



Honoring mothers this Mother's Day and on all days!

Late in the afternoon, an intimate gathering was hosted by the Jewish Pavilion and an assisted-living facility. There, Women of Faith gathered around the simple and beautifully adorned table to usher in and welcome the Sabbath. Prayers were recited over the candles, wine and challah bread. All shared stories of their faith, their families and expressed their gratitude. Upon conclusion... hands touched hands... all us felt the depth of our connection. The sacred space that we lovingly created was so peaceful, so powerful and so strong. It truly was a blessing to share time with these women.

— Judy Appleton

Life through the eyes of the 'normal' child

By Christine DeSouza

Local resident and Congregation of Reform Judaism

member Cindy Halpern's family memoir is unlike any other book I have ever read. Not only does Halpern tell her story of being the only "normal child" in her immediate family, her mother's memoir is told "through" Halpern. Both memoirs are brilliantly written in first person.

"The Normal Child" begins with Halpern's memoir. She was the third child in a family of four children. The oldest, her sister Anita, had mild retardation and was cruel to her and often tried to attack her. Halpern's two brothers were diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy, a condition that is terminal. Halpern was the only "normal" child.

However, Halpern quickly ascertains that she is not normal. "You can't come out of this normal," she said. "What is normal? You are the person you are because of all you went through. In some ways, it's made me a better person."

Her parents saw her broth-



Cindy Halpern

ers' MD as an obstacle to overcome, not to be defeated by it. Their struggle with this devastating disease made all involved stronger.

Halpern's writing is superbly creative. Toward the end of Halpern's memoir, she poignantly records watching

Normal on page 15A

Middle East braces for a tense May



Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90

Palestinian protesters burn tires during clashes with Israeli security forces on the Gaza Israeli border east of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip on April 6, 2018, the second of two border marches. April 13 marks a third week in a row the area has seen violence.

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS)—The coming month of May looks set to contain an unusual number of potential escalation points that could converge to create a highly explosive month.

The Israeli defense establishment is dealing with several pending potential flashpoints, including an Iranian threat to revenge a missile attack on an air base in Syria that was housing several senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps officers; a decision by the Trump administration on whether to cancel or amend the nuclear deal with Iran; weekly Hamas-led mass marches on the Gaza-Israel border on Fridays that continue to escalate; the celebration of Jerusalem Day; the expected move of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; and the Palestinian day of mourning over the establishment over

Israel's independence, known as Nakba ["Catastrophe"] Day.

Collectively, these incidents have the potential to escalate various fronts at the same time, such as Gaza, eastern Jerusalem and the territories, in addition to Israel's north, with a Russian, Iranian and even Turkish presence ensconced in Syria.

"The month of May does indeed contain within it more than a few challenges that can change the face of the area in a manner that will obligate us to update some of our current policies," Brig. Gen. (Res) Nitzan Nuriel, former director of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau of at the Prime Minister's office, told JNS.

As a result, the defense establishment will need to analyze the potential developments and their scope, and on that basis, prepare options that will remain at Israel's disposal, he added.

"In some of the cases, these

are small changes that influence the short term, and in others, the potential is more significant," said Nuriel.

He described the moving of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem as an event with short-term influence that may spark violence, but which will likely be temporary, "or at least will not fuel [other] violent incidents."

Upcoming elections in Lebanon, he said, "actually create new opportunities." And the pending decision by U.S. President Donald Trump over Iran "could change the rules of the game in the region," he added.

"A clear anti-Israel strategy"

Dr. Ely Karmon, a senior scholar at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Herzliya, Israel, said "the next weeks will represent one of the most explosive regional situations that involve Israel. The most serious one is the

May on page 15A

Community Erev Shavu'ot service

Compared to the week-long Festivals of Sukkot and Passover, and the grandeur or Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Shavu'ot can easily get overlooked. But, not only is it one of the Three Pilgrimage Festivals set down in the Torah (although with Sukkot and Passover), Jewish tradition understands it to be the anniversary of matan Torah, the giving of the gift of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

With those impressive credentials, Shavu'ot is the ideal time for Jews to gather as a community, just as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai. In addition to celebrating the spring harvest in the land of Israel, Shavu'ot is a time to reaffirm the teachings of the Torah through study sessions.

"There's a long-standing tradition of Tikkun Leil Shavu'ot," said Rabbi David Kay of Congregation Ohev Shalom, which is playing host to this year's Community Erev Shavu'ot Service, on the night of Saturday, May 19. "People stay up all night, learning and discussing traditional Jewish texts."

The Community Erev Shavu'ot Service was launched last year by Rabbi Joshua Neely, and hosted by his congregation, Temple Israel. Although not an all-night affair, last year's program included challenging study on ethical issues.

This year, several knowledgeable lay leaders will teach 15- to 20-minute

"round robin" sessions on engaging topics of Jewish interest. The schedule will allow for people to learn from three or four different teachers in the course of the evening.

The program begins with services, called for 8:45 p.m., followed by the learning sessions, and concluding with a cheesecake bar. For more information or to RSVP, see the Ohev Shalom website (<https://OhevShalom.org>), call the synagogue at 407-298-4650, or email Office@OhevShalom.org.





New board installed at Congregation Ohev Shalom

Congregation Ohev Shalom has installed its new officers and Board of Trustees for the 2018–2019 fiscal year. Steven Hornik will serve a 2-year term as president; he is a professor at University of Central Florida College of Business. Rachel Gebaide will serve as executive vice president; she is an attorney at Lowdes Drosdick Doster Kantor and Reed. Other officers are Nancy Reichel, development VP; Nina Oppenheim, membership VP; Macy Kast, youth, family and education VP; Debby Gendzier, operations VP; Susan Bodell, secretary; Andy Rosen, treasurer; and Lisa Levin, parliamentarian.

Pictured here are (back row from left) Richard Witt, Rick Cohen, Brett Spector, Ken Feldman, Joy Bochner, Alaina Andino Wilder, Jerry Leibman, Dan Rothbaum; (middle row from left) Janet Friedman, Lorraine Kessler, Shari Wladis, Dana Rusonik, Melissa Moskowitz, Vicky Hajdenberg, Estelle Wheeler, Ed Danuff; (front row, from left) Lisa Levin, Nancy Reichel, Nina Oppenheim, Rachel Gebaide, Steven Hornik, Macy Kast, Susan Bodell, Debby Gendzier, Andy Rosen. Not pictured: Shelley Fenton-Zeira, Gordon Levin, Erika Siegel, Leah Silver, Linda Wallerstein, Neal Blaher, Rikki Hanin, Lori Brenner, Sara Stern.



ZOA gets active in Central Florida

Instrumental in the formation of the Zionist Organization of America local chapter are (from l-r), David Meltzer, Dr. Daniel Layish, Executive Director of the ZOA Florida Chapter Sharona Whisler, and Joe Davis.

Davis and Whisler are holding a limited commemorative stamp issued by the State of Israel in honor of ZOA's 120th anniversary in 2017. ZOA gifted the stamp to Layish.

Plans are in the works for a showing of the film "The Fight of Our Lives—Defeating the Ideological War Against the West," a documentary by Gloria Greenfield that examines the emergence of anti-Western ideas, ideologies and movements, along with their subsequent penetration into Western academia, politics, and society.

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

Accepting nominations for Human Service Award

It is that time of year once again when Heritage Florida Jewish News is putting out feelers for one outstanding person in the Jewish community who has given his or her time or talent or monetary gifts to better the Orlando Jewish community. Nominations for the 2018 Heritage Human Service Award are now being accepted and the award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando on Aug. 7.

"For more than 28 years, individuals who have made major, voluntary contributions of their talent, time,

energy and effort to the Central Florida community have been honored with the selection and presentation of this award," said Jeff Gaeser, editor and publisher of the Heritage. Last year's recipient was Sara Stern. Former recipients have included Bernie Raff (2015), Loren London (2014), and Nina Oppenheim (2013).

According to Gaeser, "Each recipient chose their own path, but made considerable and long-lasting contributions to the Jewish community. Nominees for the 2018 award are individuals who do not look for recognition, but perform tikun olan—repair-

ing the world—out of internal motivation."

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

The Heritage is accepting nominations until Friday, June 8.

There's a new PR person at the Pavilion

Lisa Levine has joined the Jewish Pavilion as publicity director. A longtime writer who has served as editor of Seminole Magazine and managing editor of Orlando Magazine, Levine looks forward to spotlighting the Jewish Pavilion's important work in the community as well as the caring people and sponsors who contribute to its mission and the many people it serves.

Levine has been an active member of Orlando's Jewish community since arriving more than 20 years ago, including as a volunteer for Jewish Pavilion after her mother, Marilyn Levine, moved to

one of the facilities it serves. As Levine has helped to lead Shabbat services at Oakmonte Village twice a month, she has seen firsthand how the Jewish Pavilion's programming fosters the residents' special connection to their Jewish roots and to each other.

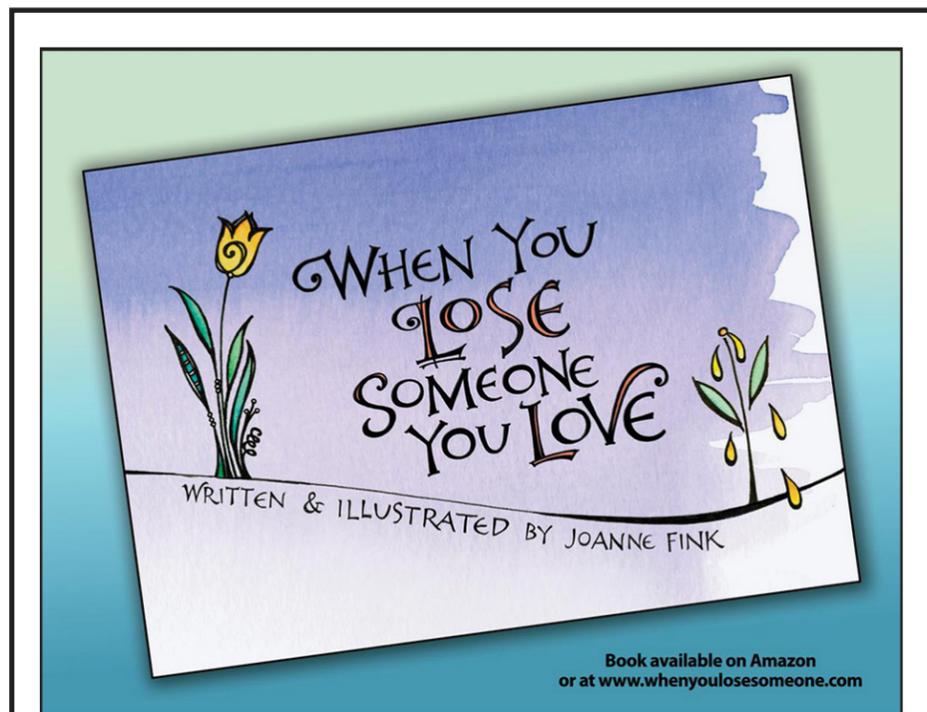
She and her husband, Gordon Levin (yes, the last name is spelled differently), have a daughter, Mara, and son, Ethan, who are both young adults. As recent empty nesters, the couple is enjoying the area's cultural scene as well as the restaurants and nightlife in their downtown Orlando neighborhood.

Levine replaces Julie Capps,



Lisa Levine

who accepted a full-time position with a local ad agency.



Grief Support offered year round

The Jewish Pavilion in partnership with Jewish Family Services and VITAS Healthcare will offer year-round grief support. The Jewish Pavilion's next sessions will be on Wednesdays May 9 - June 13 at 10:30 a.m. until noon at Brookdale Island Lake, 160 Islander Court. Subsequent grief support groups will be sponsored by JFS Orlando in the fall and spring; and sponsored by Jewish Pavilion in the winter.

While the groups differ, all are six weeks and explore grief through a "Jewish Lens." To sign up for the free group offered by the Jewish Pavilion, call 407-678-9363. This group is being led by Rabbi Maurice Kaprow.

Netanyahu updates world leaders on Iran's threatening nuclear program

By World Israel News

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday spoke by telephone with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel regarding the sensational revelations obtained by Israel's intelligence agency about Iran's dangerous nuclear development program.

Speaking at the Ministry of Defense complex in Tel Aviv Monday evening, the Israeli leader unveiled a trove of more than 100,000 documents obtained by the Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency, in recent weeks from a secret warehouse in southern Tehran. In a speech aimed at the international community

and delivered in English, the prime minister showed photographs of classified maps, charts, photographs, blueprints, videos and more documenting the Islamic Republic's weapons development program, called Project Amad.

According to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu "agreed with the leaders that he would, in the coming days, send professional teams to share with Germany and France the detailed material that has reached Israel regarding Iran's efforts to achieve nuclear weapons."

The European leaders have been maintaining that the Iran nuclear agreement, signed in 2015, was the best option available to counter

the nuclear threat and have been urging Trump not to dismantle the deal.

Netanyahu also spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the issue. "The two also discussed the situation in Syria and agreed to meet in the near future," the PMO stated.

Netanyahu intends to update the leaders of Great Britain and China, the other signatory countries of the nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic.

US President Donald Trump praised Netanyahu's presentation, saying it vindicated his stance against the nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic. Netanyahu has been "100 percent right" about Iran, Trump said. "It is just not an acceptable situation."

Negotiating a 'real agreement' with Iran?

Trump has declined to say whether the US will withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal by the May 12th deadline, but if it does pull out, he may then negotiate a "real agreement."

He underscored that the US "got nothing" for the sanctions relief granted Iran under the accord and that it was a "horrible agreement for the United States."

"In a few days' time, President Trump will decide, will make a decision on what to do with the nuclear deal. I'm sure he'll do the right thing. The right thing for the United States, the right thing for Israel and the right thing for the peace of the world."



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaking with French President Emmanuel Macron on the phone.

Netanyahu stated at the end of his presentation.

Israel continues to view Iran

as an existential threat and the other signatory states to "fix or nix" the agreement.

ZOA accused of defamation

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA)—Three Jewish organizations are accusing the Zionist Organization of America of inappropriately criticizing them. And the ZOA is accusing one of them right back.

On Wednesday, the various spats will have a formal hearing at a committee meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations, an umbrella association for Jewish groups. The Presidents Conference by-laws, according to the Forward, prohibit its members from attacking each other with "insults, ad hominem attacks, and name calling,"

as well as criticisms that are "false, inaccurate or unfairly exaggerated."

The Presidents Conference, which has over 50 organizations, aims to speak in a unified voice for the American Jewish establishment. The non-disparagement policy is meant to prevent discord among groups that sometimes differ widely on foreign and domestic affairs.

Three groups—the Anti-Defamation League, the National Council of Jewish Women and the refugee aid group HIAS—have lodged separate formal complaints under that policy against the ZOA, a right-wing pro-Israel organization. In turn, the ZOA

has lodged complaints against the ADL as well as Ameinu, a liberal pro-Israel group.

All the disputes will be judged by the committee in the formal, private hearings.

The complaints are confidential, and the three groups accusing the ZOA either declined to comment on the record or did not respond to JTA inquiries. The Presidents Conference also did not respond to a request for comment. But multiple officials with knowledge of the complaints confirmed to JTA that the hearings are taking place.

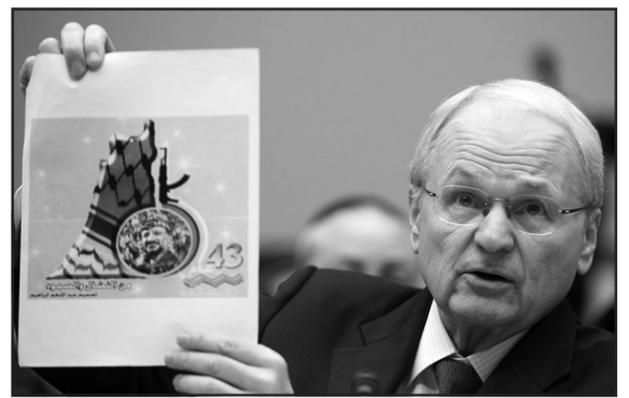
ZOA President Morton Klein called the complaints "nonsense" and denied that

his group had done anything wrong.

"A number of organizations have complained that we have criticized them too harshly, claiming that that violates the rights-and-responsibilities statement of the Conference of Presidents," Klein told JTA on Monday. "We've not called anybody names, ever. We've never said anything false"

In recent years, the ZOA has released public statements criticizing the three groups for taking liberal positions. The ZOA supports Israeli settlements, opposes Palestinian statehood and has supported policies of President Donald Trump with which the groups have taken issue.

A November news release from the ZOA condemned



Tasos Katopodis/Getty Images

Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, at a Capitol Hill hearing on moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, Nov. 8, 2017.

HIAS and the National Council of Jewish Women for signing "a shocking letter signed by extremist Jewish leaders" in defense of Palestinian-

American liberal activist Linda Sarsour. The following month, another ZOA state-

ZOA on page 15A

Jewish author Michael Twitty wins James Beard award

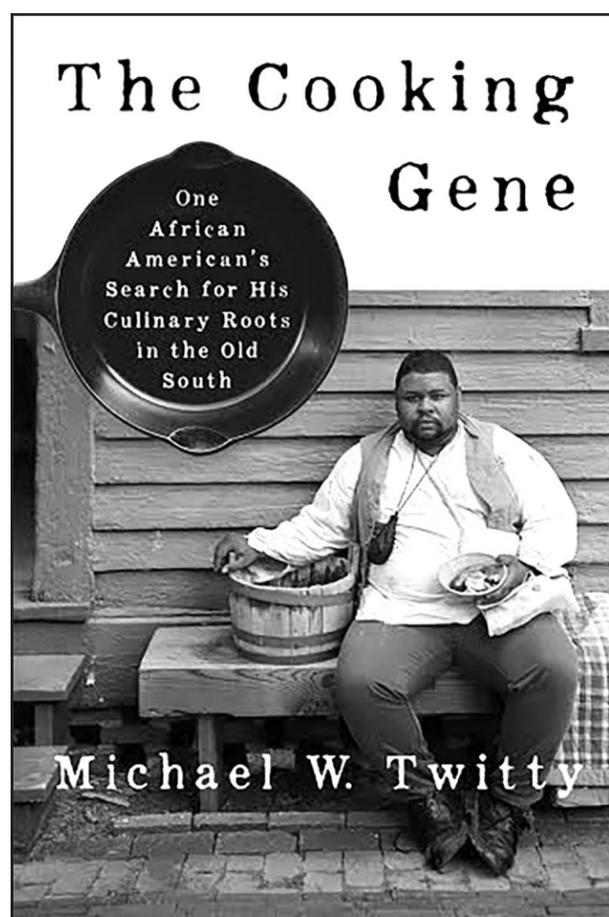
NEW YORK (JTA)—Michael Twitty won the James Beard Foundation's 2018 Book of the Year award for his book on African-American Southern food.

The James Beard Foundation announced last week that Twitty, an African-American Jew-by-choice, won the prestigious award for "The Cooking Gene: A Journey Through African-American Culinary History in the Old South." The book explores the history of soul food and its relationship to the larger category of Southern cuisine.

In 2012, Twitty embarked on a "Southern Discomfort Tour" to trace the history of his black ancestors through food. On the journey, which he documents in the book, he learned about his ancestors' fates, worked on historic plantations and took DNA tests to learn more about his heritage.

On Wednesday, he wrote on Twitter that he had received confirmation that he was the first African-American person to win the foundation's Book of the Year award.

In the book Twitty, a former Hebrew school teacher, also details his Jewish journey and draws parallels between African-American and Jewish history.



"How I became Jewish began through food," Twitty told JTA in an interview last year. His Christian mother, whom Twitty de-

scribes in his book as "the best challah braider I have ever known," introduced him early on to the Shabbat staple.

Father of Jewish Parkland victim sues shooter and deputy



Andrew Pollack

(JTA)—The father of Meadow Pollack, one of the 17 students and teachers killed in the shooting at a Parkland, Florida, high school in February, has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the gunman as well as those it alleges failed to stop him, including a deputy who stayed outside the building.

Andrew Pollack filed the lawsuit Monday in Broward County Circuit Court. He told the Sun-Sentinel newspaper that he was not interested in any monetary reward he would get from the lawsuit.



Meadow Pollack

"I just want to expose what a coward [Broward Sheriff Deputy Scot Peterson] was and that he could've saved everybody on the third floor," Pollack told the Florida daily. "I don't want him to go anywhere in the country and not have people recognize what a coward he is."

Peterson resigned 10 days after the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High after 33 years in law enforcement. Video footage showed that he never entered the building during the attack by Nikolas Cruz,

19, a former student there. Peterson had been the resource officer at the school since 2009.

The lawsuit also names the estate of Lynda Cruz, the shooter's mother, who died in November; three mental or behavioral health centers, who are accused of failing to provide Nikolas Cruz proper treatment; and James and Kimberly Snead, who allowed Cruz to live with them after his mother died and who, according to the lawsuit, did not properly secure the shooter's firearms.

Meadow Pollack was 18 and a senior at the high school when she was killed.

"My daughter died crawling by a doorway—shielding a classmate who also ended up dying—waiting for someone to come help her," her father said. "Help never came."

Pollack gained notice in the days after the shooting by attending what was billed as a listening session at the White House with President Donald Trump.

"How many schools, how many children have to get shot?" he asked Trump. "It stops here, with this administration and me."

The ADL's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad week

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA)—Last week, Shabbat couldn't come soon enough for the Anti-Defamation League.

On Wednesday, Starbucks announced that the Jewish group's CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, seemed to have been demoted from top adviser to a supporting role in the coffee company's day of diversity training. And on Thursday, the ADL apologized for the way it tweeted about an anonymous group, Canary Mission, that publishes the names and personal information of campus anti-Israel activists.

I can't make you care about the travails of a Jewish institution, but I'll try: If these stories do matter, it is the degree to which they illustrate the political pressures being brought to bear

on one of the largest and most influential of the Jewish "legacy" organizations.

Since its founding in 1913, the ADL has fashioned itself as a Jewish watchdog group, battling anti-Semitism and promoting a broad civil rights agenda, a two-pronged effort to secure Jewish standing and safety in the world. In more recent decades, under its longtime National Director Abraham Foxman, it has included defense of Israel in that brief under the principle that you can't separate the fates of the Diaspora and Israel.

Until he stepped down in 2015, Foxman's most significant role was what one interviewer referred to as "a one-man Sanhedrin doling out opprobrium or absolution for those who speak ill of Israel or the Jews." A thumb's up or thumb's up down from Foxman could make

all the difference for someone accused of anti-Semitism, from major political figures (say, Pat Buchanan) to C-level celebrities (poor Ronan Tynan. Who? Exactly.).

Although it was hard to separate the ADL from Foxman, the organization still retains much of its pollice verso power under its new CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt. And it is a bit of a minefield.

The Jewish left is looking for the ADL to lead the charge against white nationalists and other ghouls churned up in the wake of the 2016 campaign.

The Jewish right wants the ADL to focus on far-left activists who hate Israel.

The regular left thinks ADL is too close to Israel.

And the regular right thinks it is too hard on Trump.

And Greenblatt insists that the ADL is an impartial umpire, calling it as it sees them on all sides of the bigotry equation.

These competing pressures all came together in the Canary Mission tweet. The Canary Mission publishes the names and capsule biographies of students and faculty involved in pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel activity, with the none-too-subtle objective of blacklisting these people with future employers and admissions officers. In an op-ed for JTA last week, students at the University of Michigan organized an open letter signed by over 100 leaders of Hillels and other pro-Israel campus groups ridiculing the Canary Mission, saying it paints fellow students with an overly broad brush and, ironically, drives some anti-Israel activity underground, where it is harder to track and counter (*See last week's Heritage for open letter*).

The ADL retweeted the op-ed, thanking the students "for exposing Canary Mission's

Islamophobic & racist rhetoric." When a JTA reporter researching the backstory asked the ADL to provide examples of Canary Mission's Islamophobia and racism, the ADL instead issued an apology.

"We regret the overly broad language that we used to describe the Canary Mission in a tweet earlier this week," a spokesman for the group said. "It was wrong to apply those labels to a group working, like us, to counter anti-Semitism on campus."

The spokesman added an explanation: "We reiterate our support for the University of Michigan students who have expressed valid concerns about Canary Mission's impact on student-led efforts to advocate for Israel. We understand that the Canary Mission's approach and its tactics on campus might not be the preferred approach of many students. We believe that all parties involved in this situation want the same outcome, so we encourage them to find ways to work together to fight anti-Semitism and to support the needs of Jewish students."

The response seemed carefully worded to appeal to dueling audiences. First, the ADL wants to be accurate in doling out scarlet letters like R for racism, I for Islamophobia and A for anti-Semitism. Somebody jumped the gun: However odious you find Canary Mission, it appears to be careful about avoiding anti-Muslim rhetoric. At the same time, the ADL wants to distance itself, delicately, from the tactics of Canary Mission, which many consider McCarthyite.

But it also doesn't want to suggest that it is weak on campus anti-Israelism. The ADL wants to remain relevant to the young Jewish and pro-Israel activists on campus, but it also

ADL on page 5A

'No,' Mr. Schindler, there is no 'occupation'

By Stephen M. Flatow

(JNS)—A Pennsylvania high school teacher, who says he was deprived as a teenager, is now taking it out on his students—by lying to them about Israel.

Sam Schindler, co-founder and history teacher at the Stone Independent School, a private school in Lancaster, Pa., explains in *The Forward* this week how the "truth" about Israel was hidden from him. His teachers only taught him about the positive side of Israel, he complains. "What was kept from me then were images of the occupation, of pulverized houses, of bloody civilians and of terrified children... The occupation or lives of Palestinians never appeared."

So now, Schindler is getting his revenge. He's been teaching his students at Stone Independent all about "the occupation and oppression."

And—big surprise—at the end of last semester's course, Schindler is proud to laud their findings. He notes that "the class collectively reached a universal conclusion about Israel and Palestine: The oppression of Palestinians is not sustainable, nor is it justifiable."

Dear Stone students, I'm sorry to tell you that Mr. Schindler has been lying to you. Israel's occupation of the Palestinians ended 23 years ago.

Here's what Mr. Schindler didn't tell you. When Yitzhak Rabin was elected prime minister of Israel in 1992, he faced a dilemma. On the one hand, he recognized that allowing the creation of a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank"), and in the Gaza Strip, would pose a grave threat to Israel's existence. Israel would be just nine miles wide in its middle, living next to a state run by terrorists and fascist dictators.

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

In 1995, Prime Minister Rabin withdrew Israel's forces from the cities in Judea-Samaria where 98 percent of the Palestinians reside. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon later withdrew from all of Gaza. The Israeli occupation of the Palestinians came to an end. The only "occupation" of the Palestinians currently in force is the 23-year occupation by the Palestinian Authority, led by Mahmoud Abbas, and the occupation of

Gaza by Hamas, which is now entering its 11th year.

If any of you ever has the opportunity to visit the "occupied" Palestinians, you'll be surprised to discover that the Israeli "occupiers" whom Mr. Schindler taught you about are nowhere to be found. There's no Israeli military governor. The Israeli military administration that once ruled the Palestinian-inhabited areas was dismantled long ago.

The Palestinians' schools are run by Palestinian principals and teachers. The courts have Palestinian judges. The streets are policed by the Palestinian police and security forces. When elections are held, the candidates and the voters are all Palestinians. Pretty much the only thing that the P.A. can't do is import tanks, planes, Iranian "volunteers" or North Korean missiles.

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

Yes, Israel has checkpoints set up along its border with the P.A., and it's a shame if that inconveniences some Palestinian travelers. Just like it's a shame that every one of us is inconvenienced every time we have to go through a security checkpoint at an American airport. But checkpoints are set up in Israel and in U.S. airports for the same good reason: to keep terrorists from blowing us up. That's not an "occupation." That's called self-defense.

The current situation in the territories is not a perfect solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. But we live in an imperfect world. The current arrangements in the territories allow nearly all of the Palestinians to live under their own government. They live in an entity that is close to statehood in every respect except for the few aspects that would most endanger Israel's existence.

Sam Schindler's notions about Israel and the Palestinians seem to have been frozen in his adolescence. He's so angry about having been "deprived" by his own teachers that he hasn't noticed how much the Middle East has changed in the meantime. It's a whole new world for Israel and the Palestinians, Mr. Schindler. It's time you started telling your students the truth about it.

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

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

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By Mel Pearlman

Everywhere U.S. Embassy move to Jerusalem

This coming week the United States of America will officially move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The selected date, May 14, 2018, comes exactly 70 years after the declaration of the establishment of the modern state of Israel with its capital in Jerusalem.

On May 14, 1948, the longing of the Jewish people for the return to Zion, memorialized in its prayers and literature for almost two thousand years, had finally become a reality. Within hours of its nascent existence the country was attacked by all the surrounding Arab nations whose declared intention was to "drive the Jews into the sea."

The decision by the United States to recognize Jerusalem last December as the legal and eternal capital of Israel, and the follow-up move of the American embassy to Israel's capital city in the coming days, will open up the path for greater recognition of the Jewish state and its designated capital by nations of the world.

By giving these nations diplomatic cover to follow the courageous lead of the United States they can now recognize Jerusalem as the national capital of Israel and accordingly, relocate their respective embassies to Jerusalem, and just as importantly pursue closer relations with the Jewish state.

Guatemala, one of the first states to recognize Israel after its declaration of nationhood in 1948, has already announced its intention to move its embassy to Jerusalem the day after the American move. Many other states are now contemplating moving their respective embassies there in the not too distant future. For all of Israel's modern existence the Arabs of Palestine have rejected the reality of the Jewish State and cling to the fantasy that they can undo this historical fact and dismantle any Jewish presence in the Middle East. This delusion is the single most significant factor why every Israeli concession to the Palestinian Arabs has been rejected and every peace negotiation has failed.

All the blame for the failed peace negotiations and complete rejection of the reality of Israel cannot be placed solely on the shoulders of the Arab world. The majority of the nations of the world, following the leadership of the West (with the exception for the most part of the United States and

a few other smaller nations), have encouraged the continued Arab delusion that the return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland can be reversed.

They have been able to play out this diplomatic dance mostly under the banner of a hypocritical and corrupt United Nations, who originally embraced Zionism as the legitimate aspiration of the Jewish people, only to later condemn it as racism. They have looked the other way as terrorism against Israel and the Jewish people grew and did not see it as a menace to civilization itself until they themselves became victims of these barbaric acts.

Thankfully, the world view is changing as Israel is recognized as a role model for many young nations as a free and democratic society where human rights and equality are embraced, where Jewish nationalism has created a society that seeks peace and improvement of the lives of not only its own people, but to bring the benefits of their achievements to the world at large.

The American recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital sends a clear message to the world that Israel is here to stay, and that it has taken its proper place among the global family of nations. As all the failed wars against the Jewish state in its 70 years of existence have demonstrated, those who continue to oppose Israel's existence are engaging upon an exercise in futility whose efforts will be relegated to a minor footnote of history.

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

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

Iran's lies matter

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS)—To Obama administration alumni and other detractors of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, there was nothing all that new or noteworthy in his presentation of a treasure trove of Iranian nuclear intelligence obtained by the Mossad. While Netanyahu's remarks contained dramatic revelations about a secret Iranian nuclear program and proof that Iran had been lying for years up to the implementation of the nuclear deal it concluded with the West, to the prime minister's critics the speech was just another excuse to bash him for his style and his dogged opposition to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Netanyahu has become a polarizing figure, both in terms of Israeli politics and in the United States. For good or for ill, his antagonistic relationship with President Barack Obama and his closeness with President Donald

Trump have come to mean that for many people, where you stand on Netanyahu has more to do with your partisan loyalties than the merit of his positions. Unfortunately, the Israeli leader's comments on Monday provoked those same predictable reactions, along with snide comments about his PowerPoint presentation that reminded many of the cartoon bomb used in his 2012 speech at the United Nations about Iran.

That's unfortunate because he had a lot to say that needed to be heard. And it's especially true for those who have become deaf to arguments about the nuclear deal's ability to forestall the nuclear threat from Iran. Israel's findings make clear that the calculations that led to the agreement—and that continue to be employed by its defenders—are rooted in false assumptions.

The main argument put forth by those who have tried to downplay the significance of the intelligence Netanyahu

presented is that even if it's all true, it's old hat. All of the material dates back to before the JCPOA was agreed upon in July 2015.

The deal's defenders now say that everyone knew that the Iranians were lying about

by the International Atomic Energy Agency are enough to ensure that no such duplicate program can currently exist. Therefore, they assert, the fact that the Iranians were cheating prior to that is meaningless.

“The Israeli findings show that American intelligence was dead wrong.”

not trying to build a nuclear weapon. The fact that they had a secret, parallel nuclear project in addition to their public program (whose archives were raided by the Israelis) is therefore meaningless. They argue that the mendacious nature of the Iranian regime is exactly why Obama's deal was needed and must be kept in place. No matter what mischief the Iranians were up to before 2015, they are convinced that the inspections conducted

There are two problems with that reasoning.

The first is that it's not true that everybody knew Iran was lying. In fact, the U.S. intelligence establishment—whose confidence in the deal and in Iranian compliance is constantly being cited by those who oppose Trump's intention to withdraw from it—didn't know. Worse than that, American intelligence spent the last years of the George W. Bush administration doing its best to convince the world of the argument that the Iranians weren't lying about their weapons program and had ceased its strive towards production. The 2007 National Intelligence Estimate claimed that the Iran had abandoned its efforts to build a bomb in 2003.

Those claiming that Israel's fears about Iran were exaggerated used that estimate as a cudgel to beat down efforts to raise the alarm about the danger of the Islamist regime. The estimate continued to be cited in the early years

of Obama's presidency as he sought to rally public support for an effort to create a rapprochement with Tehran.

The Israeli findings show that American intelligence was dead wrong. How could that happen?

The short answer is that like all human institutions, intelligence agencies are fallible. In 2007, the U.S. intelligence establishment was still reeling from its colossal error in Iraq that helped justify the invasion of that country. President George W. Bush took the blame for that blunder, with some still claiming that he “lied” America into a war, rather than it being a case of him believing what the experts told him.

Many of those same people were determined never to make that mistake again, and so they decided to take the opposite tack on Iran. Yet the Israeli findings prove that they were just as wrong in 2007 as they were in 2003.

More importantly, the assumptions about Iran spread by the media “echo chamber”—to use the phrase coined by Obama's Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes for the efforts of the president's tame press-cheering section—never spoke of Iran lying during the debate over the merits of the Iran deal in 2014 and 2015.

Just as problematic is the argument that we can be sure the Iranians aren't lying now because of the IAEA's inspections and the ability of Western intelligence agencies to know if Tehran begins cheating on the deal.

After all, if Iran was able to hide a duplicate nuclear program from the West prior to 2015, how can we believe that the same regime can't or won't do it again? The IAEA inspections don't extend to military bases and are not, despite the Obama administration's initial promises, of the “anytime, anywhere” variety. Israel's feat was an amazing act of derring-do, but what they learned should disabuse us of blind confidence in the ability of Western intelligence to be ahead of the curve when it comes to Iran.

That's why the sunset clauses that will allow the restrictions on Iran's program to expire within a decade are so dangerous. If the Iranians lied before and are likely lying to us again now, then what possible hope can we have that Western governments will have the time to head off an Iranian nuke once Tehran is ready to break out from the agreement?

Netanyahu's critics can snipe all they want about his presentation. But Israel's proof that Iran was being deceitful shows how untrustworthy the assurances of the nuclear-deal's defenders are. Trump is right to take this evidence to heart. Iran's mendacity is one more reason for the United States to begin the necessary work to change or scrap a pact that was based on untruths and continues to be defended by false assumptions.

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

ADL

From page 4A

answers to older stakeholders who believe that extremism in the defense of Israel is no vice.

Many of the ADL's contradictions are of its own making; some are unfairly inflicted from the outside. When Starbucks reduced its key panel of diversity advisers from four to three, Greenblatt was gracious, saying he understands that the training in response to a racist incident at a Philadelphia Starbucks was primarily about race, and that the ADL's agenda is more broad-based (the other top advisers are African-Americans).

But sounding in the background was static from the far left, which said the ADL is an inappropriate role model in combating racism. The slim evidence for this—aimed at a group that has formed civil rights and religious freedom coalitions with other ethnic groups nearly from its beginning—is that it promotes a police exchange program in Israel, where American cops allegedly learn Israeli techniques for oppressing brown people. The groups saying this have not produced any

evidence that the training goes much beyond basic techniques in counterterrorism and crisis management, but the charge nevertheless sticks on the far left, which automatically suspects those who support Israel in anyway.

On the right, meanwhile, the ADL has had to deal with a barrage of criticism from the Zionist Organization of America, the Jewish communal world's id to the ADL's superego. Since 2016, the right-wing ZOA has criticized its larger rival over two dozen times—for its conditional support of the Black Lives Matter movement, for its criticism of former White House adviser Steve Bannon's version of “alt-right” nationalism, for entering into coalitions with American Muslim groups and in general for “failing to defend Jews.”

The ZOA's president, Morton Klein, weighed in on the Canary Mission tweet, asking why ADL would attack one of “the best friends and fighters for the safety of the Jewish, Israeli and American people.” (The ZOA will be asked some questions of its own this week: The ADL and two other

members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations will air complaints that the ZOA has violated the umbrella body's policies by disparaging fellow members.) While the ZOA doesn't meet nearly have the budget, infrastructure or reach of the ADL, it speaks for an influential segment of the community that thinks it's a Jewish watchdog's role to tell the truth (at least as they see it) about the dangers facing Israel and the Jews without worrying about coalition partners, free speech niceties or political correctness.

The ADL has earned its position as community conscience, with only occasional lapses, through careful coalition-building, principled defense of church-state separation and pro-tolerance education. But as Freud might tell you, it's hard to be the superego, trying to tamp down on all those conflicting impulses—especially when those impulses originate from within the same organism you are trying to protect.

Andrew Silow-Carroll is the editor in chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.



Letters To The Editor

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

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

Concerning Iran: America needs to ‘do the right thing’

Dear Editor:

The American Jewish Congress is very concerned by the emerging allegations that Iran historically continued to expand its nuclear weapons program and may continue to do so, despite its claims otherwise.

We remain concerned that the Iranian regime is growing bolder and more dangerous, with catastrophic potential consequences for the region and the world.

While we opposed the Iran deal at the time, we were happy to be proven wrong, but there

are now worrying signs that Iran has been less than honest with the international community regarding its nuclear program.

The 15-year period where the nuclear program can be resumed is fast approaching.

As President Trump said today, it is “not acceptable” that in seven years Iran would be free to pursue its nuclear program.

The allegations by Prime Minister Netanyahu show that President Trump may

have been right regarding this horrible agreement.

As the expiry of the waiver on sanctions against the Iranian regime similarly draws near, the American Jewish Congress echoes Prime Minister Netanyahu in calling on President Trump to do the right thing for the US.

The right thing for Israel. And the right thing for the peace of the world.

Jack Rosen
President
American Jewish Congress

One more word about Henri Landwirth

Dear Editor:

Thank you for including a quote from me about Henri (“Henri Landwirth dies at age 91,” April 27, 2018 issue). I had the honor of knowing and working with him for the

years we spent in Orlando, and for some time afterwards. He WAS a unique and special Human Being.

What I would like to add is that, very quietly, Henri made major contributions

to support Youth Villages in Israel. When he visited them he always came back telling me that providing for needy children in Israel was something of which he was most proud.

The world is a better place because of Henri Landwirth. May his memory forever be a blessing.

Paul Jeser
Los Angeles

Don't believe what you read coming out of Gaza

Dear Editor:

Have you ever noticed that it appears all of the reporting about the goings on in Gaza all come from the Gaza Strip? Also, all of the reporters seem to have Arabic names. Are you aware that there is no freedom of the press in Gaza? Thus, all of the dispatches are highly censored by the Hamas leadership. Nothing disparaging against the Palestinians is allowed to be sent out of Gaza to the free

world. Thus, all we get is very biased reporting—fake news. What a shame. I'm sure if the Israeli wanted they too could provide coverage, which they do by the way, that would not be highly censored.

Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East which also has freedom of the press, gives a much more accurate account of the goings on in Israel (Gaza).

Laurence Morrell
Maitland

What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT

MAY 11
7:49 p.m.
MAY 18
7:53 p.m.

For inclusion in the What's Happening Calendar, copy must be sent on separate sheet and clearly marked for Calendar. Submit copy via: e-mail (news@orlandoheritage.com); mail (P.O. Box 300742, Fern Park, FL 32730-0742); fax (407-831-0507); or drop it by the office (207 O'Brien Rd., Ste. 101, Fern Park) Deadline is Wednesday noon, 10 days prior to publication.

MORNING AND EVENING MINYANS (Call synagogue to confirm time.)

Chabad of South Orlando—Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. and 10 minutes before sunset; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 8:15 a.m., 407-354-3660.
 Congregation Ahavas Yisrael—Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m., 407-644-2500.
 Congregation Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Daytona—Monday, 8 a.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m., 904-672-9300.
 Congregation Ohev Shalom—Sunday, 9 a.m., 407-298-4650.
 GOBOR Community Minyan at Jewish Academy of Orlando—Monday—Friday, 7:45 a.m.—8:30 a.m.
 Temple Israel—Sunday, 9 a.m., 407-647-3055.

FRIDAY, 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.

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

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MONDAY, MAY 14

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.
 Rosen JCC—Third Annual Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. shotgun, at Rosen Shingle Creek Golf Club. Register and more info: at <http://www.rosenjcc.org/special-events/golf/>

TUESDAY, MAY 15

JOIN Orlando—Torah Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. No charge. More information email rabbig@joinorlando.org
 Congregation Beth Am—Pages & Pastries Book Club, 7 p.m. at Panera Bread on 434 across from Publix at Springs Plaza. Info: 407-862-3505
 Roth Family JCC—AIPAC presents author Yossi Klein Halevi, 5:45 p.m., Club member pre-reception and book signing; 7 p.m. program open to the community. Dessert and coffee will be served. Info: 954-382-6110.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

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
 Grief Support Group—Meets at Brookdale Island Lake, 160 Islander Court, Longwood. 10:30 a.m.- noon. Led by Rabbi Maurice Kaprow. Info: 407-678-9363.
 Roth Family JCC—Lunch and Learn: Pillars of the Past, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch and in-depth study of earliest leaders from the patriarchs and matriachs. Led by Rabbi Michael Rennett of Orlando Torah Academy. RSVP to register@orlandojcc.org
 Jewish National Fund—Celebrate Israel@70 Under the Stars, featuring Noa Geffen, 6:30 p.m. at the Star Tower Building Rooftop, 260 S. Osceola Ave., Orlando RSVP to inf.org/orlandowlf Tickets \$48 general admission. Info: 407-804-5568.
 A Nosh of Yiddish—Classes in Yiddish the third Thursday of each month sponsored by the Jewish Pavilion, held at Brookdale Island Lake, 160 Islander Circle in Longwood 10:30 a.m. Info: 407-678-9363. Coffee and refreshments served.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.
 A Nosh of Yiddish—Classes in Yiddish the third Thursday of each month sponsored by the Jewish Pavilion, held at Brookdale Island Lake, 160 Islander Circle in Longwood 10:30 a.m. Info: 407-678-9363. Coffee and refreshments served.
 Congregation Beth Shalom—Rabbi's Torah Roundtable Discussion Group with Rabbi Karen Allen, 1 p.m. at the Sumter County Administration and Library Building, 7375 Powell Rd., Wildwood.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

Quote of the Week

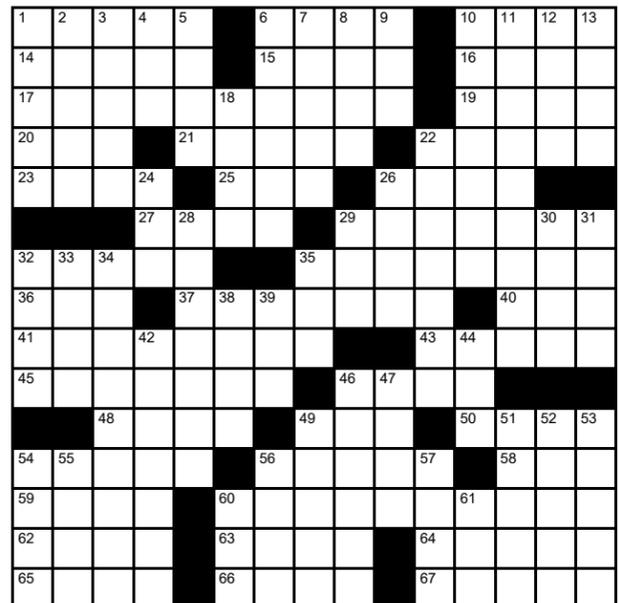
"Jews need to love each other, and it has to stop because it threatens our existence."
 — Roseanne Barr

Manageable puzzle "Habla Español" by Yoni Glatt koshercrosswords@gmail.com

Across

1. "Chaver"
6. Coffee carriers
10. Makes a scene?
14. Took on, as freight
15. ___ about (approximately)
16. In need of ice, maybe
17. "Boker tov"
19. It's not clean
20. Eggs, biologically
21. Butler at Tara
22. Ann and Cod, e.g.
23. Child's room, often
25. Lead or copper, e.g.
26. Bit of slander
27. "Be a pal!"
29. Ski lodges
32. Funny Baron Cohen
35. Tree or roasted snack
36. "Don't Bring Me Down" rockers, familiarly
37. "Todah"
40. "Black-ish" protagonist
41. Dell, e.g.
43. Media attraction
45. Fables
46. Jewish leader, once
48. Audio receivers
49. Escape from Ford, e.g.
50. Commits a faux pas
54. Cotton thread used for gloves
56. Covered, as a song
58. "You've Got Mail!" co.
59. It means "against"
60. "Bruchim Habaim"
62. Marvel's Sebastian or Lee
63. "The King ___"
64. Cleanser brand
65. Drench, in a way
66. Washing the dishes, e.g.
67. "Shalom"

4. Two before Lev.
5. Foot problem, perhaps
6. "Family" or Orthodox
7. Ally with
8. Animal acronym for a sensational athlete
9. Many Jews in Fl.
10. Battery's partner in crime
11. "Mayvin?"
12. Wayne's "___ Grit"
13. Tennis units
18. "Get lost!"
22. MIT sessions
24. MIT, e.g.
26. Where magic happened in October of '86
28. "Spider-Man" star
29. Windy City, for short
30. Become inedible
31. "Do not change," to an editor
32. Parts of a min.
33. Loads
34. "Mah shlomchah?"
35. "Fortunate Son" band, for short
38. 1 and 95, e.g.
39. He lost to DDE, twice
42. Nut candy
44. Go for, as a prize
46. One might drive you meshuga
47. Second part of Israel's second largest city
49. Planters needs
51. He directed 28-Across
52. Ritzy street, out west
53. Where much change is lost
54. Whip unit
55. Interested in
56. Jewish girl of song?
57. Prefix for "ten"
60. Dracula, at times
61. Silent "yes"



See answers on page 14A.

Down

1. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" author Mitch
2. Reddish- purple
3. Brainstorms

Berlin volunteers hand out 6,000 kippahs at public parks in solidarity with Jews



Toby Axelrod

Belgian tourists posing in yarmulkes with Pete the dog in the Monbijou Park in Berlin, April 29, 2018.

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA)—In an unusual sight, the people lazing about or strolling down the paths in several parks here on a sun-drenched Sunday were wearing gleaming white kippahs.

Seventy volunteers handed out some 6,000 of the satin yarmulkes in total at five parks in the German capital to counter a recent anti-Semitic incident targeting a man wearing the Jewish head covering.

Three non-Jewish friends planned the event, dubbing it “Kopf Hoch”—literally “Keep your head high,” or “Cheer Up.”

“It’s always important to do something against anti-Semitism, and for the safety of our city in general,” Anne, one of the organizers, told JTA. “But with the last incident, it clearly is not the job of Jews alone—all of us have to watch out for each other.”

Initially, more parks were included in the plan. But Anne said the Berlin police

advised the organizers not to carry out their action in the Kreuzberg and Neukoeln districts, as both areas have large Arab populations. Some of the recent anti-Semitic incidents here have been attributed to people of Arab background

The organizers of the kippot action, Jannik and Marco joined Anne, received support from the Berlin Jewish community, the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the

Amadeo-Antonio Foundation, as well as from private individuals. They asked that their last names not be used to avoid people trying to contact them at work; they can be contacted through their Facebook page.

The volunteers started handing out the yarmulkes early Sunday afternoon. Within an hour, the green lawns of Monbijou Park in the Mitte District were dotted with kippah wearers lounging on the grass, picnicking or otherwise enjoying the day.

Janin Viviane Ahnefeld, a German-Israeli attorney, took a break from work to hand out the free yarmulkes. She was accompanied by the best ice-breaker: her kippah-wearing golden retriever, Pete.

Ahnefeld said her best customers were “tourists from other countries.”

“I had people from Denmark, France, Poland, Britain,” she said. “And they were all very open, they wanted to join in and they gladly took a kippah.”

And they posed for photos with Pete and Ahnefeld.

Locals tended to be more reluctant, she said.

“I had a conversation with one German guy who said, ‘I am not religious, and don’t want to have anything to do with it.’ I told him it has nothing to do with whether you are religious or not, but he was not interested,” Ahnefeld said.

It’s a kind of “looking

away,” which is “too bad,” she said.

Anne said she only had two negative reactions, “but they weren’t bad. One person said ‘no,’ and another nearby said, ‘Then I’ll take it!’”

Some said they were not religious, but added, “I find what you are doing totally good.”

The event follows a kippah “flash mob” and a rally last week that drew some 2,500 concerned Berliners to the doorstep of the Jewish community center in the former West Berlin. The recent increase in anti-Semitic incidents has been met by calls for tougher action against perpetrators.

On April 17, an attacker shouting “Jew!” in Arabic assaulted a non-Jewish man wearing a yarmulke on a Berlin street. The victim was an Israeli Arab who said he donned the kippah to test whether it had actually become dangerous to wear one in Germany.

Critics say the solidarity actions and even government promises are too little—and almost too late.

But these events get people to “come out of their bubble and talk about what is happening in our city,” Anne said, and also can help people overcome fear of others and stereotypes.

On Sunday, she met with some Arab families in the park. In one case, Anne said, “Someone translated for me, and the father of the family said, ‘Of course! We will do it with you.’”

She added: “Other Arab families reacted differently, but always respectful.”

Though by far not all park-goers were wearing kippahs by the end of the day, there was a distinct impression of something unusual going on.

“One woman came over and asked if a Jewish festival was being celebrated today,” said Anne, laughing. “It was a moment of normalcy” for yarmulkes in Berlin.



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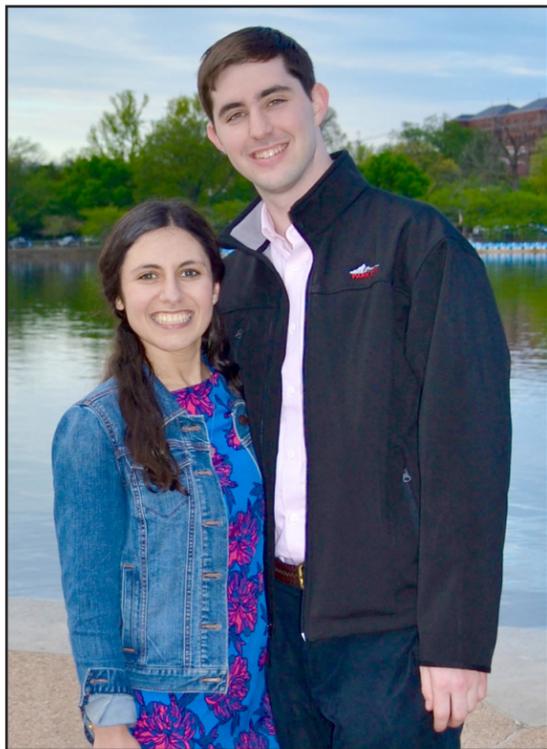
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Engagement
Announcement

**Elana Rachel Rosner and
Max David Katzen**



Mr. and Mrs. Harry (Hank) Katzen of Orlando are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Max David Katzen to Elana Rachel Rosner, daughter of Cantor and Mrs. Eugene Rosner of Havertown, Pa.

Max is an analyst with PNC Realty Investors. He is a graduate of the Smeal College of Business at the Pennsylvania State University.

Elana is a sales coordinator for Two Roads Hospitality at the Embassy Row Hotel. She is a graduate of the School of Hospitality Management at the Pennsylvania State University.

The couple resides in Washington, D.C., and are planning a 2019 wedding.

Will Europe's Jews stop wearing kippahs? Most already have.

By Cnaan Liphshiz

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—The debate about wearing a kippah in Western Europe returned only a decade or so ago, but it has nonetheless come to follow a rigid pattern even in that short period of time.

The cycle—there have been dozens of such cases—begins with an anti-Semitic assault. It prompts a Jewish community official to warn congregants not to wear the Jewish skullcap in a certain area or at certain periods to avoid inviting further violent attacks.

This triggers a wave of indignation that often exceeds the reaction to the original assault.

International Jewish groups hold up the warning as a sign of how bad Western Europe's anti-Semitism problem has become. Some of these groups criticize only the relevant authorities. Others also blast the local Jewish official who advised others not to wear the kippah, saying he or she should support a higher community profile, not a lower one. Finally, some local Jews downplay the official's concerns and the media move on—until the next incident.

That's exactly how things are playing out this week in Germany, when a non-Jewish man wearing a yarmulke was assaulted on April 17 by an attacker shouting "Jew!" in Arabic. The victim was an Israeli



Carsten Koall/Getty Images

A man wearing a kippah at a gathering in Berlin to protest anti-Semitism, April 25, 2018.

Arab who said he donned the kippah to test whether it had actually become dangerous to wear a yarmulke in Germany.

In response, Josef Schuster, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, publicly advised Jews to avoid wearing kippahs in urban settings. (At a rally Wednesday night in Berlin, Schuster emphasized that his statement was that individuals should not go out alone with a kippah. He said he felt misunderstood and wanted to clarify.)

In response, Israel's Ashkenazi chief rabbi, David Lau, and a Brussels-based Jewish organization called on German Jews to continue to wear kippahs and, in Lau's words, "be proud of their Jewishness."

Meanwhile, non-Jews in Germany organized a solidarity protest in which marchers wore kippahs—a gesture that has taken place in Sweden, Denmark, France and Poland in recent years.

In 2016, a community leader in France, Tzvi Amar, provoked a similar debate when he warned Marseille Jews to avoid wearing kippahs.

And in 2014, a Danish Jewish school in Copenhagen urged its students to come to school wearing baseball caps over their yarmulkes.

But to countless Jews across Western Europe, these debates featuring high-profile figures, politicians and Jewish community leaders have little bearing on their own personal choice. Not waiting for anyone's invitation, hundreds of thousands of them have been hiding their kippahs and other Jewish symbols for years now in Paris, Marseille, Brussels, London, Amsterdam and many other European cities with a large population of Muslim immigrants.

At least a quarter of Europe's Jews had resolved not to wear their kippahs or any other Jewish symbol publicly before any of the debates even

took place, according to a 2013 survey in nine countries. In that European Union poll of 5,100 Jews—the most comprehensive study of its kind—49 percent of 800 Swedish respondents said they refrained from wearing clothing that identified them as Jewish. In Belgium, whose capital city is the seat of the European Union, the figure was 36 percent.

In France, 40 percent of the approximately 1,200 Jews polled said they avoided wearing such items in public.

"It's a matter of preserving one's sanctity of life—an elevated value in Judaism," said Prosper Abenaim, the only rabbi living in Paris' poor and heavily Muslim neighborhood of La Courneuve.

On Shabbat, Abenaim wears a hat over his kippah as he takes the miles-long walk from his home in the affluent 17th district to La Courneuve's dwindling synagogue. He advises his congregants to do the same—and immigrate to Israel, he said.

Jews like Abenaim are not being paranoid. The Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union in its 2017 overview of anti-Semitism said that "Jewish people wearing visible symbols of their religion are the most likely to be targeted by anti-Semitic incidents."

In France, most anti-Semitic violence is perpetrated by Muslims, according to the National Bureau of Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism. That category of crime, as well as hate speech, rose sharply in the early 2000s in France and other Western European countries during the wave of terrorist attacks in Israel known as the second intifada and Israel's actions to stop it. In those years, the number of anti-Semitic incidents reported to authorities soared from a few dozen a year to hundreds, never returning to pre-2000 levels.

Heavily Muslim areas like La Courneuve are considered especially risky, although Jews living in richer areas with fewer Muslims also refrain from wearing kippahs and other Jewish symbols in public.

Philippe Karsenty, a local politician and pro-Israel activist from the upscale Paris suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine, a few years ago warned a younger relative not to wear a Star of David pendant. Karsenty remembers telling him: "Nothing good will come to anyone from you wearing it."

In France today, a Jewish symbol is likely to "escalate a parking dispute to a stabbing," Karsenty said.

Perhaps ironically, anger and opposition to Muslim extremism in Europe is creating additional problems for Jews who wear kippahs.

Several European countries have banned the wearing of face-covering veils, a Muslim custom. While these recent bans in Belgium, France and the Netherlands clearly target Muslims, they are nonetheless creating an atmosphere that is more restrictive of wearing all and any religious symbols, including the kippah.

In the Netherlands, an employee of the Anne Frank House last year waited for six months in vain for his bosses to decide on whether he could wear a kippah to work. He declined their suggestion that he come to the office wearing a hat and ultimately decided to wear a kippah without permission, forcing them to hammer out a policy on the matter. They finally permitted him to wear the kippah.

The leader of France's far-right National Front party, Marine Le Pen, has been candid about her plan to ban the wearing of the kippah in public—not because she opposes it, she has said. Rather, she said in an interview last year, French Jews should "sacrifice" the freedom to wear a kippah in public in favor of the fight against radical Islam.

But Le Pen also cited the fear of many French Jews in downplaying the significance of the sacrifice she was asking.

"Honestly, the dangerous situation in which Jews in France live is such that those who walk with a kippah are in any case a minority because they are afraid," Le Pen said.



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Scene Around

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

I recently heard from the Simon Wiesenthal Center...

The Simon Wiesenthal Center denounced a political cartoon in Volkskrant, a major Dutch newspaper, for depicting Israel as a murderous bully celebrating its 70th birthday by gunning down defenseless Palestinians at the Gaza border.

“For the last month, Hamas has deployed the people of Gaza, including terrorists, at the Israeli border in what it labeled as peaceful protests but in reality, they included firebombs, kites affixed with explosives,” said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Simon Wiesenthal Center Associate Dean and Director of Global Social Action.

“Instead of condemning Hamas for its pernicious and cynical abuse of civilians, the cartoon demonizes the Jewish state and her soldiers as blood-thirsty murderers celebrating Israel’s 70th birthday.

More anti-Semitism...

I read this in the current World Jewish Congress (WJC) bulletin:

“As reported by the French news agency AFP, an 8-year-old boy wearing a kippah in Sarcelles (A Paris suburb) was knocked to the ground and beaten by 15-year-old assailants in an apparent anti-Semitic attack.

Earlier the same month, a 15-year-old Jewish girl was slashed in the face while walking home from her private Jewish school wearing its uniform, and two kosher shops were torched after being attacked by individuals who painted swastikas on their facades.

French President EMMANUEL MACRON (who recently met here with President DONALD TRUMP) condemned the incident:

“Every time a citizen is attacked because of his age, his appearance or his religion, the whole country is being attacked. And it is the whole country that stands, especially today, alongside the French Jews to fight each of these despicable acts, with them and for them.”

“Violins of Hope”...



Amnon Weinstein

AMNON WEINSTEIN has spent the last two decades locating and restoring violins that were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. He dedicates this important work to 400 relatives he never knew. These grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins stayed behind in Eastern Europe when Amnon’s parents, Moshe and Golda, immigrated in 1938 to Palestine, where Moshe opened a violin shop. After the war, Moshe learned that his entire family—400 in all—had been murdered during the Holocaust. The pain of this discovery led to his first heart attack. Moshe never spoke of his family again. When young Amnon would ask Golda about their relatives, she would show him a book about the Holocaust. Pointing to the ghastly photos of the dead, she would say, “This is our family.” She would break down in tears, unable to explain further. After growing up to become one of the most respected violin-makers in the world, Amnon became determined to reclaim his lost heritage. He started locating violins that were played by Jews in the camps and ghettos, painstakingly piecing them back together so they could be brought to life again on the concert stage. Although most of the musicians who originally played the instruments were silenced by the Holocaust, their voices and spirits live on through the violins that Amnon has lovingly restored. He calls these instruments the Violins of Hope.

(Bless you, Amnon. You gave a voice to those who didn’t survive the camps. All I can say is “Never Again!”)

Surprise well deserved...

DORIS PINES is one of the sweetest, kindest and caring friends anyone could be lucky enough to have. I AM THAT LUCKY! On April 29th, I attended a surprise birthday party for Doris. It was held at the Chi Pan Asian Restaurant in Baldwin Park.

It was a wonderful time with Doris’s family, wonderful friends, old and new, and especially with Doris, who I’ve know for more than half a century. (We met when we were three!) Happy Birthday, Doris, and many, many, many, many more!

All that jazz...

On Sunday, May 27th, some marvelous musicians will be entertaining at the Altamonte Chapel, 825 SR 436, Altamonte Springs with our own talented ALAN ROCK as emcee. The music starts at 12:30 pm and continues until 2:30 pm with a jazz jam in the remaining set (so bring your axe.) MARVELOUS musician, TERRY MYERS is the featured performer. With him will be RON MILES on piano; CHARLIE SILVA on bass; and EDDIE METZ on drums.

(These guys are the best of the best! DON’T MISS IT!!)

The Roth JCC...

“Lunch and Learn: Pillars of the Past” will be held at the



Doris Pines



Terry Myers

Roth Family JCC on Wednesday, May 16th from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Lunch and a discussion about the earliest Jewish leaders contribution to Jewish wisdom will take place.

One for the road...

More and more women now head to the shops to get their ‘excitement.’ One in 12 women said they got more pleasure from finding a sales bargain than making love. In some parts of the United States, almost one third of women felt ‘deeply satisfied’ after a shopping trip. A psychologist said the buzz some people got from shopping was the same as they experienced during sex. ‘A dedicated female ‘shopaholic’ will be in a very similar physical state to one who is kissing and enjoying foreplay—a flushed face, rapid breathing and flowing perspiration’. So a new excuse is born? ‘Not now darling, I’ve been shopping.’ (Hey, whatever works!)

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Sudoku (see page 14A for solution)

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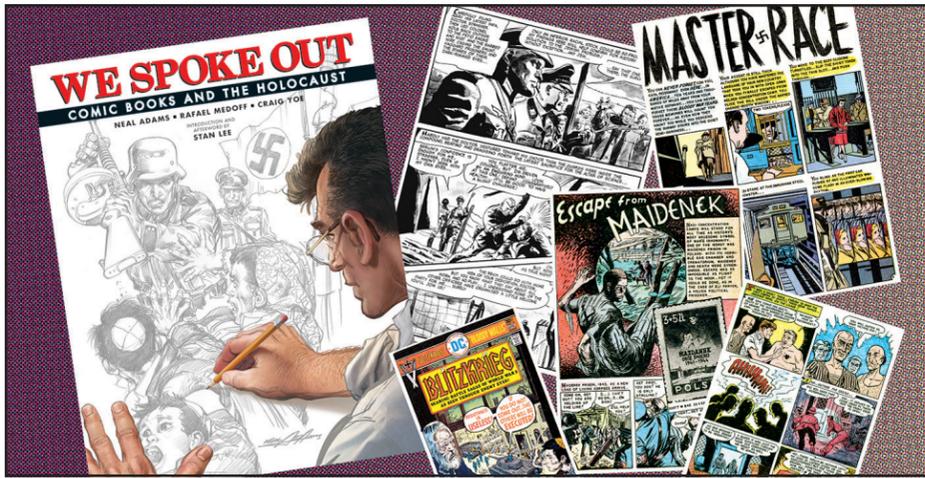
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How comic books taught American kids about the Holocaust



"We Spoke Out: Comic Books and the Holocaust" features 18 comics that dealt with the Holocaust.

By Josefin Dolsten

NEWYORK (JTA)—In 2008, famed comic book artist Neal Adams and Holocaust historian Rafael Medoff teamed up to create a comic about Dina Babbitt, a Czech Jewish artist forced by the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele to paint watercolors of Roma prisoners in Auschwitz. They hoped to bring attention to a little-known figure in the Holocaust.

But their work on the comic, published by Marvel, also led them to ponder a larger issue: the surprising degree to which comic books had addressed the genocide in Europe.

"We were surprised and impressed to discover that a number of mainstream comic books had taken on Holocaust-related themes in their story lines at various points over the years," Medoff, the founding director of the David Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, told JTA in a phone interview last month.

Medoff and Adams—known for his iconic work on DC Comics' Batman and Green Arrow—decided to explore how a genre aimed at entertaining youths tackled one of history's darkest chapters.

The results of the research is their new book, "We Spoke

Out: Comic Books and the Holocaust," which was published last month and co-written with author and artist Craig Yoe.

In the decades immediately following World War II, many high school students did not learn about the Holocaust, and TV programs, movies and books only addressed it sporadically, Medoff told JTA.

"It struck us that comic books apparently were one of the ways in which American teenagers were learning about the Holocaust at a time when most of them were not learning about it in school," he said.

Adams, who designed the

book's cover image, created three of the comics reproduced in full in the book: "Night of the Reaper," a 1971 comic featuring Batman and Robin and a Holocaust survivor bent on revenge; "Thou Shalt Not Kill!," a 1972 comic about a golem that kills Nazis in Prague; and "The Last Outrage," the 2008 comic he created with Medoff about Babbitt's life.

The book also features three works by the late Jewish comic book icon Joe Kubert, the Polish-born pioneer at DC Comics who founded The Kubert School for budding comics artists.

Captain America, a superhero who fought the Nazis in a comic book series that began in 1940, is featured in a 1979 comic about a Holocaust survivor's experiences at a fictionalized concentration camp. Notably, it was the first time in the character's long run that the persecution of the Jews was mentioned.

Many of the 18 comics in the book feature Holocaust survivors seeking vengeance against Nazis, and some present superheroes. Jews wrote about or drew half the comics.

Adams, 76, said comics provide a way to present the horror of the Holocaust in a way that people can "endure it." As a 10-year-old living in West Germany, where his

father was stationed with the U.S. Army, he was shown three hours of footage of concentration camps being liberated. He was so traumatized by what he saw that he did not speak for a week afterward.

"You're just seeing it over and over again, the devastation, people living in their own filth, and after a while you just can't," he said of the experience. "The idea of this [book] was to take this down to smaller chunks so that people could endure it."

Yoe said comics also allow readers to take time to think about what they are learning.

"One of the advantages to comics over movies and TV is that you can read at your own pace, especially important stories like these," he said. "You can stop and ponder a particular panel, or go back and look at the other thing."

Comics have taken on other weighty issues, including racism, drug abuse and the environment, but such story lines are the exception.

"Most comic book stories of course are just about superheroes chasing supervillains, but there have been many important exceptions to that," Medoff said.

The authors note several distinct ways the Holocaust was depicted at various times. In the 1950s and early '60s, comics tended to portray the Holocaust in general terms,

without references to Jews as the victims.

"It seemed to me as a historian that this reflected the general mindset in American society at that time, in the '50s and early '60s, which was to play down ethnic differences and to universalize the Holocaust as if it was something that kind of happened to everybody," Medoff said.

In the following decades, he said, writers were more likely to explicitly identify Holocaust victims as Jewish.

Medoff believes the book can be a useful teaching aid in educating about the Holocaust.

"Unfortunately, classroom Holocaust education has not been as effective as we hoped it would be," he said, citing a recent survey that found that many U.S. millennials lacked basic knowledge about the Holocaust. "[C]omic book stories offer a way to communicate these history lessons to students that might be more effective than some of the ways that have been used until now."

Adams said that need is especially urgent today.

"Anyone who's even paying attention to modern politics ought to be warned that if you do not study history, you're doomed to repeat it," he said. "We're on the cusp of some very difficult times, and a book like this is a good reminder."

US has known about Iran nuclear files for 'a while'

(JTA)—Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged that the United States has known "for a while" about Israel's cache of stolen documents concerning the Iranian nuclear program.

Pompeo told reporters on the airplane traveling from Jordan to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, D.C.,

that he had been aware of the existence of the documents, and that he and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had discussed them when they met in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

"I know there are people talking about these documents not being authentic," he said. "I can confirm for you that these documents are real; they're authentic."

Pompeo said the files "spell out the scope and scale of the program that they undertook there, and I think makes—I think makes very clear that, at the very least, the Iranians have continued to lie to their own people. So while you say everyone knew, the Iranians have consistently taken the position that they've never had a program like this. This will—this will belie any notion that there wasn't a program like this."

Asked if there was there anything in there that suggests an actual violation of the 2016 agreement, the secretary of state said the administration would "leave that to lawyers."

Pompeo, who was confirmed last week, said he has "had lots of conversations with the Europeans" about the Iranians.

"We know what it is they're hoping to achieve. We share the same end goal to keep the Iranians from ever having a nuclear weapon," he said. "I am confident that we will continue to have good relations with our European partners should the president choose to pull out of this. This will be one issue among many of the important, critical issues that we all work on together."

Meanwhile, Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., told Bloomberg that the announcement of Iran's continued pursuit of a nuclear weapon was "not groundbreaking."

"We knew of the possible military dimensions of their program up until 2003. The Obama administration, when they were negotiating the JCPOA, chose not to pursue that issue," said Corker, the outgoing chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, referring to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

"But we've all known. It's like the biggest known secret out there relative to their previous activities. So this is really not groundbreaking. We've known of this for some time."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif compared Netanyahu and his announcement to the "boy who cried wolf."

"The boy who can't stop crying wolf is at it again. Undeterred by cartoon fiasco at UNGA," Zarif tweeted Monday following Netanyahu's presentation, referring to the Israeli leader's 2012 presentation before the United Nations General Assembly showing a cartoon bomb. "You can only fool some of the people so many times."

Social media poked fun at Netanyahu, with one-person photoshopping the Iranian files that Netanyahu was pointing to in sweeping gestures to a weather map and noting that "Jews control the weather." Another showed Netanyahu's presentation as a set for the Home Shopping Network.

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OBITUARIES

ROSELLA COHEN

Rosella Shirley Stein Cohen, age 96, of Lake Mary, passed away at her residence at Oakmonte Village at Lake Mary, on Thursday, April 26, 2018. A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., she was one of four children born to the late Isaac and Anna Goodman Stein on Oct. 9, 1921. Rosella was a high school graduate and attended university for a time before graduating from business school. While in high school, she met Herbert Cohen, the man who would ultimately become her husband and life-long partner for over 64 years, until his passing in July 2007.

Rosella devoted her life to her family, which grew to encompass four generations. She and Herb relocated to the Orlando area in 1975, moving from Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh. For a time, they were members of Congregation Ohev Shalom.

In addition to her parents, Rosella was predeceased by her sister, Sylvia and her brothers, Jack and Leon. Rosella is survived by her children—Jay (Julia) Cohen, Dennis (Christie) Cohen, Sarilee Grossman (Brent Adamson), Nathalie Hoffman Cohen (Bob Ditchey) and Beverly Kosen; her grandchildren—Gregory (Alex), Marissa (Adrian), Jenny (Eric), Justin, Mallory, Marni (John) and the late Jill Cohen; and her great-grandchildren—Tessa, Zachary, Cameron, Isabella, Isla, Vance and Simon.

A funeral service was held at the Pavilion at Ohev Shalom Cemetery with Rabbi Arnold Siegel officiating. In memory of Rosella S. Cohen, the family requests contributions to Jewish Family Services, 2100 Lee Road, Winter Park 32789.

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

ANITA LORRAINE HARA

Written by the family

Anita Lorraine Hara, Chana bat Eliyahu, died on April 27, 2018, after a lifetime of serving as a matriarch to the Hara family. She was 92.

Born in Chicago, Ill., on Oct. 31, 1925, Anita met her future husband, Joe, in high school. After the war they married, and she spent her adult life raising her three children, Bob, Barbara and Mark, and supporting her husband's career.

It was always family first



Joe and Anita Hara

for Anita. In 1964 she left her hometown of Chicago with Joe and her growing family to create a new life in the then-small town of Orlando. Anita quickly became a leader in the Jewish and Greater Orlando communities, where she chaired countless fundraising activities and events. Her many projects included: March of Dimes, Florida Hospital Auxiliary, Heart Fund, Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando, Jewish Family Services and Kinneret's Council on Aging. Anita's voluntary and philanthropic endeavors were often recognized and she was awarded many honors. She often referred to her modest upbringing as her reason to give back to the community. In her forties, faced with the prospect of an empty nest, Anita returned to college at the University of Central Florida, where she earned a degree in social work. Her husband's long tenure with Tupperware International afforded Anita the opportunity to visit many countries, but her favorite adventures were more often stateside. Anita and Joe purchased a condominium in Longboat Key, Florida in 1976. This "Shangri-La," as they referred to it, was a family destination for many wonderful memories.

In later years, the couple spent their summers in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Enjoying the shade of the blue mountains, they hosted their children and grandchildren, serving up new memories at places like Lake Lure and the Brevard Music Festival.

Anita made life long-friends wherever she went. At the age of 70 Anita was afflicted with heart disease, followed by macular degeneration. These setbacks may have slowed her a bit, but they never stopped her from

her humanitarian endeavors. Her constant cheerleader was Joe, who encouraged her to always move forward. In recent times, it became a tradition for Joe to read a passage called Eshet Chayel, A Woman of Valor at the Shabbat table. Joe enjoyed reading this passage from Proverbs and Anita loved listening to it. Joe finished the poem saying, "This one's for you, babe." It was always followed by a kiss. Joe was often asked, what attracted him to Anita as far back as their high school years. He always replied, "Anita was different. She was funny. She had a great laugh."

When life presented them with challenges, they joined hands and got through them. After Joe's passing in December 2017, Anita's loving family circled the wagons. She was visited every day. Her children and grandchildren tried to carry the torch as Joe had, keeping her occupied and surrounded by love. We are eternally grateful for having this cherished matriarch in our lives.

Anita is survived by her children—Robert (Judith) Hara, Barbara (Terry) Weiss and Ellen Hara. She was predeceased by her son, Mark. She is also survived by her grandchildren—Aaron (Moriah), Jacob, Audra, Jared (Lucy), Marni (Ram), and Andrea; and her great-grandchildren Eva and Lillia.

A graveside funeral was held at Temple Israel Cemetery, Gotha, with Rabbi David Kay of Congregation Ohev Shalom officiating.

In memory of Anita Hara, the family requests contributions to Congregation Ohev Shalom, 613 Concourse Parkway South, Maitland 32751. Arrangements entrusted to Beth Shalom Memorial Chapel, 640 Lee Road, Orlando 32810. 407-599-1180.

Central Florida Synagogues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anita Hara Z"l

The family of Anita Hara appreciates the outpouring of support during shiva.

May her memory be a blessing.

Her Loving Family

Rachel Bloom on Michelle Wolf, her first movie and post-'Crazy Ex-Girlfriend' plans



Matt Winkelmeyer/Getty Images for The Critics' Choice Awards
Rachel Bloom at the Critics' Choice Awards in Santa Monica, Calif., Jan. 11, 2018.

By Curt Schleier

(JTA)—It should not be surprising that Rachel Bloom is on Team Michelle Wolf—supporting the comedian who may have singlehandedly killed the White House Correspondents' Dinner with her scathing public roast of the Trump administration.

Bloom, 31, has excelled in the shock-comedy genre herself. She's now best known for creating and starring in the successful musical TV series "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," but before that she turned heads and worked her way up the show-biz ladder thanks to a YouTube series of wacky music videos. In the notori-

ous first one, she honors Ray Bradbury's 90th birthday with a character who wants to have sex with him. Another takes place in the horny imagination of 12-year-old Jeffrey Goldstein, who daydreams about his buxom bar mitzvah tutor.

"She was hilarious," Bloom said of Wolf in an interview with JTA. "There's a double standard. Men who've said similar things don't get blasted. People are still uncomfortable with women being as open and honest in the way men are."

Bloom revealed last month that the fourth season of "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" airing this fall will be the show's last, but she hopes to carry her feminist momentum (she has been called, among other things, the "woman who made it OK to say 'clitoris' on TV") into future projects. Right now, she's uncertain what those will be. Bloom has had a contract since last year to write a book, which could consist of "personal essays, fiction, poems, opinions and more." Her ideal project, she says, would be a mainstream movie musical akin to "The Great Showman," only funny.

Option 2 is a Broadway musical—something she says she has been working toward since she dropped out of Hebrew school as a 9-year-old.

"I have some stage musical ideas. But I still have to make

my own work," she said on the phone from Los Angeles, where she lives. "I still have to pitch myself in movies. I still have to audition."

Fans can currently see her in her first film role in "Most Likely to Murder," a comedy just released to streaming platforms, DVD and on demand. The plot involves Billy Green (played by Adam Pally), a big man on campus-type turned failed adult who returns home in an effort to recapture his faded glory and win back Kara (Bloom), the girl he left behind. Everyone has moved on, and Kara has a new boyfriend, Lowell—a beloved pharmacist in town and a target of Billy's bullying in high school. Kara seems to still have feelings for Billy, but she makes clear that she has learned from past mistakes.

Bloom's husband, Dan Gregor, co-wrote and directed the film.

"The character was written a little bit with me in mind," she said. "That is definitely the way I talk about ex-boyfriends and men who have too much power over women. There was a lot of cut and paste there."

Bloom says she "very much" enjoyed being pursued rather than being the pursuer as she

is in "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," where she plays Rebecca Bunch, a successful lawyer who uproots her life in New York City to follow her childhood ex-boyfriend Josh to West Covina, a small city near Los Angeles. Like Bunch, Bloom suffers from what she came to recognize as obsessive compulsive disorder dating back to when she was a child. She also has been diagnosed with depression and become an advocate for those who face a stigma because of mental health issues.

"Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" has a loyal and vocal following (Bloom considers herself "a successful cult favorite"), and her fans turned out in large numbers when the cast embarked on a nine-city live tour singing the show's songs as they were originally written (that is, before they were cleaned for TV consumption).

Apart from ABC's "The Goldbergs," it may be the Jewiest show on television. Perhaps its most Jewish episode involved a bar mitzvah in which characters played by Tovah Feldshuh and Patti LuPone (portraying a rabbi) sing a duet that aims to remind everyone how much Jews have suffered throughout history.

In another episode, Bloom's character and rival from back home in New York's Westchester County engage in a rapping "JAP Battle," exchanging insults and the kind of Jewish jokes normally heard behind doors at a campus Hillel.

Bloom grew up in the wealthy Southern California enclave of Manhattan Beach in what she calls a "very secular" Jewish family. She attended Hebrew school at a Conservative congregation—that is until 9, when she bored of it.

Her husband comes from a more observant Long Island family. Even before they officially became a couple, Bloom would attend a Passover seder at Gregor's home. Bloom said she has gone to more Jewish events since becoming a part of his life.

But her Jewishness had always informed her career because "it somehow explained this feeling of otherness I always had. Where I pick up a stereotype or trope and explore why it doesn't exist or why I don't fit in," she said.

"I was raised with the knowledge that I am Jewish, and I know every the name of every celebrity who ever said anything anti-Semitic."

Hope for couples who are carriers of a genetic disease

Although many couples have often wondered what the results would mean for their future family if they discover the devastating reality that they are carriers for severe genetic diseases, new pathways now can lead these couples to start healthy families. Expanded genetic screening, best done before pregnancy, can test for hundreds of disease genes. Most couples get reassuring results. But for those who don't, there are now life changing options to start the healthy family desired by millions. New options supported by JScreen and the Jewish Fertility Foundation have given new, life changing options for these couples.

For those who are at risk, state of the art reproductive technologies give them the opportunity to maximize their chances for healthy children. Through in vitro fertilization with pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, use of donor eggs or sperm, or other options, couples can take control of

their genetic future and the health of their families. Understanding the risks associated with different genetic diseases before a pregnancy can save families from heartbreak. For example, after a much-publicized battle with a rare genetic disease called dyskeratosis congenita, Seth Galena and Hindy Poupko lost their 2-year-old daughter, Ayelet, in 2012. They worked with the National Institute of Health to identify the specific genetic mutation causing the disease and were able to move forward with testing embryos (PGD) prior to implantation (IVF) to safely have two more beautiful kids, Akiva (3) and Talia (1).

"The sooner you know, the sooner you can create a way forward," said Seth. "Matching for a disease doesn't mean you should not get married or not have kids. Those days are over; it just means your pathway to getting there will be different. IVF/PGD are advancing every day and are becoming commonplace. But it all

starts with knowing up-front."

JScreen makes testing genetic diseases simple—providing an easy-to-use at-home saliva test that gives couples planning for children an unprecedented understanding of their own genetic makeup and risks relating to their children's health. If a person or couple's risk is elevated, genetic counselors from Emory University School of Medicine will privately address their results, options and resources to help you have a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby.

Now, working with this information, the Jewish Fertility Foundation uses cutting edge scientific data to implant a healthy embryo in the mom, giving the couple the best possible chance to have a healthy baby despite their genetic predisposition for a devastating genetic disease.

For more information, please visit JScreen's website at www.jscreen.org or the Jewish Fertility Foundation at www.jewishfertilityfoundation.org.

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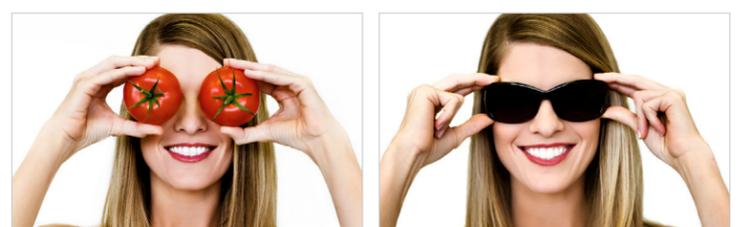
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 THE VISION COUNCIL

Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump to attend Jerusalem embassy opening

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The official White House delegation for the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem will include President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband, Jared Kushner, as well as Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

Kushner heads up the team seeking to restart Israeli-Palestinian talks. Other members of his team—Jason Greenblatt, the lead negotiator, and David Friedman, the U.S. ambassador to Israel—will also be present for the ceremony on May 14, the 70th anniversary of Israel's founding according to the Gregorian calendar.

Those five members of the delegation are Jewish.

Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan completes the delegation and will lead the team, the White House said in a statement released Monday.

Trump had considered attending the embassy opening. The president has said he is proud of his Dec. 6 announcement on the relocation of the embassy from Tel Aviv. The move has led the Palestinians to abandon Kushner's efforts to revive talks, at least temporarily.

Israel's embassy in Washington, D.C., is planning its annual Independence Day party for the same day. The embassy party usually takes place on or near the Hebrew calendar anniversary of Israel's 1948 independence, which this year was on April 19.

The new embassy grounds, on land in western Jerusalem but bordering eastern Jerusalem, are temporary. There are plans to build a permanent embassy, but it might take up to 10 years.

Ahead of the move, the U.S. Embassy's twitter handle changed Monday to @usembassyilm from @usembassytlv.

John McCain regrets not choosing Joseph Lieberman as his 2008 running mate

(JTA)—Sen. John McCain is using his new book and a documentary to publicly express his regret at not picking former Senate colleague Joseph Lieberman as his running mate in the 2008 presidential election, The New York Times reported.

McCain wrote in the book, which the newspaper said it obtained independently of the Arizona Republican, that his advisers warned him against picking Lieberman, a Connecticut Democrat who turned Independent, because of his support for abortion rights. The advisers believed that support would divide the party.

"It was sound advice that I could reason for myself," he wrote in "The Restless Wave," according to The Times. "But my gut told me to ignore it and I wish I had."

Other Republicans believe that McCain's selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin to be his vice president was responsible for "unleashing the forces of grievance politics and nativism" within the party. McCain lost to Barack Obama, a U.S. senator from Illinois, in the election.

McCain, 81, is battling

the brain cancer that he was diagnosed with last summer and for which he is undergoing aggressive treatment. He spends most of his time at his Arizona ranch.

The book and a nearly two-hour HBO documentary are scheduled to come out later this month.

In the documentary, McCain calls the decision not to pick Lieberman "another mistake that I made" in his political career. Lieberman, who was Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore's running mate in 2000—the first Jewish vice presidential nominee on a major ticket—told The Times that he didn't know McCain felt that regret until he watched the film.

"It touched me greatly," he said.

According to the article, those close to McCain have told the White House that the longtime senator plans for Vice President Mike Pence to attend the funeral service to be held in Washington's National Cathedral but not President Donald Trump.

There were 4.2 million anti-Semitic tweets in 2017, report says

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The Anti-Defamation League estimated that there were 4.2 million anti-Semitic tweets out of the trillions posted on Twitter over a yearlong period.

In a report released Monday and timed with its annual Washington conference, the civil rights group's Center on Extremism said its experts estimated "that the tweets were issued by approximately three million unique handles," or accounts, in the period between Jan. 29, 2017, and Jan. 28, 2018.

The report, the first by ADL on anti-Semitic tweets, estimated the numbers ranged between 36,800 in the week of July 23-29 and 181,700 in the week between Dec. 3-9. It said there was no obvious detectable reason for the discrepancy.

The study did not control for "bots," or automatically generated accounts. (Subsequent to the study, Twitter purged millions of suspected bots.) A program identified anti-Semitic language and experts examined 55,000 of the 19 million tweets that came under review by the program to statistically control for Twitter users who were citing the language to condemn anti-Semitism or who were using it with sarcasm or ironically.

The program searched for classic anti-Semitic stereotypes, like greedy bankers, despoilers of racial purity, God killers; anti-Semitic pejoratives, Holocaust denial; and praise for anti-Semitic figures. It did not focus on criticism of Israel except when it was cast according to the identified stereotypes or conspiracy theories.

Among the recurring themes the study uncovered were Jews as sexual predators, particularly relating to the allegations that movie mogul Harvey Weinstein had harassed and assaulted a number of women; age-old smears alleging that the Rothschilds control the world; references to Zionists as "racist warmongers who

control the U.S. government and the media"; Holocaust denial; and claims that the billionaire philanthropist George Soros was behind "false flag" events meant to advance his liberal agenda.

The study said that one noteworthy development was the prolific use of the term "globalist" as an anti-Semitic slur.

"Although the term is not inherently anti-Semitic, 'globalist' is often used as a pejorative term for people whose interests in international commerce or finance ostensibly make them disloyal to the country in which they live, or who are willing to undermine the financial security of their neighbors in order to benefit transnational interests," it said.

President Donald Trump and some of his top advisers have been criticized as skirting an anti-Semitic line with their use of the term. The ADL report did not mention Trump's use.

ADL, a member of Twitter's Trust and Safety Council, praised the social media giant for its attempts to improve "conversational health," but recommended further actions for Twitter, including increased openness to outside review, making its terms of service more comprehensive and enforcing it and enhancing its offensive content filters.

ADL made the report available to Twitter prior to posting it and include Twitter's response. Twitter said that among its planned reforms was "making affiliation with violent extremist groups against its terms of service; making hateful imagery harder to find by labeling it as sensitive content and banning it from profile and header pictures; communicating its rules more clearly to violators; improving how Twitter reviews abuse reports filed by third-party witnesses."

Aly Raisman: US gymnastics officials continue to fail abuse survivors

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Officials responsible for U.S. gymnasts have failed to oust the enablers who allowed the team doctor to molest dozens of athletes, Aly Raisman told the Anti-Defamation League.

"We're not having a full investigation of who knew and who didn't know, and that's a big problem," Raisman said Sunday at the opening of the Anti-Defamation League annual leadership conference. The theme of the conference this year is "my good fight," and is dedicated to underrepresented voices taking on discrimination, hate speech and violence.

Raisman, who is Jewish and the winner of numerous Olympic medals, including several golds, in March sued the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Gymnastics alleging negligence for not stopping former U.S. Olympics gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar from sexually abusing young athletes. Nassar was sentenced earlier this year to 40 to 175 years in prison for molesting over 150 women and girls over two decades.

Raisman spoke onstage in an interview with Sarah

Wildman, the deputy editor of Foreign Policy who last year in an essay described her experience with sexual harassment as a young journalist.

Raisman, 23, described a culture that enabled Nassar, allowing him to groom the gymnasts he was supposed to care for. Nassar was the official the gymnasts turned to if they felt ill, if they needed comforting or if they were hungry. She said it is now clear in real time that some officials were aware of the abuse.

"The fact that no one pulled us aside and didn't talk to us is a huge red flag, those people need to be gone and some of those people are still there," Raisman said.

Raisman faulted USA Gymnastics for a lack of transparency, noting that three board members resigned in January without explanations why. "Who's picking the new board members?" she asked. "They're not asking survivors to help out." She said that the authorities should delve decades past to uncover how Nassar was able to get away with molesting victims believed to number in the hundreds.

"We need to look at every single year and figure out why this was ignored," she said.

Both the USOC and USA Gymnastics have rehailed their leadership in the wake of the scandal. The USOC has not commented on Raisman's lawsuit. USA Gymnastics said at the time that it first learned of Nassar's abuses in 2015, when it reported him to authorities.

Raisman's remarks at Nassar's sentencing hearing earlier this year drew national attention. Speaking to the ADL, she said she nearly didn't speak at the hearing because the prospect was so traumatic. She said she drew upon her training as a gymnast, when she learned how to ignore the crowds and the cameras and focus on her game, and wrote her 13-minute speech at the last minute.

She did not feel relief after the hearing, she said. "I felt awful. I felt sick." She said she still often feels overwhelmed recounting her experience, and has taken up meditation as a means of self-calming. "It helps so much," she said. **Hamas leaders in Gaza reportedly have offered long-term cease-fire to Israel**

JERUSALEM (JTA)— Hamas leaders in Gaza have sent messages to Israel through various channels in recent months offering to negotiate a long-term cease-fire.

According to a report Monday in the Israeli daily Haaretz, Hamas wants to tie the cease-fire to an easing of the blockade on Gaza, a green light for large-scale infrastructure projects and a prisoner exchange.

Israel has "not responded clearly" to the messages, according to Haaretz.

Hamas reportedly is more open to discussing such a cease-fire since it is in "dire and unprecedented strategic distress," the report said. In addition, reconciliation efforts between Hamas and the

Palestinian Authority remain frozen in the wake of an assassination attempt in March on P.A. Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah during his visit to Gaza.

Hamas has called on Gaza Palestinian demonstrators to continue to protest at the Gaza border as part of the March of Return protests, and has vowed that the protests will continue past what was supposed to be the end date, May 14, the date on the Gregorian calendar that marks Israel's 70th birthday and which the Arab world calls the Nakba, or catastrophe. The Palestinian Authority also is planning a large demonstration on that day in Ramallah in the West Bank, the seat of the P.A. government.

The Israeli military estimates that 70 percent of the 48 Gaza Palestinians killed in the current protests are connected to Hamas or the military wings of other terror organizations in Gaza, according to Haaretz.

Israeli soldiers kill 3 Palestinians attempting to breach border with Gaza

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israeli soldiers shot and killed three Palestinians attempting to breach Israel's border fence with Gaza and infiltrate the country.

The men killed on Sunday afternoon were part of a group of four men planning to enter Israel from Gaza and carry out a terror attack, the IDF said. The soldiers had been monitoring their movements as they approached the fence.

The men were carrying an ax, two bottles of lighter fluid, a lighter, a bolt cutter, an oxygen mask, and a GoPro camera, according to the IDF.

"An attempt to damage security infrastructure, breach Israel's sovereignty, and carry out an attack was thwarted. The IDF will continue to operate against those who attempt to harm Israel, its civilians, or security infrastructure," the IDF said in a statement posted on Twitter.

Some 48 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds wounded since protests began along the Gaza border on March 30.

Tamika Mallory blames Trump Muslim ban, Mexican border wall on Netanyahu

(JTA)—Women's March leader Tamika Mallory said in a tweet that President Donald Trump's so-called Muslim ban and plan for a wall on the border with Mexico were inspired directly by the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mallory, who returned over the weekend from a trip to Israel sponsored by the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights, said in the tweet Sunday, "Be clear: Donald Trump's wall + #muslimban + #deportation plan are all lines out of the #Netanyahu book of oppression. Trump has referenced this himself. We ought pay attention & not allow folks to label us + try to black list us in to silence. #JusticeDelegation (more 2 come)"

An hour later she tweeted: "While I was traveling ppl insisted that I must hear 'both sides.' As long as the side of

injustice exists, we must address it. I heard from some who support the Israeli gov, but could not explain what I saw with my own eyes. Injustice is a threat to ALL SIDES. #JusticeDelegation"

Mallory was criticized in February by the Anti-Defamation League and others for tweeting enthusiastically about her appearance at a rally by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who delivered a speech laced with anti-Semitic and homophobic remarks. More recently she criticized Starbucks for including the ADL in its anti-bias training, saying the Jewish group "constantly" attacks black and brown people.

In linking Trump and Netanyahu, Mallory cited a Jerusalem Post article from August 2017 that reported on the transcript of a January 2017 phone call between Trump and President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico in which the U.S. president references Israel's security wall with the West Bank.

"You know, you look at Israel — Israel has a wall and everyone said do not build a wall, walls do not work—99.9 percent of people trying to come across that wall cannot get across and more," Trump told Peña Nieto, according to the report. "Bibi Netanyahu told me the wall works."

Mallory also tweeted on Sunday: "Unpacking my mind... my trip to the Israel & Palestine was schizophrenic. The land is beautiful... the people are full of love & resilience. However, there is a crime against humanity happening and we can not turn a blind eye or be afraid to tell the truth. #JusticeDelegation +"

The Center for Constitutional Rights said on its website that the trip "brought together mostly Black and Brown civil and human rights leaders working on domestic U.S. justice issues who have not had an opportunity to visit Palestine and Israel. The justice delegation was planned to provide an opportunity to better understand the human rights situation in Israel and Palestine, including the history of systematic displacement and institutional racism, as well as the work of human rights defenders there."

The delegation met with Palestinians and pro-Palestinian activists and visited sites of religious interest.

When the delegation arrived on April 29, Vincent Warren, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, and Katherine Franke, chair of CCR's board and Sulzbacher professor of law, gender, and sexuality studies at Columbia University, were detained for 14 hours and interrogated at Ben Gurion International Airport, then denied entry into Israel and deported because of their involvement in organizations that support boycotts against Israel.

Franke was barred from entering because of her "prominent role" with Jewish Voice for Peace, a spokesman for Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry told Haaretz. Franke denied a leadership role in JVP, though she said she has volunteered for its academic advisory council in the past.

These Jewish day schools are breaking the mold to teach fluent Hebrew



Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School in Skokie, Illinois, provides its students with several hours of fully immersive Hebrew instruction each day. The sign these children are holding reads "We don't give up. We ask, read and talk until we understand."



After Luria Academy in Brooklyn, New York, put a Hebrew teacher in every classroom to offer instruction in Hebrew regardless of the subject, the school had to revamp the rest of its Hebrew program because students became fluent so quickly.

By Ben Harris

Teaching students Hebrew is a top priority for the Chicago-area day school Hillel Torah. So to ensure it has a ready supply of native Hebrew speakers on its faculty, the school goes straight to the source.

It recruits two couples from Israel for multiyear teaching gigs, flies them to Chicago and puts them up in rented homes. A parent committee makes sure the houses are appropriately furnished and the refrigerators fully stocked. Volunteers take the couples to open bank accounts and offer tours of Chicago. A schedule is created to ensure they are never

without a Shabbat meal invitation.

And after they finish their stint at the school—in as little as two years, but never more than four—the process begins again.

It's a costly effort, but one that Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School in Skokie, Illinois, believes is necessary to provide its 430 students with several hours of fully immersive Hebrew instruction each day. Until the fourth grade, all Judaic studies—Bible, Jewish law, Hebrew language—are conducted entirely in Hebrew. The school also recruits local Israelis to teach.

"It requires a tremendous commitment—a financial commitment, and also energy

and resources to sustain the Hebrew program," said Menachem Linzer, Hillel Torah's head of school. "It's one of the things that attract people to our school."

The investment appears to be paying off.

Most graduates are fluent Hebrew speakers, often with a pitch-perfect Israeli accent. Some have transitioned immediately into Israeli schools after their families immigrated to Israel. A few years ago, a parent of an eighth-grader who was a neurosurgeon delivered a lecture about brain science at the school—entirely in Hebrew.

Hebrew language instruction is ubiquitous in Jewish day schools. According to the authors of a 2017 study by the Avi Chai Foundation, it's practically the only curricular element held in common by day schools that span a wide spectrum of Jewish ideological outlook and practice.

But the study also identified substantial differences in how and why Hebrew is taught—and how much success schools have achieved.

Among the key findings is that in schools where students expressed high levels of satisfaction with Hebrew language classes, three features made a difference: communicating that Hebrew matters, strong leadership and investing in resources. These elements were found to be more important than the specifics of how Hebrew is taught and with what materials.

"These institutional commitments indicate that the

schools are not simply going through the motions when it comes to Hebrew; they are not simply doing what is expected of them," reported the study's authors, consultant Alex Pomson and Jewish education scholar Jack Wertheimer.

Day schools cite a variety of reasons for prioritizing Hebrew—from instilling a Zionist ethos to giving students the means to understand Jewish religious texts.

Susie Tanchel, head of the Jewish Community Day School in Boston, says Hebrew is critical because it's the language of the Jewish people, enabling access to sacred texts and conversations with Jews from around the world. Also, she says, learning a second language enhances neurological development.

The Boston school uses a two-teacher model. In the younger grades, each classroom has both an English- and a Hebrew-speaking teacher, and the language of instruction shifts depending on which teacher is leading a particular activity. The school's method of language learning is known as the proficiency approach, which considers what learners can do with a language in real-life settings, not how much they know.

"We fundamentally believe that children are integrated human beings," Tanchel said. "So we don't want to divide the day into Hebrew in the morning and English in the afternoon because you don't live like that"

Integration is also guiding

principle at the Luria Academy in Brooklyn, a Montessori school in which there are no neat divisions between subjects. Classrooms typically have multiple teachers who pull aside small groups of students for short lessons.

Several years ago, Luria realized that even though Hebrew proficiency was part of its mission, students were not acquiring strong Hebrew skills. So the school added a Hebrew speaker to every classroom who could offer instruction in Hebrew regardless of the particular lesson. When the first class of students who started the revamped program as 2-year-olds reached kindergarten, Luria found it had to rewrite its Hebrew curriculum because the students were two levels beyond where they had been before.

"If we're going to be true to our mission, our mission includes Hebrew language immersion. We believe it's a necessary part of being an educated Jew," said Amanda Pogany, Luria's head of school. "For us, we want to graduate students who have access to the texts of the Jewish people. And to really do that, and do that well, we felt like they just had to speak Hebrew."

Ben Porat Yosef, a day school in northern New Jersey, follows the Hillel Torah model, and now has 10 teachers on staff recruited from Israel.

"I think we hold the record of day schools in the United States for shlichim couples," said Saul Zucker, Ben Porat Yosef's head of school, using

the Hebrew word for emissaries.

From the time students enter pre-kindergarten until eighth-grade graduation, Judaic studies are conducted entirely in Hebrew and taught by native speakers. Nothing is ever translated into English.

"It's done the same way that you and I learned our first language," Zucker said. "It's exposure to language and immersion into the language with context clues, with non-verbal cues. And the students pick it up—including the Israeli accent. So by the time they get to middle school, the students are amazingly proficient."

Zucker calls commitment to Hebrew one of the "invulnerable mantras" of the school.

"This is who we are. If you're coming to BPY, it's because you buy in enthusiastically to this mission," he said. "It is a core value to have our children really live the idea of a unified Jewish people with a strong identification to the State of Israel, and you can't do that without giving them fluency in Hebrew. It's the language that binds us together."

This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with the Avi Chai Foundation, which is committed to the perpetuation of the Jewish people, Judaism and the centrality of the State of Israel to the Jewish people. In North America, the foundation works to advance the Jewish day school and overnight summer camp fields. This article was produced by JTA's native content team.

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Palestinians furious US won't call Judea, Samaria 'occupied'

By: United with Israel

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday condemned the US State Department for dropping the term "occupied territories" when referring to the Judea and Samaria region in its annual human rights report.

The ministry said in a statement that "this act is

another one in a long list of US actions and policies targeting Palestine and the Palestinian people".

"The current administration of US President Donald Trump has abandoned its respect for international law and has actually taken steps that violate this law by implementing illegitimate and illegal positions on Palestine

and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," the Palestinians charged.

"The American administration is not only biased towards Israel, but fully embraces its illegal policies to a point they have become part of US ideology and policies," said the Foreign Ministry.

The Palestinians stressed, however, that by dropping the

term "occupied territories" from the US State Department report, "it does not in any way mean anything and does not eliminate the concept of occupied territory according to international law and international legality, but it reveals to the world once again the reality of the

Normal

From page 1A

her mother die: “The sun was going down, and as it did, a shadow past over the portrait of Mom that hung on the wall. An artist, also interned with her at Fort Ontario, had painted that picture of Tina Korner when she was 23. But now as the shadow cast darkness over the painting, Mom began to breathe heavily. I saw the muscles in her neck strain, then there was no movement at all. Mom was dead.”

In the interview, Halpern shared that her mother was very confused at the end of her life, perhaps suffering from dementia. As Halpern sat with her, she realized her mom was distressed.

“Mom’s calling me home,” yelled Halpern’s mother. “You’re stopping me from going to my mom!”

Halpern said that no one else believed her mother. They all said she was just confused. But Halpern believes that you have to take a person’s actions at face value. She believed her mom. “Mom,” she told her, “if you want to go back to your mom, I won’t stop you.”

“You’ve got to go where the patient is whether you agree with it or not,” Halpern said in the interview.

At the completion of Halpern’s own story, she begins her mother’s memoir—what she thinks her mom would say.

“Don’t consider which view is correct. They both tell the truth in different perspectives,” Halpern states in the transition to her mother’s story.

“It’s not me, these opinions aren’t mine,” said Halpern of her mother’s portion in the book. “I truly forgot that this was me writing and believed it was my mom writing.”

It is interesting to find that as I read her mother’s memoir, even though it is Halpern writing, I came to believe it really was her mom’s thoughts and feelings about the events that happened in her life.

Halpern’s mother, Tina Korner Chernick, grew up in Vienna. She studied to become a doctor. She spoke five languages.

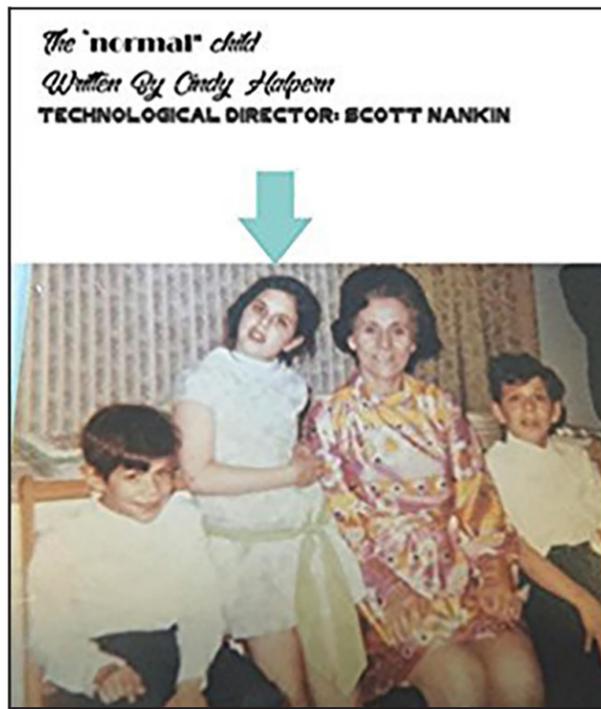
“Because I was a Jew and a girl, I had to be the best,” Tina wrote.

In Vienna when the Nazis came, Tina was kicked out of school. She was considered inferior, not worthy of an education, because she was a Jew. Disheartened, she overcame all her obstacles based on words of wisdom her mother told her: “Tina, you walk one foot in front of the other. You can never go back, only forward.”

Tina survived the war, hiding from place to place one step ahead of the Nazis. At the war’s end, she met American journalist and photographer Ruth Gruber, who at that time was a United States government official helping displaced persons. Gruber taught Tina English, then Tina helped others learn English. Gruber also escorted Tina and many other Jewish refugees to US Army base Ft. Ontario. While there, she met Eleanor Roosevelt.

Tina’s medical training was not for naught. It prepared her to be a mother to two sons with MD and a mildly retarded daughter. All the trials Tina went through made her a strong woman, strong enough to be able to give the word allowing two of her children to be taken off life support—something no mother would ever want to do.

Halpern continued the same first-person style in her second book “Mr. Chernick’s



Office,” which contains the memoirs of her father (who helped liberate Dachau), brothers and sister.

“It’s not 100 percent accurate, but I gathered all the pieces of the puzzle” Halpern stated. “It’s not perfect, but I think it’s damn close to being.”

Not only does she capture each family member’s thoughts, the book personifies each individual through the various font sizes and styles. For example, when Halpern wrote her older sister Anita’s story, she used a bold, all upper-case font, which reflected mildly retarded Anita’s loud and brash manner.

Her brother Russell, who was first to be diagnosed with MD, was very intelligent and graduated from college and lived to age 23.

Why would someone who knew he was going to die continue his education?

“Living in the moment

now,” Halpern explained. “Being in school affords you friends. You are not staying home alone. You are learning things you may never use in life, but just the idea it’s giving you quality life right now!”

Her younger brother Stuie, who was closest to her and called her Ella (for Cinderella) only lived to be 15. Today MD patients can live to about 30 years of age.

There is a spiritual side to her stories. Each memoir continues fluidly beyond death.

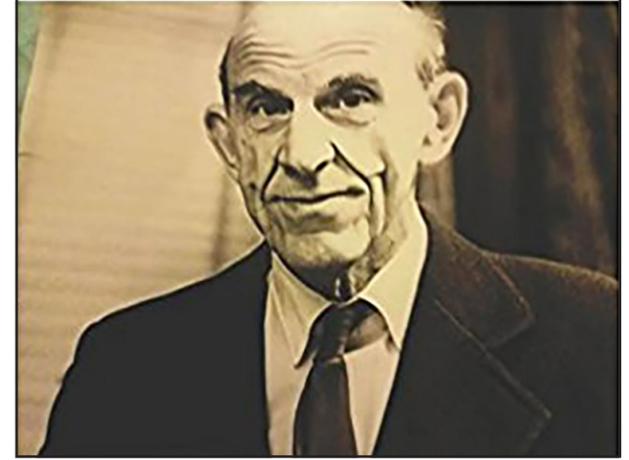
“I feel like they are looking out for me,” said Halpern.

In her own memoir, Halpern tells about a terrifying plane ride. A bird had flown into one of the plane’s engines and the plane had to make a difficult landing. Halpern “felt” her parents on both sides of her. “They were saying, ‘It’s not your time yet.’” Halpern wrote.

“I could see them! I thought, did I black out?” Halpern said in the interview.

MR. CHERNICK’S OFFICE

Written by Cindy Halpern
TECHNOLOGICAL DIRECTOR SCOTT NANKIN



Each parent also wrote in their memoirs about that experience—how they each comforted her, and it was believable.

Halpern also shared in the interview that at one time when she was critically ill, she saw dead relatives from Treblinka surrounding her. “I didn’t know who they were at the time, but they had odd clothes.”

Her mother showed her a picture of one relative who had perished in Treblinka. Halpern recognized that person as one of the people she had seen.

Why did Halpern want to write this book?

She is the only survivor of her immediate family. Her grandson, Scott, encouraged her to write.

“You have to do it,” he told her. “This is my legacy! You have to do this for me!”

Not only did Scott encourage her, at only 11 years old, he took over all the technical details of publishing a book: editing, formatting and publishing.

After Scott’s encouragement, Halpern wrote the book non-stop in two days. In her description of the book on the back cover, Halpern admits the book has many grammatical errors as she did not have an editor or proofreader. As an editor, at first I found this frustrating. But as I continued reading, I could overlook the errors and became absorbed in Halpern’s story—much like getting to know a person. We all have flaws that are forgivable as the jewels inside each of us are discovered.

Mike Fink, a teacher at the Rhode Island School of Design, wrote of Halpern’s book in *The Jewish Voice of Rhode Island and Southwest Massachusetts*, “[I] read it cover to cover, fascinated and impressed and very much under its spell.”

Halpern also stated that she doesn’t want her family to be dead, “so I write about them.”

“The Normal Child” and “Mr. Chernick’s Office” are available on amazon.com.

May

From page 1A

attempt by Iran to take advantage of the victory of the Assad regime in its fight against the rebels, a victory to which Iran and its proxies—Hezbollah and the various Shia militias—have had a major role.”

The Russian air campaign was the decisive factor that allowed an Iranian-led victory on the ground in Syria. Now, the Iranian axis and Russia depend on one another—meaning that Russia cannot accept an all-out Israeli war on Iranian forces and proxies, cautioned Karmon.

“The political solution [in Syria] that the Russians dream of also depends, in great measure, on Iranian

good will,” he explained. “Tehran, therefore, seems to have decided to continue its strategy” of planting itself in Syria, which itself is part of “a clear anti-Israeli strategy, threatening it from the Syrian and Lebanese borders.”

Karmon warned that Iran’s conflict with Israel is “inevitable” as long as Jerusalem remains convinced that it cannot tolerate the formation of such a severe and direct threat on its northern border, and as long as it continues to “act accordingly, mainly through its air force.”

He noted that “Israel has behaved according to the very clear red lines made public by its military and political leaders, and seems determined to continue.”

Tehran, meanwhile, must also factor in the arrival of a more anti-Iranian White House team. All of these factors are part of the buildup to Trump’s “fateful decision” on May 12 regarding the Iranian nuclear deal, as well as “the unpredictable results of his negotiation with the North Korean dictator, which could directly impact Iran,” assessed Karmon.

An apparent decision by Russia to provide the Assad regime with its advanced S-300 air-defense system is contributing to the instability, he argued. The transfer of this military hardware risks a confrontation with Israel, he said, although “based on a historical perspective, Israel

has always found technological and operational solutions to advanced Russian weapons systems.

The Palestinian arena is heating up

Meanwhile, Karmon said, several factors are conspiring to make the Palestinian arena more explosive, including Hamas’s weakness in the face of the Palestinian Authority and its growing regional isolation.

“This situation could get out of control at some point on the border with Gaza, but not in a manner that could threaten Israel strategically, except in the public diplomacy arena,” he said.

However, an escalation of the situation in Gaza could

trigger an Iranian move designed to extricate the Iranians from the Israeli challenge in Syria. The Israeli-Iranian tensions remain “the most serious trigger for a direct confrontation in the short term,” stated Karmon.

Professor Uzi Rabi, director of the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University, told JNS that he does expect May to be an “intensive month” with some potential for violence, but added that the chances of it leading to a major armed conflict remained low.

In this region, he said, “explosiveness is not new. I certainly see a potential for the eruption of pinpoint

clashes and intensive verbal wars, but not a regional war.”

The reason for this, explained Rabi, is that “no side will emerge with gains from a regional clash or a full-scale war between Iran and Israel. Assad could lose his seat of power; the Russians would not be able to realize their achievements in Syria; Iran is unable to allow itself to get caught up in an adventure that will further destabilize the regime at home; and Israel, too, has no interest in such a war.

“As a result,” continued the academic, “we will see more of the same—meaning what we have had in recent months will continue into the month of May. Perhaps at a higher intensity, but not beyond that.”

ZOA

From page 3A

ment on the same topic called those groups “far left.”

The ZOA has gone after the ADL for years, criticizing it publicly for everything from supporting Syrian refugees to

denouncing those who oppose a Palestinian state. ZOA has also rapped the ADL for supporting Black Lives Matter. The ADL has said that while it supports better treatment of black Americans, it opposes the Movement for Black Lives

due to its 2016 platform accusing Israel of apartheid and genocide.

“ADL’s attacks on dedicated pro-Israel individuals and groups that defend and fight for Israel and combat anti-Israel radical Islamist anti-

Semitism are particularly confusing, disheartening and upsetting,” read an April 27 ZOA news release. “It is also painful that ADL and its Director [Jonathan] Greenblatt too often join forces with Israel haters, such as by promoting

the Israel-bashing BDS group Black Lives Matter.”

If the Presidents Conference rules against the ZOA in the hearings, the ZOA could face a range of consequences from a private or public reprimand to a recommendation of

suspension or expulsion. But Klein remains defiant.

“What kind of ruling [is that], that we can’t say whatever we think is right?” he asked. “I’m not going to agree to be restricted from saying what I believe.”

Judea

From page 14A

US positions, especially for those who refuse to see them as they are.”

In its latest annual report on human rights, the State Department did not use the controversial term “occu-

ped” in references to various territories in and adjacent to Israel.

Israel liberated Judea and Samaria and unified Jerusalem in the 1967 Six Day War. Israel has since annexed those liberated parts of Jerusalem.

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.

The change comes after US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman advised the department in December to stop using the “misleading” term “occupied” in references to Judea and Samaria.

The term “occupied” is

considered by many to be a loaded phrase intended to demonize Israel with regard to its activities in disputed areas.

In response to the State Department’s change in terminology, Israel’s Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman

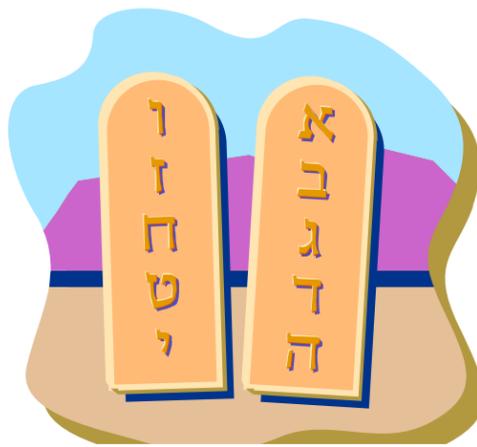
tweeted over the weekend, “the lie of the occupied Palestinian territories begins to be revealed. They say that a lie repeated often enough becomes true, but the truth is forever stronger. The State Department report is proof of that.”



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Just seven weeks after the Exodus from Egypt, the children of Israel camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai somewhere in the Sinai Peninsula. Shavuot celebrates this moment when the Jewish people stood before God and received the Ten Commandments, the foundation of our Torah.



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Rabbi Steven Engel
Cantor Jacqueline Rawiszer

Congregation
Ohev Shalom
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Rabbi David Kay
Rabbi Aaron Rubinger
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HERITAGE

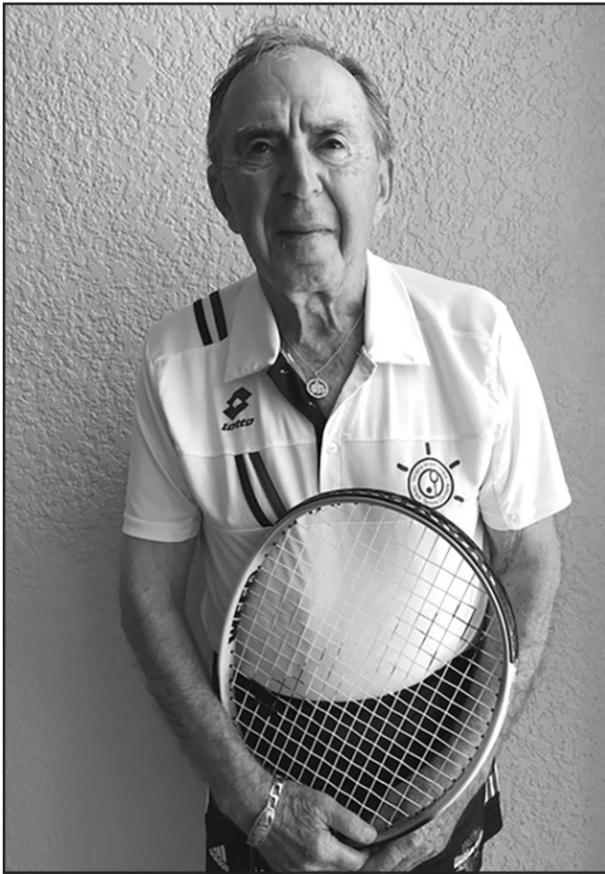
FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

Savvy Seniors

2018



A Grand Master in tennis and life—Lazar Lowinger



Lazar Lowinger

By Marilyn Shapiro

Belgium. Romania. Paris. Cuba. Boston. Montreal. Florida. Lazar Lowinger may be considered the ultimate Wandering Jew. But his life is more of a testament of a very talented, intelligent, and generous mensch.

Lazar's father Julius, a Romanian jeweler, and his mother, Manya Gilburd, a Ukrainian, met in Cuba where they both had come to join their families. After they were married, they planned to emigrate to America.

In 1933, however, Julius accepted a position as a jeweler with a prestigious company

in Belgium. Lazar, their only child, was born soon after. In 1936, with Hitler extending his grasp on Europe, the Lowingers returned to Julian's native Romania to be closer to his mother and, according to Lazar, "in search of a better future." Ironically, Marshall Ion Antonescu, who was later executed for war crimes, protected the Jews from being deported to concentration camps.

Life was still fraught with danger. While living in Bucharest, the Lowingers' house and courtyard were repeatedly damaged by Allied Forces bombs. "Every day, I got up, went to school, and prayed

that our house would not be destroyed and my family and I would not be killed," Lazar recalled 70 years later. The family survived in part through Julius' resourcefulness by using the gold coins he had hidden away to buy food, always difficult to obtain in the war-torn county.

Once the war ended, the family decided to return to Cuba. After a six-month stay in Paris while awaiting their visas, the three emigrated in 1946. Two years after their move, Julius and Manya divorced. In 1950, Julius moved to Montreal; and 16-year-old Lazar and his mother moved to Boston where Manya's brother was a butcher.

A self-admitted poor student, Lazar dropped out of school and enlisted in Army's Special Services Unit. While stationed in Alaska, he obtained his GED. Upon completion of his military service, he enrolled in Boston University then transferred to Sir George Williams in Montreal. He returned to Boston and was accepted to Suffolk Law School, graduating and passing the Massachusetts Bar Exam in 1962.

Lazar's credentials, as well as his linguistic abilities—he was fluent in Yiddish, Romanian, French, Portuguese, and Spanish—were beneficial in his job search. He was hired by Elijah Adlow, chief justice of the Boston Municipal Courts, who sought a Spanish-speaking lawyer to appoint as counsel for the increasing Spanish population in the Boston area.

As the first Spanish-speaking lawyer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Lazar made his reputation as the "Spanish Speakers' Lawyer." Throughout his law career, including establish-

ing his own practice, Lazar defended a wide range of clientele, from those seeking workmen's compensation to those accused of murder.

In addition, Lowinger wrote for *El Mundo*, the Boston-based Spanish newspaper. He also hosted two radio programs: a Spanish "Ask Your Lawyer" and a "coffee hour," in which Lazar debated with other Boston lawyers. Lazar and his wife Audrey Schwellung, whom he married in 1965, settled in Newton, Massachusetts, with their two sons Jeffrey (1966) and Brian (1968), despite offers to relocate to Florida with its larger Hispanic population. "I liked being a big fish in a small pond," said Lazar.

Lazar loved law, but he loved tennis as much, or even more. Immediately following the end of World War II, Lazar had played table tennis and a version of squash at a Jewish youth center. Lazar was encouraged by a wealthy friend of his father to play tennis. At first Lazar was not interested—he thought tennis was for girls—but he quickly fell in love with the sport.

Lazar carried that love across the ocean. He won his first championship at the St. Lawrence Tournament in Canada while a student at Sir George Williams College. He also played in tournaments in law school as well as with fellow attorneys and local judges in Bench and Bar. "I never won a tournament against a judge," said Lazar. "That was intentional!"

In 1989, Lazar, at the age of 52, was invited by his friend and Maccabian Hall of Fame tennis player Irving Levine to try out for the United States men's Maccabi team. When he didn't make the cut, Lazar went to Puerto Rico and

organized the Puerto Rican Maccabi team.

In 1991, Lazar participated for the first time as a member of USA Maccabi tennis team. Lazar has gone on to represent his country six more times, initially in the Masters (Ages 35 to 65) division. Heralded by the Boston Jewish Advocate as the 'Maccabi Maven,' Lazar moved up to the Grand Master's Division (Ages 65+) in 1998.

"Grand Masters has no age limit," said Lazar. "I will be playing until they put me in a casket."

His two most recent medals, a gold and a bronze, were earned in the 2017 Games, when Lazar was 82 years old.

Lazar has also participated in several Maccabi Pan-American Games. In 2015, Lazar was invited to his native Cuba to join the team that played in the 13th Annual Games in Santiago, Chile. He won two silver medals, Cuba's first in that age category and Lazar's sixth.

At his first Maccabi Game, Lazar met Marilyn Glaser who had volunteered as a nurse for the USA team in the two previous competitions held in 1981 and 1985. They connected again as friends over the next 20 years, he as the competitor, she as the volunteer. When Lazar was widowed in 2011, Marilyn sent him a note of condolence. Their friendship, based on their mutual love of the games and the close proximity of their homes in Florida, soon blossomed into a romance. They now share a home with their dog Malka in Solivita, a 55-plus community outside of Orlando. Marilyn, former president of the community's Shalom Club, is the current president of Congregation Shalom Aleichem, the local synagogue. Weather and

health permitting, Lazar still plays tennis at least five days a week.

Although Marilyn lived in Israel for six years, Lazar's mutual connection and love for Eretz Yisrael grew as his role as visitor and competitor. "Every time I go to Israel for the games, said Lazar, "I feel like I belong there."

"Building Jewish Pride through Sports" is the Maccabi USA's motto, one that Lazar has taken to heart. While taking responsibility for his own expenses incurred during the Games, he has raised over \$60,000 for other American athletes. "My participation and my support of Maccabi USA is my way of expressing my Jewishness," the Grand Master tennis champion stated.

Lazar also is a generous supporter of Israel's Tennis Centers, the largest social service agency for Israel children. ITC serves more than a half million children and their families since its first center opened in Ramat Hasharon in 1976. With 14 centers in the country, primarily in underprivileged communities, the not-for-profit Centers use tennis to promote the social, physical, and psychological well-being of their students, to develop coaches, and to maintain the courts and facilities.

Are there more competitions in Lazar's future? He hopes to participate in next Pan Am Games, set for Mexico City in 2019. He will be 85. Stay tuned...

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

The art of losing (misplacing) stuff

By Marilyn Shapiro

I have spent half my life looking for things I've misplaced. I have spent the other half finding things for my husband, Larry, that he claims I have lost to make his life more difficult.

Recently I was visiting my daughter Julie, her husband Sam, and my granddaughter Sylvie in Colorado. That morning, I had unplugged my charging cord for my phone from the power strip next to my bed. I was sure that I had plugged it into a kitchen outlet. Later in the morning, however, the only charger, looking mysteriously larger than mine, was connected to Julie and Sam's iPad.

"Sam, are you using my plug to charge your iPad?" I asked.

"No," said Sam. "That one is mine."

I spent a good chunk of the next few hours looking for my missing cord. I again looked in my traveling charger case, my handbag, my suitcase. I rechecked the outlet next to my bed and every other outlet in the house. After we returned from a walk and lunch on Main Street, I rechecked the outlet, my charger bag, the pocketbook, the suitcase. Then I pulled off all the bedding (maybe it got tangled in the sheets when I was making

the bed?). Missing in action. Julie just rolled her eyes. Mom has lost something—AGAIN.

Misplacing something is part of my personality. Keys, cell phone, my favorite water bottle, sun glasses. Larry has grudgingly accepted that every time we head out, we have to allow enough time for me to make one more frantic trip into the house to search for my frequently lost or left behind items (which I refer to as FLIs)

I know that my misplacing things is not tied to cognitive impairment, a concern as I work my way through my 60s. I have not yet found my cell phone in the freezer or my keys in the microwave. Thankfully, my losses are usually a result of multitasking or not giving myself enough time to put the item in its proper spot in the first place. To compensate, I have established assigned places for the FLIs. My keys go in a pewter bowl near the door to the garage. The cell phone goes on the kitchen counter, plugged into the permanent charger. My favorite water bottle gets rinsed and put back into the refrigerator. On my good days, the system works.

I've given up on the sunglasses. After several last minute scrambles, I finally purchased several additional pairs for my pocketbook, each car, the beach bag, the lanai.

This system also works—on my good days.

Larry, on the other hand, rarely loses anything. His keys, his wallet, the checkbook, even his clothes, are organized in such a way that he can find them quickly and without angst. He even has a system for items on his desk, where he can locate exactly what he needs from the piles that totally defy my sense of order.

Unfortunately, as we share the same house, our lives—and stuff—intersect. For example, we share laundry duty, but it is usually on my watch that one of his socks goes missing.

"What did you do with my Smart Wool?" he demands.

"You're missing one?" I respond. And the search begins. The washing machine. The dryer. Then the rest of the laundry to see if it got stuck to a recalcitrant hood of a sweatshirt or a pair of shorts. The loss is usually not permanent.

The second most FLI is the checkbook. Larry has a particular spot for it. There are times, however, that I need it. Invariably, I either don't put it back in the spot fast enough or I don't put it exactly where it belongs. Then, the scenario begins.

"MAR-i-lyn! Where is the checkbook?" The situation is quickly resolved—except

when we moved into our Florida house. One of us put the checkbook in a "safe place" before we left for a long trip to Colorado. If anyone has any suggestions as to where our "safe" place was, please contact me. Two and a half years later, the checks are still missing.

Remember I said that Larry rarely loses anything? Let me relate the Famous Missing Fleece Incident.

While we were still living in Upstate New York, our son Adam came home in July for a visit. One surprisingly cool morning, the three of us went on a bike ride. Larry had Adam use his road bike, and he took his hybrid.

A couple of weeks after Adam left, Larry asked me what I had done with the University of Rochester fleece jacket he had worn on the bike ride.

"I have no idea," I said. "I probably washed it and put it in your closet."

"Well, it's missing," Larry said.

Thus began a three-month intermittent search. I checked our closet and every other closet and dresser in the house. I called Adam and asked if he had taken it back with him to California. Nada.

"Maybe you gave it to the Salvation Army," Larry said. "I can't believe you would give



away my favorite fleece to the Salvation Army."

On a cool, overcast day at the end of October, Larry and I decided to go on a bike ride. The roads were wet from a recent rain, so we took our hybrid bikes for better traction. Halfway through the ride, it began to rain again. Larry paused to put his phone, which was in a case on the handlebar, into the saddlebag to better protect it.

"Hey! Look what I found!" Larry exclaimed. "It's my missing fleece! I must have put it in there in July when it began to warm up on our bike ride with Adam."

"YOU misplaced it!" I said. "Don't you feel bad for accusing ME of losing it?"

"No, that's okay," said Larry. "All's well that ends well."

And the charging cord I "lost" in Colorado? Turns out that Sam had rolled it up and

put it into a canister where he and Julie stash all their extra cords. So I actually wasn't at fault that time either.

Elizabeth Bishop wrote: "The art of losing isn't hard to master/so many things seem filled with the intent/to be lost that their loss is no disaster."

In my world, losing "stuff" may be a problem. As long as I keep what is important—my family, my friends, my memories—it will just be small stuff.

From her book, Shapiro read this at SOL Writers' Coffee House on March 18. It was first published in The Jewish World, May 11, 2017.

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

Every person is a living story, Morty Geisler's is almost 100 years old



Morty Geisler (seated center) surrounded by family members.

By Marilyn Shapiro

Southern Florida, will be rocking on May 17. On that day, Morty Geisler, a veteran of World War II, a successful businessman, and the beloved patriarch of a large family, will be celebrating his 100th birthday.

Mortimer Arthur Geisler was born on May 17, 1918, in Harlem to Maxwell and Anna Grossman Geisler, both immigrants from Poland. Eighteen months later, Maxwell died in the Great Flu Pandemic. Life was tough for the family. Geisler grew up in a two-bedroom walk-up with his mother, younger brother, and grandfather. They were supported by his grandfather and Anna's three brothers.

Geisler, however, was bright and resourceful. After graduating high school at 15, he took a job as a stock boy in a haberdasher store. He made \$10 a week, half of which went to his mother.

In 1942, Geisler married Sylvia Sheer. A year later, he was drafted into the army, where he, like many Jewish GIs, encountered anti-Semitism. When some "southern boys" began picking on him, he complained to his captain. Geisler never had any problems again.

Geisler and 6,000 other soldiers were shipped over to England. The soldiers were piled 10 high in bunks in the bowels of a Liberty ship, which he remembered as a "floating cork." Geisler

and his division landed on Omaha Beach on June 9, 1944, three days into what would be known as D-Day. He then followed General Patton's 3rd Army through St. Lo to Pont de Masson relieving Bastogne and crossed the Rhein and Ruhr rivers on the way to Magdenburg where he joined General Simpson's 9th Army on the way to Gottinger. His division was involved in closing the pocket in Hamm where 100,000 Nazis were captured and surrendered.

In May 1945, Geisler's division entered Dachau concentration camp two days after its liberation.

"My father witnessed the ferocity of the evil that the Third Reich had created," said his son Warren, a retired dentist from Albany, New York. "Those images are still seared into his being until this day"

"Thousands of corpses were scattered through out the camp," said Geisler. "Survivors, mostly Jewish, were lice infested, walking skeletons. Still in their striped uniforms, these hollow-eyed, slouched-over beings managed to still smile as they thanked us GIs for saving them."

The war was still not over for Geisler. His division advanced to Pliessen, Czechoslovakia, where they faced off on the banks of the Elbe River against Soviet forces, which kept them from invading the Czechoslovakia. Two weeks later he was transferred to Paris where he met up with

his brother Maxwell and his recent French bride.

In October 1945, Geisler shipped out on the Queen Mary with 14,000 other GIs back to New York City. Five days at sea with seasickness was the tour du jour. Geisler never missed a meal and stayed topside for four of the days at sea. Once stateside he was honorably discharged two weeks later. The war and its battles were over.

were bar mitzvahed there. Geisler was also a member of the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal organization that provides philanthropic work for numerous causes.

Sylvia passed away in 1971. A year later, he married Enid Friedman, a widow who had three children—Iris, Daniel, and Paul. While enrolled at Princeton University, Paul, a natural athlete and president of the college's Big Brothers/

the shoulder to wake him up," recounted Warren. "I immediately stepped back in fear as he jumped up as he were still defending himself."

When asked to be videotaped, the research department of Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, he refused. "He still has nightmares," said Warren, and he could not relive the horrors.

Geisler is devastated by the atmosphere of hate and intolerance seen today in the world, especially his beloved United States. "I want my children and grandchildren to understand that we are a great people, a great country," said Geisler. "I worry how the new generation will survive all the current animosity."

Meanwhile, the Geisler family is planning a big party later this month. His six surviving children as well as the 11 grandchildren and five great grandchildren will be there to celebrate the life of one of the surviving members of The Greatest Generation.

"Many GIs did their duty and sacrificed their lives, limbs, and even their sanity as asked by this nation," said Warren. "May those who have died either in the war or as long-time veterans rest in peace."

Geisler himself looks back with gratitude. "I've lived a long, wonderful life," the centenarian said. "I've had two wonderful marriages and seven wonderful children. I am truly blessed."

Happy Birthday, Morty. May you live 120 years.

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

"I worry how the new generation will survive all the current animosity."

Geisler found a job as a hosiery salesman for Ma-Ro Corporation, where he became its youngest national sales manager. In 1959, Geisler and three other salesmen opened Proudfoot Hosiery. As the eventual sole owner, Geisler licensed the first National Football League's tube sock and the first non-slip sock. His company won the licensing for the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics. He eventually sold the company, working for the corporations that carried his lines. He retired at 85.

Geisler and Sylvia had four children—Steven, Warren, Edward, and Jayne. The Geislers were active in the Jewish community and were responsible, along with other Jewish World War II veterans for the founding of Temple Beth Emeth, a conservative synagogue in Hewitt, New Jersey.

"They all wanted to work and provide for their families in a religious setting safe from the hell of the war's mass murder and genocide," said Warren. All three sons

Big Sisters, was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma, an aggressive form of bone cancer. After his death, the devastated parents donated a library in Paul's name at the Israel Tennis Association in Kyriat Shemona, Israel.

Geisler's experiences in the war, Sylvia's volunteer work for the American Red Cross, and Paul's legacy instilled in the six surviving children a sense of service and provided a cornerstone for philanthropic work for the entire family.

Geisler now lives in an independent living facility in Tamarac, Florida. Although he himself says he is "slowing down," he paints (a skill he learned when he was 90 years old) and watches sports and operas. He and his 94-year-old friend Evelyn Mitchell step out often for dinner, she in her stiletto heels. "She drives; I buy," quipped Geisler.

Seventy-three years later, however, the images Geisler encountered in Dachau continue to haunt him.

"When I was growing up, I remember tapping him on

Celebrating good health during Older American's Month

(StatePoint)—The contributions of older Americans are celebrated each May during Older Americans's Month. This year's theme, "Engage at Every Age," emphasizes that you are never too old to enrich your physical and emotional well-being.

To encourage happy, healthy and productive golden years when older adults are able to pursue their hobbies and passions, consider these tips from Cigna-HealthSpring, one of the nation's largest providers of Medicare plans.

- Get an annual exam. Annual visits are critical for identifying potential health issues early, as well as maintaining a relationship with your primary care physician. During this visit, your doctor can establish a plan based on your age, gender and health status for the vaccinations and health screenings you need, such as mammograms, cholesterol screenings and colorectal cancer screenings. Medicare and Medicare Advantage cover certain types of annual exams at no extra cost. Check with your plan for details.

- Take medications as prescribed. Your drugs were prescribed for a reason. It is important to adhere to your medication regime and take medications as prescribed. Some drugs can cause harm-

ful interactions, so make sure your doctor knows everything you take, including over-the-counter drugs.

- If you smoke, stop. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the U.S. It's never too late to quit, and the benefits of doing so are almost immediate, according to the American Cancer Society. Keep in mind that parts of Medicare cover smoking cessation counseling and prescription medications.

- Get some exercise. Regular exercise can help older adults stay independent and prevent many health problems that come with age. Many Medicare Advantage plans offer exercise programs designed specifically for older adults at no extra cost. If your plan has a program like this, make sure to take advantage of it.

- Have some fun! Be sure to make time for activities you enjoy and seek out others who also enjoy them. The social interaction is good for you.

"We are constantly inspired by stories of older adults reinventing themselves later in life in meaningful ways, from running marathons to mentoring young people to painting for the very first time," said Brian Evanko, president of Cigna-HealthSpring. "The key that unlocks all of this is maintaining your physi-

cal and emotional health and well-being through the years."



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It's never too late to write

By Christine DeSouza

Many Heritage readers are already familiar with Marilyn Cohen Shapiro's writing. She has three bylines in this Savvy Seniors issue. Her articles have graced Heritage pages over the past eight months—stories about every-day life and not so every-day events, like the one about a Puerto Rican man Shapiro met at a Shalom Club meeting who was a Shabbos goy in Long Island, N.Y.

Most recently, she wrote a news article about Rep. Darren Soto holding a Purim forum in his Kissimmee office ("Rep. Soto—a modern-day Mordechai for Florida and Israel," April 20, 2018), and a poignant story about a Kissimmee resident's discovery of his father through a photograph, titled "A soldier, a Jewish boy and a photographer," ran in the Nov. 19, 2017 issue. These stories seem to come to Shapiro unbidden as she simply converses with people she meets anywhere.

"I love to interview people," she told the Heritage, "and love it when people share their stories with me."

From her earliest remembrances, Shapiro loved to write. Like most young girls, she kept a diary or journal. When she was 15, Shapiro attended a writer's institute at the State University of New York. That workshop changed her life. She received an award for best young writer then put her writing on the shelf for 50 years.

Very few authors attain wealth quickly (there are always exceptions like J.K. Rowling). Her parents wisely counseled her to major in English education. She could write during the summer months, her mother suggested. She heeded their advice, earned her degree in English from the University of Albany and taught adult education, from GED to college preparation, for over 25 years at the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center, a division of Hudson Valley Community College. Easily understandable, her favorite subject to teach was how to write essays.

Shapiro grew up Marilyn Cohen in Keeseville, New York—a little town with only two Jewish families. She was the third child of four: three girls and a boy. There were instances of anti-Semitism, but for the most part, the Christian town "embraced" her family.

In 1973, through a Jewish Singles group in Albany, New York, she met Larry Shapiro. The next day, she telephoned her mother and told her, "Last night I met the man I'm going to marry." Almost 44 years and two children later, they are still a happy couple.

With teaching and raising children, there was no spare time to write. However, her mother was the family storyteller.

"She wrote stories on little scraps of paper," Shapiro remembered. "My mother joined a writing group and after the first day said, 'This is really bad. Everyone has a college education. People aren't going to like [my writing].'"

As it turned out, Shapiro's mother was the classes'

favorite writer because she was talking about stories growing up in Brooklyn, Long Island, and the old country. It was a writing style Shapiro inherited.

Two days after Shapiro retired in 2010, her nest now empty, her mother had a heart attack and she became her caregiver.

When, in 2013, her mother passed away, Shapiro began to write prolifically after she met (by chance) the publisher and editor-in-chief, Jim and Laurie Clevenson, of The Jewish World, a bi-weekly newspaper in Schenectady, New York. Her first story, "There Goes My Heart," was published in the paper in August 2013, and later became the title of her first book.

"You know how when you say good bye to your child, wherever they are going—nursery school, kindergarten, the other side of the country—well, there goes your heart," Shapiro explained.

When her mom was 80, Shapiro asked her "Do you ever get used to it?"

"No," her mother said. "Every time you walk out the door—there goes my heart."

Published on her birthday, Sept. 3, 2016, "There Goes My Heart" is a compilation of short stories about her own experiences and remembrances. Each story brings reflection or laughter with chapter titles such as "Go Jump in the Lake! Freezin' For a Reason," about taking the plunge in 50 degree water in November to raise money for Special Olympics Capital Region or "Some Enchanted Evening," the story of when Marilyn met Larry at a Jewish Singles Purim party.

"A Moving Story: Oy! The Stuff" is about the big move Larry and Marilyn made in 2015 from their home of 36 years in Clifton Park, N.Y., to a fully furnished home in Solivita, Florida. After whittling down to what they would take (the essentials) they discovered those "essentials" filled 130 boxes.

"Within hours," Shapiro wrote, "we were both buried in bubble wrap... I cursed myself out loud: 'How did I manage to bring so much when I thought I gave so much away?'"—A lament many who have moved can relate to (and now laugh about).

Now settled in their home near Kissimmee, Larry and Marilyn are members of Con-



Marilyn Cohen Shapiro

gregation Shalom Aleichem and the Shalom Club. Marilyn is also a lifetime member of Hadassah. To continue her love of writing, she joined SOL Writers where she realized a second love—doing presentations.

Her first was a 60-slide presentation on travel, titled "Mydisastervacations": Larry had kidney stones on their honeymoon; their first trip to Nantucket was blown out because of a hurricane, and so on. Ironically, that presentation was cancelled because of tornado warnings.

When the presentation was rescheduled Shapiro used her quick wit and sense of humor and added a video of a tornado whipping across the beginning of her slide show.

"More than 150 people attended, and I still get compliments!" she said with a laugh.

Shapiro has a second book in the works, with a planned publication date of Sept. 1, 2018, which she is excited about because that is her mother's birthday.

The title of this book is "Tikkun Olam: Stories of Living Kind in An Unkind World" and is sure to bring many examples of how surprisingly kind we humans can be toward each other.

Does Shapiro regret the 50-year gap between her first writing award and when she began to write in earnest?

Shapiro answers that question in the introduction of "There Goes My Heart": "Barbara Kingsolver, award-winning novelist, poet, and essayist, stated, 'There's no perfect time to write. There's only now.'"

Shapiro concluded, "And now is perfect for me."

"There Goes My Heart" is available on amazon.com.



Marilyn Shapiro's second book.

Remembering 'Aunt Bertie,' the longest-serving Jewish staffer in White House history

By Steve North

(JTA)—When Eleanor Roosevelt or Bess Truman sent a formal invitation to one particular White House staff member, they often addressed it in the customary form of days gone by: "To Mrs. William Reynolds," the envelope would read.

Mrs. Reynolds, a dark-haired beauty who handled presidential correspondence, lived in Virginia and had a pronounced Southern accent.

It is doubtful her employers had any inkling that Mrs. Reynolds was born Bertha Hurwitz in 1903 to an Orthodox Jewish family in Lomza, Poland, immigrating with her mother to the Washington, D.C. area in 1913. Bertha's father Yitzchak had earlier left for America, promising to send for his wife, his son Kalman, and his daughter, but was never heard from again.

I wasn't able to confirm this, but Bertha, who began working at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in 1934 and remained there through the Eisenhower administration, may have been the longest-serving Jewish White House staffer in American history.

It's a remarkable achievement, given prevailing attitudes about Jews in high places in those days. FDR's mother Sara Delano Roosevelt conveyed the social anti-Semitism common to the times, and Harry Truman was known to drop an anti-Jewish slur despite his friendship with his Jewish business partner, Eddie Jacobson. Bess Truman prided herself on the fact that a Jew had never entered their home in Missouri.

It was into that hostile-to-Hebrews world that Bertha Hurwitz stepped during the early days of the first FDR administration. She had already stunned her family by marrying Treasury Department employee William Reynolds, who wasn't Jewish, and made another then-unconventional choice by focusing on her job and never having children, although there may have been medical reasons for that.

Her brother Kalman, however, who lived in New York City, had three offspring, Shirley, Joe and Fran. They became Bertha's "substitute children," as Joe puts it.

"She was absolutely exotic in our family, with a certain elegance about her," explains Joe, who lives in New York's Hudson Valley. "Everyone in the family had a Yiddish accent, but there was no sense of her Polish background. She sounded like she was from Virginia, and I loved it when she read books such as 'Chicken Little' to me."

Joe also knew that when Aunt Bertie came from Washington to visit her family in New York, there was bound to be a present.

"In 1950," he recalls, "when I was 12, she handed me a piece of clear Lucite that encased a rusty nail and two pieces of stone-like matter, along with a small plaque reading 'Original White House Material Removed in 1950.'"

The historic mementos were a priceless byproduct of the Truman administration's

extensive interior renovation of the building between 1948 and 1952. Joe, an architect, keeps his aunt's gift on his desk to this day.

Shirley also has warm childhood memories of Aunt Bertie.

"When I was about 10, in 1944, we went to the White House to visit her. I remember feeling so excited and so proud of her, and she was proud of me. She introduced me to all the people she worked with," said Shirley.

During another Washington visit in the midst of World War II, Bertha showed her niece the so-called "Victory gardens" near her Arlington home.

Bertha was generous to her brother's family.

"My father worked in the garment district and money was very tight," Shirley remembers. "Bertie used to bring me beautiful dresses. And she took me to the theater! The first two plays I ever saw were 'Kiss Me, Kate' and 'South Pacific,' and she even got us box seats."

Bertha's nieces and nephew never asked for details about her job, and Joe says he simply knew she was in the secretarial pool and had "mentioned once that she was working with President Truman."

But two documents provide more information: one says the position allows "exercise of independent judgment and initiative, (while) engaged in the briefing and cross-referencing of correspondence of the President and his Secretaries." It lists responsibilities involving letters from political leaders and policy-makers, and speaks of maintaining "card indexes" for the president of his various appointments to the Cabinet and other departments.

The second document, a letter from 1946, informs Bertha that "By direction of the President, you have been appointed Assistant Clerk... in the Executive Office of the

President, the White House office, with compensation at the rate of \$2544.48 per annum." (The average annual income in the U.S. that year was \$2,600.)

Bertha was widowed twice, first after a long marriage to Reynolds, then following a happy union with Jack Nalley, who, like her first husband, was not Jewish. She became ill in her 80s and moved to New York near her niece Shirley, living, appropriately enough, in the Franklin Nursing Home on Franklin Avenue in Queens. She passed away in 1991 at the age of 88, leaving her niece a suitcase bulging with various items that was stored in the attic of Shirley's house for more than two decades.

Last year, Shirley realized she had to figure out what to do with that suitcase. Shirley and her husband, Rabbi Albert Thaler, are fixtures in the Conservative movement; he retired last year from Temple Gates of Prayer, Congregation Shaarai Tefilla in Flushing after 63 years in the rabbinate. Knowing that downsizing from their current home was inevitable, she asked if I would help her sort through Aunt Bertie's "stuff" and decide what to do with it all.

Rabbi Thaler has been my family's spiritual leader since 1958. He and Shirley long ago became close friends of my parents, and the lives of our two families have been intertwined for decades. In fact, we attended Passover seders annually at the Thaler home, and I recall Aunt Bertie—by then old and frail—sitting at the end of the seder table, beaming with pride at her nieces and nephew and their children.

One afternoon late last year, Shirley shlepped the suitcase down and opened it on the dining room table where Bertha used to sit. I was astonished as we removed, piece by piece, unexpected treasures from the past.

There were Christmas cards

handed out to White House staffers, personally signed by Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and Harry and Bess Truman. Dwight Eisenhower put his John Hancock on a formal portrait, and Truman autographed a stylized version of his proclamation, on May 8th, 1945, that Germany had surrendered—which was given to his employees as an historic souvenir.

There was a group photo of three dozen smiling White House employees gathered in the Oval Office around Truman's desk, with Bertha prominently situated at the front of the crowd.

Then there were the ornate invitations: to inaugurations, receptions, Christmas celebrations, and dozens of "garden parties" hosted by the First Ladies. One reads "Mrs. Roosevelt, At Home, on Saturday, May 18th at four o'clock. If the weather does not permit the garden party to be held (then), it will be held on Monday, May the twentieth, at the same hour."

Bertha had saved nearly 40 invitations in all, along with passes that she had to present at the entrance to the events. The reverence she felt for the people she worked for and the unique experiences she had with them was almost palpable.

The organized secretary also kept personal diaries, and all the notes and cards she ever received from her nieces and nephew (who, in their early years, often wrote to "Aunt Birdie", thinking that was her name). Those, Shirley decided, she had to save. But some of the historic memorabilia was auctioned off online this month—Truman's signed World War II proclamation alone went for \$5,500—and the rest will be sold in August by Heritage Auctions.

So these are the final gifts from a doting Aunt Bertie to her adored nieces and nephew. I'm sorry I never thought to ask at those Passover seders about her life and career—one can only imagine the



Bertha Reynolds was born Bertha Hurwitz in Poland.

stories she could tell. But for now, "Dayenu." It's enough to know that a young Jewish woman from a shtetl in Poland ended up serving her adopted country alongside several of America's greatest leaders, and witnessing, up close and personal, some of the most momentous events of the 20th century.




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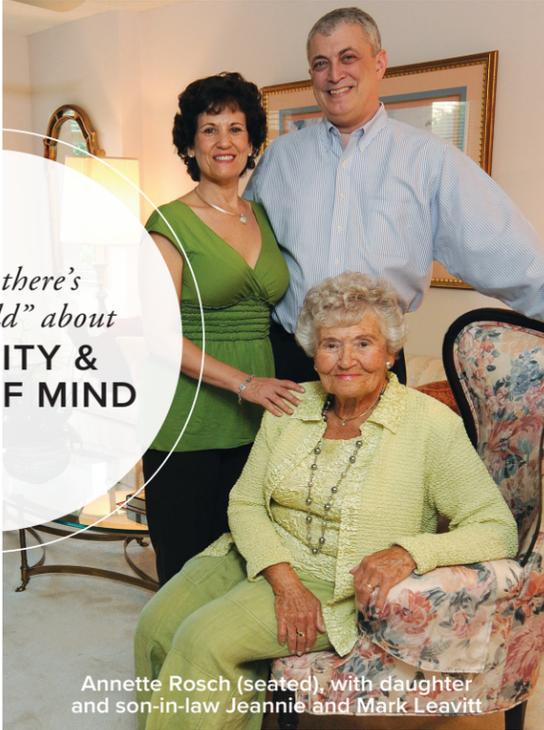




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Tips for tackling age-related skin issues

(StatePoint)—Aging is a fact of life, and your skin is no exception. However, experts say that there is a lot you can do to help your skin at all stages of life.

“By spotting signs that your skin is maturing, you can take steps to intervene early, helping skin stay as healthy and youthful looking as possible,” says Dr. Roger Ceilley M.D., a nationally and internationally recognized dermatologist with over 30 years of experience.

To tackle age-related skin issues, Dr. Ceilley recommends the following tips.

- Around age 40, begin examining your skin for changes. You’ll get a better understanding of your skin’s specific needs so you can address them accordingly. Be careful not to focus only on the face, as you may wind up playing catch-up with the rest of your skin late in the maturing process.

- According to Dr. Ceilley, the levels of collagen, elastin and fatty tissue important for making skin appear plump and youthful begin to diminish as you age, causing thinner-looking skin. Help counteract this process with a moisturizing cream or lotion that contains skin-nurturing ingredients like hyaluronic acid, retinol, glycolic acid and niacinamide. These can be found in products such as DerMend Fragile Skin Moisturizing Formula from the new DerMend Mature Skin Solutions line. In addition to those ingredients, the lightweight cream also features five critical ceramides to help make skin more resilient and fresher looking.

- A well-balanced diet promotes healthy, younger-looking skin. Make sure you are eating plenty of fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, and healthy fats each day.

- Thin, fragile skin can bruise more easily. Medications such as blood thinners may leave skin especially vulnerable to bruising. To help, keep a product on-hand like DerMend Moisturizing Bruise Formula, which contains a blend of ceramides, alpha hydroxy acid, arnica oil and retinol.

- Dr. Ceilley also advises using gentle, unscented products when bathing or showering. Scented soaps, cleansers and alcohol-based products can leave aging skin feeling irritated and dry. Be sure to wash gently and avoid scrubbing or over-exfoliating as this can further irritate the skin.

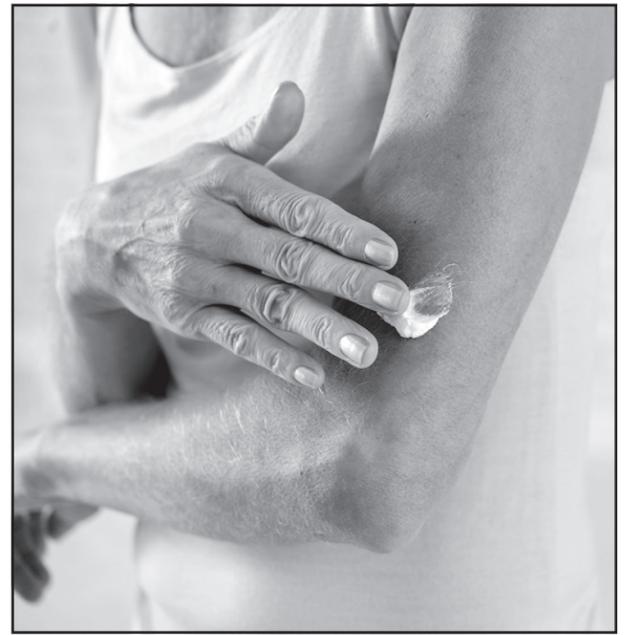
- Itchy skin is not only a nuisance, but it can keep you from being comfortable and prevent a good night’s sleep, which can be detrimental to one’s health at any age. Though doctors are not certain why, itchiness

is a very common problem in maturing skin. To temporarily relieve discomfort, use a steroid-free, anti-itch product containing pramoxine hydrochloride 1 percent, which can rapidly interfere with the itch/scratch cycle, helping to calm skin and allowing you to have a better night’s sleep.

- No matter what age you are, protect your skin from the sun and use sunscreen with SPF 50 or higher. Sun exposure throughout your lifetime can cause a myriad of skin problems as you get older including skin cancer, deep wrinkles, thinning skin, dark spots and broken capillary veins.

“Your skincare should be specific to your needs,” says Dr. Ceilley. “Watch for signs of aging and then adopt a routine that addresses every inch of your skin.”

For more information, please visit www.Dermend.com or www.FerndaleHealthCare.com.



By incorporating these tips along with specially-designed mature skincare products

into your daily beauty routine, you can help tackle age-related skin conditions and help maintain healthy-looking skin for life.

Decisions in retirement: Rent or buy?

Home ownership has long held an honored position as an integral part of the American dream.

But when retirement time comes, rethinking that dream could be in order. Sometimes renting a house or apartment is the better bet both financially and in terms of the retiree’s changing lifestyle and health, said Eric Kearney (www.erickearneyadvisor.com), an investment advisor for Retirement Wealth.

“When people plan for retirement, they focus on things like how much they

have saved, how much Social Security will pay, and whether they have pension,” Kearney said. “But as you get older, you also need to think about such issues as whether you can keep mowing the lawn or handling other day-to-day chores that homeownership requires. If you must hire someone to do them for you, how much will that eat into what may already be a tight monthly budget?”

The truth: There’s no answer that will fit everyone’s situation, he said. So retirees, or those approaching retire-

ment, should weigh their personal pros and cons.

“There’s a lot to think about,” he said. “Should you sell the house you raised your family in and downsize to something more suitable for just the two of you? If you’re planning to move to somewhere else in the country to enjoy your retirement, is it more prudent to buy in that new location, or is leasing the way to go to give you more flexibility if it doesn’t work out?”

Some things retirees should think about as they ponder the own vs. rent question include:

Maintenance issues. When you own a home, every leaky faucet, electrical problem or faulty appliance is yours to handle as best you can. If you can do it yourself, great; but often, these household repairs mean calling in a professional at a sometimes exorbitant cost. When you rent, it’s up to the landlord or the property management company to take care of the repairs.

Mobility. Selling a house can be a long and complicated process, and you never know what the market might be like when the time arrives.

Whereas breaking a lease is much simpler. “If your children are scattered all over the country, you may want to move closer to one of them,” Kearney said. “Also, if your health takes a turn for the worse, selling a home can be a significant burden on your family.”

The inheritance. For many people, a house is the most valuable asset in their estate and they might want to leave it to their children in the will. Once again, it’s a matter of weighing the pros and cons. “Having a home to pass down to the children is a noble

gesture, but it is not always feasible,” Kearney says.

“Before considering whether owning or renting is the right option, it’s essential to review all the intricacies of your situation and decide based on your finances and your overall health and well-being.”

Eric Kearney (www.erickearneyadvisor.com) of Retirement Wealth, with Florida offices in Cape Coral, Punta Gorda and Bonita Springs, has been helping clients reach and maintain their financial goals for more than 16 years.

Drug and alcohol abuse:

A growing problem for those growing old

(StatePoint)—Misuse and abuse of drugs and alcohol among the elderly is one of the fastest growing health problems in the U.S., according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration (SAMHSA), yet it can often be mistaken for normal aging behavior.

The statistics are alarming: according to The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc., 2.5

million older adults have an alcohol or drug problem; while a SAMHSA report shows that the use of illicit drugs, combining drugs with alcohol, and the nonmedical use of pharmaceuticals, results in

an average of nearly 300 emergency room visits nationwide each day for those aged 65 and older.

Despite these disturbing trends, substance abuse among the elderly often goes

unrecognized and untreated. According to “The Tough Talk: Aging Parents and Substance Abuse,” a new survey commissioned by WellCare Health Plans, Inc., adult children of elderly parents know very little about the drugs and alcohol their parents consume, and three-quarters say it’s possible that they may not even know if their parent had a substance abuse problem, likely mistaking the signs—such as slurred speech, dozing off and confusion—for normal behaviors of aging.

“While family members may not feel equipped to identify an abuse problem, they are often the ones who can best spot changes in behaviors that could indicate one exists,” said Kevin Middleton, Psy.D., vice president, behavioral health, WellCare. “Given the serious consequences that overuse or abuse of drugs and alcohol can have on seniors, it’s important to look for those signs and also ask questions that will help determine if and what kind of help is needed.”

Dr. Middleton advises those with aging loved ones to be aware of the following.

- Life Changes Can Trigger Abuse: Retirement, the death of a spouse or dear friend, the loss of a pet and other significant life events, are times when the elderly are most likely to begin misusing or abusing drugs and alcohol.

- Signs of a Potential

Problem: Many older people will hide their problem out of shame, and while substance abuse can mimic symptoms of other diseases, always consider the possibility of abuse if there are any major changes in behaviors, such as loss of interest in hobbies, activities or socializing, as well as changes in appetite and sleeping habits. Other signs to be aware of are noticeable memory loss, slurred speech and confusion.

- Asking Questions is the First Step: At times when loved ones appear sober and alert, start asking questions about their use of drugs and alcohol and if they think they have a problem. Speak frankly about your concerns and the risks of substance abuse, but also be sympathetic to the difficulties with which they’re dealing.

- Seek Help: If you do suspect a substance abuse problem, contact his or her health care provider and discuss the best approach to getting appropriate treatment.

For more tips and information on managing substance abuse for aging parents, visit WellCare’s blog at tinyurl.com/ycu6e7g2.

Identifying substance abuse can be challenging, particularly when it comes to the elderly. However, addressing the issue quickly is critical. If you’ve detected signs of a problem, start by asking the right questions.

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How to care for your eyes as you age



(StatePoint)—As we age, our bodies don't perform as well as they once did, and vision is no exception. However, early detection and treatment

of eye problems and diseases through an eye exam is the best way to protect your eyes and overall health.

To help keep your eyes

healthy for years to come, consider the following tips.

- Eat an eye-healthy diet. Fruits and vegetables, especially carrots and dark leafy greens, provide a hefty punch of key vitamins and a key vision protecting-substance called lutein. Find some new recipes to make filling up on these nutritious choices both delicious and fun.

- Maintain a healthy weight. Did you know that by eating healthy portions, exercising regularly and doing your best to maintain a healthy weight, you can reduce your risk of cataracts? Conditions such as obesity and diabetes can

lead to vision problems like cataracts.

- Protect eyes from blue light. Most people today spend a lot of time in front of digital screens, such as smartphones, computers and televisions. These devices emit high-energy blue light, which causes digital eye strain that can lead to headaches, blurred vision, dry eyes and even neck pain. Ask your eye doctor about the best options to help reduce eye strain.

- Get an eye exam. A yearly eye exam is one of the easiest and most important ways to reduce your odds of vision loss and protect your eyes. And it can also help you monitor and

protect your overall health. Whether or not you wear glasses, be sure to schedule this crucial appointment. A routine eye exam can help detect signs of serious health conditions, like diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, glaucoma and macular degeneration. Because more obvious symptoms of some health conditions don't always appear until damage has already occurred, routine eye exams are a good way of keeping tabs on what's happening in your body.

- Make sure you have vision coverage. Do you have vision coverage through Medicare? Review your plan. Many

people don't realize that Traditional Medicare doesn't cover routine eye exams, glasses or contact lenses. Check out such affordable options as VSP Individual Vision Plans, which offer comprehensive coverage with low out-of-pocket costs, savings on frames and lens enhancements such as progressives, and the ability to see the doctor you know and trust. Plans begin as low as \$13 per month. For more information or to enroll, visit GetVSPDirect.com or call 877-988-4746.

With a few key daily and annual habits, you can make eye health the priority it needs to be as you age.

Three ways to insure proper nursing home care

It's an almost weekly occurrence across the country. Nursing homes face lawsuits over patients who develop severe bedsores that in some cases lead to death.

One week it's a now-closed nursing home in California dealing with its third such lawsuit. Another week it's a New Jersey nursing home sued by the family of a woman who died after reportedly suffering from a bedsore that wasn't properly monitored and cared for.

For families, such situations lead to heartache and tragedy. For the nursing homes, they lead to costly

litigation and damaged reputations.

They also raise questions about what family members can do if they suspect a nursing home resident isn't receiving proper care or is in danger. Part of the answer, patient advocates say, is to understand the kinds of problems that might crop up and be on the lookout for signs during visits.

For example, one reason many residents develop pressure ulcers, commonly known as bedsores, is that they wet themselves and must wait for someone on staff to change them. If there's a delay, what

begins as a minor rash can become severe.

"It's a serious concern for nursing home residents," says Nigel Parker, founder and CEO of RashEndZ Inc. (www.RashEndZ.com), a company that developed a skin-aeration liner for incontinence garments that prevents and treats those rashes.

Just how serious? Pressure ulcers affect up to 2.5 million patients annually, according to the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research. Complications include pain, scarring, infection, prolonged rehabilitation, and permanent disability. About 60,000

patients die as a direct result of pressure ulcers each year.

"The patient's well being is the primary reason this needs to be addressed," Parker says. "But if that's not incentive enough for health-care providers, pressure ulcers also result in 17,000 lawsuits a year, so nursing homes and other health facilities are risk liability if they don't handle the problem."

Although the residents' care is the nursing home staff's responsibility, friends and relatives should do their part to make sure proper care is happening, Parker says. The National Consumer Voice for

Quality Long-Term Care, a patient advocacy group, offers a few suggestions on monitoring and reporting problems:

Make unannounced visits.

Visits are an important time to look for changes in your loved one's health and mental status, but those visits don't need to be predictable. Vary the times and days you visit to see the care your loved one receives when no one expects you.

Don't delay in reporting problems.

Document and report concerns and problems to staff members directly involved as

soon as they arise. If nothing changes, report your concern to staff supervisors in writing and in a meeting.

Seek outside help.

If the facility fails to address your concern, you might want to seek a third party's assistance. Contact your local ombudsman, who advocates for nursing home residents. You can find an ombudsman at www.Itombudsman.org.

"It's critical that family members educate themselves about the issues that occur in nursing homes or other health facilities," Parker says. "It so often falls to each individual to act as their loved one's advocate."

Three tips for women to prepare for long-term health care

Women spend much of their lives caring for others. As mothers and wives, they never seem to stop giving to their families and husbands.

So who will take care of mom if she needs long-term care? Or will she plan ahead for her long-term care?

It's important that she does. Women typically outlive men by an average of about five years. According to aarp.org, more than two-thirds of Americans 85 or older are women. And about 79 percent of 65-year-old women will need long-term care during their lifetime, according to a study by the Georgetown

University Health Policy Institute.

Women often become long-term caregivers for their husbands or other family members. And as statistics show, they are also more likely to become widowed before needing long-term care themselves. Her husband's needs may have further drained assets, leaving the widow with less financial wherewithal to apply to her own care.

"Women too often don't adequately plan ahead for LTC needs," says Lisa Odoski, a financial professional focusing on women's well-being and Vice President of the Fried Group, the parent company

of TFG Wealth Management (www.tfgwealth.com).

"At the same time, research shows among unpaid caregivers in the U.S., two-thirds are women. They sacrifice a lot—sometimes their own careers or reducing their regular work hours.

"Women today have a greater risk of needing LTC services and of becoming unpaid caregivers. It's an important time for them to develop an LTC strategy that helps preserve their total financial future."

Odoski gives three tips to help women prepare for their long-term care:

- Educate yourself. Fam-

ily financial planning used to be almost exclusively the men's turf. Those days are long gone, and with many houses running on two incomes and women outliving men, women need to make planning for their distant future more of a priority. But an AARP survey showed 60 percent of women hadn't considered how they would pay for long-term care. "They should start by consulting an investment expert and financial planner," Odoski says. "They need to get up to speed on senior care costs, insurance and savings plans."

- Know your retirement benefits and your spouse's.

Women should take advantage of their employer's retirement plan and not delay in saving for their future, including the last years they may spend alone. It's especially important, in the event of divorce or their spouse's death, to know their spousal rights in regard to their spouse's pension, Social Security or veteran's benefits. "They don't want to be in a position where most of their spouse's benefits are going toward their own care," Odoski says.

- Think long-term with your budget. Women should have specific goals and a plan to save toward them. The statistics say the goals

should include a portion devoted to long-term care insurance, which covers a wide spectrum of products and services. "They should lay out all monthly and annual spending needs and crunch the numbers to determine what they'll need in later years in order to maintain their familiar lifestyle," Odoski says. "They need to look at all LTC options. Medicare and private insurance usually aren't enough to cover long-term care anymore."

"After decades of taking care of others," Odoski says, "women more than ever need to know how to take care of themselves."

May is American stroke month:

What to know now

(StatePoint)—For patients experiencing ischemic stroke, the leading cause of disability in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the time it takes to receive treatment is critically important for avoiding irreversible brain damage. While getting evaluated by a specialist used to take up to several hours, new in-ambulance technology being tested by hospitals nationwide is helping patients get evaluated within minutes.

May is American stroke month, and a good opportunity to learn how a new technology known as In-Transit Telestroke (ITTS) may transform the field of stroke treatment. With ITTS, stroke neurologists can examine patients by using video technology from ambulances,

decreasing the time between a patient's onset of symptoms and crucial treatment.

"In the case of strokes, every moment counts, and thanks to ITTS, we're able to deliver treatment faster than ever before," says Gary Belt, M.D., stroke neurologist at Atlantic Health System, a multi-hospital system and the first in the country to implement ITTS technology.

Recent research highlights the benefits of this technology: patients evaluated with ITTS in ambulances while in-transit to the hospital can be treated with the brain-saving drug alteplase 13 minutes faster than those patients not assessed until they are in the emergency department (referred to as door-to-needle,

or DTN, time), according to a recent study by researchers at Overlook Medical Center and Atlantic Health System and published by the journal "Stroke."

The first-of-its-kind study assessed 89 presumptive stroke patients in ambulances over 15 months from January 2015 through March 2016. Atlantic Health System paramedics responding to neurological emergencies used an InTouch Xpress device—a portable unit with a high-definition camera, microphone and screen—allowing video communication with a stroke neurologist who performed a neurological evaluation of the patient while in-transit to the emergency department. Once the patients arrived at the participating hospital's emergency department, the

neurologist assumed care and, when indicated, administered alteplase, a tissue plasminogen activator (TPA) that breaks down blood clots to restore blood flow to the brain.

"We are constantly looking for ways to treat stroke patients as quickly as possible, as each passing minute of lost blood supply translates to more brain damage," says John J. Halperin, M.D., senior study investigator and chair, department of neurosciences at Overlook Medical Center. "Our observations suggest that pre-hospital evaluation with telestroke may provide a scalable, affordable way to speed stroke treatment, as well as more rapidly direct patients to the centers capable of performing the procedures that will serve their needs best."




HEALTHY EYES

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For more information, visit www.thevisioncouncil.org/consumers/sunglasses. A public service message from The Vision Council.



'RBG' filmmakers hope to inspire Ruth Bader Ginsburg's millennial fans



Ruth Bader Ginsburg chats with her granddaughter, Clara Spera.

By Josefina Dolsten

NEW YORK (JTA)—One of the first scenes in a new documentary about Ruth Bader Ginsburg features the Supreme Court associate justice, then 84, vigorously lifting weights, doing leg exercises and holding herself in a plank position. The much buzzed-about workout routine has only added to her status as a cultural icon among young progressives.

Though Ginsburg joined the Supreme Court in 1993, becoming the second female justice on the high court, she attained pop culture icon status in the last decade as her dissents made her a loud liberal voice on an increasingly right-leaning court. Fans have given Ginsburg, now 85, the nickname "Notorious R.B.G." (a riff on the late rapper Notorious B.I.G.), memes of her have gone viral

and "Saturday Night Live" has done sketches about her.

"RBG" producers Julie Cohen, 54, and Betsy West, 66, decided to make a documentary about the Jewish jurist's life for that very reason, they told JTA in a phone interview earlier this month.

"We felt that Justice Ginsburg had a lot of fans, many younger millennial fans, and many of them really didn't know her extraordinary story and the role she played in winning rights for women," West said.

The film, which opens Friday in theaters, shows both the Brooklyn native's professional accomplishments and provides insight into her personal life, such as her twice-weekly workout. Shooting that scene presented its challenges, Cohen said.

"There is all this equipment around, and there are mirrors all around," she recalled. "Really for the logistics of the shoot it probably would have been better for us not to be in the room, but there was no way that Betsy and I were going to miss being in that room."

The New York-based pair had filmed Ginsburg previously—West for a project called MAKERS that spotlighted important American women, and Cohen for "The Sturgeon Queens," a documentary about the iconic New York deli Russ and Daughters, a favorite of Ginsburg's. Still, Ginsburg was not sold on the idea.

"Her initial answer essentially was not yes," Cohen said.

But they persevered and came back to Ginsburg with a plan of action of whom they would interview for the film. A few months later she agreed to do an interview—in two years.

In 2016, with the participation of CNN Films and Storyville Films, Cohen and West started interviewing friends, relatives and others who know her, including former President Bill Clinton, who nominated her to the Supreme Court, and feminist icon Gloria Steinem.

The documentary chronicles Ginsburg's journey to the Supreme Court, from enrolling in Harvard Law School in 1956—one of only nine women in a class of over

500—to not being able to get a job at a New York law firm due to her gender. It shows how she became a trailblazer in the fight for women's equality as co-founder of the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, arguing cases to end gender discrimination, including six in front of the Supreme Court.

Interspersed with her career milestones are interviews that shed light on other aspects of her life.

"Our main goal in the film was trying to connect elements of her personal life with elements of her career life," Cohen said.

The film does not focus on Ginsburg's Jewish background, though it does not shy away from it. It includes the story of Ginsburg's Odessa-born grandfather, who faced anti-Semitism in his native Ukraine, and features her granddaughter, Clara Spera, explaining the meaning of "bubbe," the Yiddish term for grandmother.

Judaism "seems to be an undercurrent in her life, [but it's] something that we didn't

deal with overtly" in the film, West said.

Cohen said that one challenge facing the filmmakers was getting Ginsburg to open up.

"Put her in front of crowd of a thousand people and she's quite an amazing public speaker," she said, "but in a quieter situation you have to draw her out."

Though the pair worried about what Ginsburg would think of the final product, the justice told them after a screening at the Sundance Festival that she was happy with how it turned out.

"She said that it exceeded all expectations and she thought it was a beautiful rendering of her life," Cohen said.

West said that Ginsburg's career, fighting for women's equality at a time when that was considered rebellious, is especially relevant today.

"At a time of #MeToo and Time's Up and a new consideration of discrimination that women continue to face," she said, "it is inspiring and perhaps instructive to take a look at the way Justice Ginsburg faced even tougher battles."

Who benefits from Jewish Pavilion programming?



"A table of different cultures, a table of three different generations..." Residents, staff and Jewish Pavilion program director Judy Appleton and her family enjoy a Passover seder together at Allegro senior-living facility.

By Julie Capps

During my time with The Jewish Pavilion, the question I am asked most often is, "What exactly does The Jewish Pavilion do?" There are different elevator speeches I have memorized and ready to

present to any potential donor. One is for a senior in a facility who is considering whether to attend that day's program. Another I share with friends and relatives who are new to the organization's mission.

If you ask me to share the mission of The Jewish Pavilion, I have the words. But if you were to ask me who benefits most from programs provided by The Jewish Pavilion, I would truly be at a loss for words. The Passover event held at Allegro is a perfect example of why this is the case for me.

From the selection of the beautiful, sun-filled atrium as the dining location to the elegant arrangement of five-piece place settings along tables decorated with blue and white flowers, the attention to detail and the respect of Jewish traditions was evident. Even the staff serving the event wore boutonniers made from blue and white flowers, while a white flower corsage was made for Appleton.

For the staff at Allegro, a senior-living facility recently opened in Winter Park, the importance of hosting the facility's first-ever Seder Table emphasized getting the details exactly right. Executive Director Debbie Michelet and Dining Services Director Dave Ticehurst held two separate meetings with Jewish Pavilion Program Director Judy Appleton prior to the event. Upon arrival that day, their diligent effort was clearly evident.

Expressing that this event was laying the foundation for future community events at Allegro, Michelet said, "Allegro is a value-based company and we stand on those values each and every day. We commit to excellence and having a special event such as the Seder is a wonderful gathering for our residents, but also for our team to celebrate with them."

For Appleton, the event was particularly special as her mother Miriam, a resident of Allegro, and Appleton's daughter, Sara Procell, were in attendance. Appleton's brother Scott, in town from Asheville, N.C., and his wife Marilou and their daughter Rosalia would also attend. Jewish Pavilion volunteers Faith Parmet and Peri Goldberg were also present to assist Appleton.

As residents arrived for the program, I had the chance to speak and greet several. Each of their stories held a different reason for choosing to attend. There was Lucilla Weinroth, a resident of Allegro, and her friend Martha Bernabe, who had visited that day specifically so the two Jewish women could celebrate Passover together.

Also in attendance was Donna Nickel, a new Allegro resident who took a few moments to share with me stories of her travels around the world. For Nickels, attending her first seder affirmed her love of different cultures and desire to celebrate their customs.

There was Charlene Marvin, who used to reside in Brookdale Oviedo and had previously attended Jewish Pavilion programming at that facility. Marvin was excited to learn about that day's Jewish Pavilion event and had invited her friend Pat Bearden, visiting from Deltona, to stay for the seder.

Then there was the resident who arrived after the ceremony had begun. Unable

to ask him his name at that point, I observed as an Allegro employee helped the gentleman from his walker to his seat. The man made a point of pulling out his yarmulke and placing it respectfully on his head.

I also watched employees of Allegro taking seats amongst the residents and invited guests. Appleton later shared with me that she overheard one resident being asked by another why she was dressed so nicely. The resident's reply: "Well, I looked on the Internet to see what one wears to a seder and this why I am well-dressed today!"

I saw a table of different cultures, a table of three different generations, a table of so many varied histories and livelihoods. And that is where words fail me. If someone was to ask me to give a quick statement about who receives impact from Jewish Pavilion programming, how could I?

So many different people come to a Jewish Pavilion event for so many different reasons. All the people present at Allegro that day were drawn to honor the importance of Passover. From the supplies organized by the executive director to the food preparation by the chef and staff, to the observance of ritual by the people seated at the table to the child who was attending with her grandmother at her new home, each of those individuals was impacted by that day's program. All of us took away from that table a deeper understanding of the Jewish culture.

"I strongly believe that we are always learning, no matter how old we are," said Michelet. "And bringing an event such as the Seder table to our community allows residents to share a meal together, learn about one another in a deeper way and really celebrate the Allegro family that we are."



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