels significantly less comfortable living in Poland than he did when he first arrived. As a gay man, "I feel like I'm everything the ultranationalists here hate rolled into one person," he joked. Adding that "Ukraine is no better," he said he plans to save some money and move to Israel in a few years.

The JCC, with an annual budget of \$1.5 million, was set up with help from the World Jewish Relief group in the United Kingdom and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Chupryna said it has become "something of a safe space" amid growing expressions of hostility.

The current reality in Poland makes the JCC's mission "even more critical," said Dan Rosenfield, the chair of the World Jewish Relief group, which provides the institution with \$140,000 annually.

In recent weeks, "things have calmed down a little bit" when it comes to expressions of anti-Semitism, Jonathan Ornstein, the JCC director, told JTA. But even at the height of the anti-Semitic wave, Krakow Jews have not experienced direct assaults, he added.

Nonetheless, young people who are now discovering their Jewish ancestry—many Jewish Poles hid it during communism—"are starting to question their place in Poland moving forward," he said.

The new challenges, Ornstein suggested, "are a reminder of how we've taken for granted all these incredible positive changes in Poland. When something bad happens, it's shocking for us, which is maybe a sign of how good we've come to expect things to be."




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