



Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

Jared Kushner speaking while U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman looks on at the opening ceremony of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, May 14, 2018.

At US embassy dedication, a day for marking history

By Sam Sokol

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israeli leaders and citizens responded with euphoria as the Trump administration moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem on Monday, designating a pre-existing consular building as the official U.S. diplomatic mission to the Jewish State.

Hundreds of revelers, many wearing Trump's signature red baseball caps commemorating the move, sat on bleachers outside the new embassy in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood on Monday afternoon as an honor guard of U.S. Marines

paraded the national colors and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and First Daughter Ivanka Trump unveiled the building's seal carved into an outer wall.

The crowd, which included both Chief Rabbis, the IDF Chief of Staff, the mayor of Jerusalem and the head of the Jewish Agency, stood and applauded for at least half a minute after U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman welcomed them, in a booming voice, "to the dedication and opening of the United States Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel."

Inevitably, perhaps, the images of pageantry vied with darker news out of

Gaza, where at least 50 Palestinians died during violent clashes with the Israeli military along the border.

The West Bank and East Jerusalem were mostly quiet on Monday; outside the new embassy, dozens of demonstrators, including several Arab members of Knesset, held up signs calling Jerusalem the capital of Palestine. Fourteen protesters were arrested following skirmishes with police.

At the ceremony itself, meanwhile, local politicians vied with each other to

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Experiencing Shabbat in Crown Heights

A few weeks ago a group of 13 Central Floridians went to Crown Heights in Brooklyn, New York, with Rabbi Yanky and Chanshy Majesky of The Chabad of North Orlando to experience Shabbat in the Heights—a weekend trip sponsored by the Rohr Jewish Learning

Institute. This same time one year ago, Orlando resident Rhonda Des Islet went on the trip and shared in the Heritage that she was grateful to experience the Crown Heights lifestyle by living among the Orthodox Jews for the weekend.

"I have to admit, it felt good walking to and from the religious places that Shabbat weekend," Des Islet wrote in the article. "It reminded me of my ancestors and grandparents who did the same thing in Russia and Chicago."

This trip was no different for those who immersed themselves in life among their fellow Jewish brothers and sisters in the Heights.

The Shabbaton brought together several hundred people from Chabad communities around the world for an uplifting and genuine Shabbos experience.

The trip included a tour of 770—Chabad world headquarters, and the choice to visit the world's only Jewish children's museum with exhibits such as the six days of creation, Noah's ark and all the Jewish holidays coming to life, a visit to the OK Kosher



Shown here (l-r): Arnie and Happy Frank and Susan and Jerry Lewin light candles during the musical Havdalah ceremony on Saturday night in the Ohelei Torah Ballroom.

Labs, the offices of a Sofer (a Scribe writing Torahs and Tefilin), a tour of the Mikvah and the gallery of local Chasidic artist Michael Muchnick.

The Orlando group had the privilege to meet privately with the Rebbe's personal secretary, Rabbi Leibel Groner, using the opportunity to get first-hand insight on the Rebbe's life and teachings.

One of the highlights of the Shabbaton was the Saturday night Havdalah and concert by the Belsofsky brothers followed by a lecture by former NBC producer Molly Resnick,

who described her personal Jewish journey in becoming Shabbos observant; greetings by Rabbi Lazar, Chief Rabbi of Russia; and of course a delicious dinner.

Dr. Daniel Layish was amazed on "so many levels" by this first-time experience: "To walk down the street and say 'Good Shabbos' to everyone you pass...to have so many options for Kosher restaurants and so many Judaica stores...to explore your spirituality...to share Shabbat Services and

Shabbat on page 15A

Rabbi David Kay takes on new role

Members of Congregation Ohev Shalom resoundingly approved the Board of Trustees' recommendation to make Rabbi David Kay their religious leader, in a vote at the COS annual meeting.

Rabbi Kay, who came to COS as assistant rabbi in 2004, had been serving as interim rabbi since Rabbi Aaron D. Rubinger decided last fall to semi-retire as Rabbi Emeritus. The April vote confirmed the congregation's support for Rabbi Kay's continuing as rabbi of COS.

Rabbi Kay began his rabbinical training when he was 40, an unusual path to the rabbinate at a time when most of his classmates were recent college graduates. However, he saw his extensive real-world experiences as an advantage in shaping his responses as clergy. As a very engaged Jewish youth growing up in Chicago, he had been determined to be a rabbi, but his path after college took him first to a career as a musician and a position at an animal welfare organization. He reconnected to the organized Jewish community when he was introduced to



Rabbi David Kay

a synagogue for the deaf in suburban Chicago. He soon was asked to perform at a coffee house for deaf and hearing young adults, where he met a member of the synagogue's signing choir named Joanne Goldman—and they were married five months later.

When the couple's son, Jonah, was a toddler, the family moved to New York for Rabbi Kay to begin rabbinical training at Jewish Theological Seminary. Two

Kay on page 15A

Congratulations to Evan Dvorchik



Evan Dvorchik with UCF Coach Nick Toth.

By Christine DeSouza

Evan Dvorchik, son of Keith and Alison Dvorchik, has committed to the University of Central Florida's Knights football team as a long snapper center.

In January 2017, Heritage ran an article about Dvorchik being named a top performer at the Rubio Long Snapping Camp in Georgia. Dvorchik was a junior in high school.

His trainer, Chris Rubio, stated at that time that Evan was "snapping with a ton of confidence as his ball hits under .77 consistently."

A long snapper is not a large alligator. The term refers to a football center who can snap the football over

a long distance, typically around 15 yards during punts, and 7–8 yards during field goals and extra point attempts.

Not only are Dvorchik's standings as a long snapper superior, so are his academic rankings: He is 33rd in his class at Lake Mary Prep; has a GPA of 4.2; and an SAT/ACT score of 1400.

In a tweet, Dvorchik wrote, "First of all, I want to thank my parents for their constant

Dvorchik on page 15A



Art Night at Jewish Academy of Orlando



Jewish Academy of Orlando students working on the new mosaic mural.

Oh, what a night! Jewish Academy of Orlando's Spring Family Learning Night focused on Art Education, and families from its community joined us for a myriad of activities. The event started with a pizza picnic on the playground, where everyone

made new friends. Then, it was off to learn why art is such an important part of learning-- it teaches motor skills, builds confidence, fosters creativity, teaches perseverance, and so much more! Whether it was creating clay bugs to identify the sections

of an insect, crafting paper flowers to identify parts, learning about non-Newtonian fluids and polymers by mixing slime, designing infinity tiles, or even paper quilling as they did in Colonial times, everyone was engaged in the experiences

our incredible faculty offered. The school was also excited to have author, illustrator, and animator Peter Raymundo in attendance. Children (and their parents!) learned to draw seahorses, hammerhead sharks, and even jellyfish.

Many families spent a portion of the night helping to design our new mosaic mural that will decorate our hall to celebrate Jewish Academy of Orlando's 40th anniversary. The mosaic mural was designed and inspired by South Florida glass artist and current grandmother in the school, Holly Odess. She was assisted by art teacher Penny Goldstein. The mosaic mural, made out of colored and textured glass and tiles, features five circles, each representing one of the school's core values—Jewish Values, Academic Excellence, Leadership, Focus on the Whole Child, and Caring Community. Students, families and friends of the Jewish Academy of Orlando will be reminded of these core values each time they walk in our



The finished mosaic mural.

school and will also remember that they took part in creating this beautiful piece of art. The Family Learning Night was well attended by current and future Jewish Academy families and enjoyed by all in attendance.

For more information about Jewish Academy of Orlando or to arrange a visit to our school, please contact Amy Polacek, admissions coordinator, at apolacek@myjao.org or call 407-647-0713.

Touro yearlong Learning Series comes to Greater Orlando



Rabbi Alan G. Ciner

The New York-based Touro College and University System is pleased to announce a year-long lecture series it is bringing to Orlando in partnership with The Roth Family JCC of Greater Orlando.

The inaugural lecture, "Hope in the Midst of Despair," will be delivered on Thursday, May 24, by Rabbi Alan G. Ciner, vice president of Community Engagement at TCUS. It will be held at The Roth Family JCC, located at 851 N. Maitland Ave. in Maitland, Fla., starting at 7 p.m.

"This lecture series and other such programs reflect Touro's sharing its academic and religious resources with communities throughout the United States and Canada," said Rabbi Ciner. "By going beyond the classroom, Touro offers individuals outside of the Touro orbit the benefit of learning and studying with Touro faculty and deans, thereby becoming part of the Touro family."

Added Keith Dvorchik, chief executive officer of The Roth Family JCC, "We

are so excited about our new partnership with Touro College. Bringing high-level lecturers to The Roth Family JCC to speak on interesting and timely topics is a benefit to the entire Central Florida Community."

Touro is America's largest not-for-profit independent institution of higher and professional education under Jewish auspices. Touro's schools provide diverse, innovative and engaging course offerings, from medicine and pharmacy to law; business to education; and speech pathology to Jewish studies—all reflecting the Jewish commitment to values and respect for applied knowledge and discovery.

Founded in 1970 by Dr. Bernard Lander, of blessed memory, TCUS has over 19,000 students spanning four states and four countries,

pursuing graduate, professional and undergraduate degrees at over 30 campuses and locations.

"At Touro, Jewish and universal values are aligned to educate thoughtful citizens dedicated to building a responsive and responsible society," said TCUS President Dr. Alan Kadish.

"Touro was established to follow the Jewish ideal of strengthening Jewish continuity while serving the global community," noted Rabbi Ciner. "We, at Touro, are most excited about this program and look forward to its success."

Rabbi Ciner's lecture on May 24th will be followed by eight others through May 2019 in an effort to share Touro's values and resources on other topics with the Cen-

tral Florida community. The upcoming study and learning sessions include:

- Oct. 23—Dr. David Luchins, Founding Dean, Lander College for Women/The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School, "The Liberal Case for Israel"

- Nov. 6—Dr. Steven Huberman, Founding Dean, Touro College Graduate School of Social Work, "Rebuilding Jewish Bridges: Alliances with the Hispanic and African American Communities"

- Dec. 11—Dr. Dana Fishkin, Assistant Professor Humanities, Lander College for Women/The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School, "Medieval Hebrew Poets: Heroes or Villains"

- Jan. 24—Dr. Alan Kadish, President, Touro College and University System, "Quantum

Mechanics and How God Might Run the Universe"

- Feb. 13—Rabbi Alan G. Ciner, Vice President of Community Engagement, Touro College and University System, "Biblical Profiles in Courage: Bringing About a More Perfect World"

- March 14—Matthew Bonilla, M.S., Vice-President of Student Administrative Services, Touro College and University System, "Contemporary College Life as a Venue for Future Success"

- April 2—Dr. Henry Abramson, Academic Dean, Lander College of Arts and Sciences, "Jews Discover Politics"

- May 15—Dr. Steven Huberman, Founding Dean, Touro College Graduate School of Social Work, "Extremism in America"

The Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies

Leonard Stein of the University of Toronto's Centre for Comparative Literature and president of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies has announced the awarding of a 2018 "Mini-Conference" to the St. Augustine (FL) Jewish Historical Society.

The one day Conference, to be held on Sunday, Dec. 9, at the World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort will focus on "Telling the Story of Crypto-Jews in the Southeast US." Scholars from many disciplines are expected to share in their research to help develop a common understanding of the presence of the descendants of Jews in the continental southeast Colonial Spanish America under the Inquisition and in the years since. Stein is a Connaught International Doctoral Scholar for the Centre for Comparative Literature in a collaborative program with the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto. His research compares medieval

Jewish-Iberian identity with modern literature from the Sephardic diaspora. He currently serves as the President pro tem and program chair for the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies and editor for the University of Toronto Journal of Jewish Thought. His newest publications include Jubanidad and the Literary Transmission of Cuban Crypto-Judaism for the forthcoming edited volume, Caribbean-Jewish Crossings: Atlantic Literature and Theory (University of Virginia Press), and The New Literature of Hip Hop Music for the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Hip Hop Music Studies.

The Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies, an international academic and secular association, fosters research, networking of people and ideas, and the dissemination of information regarding the historical and contemporary developments involving crypto-Jews of Iberian origins and other hidden Jewish communities around the world.



Leonard Stein

The St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society promotes greater knowledge and understanding of the Jewish experience in the oldest European city in the United States, from the founding of St. Augustine in September 1585 to the present. SAJHS actively recruits partners to help tell the story of the rich history and heritage found on Florida's First Coast.



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Israel unleashes powerful strike capabilities after Iran hits first

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS) In striking more than 50 Iranian military targets within 90 minutes early on Thursday morning, the Israel Defense Force displayed just a sample of its advanced, intelligence-fueled precision firepower, dealing a crushing blow to Iran's assets in Syria.

This exchange of fire represents a new, stepped-up phase in the escalating Israeli-Iranian standoff in Syria.

Much of Iran's military infrastructure in Syria was destroyed in this wave of strikes, likely leaving the Quds Force—the overseas elite Iranian unit trying to consolidate its presence in Syria—reeling.

The Quds Force has been busy in Iran, building missile and rocket bases, drone bases, importing Shi'ite militia forces and trafficking heavy weapons into the region. It had begun launching direct attacks on Israel in contrast to Iran's older pattern of ag-

gression, which was based on activating proxy attacks.

Most disturbingly, the Quds Force had begun initiating the next stage of Iran's takeover of Syria. All of these efforts had one goal: to be able to use Syria as a springboard for attacking Israel.

The Iranian axis in Syria, with the help of Russian airpower, has nearly completed its victory over the Sunni rebel organizations and could now turn its attention to stage two of its Syrian project: Israel.

The Iranian leadership has made no secret of its intention to establish a grand, radical Shi'ite empire across the Middle East, stretching across Iraq, Syria and Lebanon—and beyond. These imperial ambitions threaten not only Israel, but the region's Sunni powers, which is why these states are in full support of Israel's self-defense measures.

Iran's mistake was to underestimate Israel's ability to put a stop to this plan. On Tuesday night the Quds Force, led by the charismatic

and notorious Gen. Qasem Soleimani, dispatched a truck rocket-launcher towards Israel. As it drove south of Damascus, preparing to fire on Israel, it was destroyed in a missile attack.

Large quantities of munitions fired in little time

The ability to detect such a developing threat in real time—and take action—is exactly the kind of unparalleled intelligence and strike capabilities that enable Israel to be a step ahead in its conflict with Iran.

But the Iranians did not take the hint. They tried again on Wednesday night, firing 20 rockets at IDF positions on the Golan Heights. The IDF was prepared, intercepting the rockets with Iron Dome missile-defense system, and then going on the offensive in a massive wave of firepower.

Israel's operation on Thursday, which was the largest conducted by the Israel Air Force in years, required extraordinary intelligence-gathering abilities, and in

particular, the know-how to map out the various locations in which the Quds Force had taken root. This intelligence was then converted into the capability to fire guided munitions at the targets in large quantities in little time.

Several of Syrian President Bashar Assad's air-defense batteries made the mistake of getting involved in the fight, firing surface-to-air missiles at Israeli jets. They paid a price for that decision; a good number of units were destroyed in Israeli counter-strikes.

These events ultimately mean that Iran tried to force the Jewish state to accept its presence in Syria, and the effort completely failed. Iran ended up losing more than 50 military targets, and Israel's message to Tehran—to exit Syria immediately—received a powerful boost.

It's too soon to know if this round of fighting has ended. But Iran is unlikely to give up on Syria so quickly. Despite the blow absorbed, the Iranians will likely make



Basel Awidat/Flash90

Israeli soldiers seen near the Israeli-Syrian border in the Golan Heights on May 7, 2018.

a new attempt to move into Syria, smuggling new kinds of weapons, and preparing the ground for future attacks on Israel.

The events of recent days have marked the start of a new phase in a long-term Iranian-Israeli long-term conflagration. This is a conflict, however, that began when Iran came to Israel's borders to threaten and attack it, and not the other way around.

So far, Hezbollah has kept out of this conflict, and this is welcome news. Iran is unlikely to want to risk its proxy ensconced in Lebanon, preferring to continue pointing Hezbollah's 120,000 rockets and missiles at the Jewish state.

Despite a remarkable display of Israeli military capabilities, this is no time to be complacent. The Iranians will be back, and the IDF must be prepared for its return.

Israel destroys 50 Iranian targets in Syria after missiles launched at Golan Heights by Iran



Flash90

An Israeli army pilot sits in a cockpit of an F-16 aircraft.

By Malkah Fleisher

(JNS)—Following an Iranian rocket barrage on Wednesday night, the Israel Defense Forces pounded Syria with significant airstrikes, obliterating dozens of targets associated with the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

Overnight on Wednesday, Iran lobbed 20 Grad and Fajr-5 rockets into Israel from the suburbs of Damascus. Four of the rockets were neutralized by the Iron Dome missile-defense system, with the other 16 landing in Syrian territory.

In retaliation, Israel struck

the rocket launching site. In addition, Israel destroyed weapons depots, intelligence centers, anti-aircraft weaponry, storage facilities, observation posts and operations headquarters.

The Israel Defense Forces reported that it had set back Iranian military capabilities in Syria by "many months," smashing more than 50 targets in what IDF Spokesperson Brig.-Gen. Ronen Manelis called "one of the greatest operations of the Israel Air Force in the past decade."

In Israel, red-alert warning sirens went off in some Israeli communities in the Golan. No injuries or damage were reported in Israel, and the IDF said all air-force personnel returned home safely. The Golan Regional Council ordered the schools and public-transportation

systems to remain operational on Thursday.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Thursday morning at the Annual Herzliya Conference that "the Iranians tried to attack the sovereign territory of Israel. Not one Iranian rocket landed in the State of Israel. Nobody was hurt. Nothing was damaged. And we're to be thankful for that."

Lieberman added that the IDF had "damaged nearly all of the Iranian infrastructure in Syria" during the counterattack and warned Iran "if we get rain, you will get a flood." He said that while Israel would respond with "the strongest possible force" to Iranian attacks, the Jewish state also maintained an interest in keeping the confrontation limited.

Israel's Public Security

Minister Gilad Erdan stated "we are not playing and we are not bluffing. We are determined to do whatever is necessary to defend Israel." Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein posted on Twitter praising Israel for sending "a clear message to its enemies and Iran: The rules of the game have changed. We will not tolerate any threat against the security of our citizens."

Opposition leaders also showed solidarity with Wednesday-night's campaign. Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid, affirmed "Israel will not tolerate Iranian attacks on our sovereign territory," adding that "the world must be united in the fight against terrorism and that means being united against #Iran and its terror proxies."

Zionist Union Knesset member and former Defense

Minister Amir Peretz urged the government to "prepare for a broader confrontation."

IDF Spokesman Manelis stated that Israel is "prepared for what happens next," and that "if the Syrians allow direct activity against Israel, they will pay a price." He also noted that Russia had been informed prior to the attack.

The escalation came on the heels of an announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump that America would be withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and reapplying sanctions, and less than two weeks after Israel destroyed the Iranian-manned T-4 air base outside Damascus.

The exchange marked the most serious direct altercation between Iranian and Israeli armies, and the most severe exchange between Syria and Israel since the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Iran attacks Israel for first time

By Aryeh Savir
World Israel News

Iran's Quds forces launched a barrage of rockets at IDF bases on the Golan Heights in northern Israel on Wednesday night, the first Iranian attack on Israeli soil in history. The assault prompted an extensive Israel Air Force attack on dozens of Iranian targets in Syria.

Shortly after midnight, IDF defense systems identified approximately 20 rockets that the Iranian Quds forces had launched at IDF forward posts on the Golan Heights. The majority of the rockets missed their mark and fell in Syria territory, while four were intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system.

The incoming attack set off air raid sirens in communities throughout the north.

The Iranian attack caused

no injuries or damage and was essentially a resounding failure.

In response to Iran's attack on Israeli sovereignty, IAF fighter jets struck dozens of military targets belonging to the Iranian Quds forces in Syrian territory.

As part of the wide-scale attack, said to be the largest in decades and possibly since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the IAF struck Quds Force intelligence centers, Quds Force logistical command centers, a Quds Force military center and a Quds Force logistical center in Al-Kiswah, as well as an Iranian military base north of Damascus.

Additional targets included Quds Force ammunition depots in the Damascus International Airport, intelligence systems and outposts associated with the Quds Force, watchtowers, military

posts and munitions in the buffer zone.

In addition, the Iranian missile launcher responsible for the missiles fired on Israeli territory was destroyed.

Stern warning to Syria

During the attacks, Israel issued a direct and stern warning to the Syrian army not to get involved in the confrontation, but the Syrian air defense did attempt to down IAF fighters.

The Syrian army claimed its air defenses "repelled an Israeli missile aggression on Syrian territories, shooting down scores of missiles."

A military source quoted by Syria's official SANA news said the army's air defenses shot down "tens of Israeli missiles, preventing most of them from reaching their targets," while some managed to hit a number of air defense battalions, radars

and an ammunition depot.

In response to the Syrian intervention, the IAF attacked a number of Syrian aerial interception systems, including SA-5, SA-17, SA-22, SA-2 batteries.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported several explosions that rocked the central sector of Al-Quneitra countryside, adjacent to the Israeli Golan Heights, the result of an Israeli attack on positions of the Assad regime army and its "allies" near al-Baath city.

All IAF aircraft returned to their airbases safely.

There was no immediate word on Iranian casualties, and the Iranian media has so far remained silent on the hostilities.

"The Iranian attack on Israel tonight is more decisive proof of the intention behind the Iranian military

establishment in Syria and the danger it poses on Israel and stability in the region," the IDF stated. "The IDF will not allow the Iranian threat to establish itself in Syria. The Syrian regime will be held accountable for everything happening in its territory."

The IDF vowed to "continue to operate in a determinate matter in opposition to the Iranian military establishment in Syria. The IDF holds the Syrian regime responsible for the actions performed in its territory and warns it against taking action. The IDF is highly prepared for various scenarios and will continue to do whatever it takes to ensure the safety of Israel's civilians."

IDF remains on 'very high alert'

Just hours after the violent confrontation, Israel's home front is in routine activity,

with school and agricultural work proceeding as usual.

IDF spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus stated that Israel was not looking to escalate the situation, however, the army remains on "very high alert," and "should there be another Iranian attack, we will be prepared for it."

Israel has repeatedly warned that it will not accept an Iranian military presence in Syria, which it views as a direct threat to its security.

The IDF has been anticipating such an act of aggression from Iran, and on the previous night it carried out a preemptive strike against Iranian missiles that were pointed towards Israel. The IDF considers its action on Wednesday night as highly successful, while the Iranian attack is viewed as a total failure.

I voted against the Iran nuclear deal, withdrawing from it is a mistake

By Ben Cardin

WASHINGTON (JTA)—President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, known as the Iran nuclear deal, is bad policy and calls into question America's international credibility.

Mr. Trump has now set the international community on a slippery slope, imperiling the national security interests of the United States and our allies, particularly Israel.

I voted against the Iran nuclear deal three years ago because I felt it left certain long-term questions about Iran's enrichment capabilities unanswered. Since it was entered into however, I have worked to ensure there is rigorous enforcement and oversight of the deal. Three years in, Iran is complying with its end of the nuclear bargain, according to international observers and American intelligence officials.

But the United States is now breaking the deal, poised to re-impose sanctions that were lifted on Iran for the promise of ceasing their nuclear weapons program.

President Trump has breathed air into Tehran's inevitable argument to the international community: We kept our end of the deal, but

America is not good for its word and cannot be trusted. It is in fact America who has violated its obligations under the deal.

That is a deeply unfortunate and frankly dangerously embarrassing prospect, because Iran is one of the most nefarious actors on the world stage, playing a destabilizing role across the Middle East and proudly carrying the mantle of the greatest nation-state threat to Israel today.

The Ayatollah and the hard-liners in Tehran have propped up Bashar al-Assad's murderous rampage against the Syrian people and propelled the collapse of that country's economy and infrastructure—direct, physical threats to Israel. Tehran has fueled the civil war in Yemen and exacerbated the gross humanitarian crisis borne out of that conflict. And day by day, Iran seeks and seemingly achieves greater influence over the central government in Iraq.

I agree with President Trump's concerns about Iran's global posture and its non-nuclear actions. But we can keep the nuclear deal working while also going after Tehran for its support for terrorism, its human rights abuses against the Iranian people, its ballistic missile testing, and its violation of arms embargoes.

These are not mutually exclusive actions.

Last year, Congress passed into law a number of sanctions and other tools President Trump could use to hold accountable three of America's principle adversaries: Russia, North Korea and Iran. I was proud to co-author and negotiate that legislation through to final passage.

President Trump has not used the full power of his office, or the additional tools Congress granted him, to strengthen our hand and lead the international community against Iran.

It did not have to end up this way.

In 2015, as President Obama was nearing conclusion of the JCPOA negotiations, I worked with Senator Bob Corker in our capacities as the leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to write the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act. That bill asserted Congress' right to review any agreements reached as part of the effort to keep Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. INARA passed each chamber of Congress with near unanimous support and brought greater accountability and understanding to the American people about the nuclear deal and why it was in our interests.

Donald Trump then became president and sought to make good on his campaign promise to tear up the deal. For months throughout 2017, I worked with then-White House National Security Advisor, General H.R. McMaster, to brainstorm possible changes to INARA that would not violate two of my principles: no changes that would have the U.S. violate its JCPOA obligations, and no changes without European concurrence.

As the international community stands at the precipice of this cliff now created by President Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Iran nuclear deal, I am mindful of two immediate realities.

First, when Israel looks north, she sees Iran staring back from its strengthened footholds in Syria and Lebanon. President Trump's decision to walk away from the deal will inevitably embolden Iran and endanger Israel.

Second, within the month President Trump is expected to sit down with North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un as part of the international effort to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and end the Korean conflict. Our friends and partners will understandably approach this important endeavor more cautiously now given Mr. Trump's decision to violate U.S. obligations under the Iran nuclear deal. Will the U.S. keep its word this time?

At the end of the day, the JCPOA is an executive agreement that the president can leave at any time. But just because he can leave the agreement does not mean he should. Mr. Trump has failed to make a convincing case for U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and in the process, may very well have strengthened Iran.

The author is a member of the United States Senate from the state of Maryland, and is a senior member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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

Iranian reaction when confronted with force

By Harold Rhode

(JNS)—While we cannot know the future, past history gives a good indication of how Iranians react when confronted with force.

Iranians fear confrontation. They most often get others to do their dirty work so that others would be forced to take the blame. That's why they created Hezbollah, which carried out terrorist acts for which Hezbollah would be held responsible. An example of this is the 1982 bombing of the American embassy in Lebanon. Americans blamed that organization for the destruction of the embassy, but focused U.S. action on Lebanon, instead of going to the source: Iran.

But when Iranian fears fear they might suffer direct retaliation, they usually cower. Two examples illustrate this:

1. After the Iranian Islamic revolution in 1979, the Iranians took over the U.S. embassy in direct violation of international law. America reacted with words and did not use force. When America eventually did try to use force in the Tabas operation, it failed miserably and was humiliated. When and why did the Iranians release the Americans?

Ronald Reagan won the U.S. presidential election in 1980 and took office on Jan. 20, 1981. Forty-five minutes before he took the Oath of Office, Iran brought the hostages to the airport in Tehran and flew them out of the country. The hostages left Iranian airspace at the very moment that Reagan raised his right hand and was sworn in as president.

The Iranians saw Reagan as a dangerous cowboy and feared he would bomb Tehran to smithereens. True to Iranian culture, they caved when they feared the worse.

2. Under U.S. President Barack Obama, the Iranians sent small boats to harass America military ships in the Persian Gulf. Iran also took an American military vessel hostage and publicly humiliated the sailors on board. The Iranians also humiliated Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry over and over again during and after the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA)

negotiations, where Obama and his allies caved in to Iranian demands time after time.

As I wrote in an article for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs on the sources of Iranian negotiating behavior: "Compromise [as we in the West understand this concept] is seen as a sign of submission and weakness. For Iranians, it actually brings shame on those [and on the families of those] who concede."

But when President Trump took office, the Iranians feared the worst. Not long thereafter, they stopped harassing American boats in the Gulf, and used many indirect actors to try to convince Washington that it wanted to get along with America. But Trump first chose his original foreign-policy team for the American political establishment. That signaled to the Iranians that they could probably get away with continuing their plan to dominate the Middle East. But when he replaced these establishment figures with the new Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser John Bolton, the Iranians feared the game was up.

Their senior leaders started to publicly bicker with and blame each other, which in Iranian culture almost always shows fear on their part. They fear they are going down.

One might therefore think that Iran would instruct its proxy Hezbollah to send rockets to attack Israel. But if the United States and Israel make it clear that they would hold Iran directly responsible for Hezbollah's actions, Iran's would most likely hold Hezbollah back.

But it is also likely that Iran would cower/cave to America and Israel. Iran knows that it cannot stand up to either.

Given Netanyahu's proof that Iran has continued to violate the JCPOA agreement—America is in agreement that what Netanyahu exposed is true—it seems that we now have moved beyond the May 12 deadline.

The Iranian government is quaking in its boots. Now is the time to reassure the Iranian people that we stand with them against their brutal rulers, and after their terrorist regime is overthrown, that we will gladly welcome them back into the community of nations.

Iran's options now that the US is out of the nuclear deal

By Behnam Ben Taleblu

WASHINGTON (JTA)—An inflection point in American policy towards Iran came this afternoon, when President Trump announced he will re-impose nuclear sanctions on Iran and effectively withdraw the U.S. from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal. Having done so, the administration should anticipate the range of responses available to Iran and plan for how to counteract them.

One half of the Iranian response is guaranteed to be rhetorical, with an emphasis on persuading Europe to resist the U.S. move by taking actions favorable to Tehran. The other half of Iran's response will consist of accelerating its nuclear program in order to show that it will not accept the constraints imposed by a nuclear deal that Washington rejects. At the same time, Iran could carefully calibrate this acceleration, so that it does not undermine its efforts to win the sympathy of pro-deal leaders in Europe.

Iran's rhetorical response to the re-imposition of sanctions will have three likely goals: 1) expedite and exploit a growing trans-Atlantic divide over Iran policy, 2) convince Europe not to comply with any prospective U.S. sanctions against Iran and 3) get Europe to shield entities that do business with Iranian parties. Given Europe's fondness of the deal, this will not be a hard sell for Tehran, especially if it employs the dispute resolution mechanism created by the JCPOA to secure a judgment that Washington is engaging in "significant non-performance" of its obligations.

The more challenging response from Iran will come on the nuclear front. After initially claiming that Iran would continue adhering to the nuclear deal even if the U.S. withdrew, some of the deal's advocates in Tehran now threaten to exit the accord and even repudiate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The NPT threat is pure bluster. Most governments consider the NPT to be the cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime; withdrawal would therefore lose the Islamic Republic any international support, particularly in Europe.

Yet Iran could certainly pull out of the JCPOA, since the deal only froze—but did not dismantle—the bulk of Iran's nuclear infrastructure, which could be reconstituted. The question is: How far will Iran go? Will it shed all of the restraints imposed by the JCPOA and resume its quest for weapons-grade fissile material? Or will it engage in symbolic

acts of protest to challenge the U.S. without antagonizing Europe?

Symbolic face-saving measures might include the vacuum testing of new centrifuges, taking more advanced machines out of storage, or accumulating more heavy water and low-enriched uranium than the deal allows. Depending on the Western response to such measures, Iran might escalate further. There is also the risk that Iran might covertly resume its nuclear weapons development program at an unknown location.

Should the Islamic Republic decide to respond more forcefully, it could resume flight-testing medium-range ballistic missiles, which reportedly last occurred in July 2017. All of Iran's MRBMs meet the internationally defined standard of being "nuclear-capable." They also can reach key U.S. partners in the region such as Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Since inking the JCPOA in July 2015, Iran has launched as many as 23 ballistic missiles. But a closer look at that number reveals a significant downturn in MRBM testing over the past year. If Tehran were so inclined, it could resume these tests, which would not only signal defiance against America, but also refine the capabilities and readiness of its nuclear delivery vehicle.

Another way to respond forcefully without violating the JCPOA would be to harass U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf, just off the coast of Iran. According to data cited by the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, there has also been a significant downturn in harassment by the IRGC-Navy in the Persian Gulf since the beginning of 2017. Iranian commanders might want to return to testing America's nerve and military professionalism in these waters if faced with renewed nuclear sanctions.

Finally, Iran could also respond via terrorism and assassination, although any such activity on European soil would cause the regime to lose international support. Instead, Tehran might target U.S. troops in Syria, Iraq, or another location in the Middle East. While Iran controls a network of Shiite militias across the region, the militias usually (though not always) respond more to local pressures, rather than global ones. Case in point are the intensifying prospects for war between Iran and Israel in the Syrian theater.

While Iran will face clear limitations to its escalation against America in the military

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In teaching bias, Starbucks winds up displaying it

By David Gemunder

(JNS)—A fundamental red line was crossed. For the first time in our collective memory, radical activists successfully used anti-Semitism to convince one of America's largest companies to turn its back on an established and respected civil-rights organization.

A little history, for perspective. About a century ago, this country suffered from a plague of rampant and normalized anti-Semitism. In that context, B'nai Brith—the venerable Jewish social services organization—established two major entities that still thrive today: Hillel and the Anti-Defamation League.

As a board member and supporter of Hillel on a local and national level for more than a decade, I'm more than familiar with how anti-Zion-

ism and rank anti-Semitism have permeated our colleges and universities, and how difficult it is to be Jewish on most campuses today. This is the first time, though, that I've seen that same vitriol effectively move from the quad to Main Street.

As has been widely reported, after a shameful racial incident at one of its Philadelphia stores last month, Starbucks established an Advisory Committee to guide racial-bias training for all of its employees. The ADL originally was a member of this committee, along with several other civil-rights organizations.

Subsequently, several progressive activists expressed their displeasure with the ADL's inclusion in this effort. Their comments weren't particularly subtle. Tamika Mallory, an organizer of the

Women's March and admirer of Louis Farrakhan, tweeted that Starbucks was "NOT serious about doing right by BLACK people!" Why?

Mallory clarified: "So you are aware, Starbucks was on a decent track until they enlisted the Anti-Defamation League to build their anti-bias training. The ADL is CONSTANTLY attacking black and brown people. This is a sign that they are tone-deaf and not committed to addressing the concerns of black folks. Be clear about what's happening here!"

Cat Brooks, who helped found an outfit called the Anti Police-Terror Project, agreed with Mallory and added her own two cents: "You can't be a piece of anti-bias training when you openly support a racist, oppressive and brutal colonization of Palestine."

Now, people surely are

entitled to their opinions, no matter how bigoted and repugnant they may be. And certain extremists always have vomited up this type of bile. So why is this so concerning? Because this time, corporate America listened; Starbucks unceremoniously removed the ADL from the Advisory Committee.

Let's be clear: The ADL has an inclusive mission, and a proud and lengthy history, which unequivocally includes defending the rights of people of color. And so does the Jewish community. Jews helped found the NAACP (another member of the Advisory Committee) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Jews made up a disproportionately high number of Freedom Riders in the 1960s, including two who were murdered and buried in an earthen

dam in Philadelphia, Mississippi. A rabbi marched arm-in-arm with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in the March on Selma.

In this context, the injustice towards the ADL is especially galling. If Starbucks had dropped the NAACP from its bias training, there would have been a national outcry, followed by massive boycott campaigns. In this case, it's been mostly crickets. That's utterly unacceptable.

Were the activists biased and repulsive? Of course. And, despite their recent protestations to the contrary, did Starbucks display rank cowardice in the face of pressure from these extremists? Certainly. But that's the small picture. Here's the big one: It is crystal-clear that Americans need to recognize that anti-Semitism is just as vile as racism, sexism, homopho-

bia, and other religious or ethnic persecution. It cannot be tolerated from the right or the left. Those should be obvious statements. That they somehow are not self-evident in our time should anger and concern everyone.

How does America turn into Europe for the Jews? Silence in response to crises like this is the first step. We have a stark choice: Either we stand together, shoulder to shoulder, and push back with all of our strength, or we prepare to tell our grandchildren what their country was like before we permitted the cancer of mainstream Jew-hatred to spread once again. As Jews, as Americans and as Jewish Americans, we all have a decision to make—and we need to make it right now.

David Gemunder is a member of the Board of Governors of Hillel International.

JK Rowling and standing up to anti-Semitism

By Dr. Yvette Alt Miller
Aish Hatorah Resources

J.K. Rowling, French celebrities and German officials are making it clear they stand with the embattled Jewish minorities within their midst.

In the past few days, the author J.K. Rowling—along with dozens of other people in Britain, France and Germany—have been saying enough is enough in the face of relentless anti-Semitism. Their words, coming amid record-breaking levels of anti-Semitism, are a welcome beacon of moral clarity.

Rowling issued a series of Tweets on April 18, 2018, (Holocaust Remembrance Day), attacking anti-Semitism and assuring some of her Jewish twitter followers that they weren't alone. Her comments came a day after a searing debate on anti-Semitism in Britain's House of Commons, in which Jewish MPs publicly described years of abuse and insults both members of the public and even from fellow political activists.

Posting a screen grab of a person intoning that "Judaism is a religion, not a race" as a way to excuse their anti-Jew-

ish attitudes, Rowling noted that "Anti-Semites think this is a clever argument" before retorting "so tell us, do: were atheist Jews exempted from wearing the yellow star?"

When that tweet garnered its own anti-Jewish responses, Rowling called them out, rebutting anti-Semitic comments and explaining why they are offensive. To a twitter follower who complained that rebutting anti-Semitism is "culturally insensitive" to Muslims, Rowling lamented people who "only understand bigotry in terms of 'pick a team'" instead of having

empathy and engaging in reasoned debate.

When one of her twitter followers complained that Arabs can't ever be called anti-Semites because Arabs are a Semitic people too, Rowling reacted with a verbal eye-roll, attaching a GIF of the actor Hugh Laurie looking comically exasperated. "The 'Arabs are Semitic too' hot takes have arrived" Rowling tweeted, pointing out her interlocutors' bigotry.

To the twitter followers who continued to attack her for daring to oppose anti-Semitism, Rowling help-

fully sent out a definition of anti-Semitism: a "hostility or prejudice against Jews." Rowling then added a few messages of her own: "Split hairs. Debate etymology... Gloss over the abuse of your fellow citizens by attacking another country's government. Would your response to any other form of racism or bigotry be to squirm, deflect or justify?" she asked.

When a fan messaged Rowling saying her son had been bullied for being Jewish, Rowling replied "I'm so sorry to hear this. Know that you aren't alone and that a lot of us

stand with you. Xx" She had a message for the wider public: "Most UK Jews in my timeline are currently having to field this kind of (anti-Jewish comment)," Rowling forcefully explained, "so perhaps some of us non-Jews should start shouldering the burden."

This wasn't the first time that Rowling has stood up against anti-Semitism. In 2015, when over a thousand British cultural figures penned open letters in a national newspaper excoriating Israel and pledging never to

Rowling on page 15A

Why Israel is investing in Diaspora Jewish education

By Naftali Bennett

JERUSALEM (JTA)—For decades, world Jewry helped Israel. Organizations gathered and sent funds to the feeble, small state; our Air Force and Navy were formed and trained by Jewish volunteers from around the globe.

As we celebrate our 70th Independence Day, we should thank the previous generations while shifting to a new era, one in which we reverse the roles and

Israel spends more time and resources helping the Jews of the world.

Since its inception, Israel has played two roles: First, it is the country of all of its citizens, Jews and non-Jews alike. Second, it is the nation-state for all Jews, citizens or not. The Law of Return, which offers immediate citizenship to any Jew interested in living in Israel, is the best example of this idea. As the Jewish homeland, Israel has always felt a sense of responsibility toward the Jews of the world

and has acted, often quietly, to safeguard those in need—simply because they are Jews.

Sadly, recent events in France and Poland highlight the rise of anti-Semitism and the need to maintain such actions. However, the greatest danger facing the Jewish world in the 21st century is disengagement: Millions of Jews, mainly in North America, are drifting away from Judaism and, as a result, from Israel. Israel cannot ignore this reality. Acting as the home of the Jews, Israel helped

Jews in physical danger. Now it is time to help those at risk of losing their connection to Judaism and Israel.

Not long ago, I told our government that Israel ought to drastically increase its investment in promoting Jewish education and identity, multiplying the resources allocated to projects like Mosaic United, Birthright or Masa by at least tenfold. This statement—and my continued policy of investing in education for Diaspora communities—caused people to ask why. "Why should our tax monies go to a child in Dallas or Budapest?"

I have two answers to this question. The first is a one-word answer coming from my kishkes: because Jews are family, and we need to help our family, whether in Brazil, England or the United States.

We help them because we are all Jewish.

The other answer is a far second, but it, too, has its place: Maintaining strong Jewish communities is not only the moral thing to do, it is also a strategic investment by Israel because when you disengage from Judaism, you tend to disengage from Israel. The toughest challenge facing us is the masses of Jews distancing themselves from Judaism and Israel. This distancing has little to do with the disputes between the Diaspora and Israel. The often harsh criticism directed by Diaspora Jews at the Israeli government is being voiced by Jews who are connected and care deeply. Those angry at Israel are those who love Israel and feel they have a stake in the Jewish state.

In the United States, however, they are a minority, not the majority. My main concern is the 75 percent of U.S. Jews, or more, who don't care enough to be mad at Israel. To be clear, I wish we could resolve all the disagreements between U.S. Jews and the Israeli government, but we have to be realistic. There are serious differences between American and Israeli Jews, including the size and significance of non-Orthodox denominations. This, in turn, influences political representation and resulting public policy. So while it is unlikely we will solve all the issues, we must work hard for an open dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding.

Despite the massive gaps, I

Diaspora on page 15A

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.

AJC calls on international community to unite behind US

Dear Editor:

The American Jewish Congress applauds President Trump's announcement that the US will abandon the undesirable Iran nuclear deal.

The status quo has clearly and demonstrably failed and

Iran has so far refused to commit to renegotiating a bad deal that will allow it to pursue a nuclear program within 15 years.

Iran has for too long showed itself to be a bad actor in this process, as demonstrated by

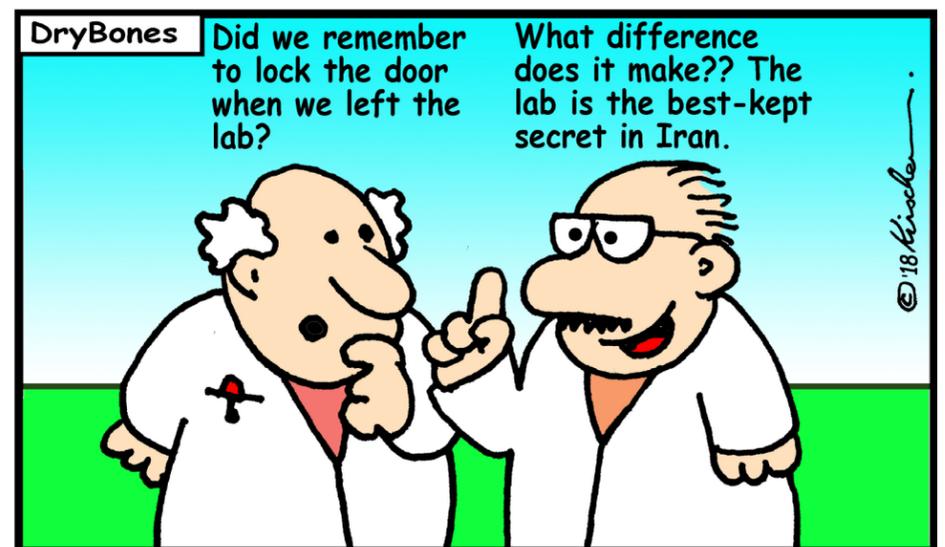
the discovery of the secret cache of files by Israel last week.

The previous administration hoped that by signing a deeply flawed agreement and waiving crippling economic sanctions, it could bring Iran in from the cold and bring stability to the wider region.

The US has now no option but to resort to stronger action to contain the regime's nuclear ambitions, which have a destabilizing influence on the Middle East and beyond.

The American Jewish Congress now calls on the international community to unite behind America's lead in a coordinated effort to definitively halt Iran's nuclear ambitions and to bring stability to the wider region.

Jack Rosen, President American Jewish Congress



What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT
MAY 18
 7:53 p.m.
MAY 25
 7:57 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 18

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

MONDAY, MAY 21

Israeli Folk Dancing—7:30-8:15 p.m. instruction, 8:15-10 p.m., requests. Cost: Free for JCC members, \$5 nonmembers. Info: 407-645-5933.
 Congregation Beth Am — Mommy and Me class with Cantor Nina Fine, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. \$7 per family; free for CBA members Info: 407-862-3505.

TUESDAY, MAY 22

JOIN Orlando—Torah Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. No charge. More information email rabbig@joinorlando.org
 The Roth Family JCC—Annual meeting, 6:15-8 p.m. Complimentary dinner and complimentary babysitting (ages 2-12) RSVP to https://orlandojcc.org/calendar/jcc-annual-meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

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 Gittleson at sgittleson@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.

THURSDAY, MAY 24

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.
 The Roth Family JCC—Touro Learning Series with Rabbi Alan G. Ciner, vice president of Community Engagement at TCUS, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

Happy 60th anniversary!



Shown here (l-r): Steve and Betty Schoenberg, Rabbi Karen Allen, and Judy and Bob Rosenblum.

Judy and Robert "Bob" Rosenblum, former residents of Latham, New York, celebrated their 60th anniversary by renewing their vows at Congregation Shalom Aleichem, Kissimmee, Florida, on Friday, April 20. Rabbi Karen Allen conducted the service. Betty and Steve Schoenberg served as witnesses.

The Rosenblum were married on April 12, 1958, at Temple Beth El in Troy, New York. They later joined Berith Sholom, where Bob served on the board, including time as president, and Judy taught Sunday school. Bob, a graduate of University of New Hampshire and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was a mechanical engineer for the United States

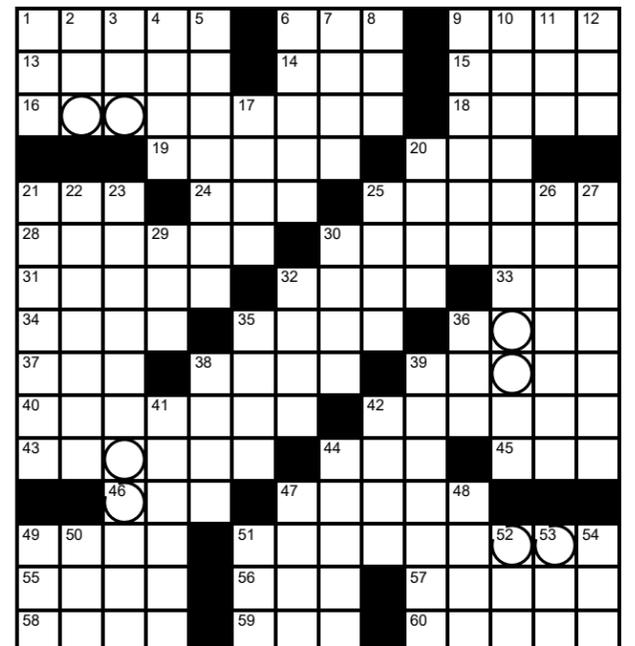
Army at the Watervliet Arsenal. Judy worked as manager at Deitcher's Decorating Store in Cohoes, New York. The Rosenblums have three children, four grandchildren, and two great grandsons. Judy and Bob now split their time between their summer cottage in Lake Luzerne and their home in Kissimmee, Florida.

Quote of the Week

"If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel."
 — Benjamin Netanyahu

Medium puzzle "Valuable Jews" by Yoni Glatt koshercrosswords@gmail.com

- Across**
- Cowboy Emmitt
 - "___ the Dog"
 - 1930s French premier Leon
 - On the briny
 - "New York State of Mind," essentially
 - Philosopher Descartes
 - Artist whose only (solo) #1 was in 1975
 - Pirkei ___
 - Compare
 - 502, in Herod's day
 - Fossey animal
 - Animal house
 - More nervous
 - Sarajevo's land
 - Make like Randy Savage
 - Where a bat might be found in the house
 - Patel-Kidman film of 2016
 - House, for ex.
 - Former Flushing structure
 - What can be found in each of this puzzle's theme answers
 - Treadmill setting
 - Cultivate
 - Israeli sandals
 - Less than right?
 - "E.T." kid
 - Entertained
 - "So Long, ___" ("Hello, Dolly!" song)
 - "Raiders of the Lost Ark" soundtrack grp.
 - His, in France
 - Chernobyl's loc.
 - Moolah, in Israel
 - Gregorius of the Yankees
 - 2007 NL Rookie of the Year
 - "I'll second that"
 - Mess up
 - Big insurance carrier
 - Jewish ice?
 - "Bambi" villain?
 - Ben with a boring voice
- Down**
- Easy mark
 - Train and bus overseer, for short
 - Where Larry Bird played coll. ball
 - Giveaway, in poker
 - Like a Lubavitcher
 - All hosts of "The View"
 - ___ Olam
 - Two before Lev.
 - Smarts
 - Eponymous jeans maker
 - "Dos" half
 - Player in 34-Across, once
 - Chain from Scandinavia
 - Celebrity chef Paula
 - Shamed
 - Winter opening on Broadway?
 - Cosmetics mogul who said "Beauty is an attitude"
 - Set foot (on)
 - One with the most votes, usually
 - Tries to improve, as a lawn
 - Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
 - Droop, as flowers
 - Dreidel take
 - Jaffa or Zion
 - 1994 Jeremy Piven film
 - Black, in Bordeaux
 - Creatures on a slide
 - Annoying
 - Part of Nasdaq: Abbr.
 - What a kollel member does
 - Actress Sedgwick
 - Guitar bar
 - Delicately apply
 - "___ Mine" ("Let It Be" song)
 - Michael Stipe's band
 - Didn't observe Yom Kippur
 - College, to an Aussie
 - A Bobbsey sister



See answers on page 12A.

"My week is not complete without it!"

"I can't live without it!"

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

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

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Amid renewed talk of war, Israelis are keeping calm and carrying on



David Cohen/Flash90

An anti-rocket missile battery seen on a mountain near the Northern Israeli city of Tzfat, May 9, 2018.

By Ben Sales

TEL AVIV (JTA)—When war broke out on Israel's northern border in 2006, Avigdor Guy remained calm. He lived in the northern port city of Haifa, but he didn't think the war would hit home—until, that is, it did.

"Twelve years ago, they asked me if I was worried, and I said no, of course I'm not worried," Guy said. "And then missiles began to fall in Haifa, and it felt really bad."

Now, as fears of a war on Israel's northern border heat up once more, Guy again feels fine. But this time, he says his confidence is justified. He thinks that Israel is better

prepared on its northern front than it was in 2006, when the month-long conflict with Hezbollah ended in a draw that was seen as a failure by most Israelis. Recently, he says, Israel has been appropriately focused on threats coming from Syria.

"I'm pretty optimistic that everything will be calm," he said. "I think that all in all, our government is taking Iran's deepening presence in Syria seriously."

Israelis who spoke with JTA echoed Guy's feelings on Wednesday, a day after President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal sparked heightened fears of conflict between

Israel and Iranian forces in Syria. Israelis expressed no desire for war, but said that if one breaks out, they trust their army to protect them.

As Trump was preparing on Tuesday to withdraw from the deal, which rolls back Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, Israel alerted residents of the Golan Heights to open their bomb shelters. The Golan, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War, has endured fire from forces in Syria, and could be vulnerable if Iran or its proxies attacked Israel.

"I believe in our army, our strength," said Gracia, who declined to give her last name, a 52-year-old resident of the northern city of Nahariya, which was hit hard in 2006. "We're stronger. Even if it comes to war, everything will be all right. We'll get along. We're not weak and we'll be OK."

On Wednesday, Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Gadi Eizenkot visited Israel's north for a situation assessment. The front page of Yediot Aharonot, one of Israel's leading papers, had a split headline: Above a picture of Trump, it read: "Shut the door." Next to that, above a picture of a bomb shelter, it read: "Opening the shelters."

But the government has urged Israelis to keep calm and carry on. Schools in the Golan opened as normal on Wednesday. And in Tel Aviv,

far from the threats up north, there was no sign of impending conflict: People strolled the boulevards, sipped their coffee and rode their bikes.

Fears of conflict have been building here for months. Iran is a principal ally of the Syrian government, and as it has entrenched its forces in that

country, it has reached the brink of clashes with Israel. In February, an Iranian drone was shot down over Israeli territory. And Israel has allegedly conducted countless airstrikes in Syria, including a reported one Tuesday night. Israeli leaders have vowed to prevent Iran from establish-

ing a military base across the Golan border.

"It feels like something is about to happen," said Amit Hagin, 30, a native of Haifa who has lived in Berlin for the past three years. "Obviously it's not yet at this point [of

Calm on page 15A

'Match maker, match maker, make us a match!'

Jewish Pavilion strives to match volunteers with elderly individuals residing in senior living communities. Why offer such a service when people live amongst others with daily activities and community dining, you ask?

Without individual attention and meaningful stimulation that social interaction and friendship provide, an isolated elder can experience poor health, a lack of strength and energy, depression, and other physical, emotional, and mental health problems. Visits from the Jewish Pavilion's friendly volunteers can change all that. While daily activities calendars display an assortment of exciting programs and parties the individual attention, companionship and community involvement is not always present.

Jewish Pavilion friendly



Randi Cunningham shares her time with Oakmonte Village in Lake Mary resident, Judy.

visiting is fun for both the volunteer and recipient. Recently, several community members have been paired up with seniors in assisted-living communities to share conversation, a delicious bagel

or rugelach and sing a song or familiar prayer.

Thank you to those volunteers who visit on a regular basis. It's a mitvah for sure!

Call Jewish Pavilion 407-678-9363 to get involved.

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Roseanne Barr on Israel, BDS, Natalie Portman, the U.S. embassy and Jewish food



Jerusalem Post

American actress and sitcom star Roseanne Barr, who says she would like to make aliyah to Israel one day.

By Shiryn Solny

(JNS)—Roseanne Barr, the Jewish-American actress

who made a name for herself in comedy and on television, talked about wanting to move to Israel and potentially run-

ning for office there while at the annual Jerusalem Post Conference on Sunday in New York.

During a discussion on stage, the "Roseanne" star said: "I want to move to Israel and run for prime minister. In 2012, I said I was gonna run for president of the United States and prime minister of Israel, a twofer. But I do have that fantasy, [and] if God calls me, I'll go, of course.

"I want to make aliyah, I do, and before all the stuff is sold—all the real estate. I

wanna get a nice house... I still have the fantasy of being an old Jewish lady living in the Jewish homeland. Someday, I will do it."

Then she asked the audience: "Is anyone here in real estate? I want to buy a farm there, maybe bring my family."

Barr also mentioned getting a phone call from U.S. President Donald Trump, who congratulated her on the successful reboot of her ABC sitcom, in which she plays the Trump-supporting matriarch of the Conner family. The show has been renewed for a second season.

The 65-year-old was in her hotel room waiting all day to hear from the president because she was told he would call. She noted that she "met him several times when he was just a civilian, or whatever you call it, not the president—just a show-business person, and he was always very nice to me... He said, 'Congratulations on the ratings, cause he's really into ratings, like I am.'"

She then thanked the president for deciding to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"I said, Mr. President, on behalf of my mother, I want to thank you, and all the Jewish people too, for moving the embassy to Jerusalem. Thank you so much," Barr said she told Trump. She added that he replied, say-

ing, "a lot of presidents have promised it, but I wanted to get it done."

Barr said she believes that moving the embassy is "the first step to peace in the world."

"We need to love each other"

She was ill on Sunday but still attended the conference, noting that she promised she would and "because it's a great chance to b**ch about how much I hate the BDS."

Barr was referring to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that has proliferated on college campuses and elsewhere in the United States.

"I hate everything that's a lie based on anti-Semitism, and I'm a Jew," she said. "Jews who are against other Jews have always been a problem since the first story in Torah. So maybe this time, we can do something about it and change it. We need to love each other. Jews need to love each other, and it has to stop because it threatens our existence."

Barr, who has been to Israel three times, additionally reflected on the recent controversy surrounding actress Natalie Portman's decision not to attend the upcoming Genesis Prize awards ceremony in Jerusalem. She said she felt like Portman's position, which seemed to be based on a reluctance to be present with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

because she disagrees with his policies, "wasn't the bravest way" to take a stance on something, and that it played into the hands of the BDS movement.

"I asked a lot of Israeli friends what they thought, and they said they wish she would have said it in Israel because Israel is a country where dissent is allowed," said Barr. "We have to be able to talk to the young people in America because they're way off; they're way out there. We have to figure out a way to reach them instead of turning them off. I happen to think that Judaism is the way."

Barr said that if she was to speak with Portman (one Jewish actress to another), "first, I would make her a lovely meal—that always starts everything peaceful—and then I would talk to her about Jewish history and Torah. I think those are the things that bring people back and wake people up."

During her time on stage, Barr discussed her love of studying Torah and how being a Jew is "really fun." She also mentioned growing up as the oldest daughter in an Orthodox Jewish home and her skills cooking "good Jewish food."

In fact, she said, she "always" thinks about doing a cooking show—and who knows? It could very well be filmed in Israel.

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Golfers teed up to raise money for the Orlando Senior Help Desk



Woman played in the tournament too! Shown here are foursome (l-r) Ben Duneman, Richard Goldstein, Laura Goldware and Hillary Bressler.

By Lisa Levine

More than 100 players hit the greens at Rosen Shingle Creek Golf Club on Sunday, May 6, for the Pavilion Golf Society's annual golf tournament. The event raised more than \$18,000 to benefit the Orlando Senior Help Desk, a service of The Jewish Pavilion that offers free advice on services and living options for seniors.

The morning began with a light breakfast, after which golfers took to their carts and positioned themselves for the shotgun start. A luncheon

and live auction followed the tournament, at which Keith Levitt, a longtime supporter of The Jewish Pavilion, was honored. Among the items auctioned were a weekend Porsche Boxter experience and a Golf Channel insider's tour at the Father/Son Challenge golf tournament in December at the JW Marriott in Orlando.

Tournament winners, with a score of 53, were the foursome of Robert Kleiman, Brian Waterfield, Brian Hunith, and Ryan Lefkowitz. Waterfield had the men's longest drive. Claudia Green had the

women's closest to the pin at 29 feet. Chad Ballard had the men's closest to the pin at 2 feet 3 inches.

The money raised helps support the mission of the Orlando Senior Help Desk, which provides the only service of its kind in Central Florida and serves all callers, regardless of religious affiliation. Callers to the Orlando Senior Help Desk hotline are offered guidance on choosing senior living options, home health services, elder law, hospice, adult day care and more. To access this free service, call 407-678-9363.



Scene Around

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



Dr. Yosef (Joseph) Segman

We can count on Israel...

When it comes to science and medical cures, Israel seems to be leading the world. How proud that makes me feel. It is even more than pride I feel, as I've been a diabetic for many years.

I read this in my copy of World Jewish Congress (WJC) Digest, Science & Technology:

"The Israeli company Cnoga Medical has developed a new, pain-free way to monitor blood glucose levels, eliminating the discomfort of diabetes patients who check their sugar levels by using a finger-pricking meter. (That's me... and I do it every morning!)"

Cnoga Medical's noninvasive, no-needle glucometer uses a camera to provide optical diagnosis of blood glucose level by observing changing color shades of the user's finger.

Cnoga notes that the device, launched last year and already approved for use in several countries, including Italy, Brazil, and China (what about the U.S.?) offers accurate blood glucose results that are comparable to those of a finger-prick.

After a short training period, the device learns to correlate the user's optical skin-tone characteristics with camera readings, and will operate quickly and accurately, making tracking and compliance easier for patients living with diabetes.

Founded in 2004 by Dr. JOSEPH SEGMAN, the company specializes in products that facilitate medical monitoring and processing of information on the cloud.

Over 400 million people worldwide live with diabetes, according to the International Diabetes Federation. (Tell me about it!)

And that's not all from Israel...

"Oxygen therapy, already a well-known treatment for decompression sickness, serious infections and wounds associated with diabetes, has been found to alleviate symptoms associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's, a type of dementia that progressively destroys memory, thinking and reasoning ability, among other mental functions, affects more than 40 million people worldwide, according to a 2015 report by Alzheimer's Disease International. The cause of the disease is unknown and there is no known cure."

(Not yet, but Israel is working on it. I remember telling my spouse before he died that I didn't remember where I parked our car and maybe I had Alzheimer's Disease. He said it isn't when you can't find where you parked the car, it's when you forget what to do with the car that should cause you to worry!)

JCC 39ers Meet & Mingle Mondays...

All are invited to attend the annual installation luncheon on Monday, May 21st at 12:30 p.m. in the Senior Lounge of the Roth Family JCC in Maitland.

There will be a buffet of assorted salads; a mouth watering pasta dish; assorted bagels with a "Schmear"; assorted pastries and hot and cold beverages.



Bob and Annetta Glickman

(With NO CALORIES!!!! If you believe me, I have a bridge to sell you.)

In addition to the traditional installing of the 2018-19 board, the event will feature the super-talented BOB & ANNETTA GLICKMAN, presenting a program full of laughs and music. (The Glickman's are NOT to be missed!!)

The cost for 39er members is \$15, guests, \$20/ Reservations must be accompanied by payment and will be taken by LILLIAN, 407-951-6261 or CLAIRE, 407-699-0956.

Jewish Trivia Night...

Question: Where can you spend an evening having fun with friends, making new ones and showing off your knowledge of all things Jewish? Answer: At the Jewish Community Relations Council's inaugural Jewish Trivia Night on May 31 at The Roth Family JCC at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Senior Lounge. Celebrate the final day of Jewish American Heritage Month by joining in this friendly competition! Teams of up to 6 people will vie for the Avodat Tzevet (Teamwork) Trivia Trophy!

COST: Entry fee is \$36 per team (teams can have 1 to 6 members)

BRAIN FOOD: Kosher snacks will be provided. Questions? Contact the Jewish Federation's Ben Friedman.

Simply the best...

I gave this person a Shout-Out in the recent past, but as my Cardio Rehab at Florida Hospital on Rollins comes to an end, I am so thankful for him, his professionalism, his friendly smile and greeting, and his kindness.

I'm describing TOMMY McCARY, heading up the ABM Healthcare Valet Parking at the hospital. Of course I will miss the weekly workouts and the devoted staff of medical personnel who oversee it, but most of all, I will miss Tommy! Again, Tommy, thank you for being you!

One for the road...

Abe was 75 years old and had a medical problem that needed complicated surgery. Because his son Jacob was a renowned surgeon, Abe insisted that Jacob perform the operation.

On the day of his operation, as he lay on the operating table waiting for the anesthetic, Abe asked to speak to his son.

"Yes Dad, what is it?"

"Don't be nervous, Jacob, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if God forbid something should happen to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife."

(Oy vay! That better be a successful operation!)

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Why these Latin American countries support moving their embassies to Jerusalem

By **Josefin Dolsten**

(JTA)—President Donald Trump's decision in December to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital drew wide international criticism, with 128 countries including the

United Kingdom, Germany and Canada voting in favor of a United Nations resolution condemning it.

But several countries saw Trump's decision in a different light: as an example to follow. Shortly after the United

States officially moves its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on May 14, it will be joined by Guatemala and Paraguay. Both countries are planning to make the move this month, and Honduras may be next: Its Congress recently passed a



Orlando Estrada/AFP/Getty Images

A woman walks across Israel square in Guatemala City, Dec. 27, 2017.



A celebration of 40 years of service at JFS Orlando

JFS Orlando's 40th Anniversary Gala was held on Sunday April 29th at Rosen Plaza. Guests enjoyed a harpist during the cocktail reception and a Frank Sinatra impersonator during dinner as part of the evening's program. The George Wolly Community Leadership Award was presented posthumously to Barry Goodman and was accepted by Craig Pearlman. Pictured here are (l-r) Madeline Wolly, Esther Vassar, Marty Sherman, Marian Sherman, JFS Orlando Executive Director Eric Geboff, and Betty Ann Leider.

resolution urging its foreign ministry to move its embassy.

Along with the Czech Republic, whose president said last month it will begin the process of moving its embassy to Jerusalem, these countries belong to a small club (albeit one with a superpower). On a visit to Venezuela on Monday, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas urged other Latin American countries not to move their embassies.

So how come? Why do these Latin American countries go where others fear to tread?

Observers suggest a number of reasons, or a combina-

tion thereof: The countries are likely motivated by a desire to curry favor with the Trump administration, their leaders' personal views of the Jewish state and strong historic ties to Israel.

In the cases of Guatemala and Honduras, both countries are facing or recently faced political crises—Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales is mired in a corruption scandal and Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez's recent re-election was dogged by allegations of voter fraud. Their leaders are looking to the U.S. for support, said Arie Kacowicz, a professor

at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem specializing in Latin America.

"They pretty much need and want support and legitimacy from the U.S. and one way of achieving that is by being on friendly, cordial or even extraordinary terms with Israel," he told JTA. "So if the U.S. is showing the way on this particular issue of Jerusalem, the natural candidates to follow would be those two Central American countries."

Though the countries are looking to strengthen ties with Israel, that is not their primary focus, Kacowicz said.

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CARDINAL MONUMENTS

Keep the music and traditions going!

When you are a people watcher and you see residents at an assisted-living facility being brought into a group area, you see "it"—The lifeless stares are heart breaking. The program begins and some residents respond, a brief spark of life. You may not get all of them, but a few come alive. All it takes is simple change in the dreary pattern that has now become their life.

Our goal at the Jewish Pavilion is to see that every resident is not forgotten in a facility where staff is unfamiliar with Jewish heritage, history, holidays, traditions, and food and music. It is not as much about the religion as it is that part of our culture that makes us who we are. Some residents in memory care may have forgotten their prayers, but they are reminded of them when we chant them together; especially in song, as music is the last thing to go. There is such wondrous joy, for the resident when they remember and for the service leader, who has touched them in a way that the heart can't express.

Being musical, focusing on song, the transportation of time is quickly achieved. Songs the residents have heard or sung with their parents or even grandparents bring out memories and tears of joy or sorrow. Knowing what to expect, and being prepared to find ways to turn tears of sorrow into joy is so gratifying. Having stories to



Sheldon Silberman (l) and Walter Goldstein, program director at the Jewish Pavilion.

share and residents to listen enables tears to smiles.

When Jewish Pavilion programs end, all residents leave the room saddened only by the fact that the program is over until next time. With each visit, you become a familiar part of their lives. Every month, knowing of your imminent arrival, the residents come earlier and earlier to see you. The lifeless stares they started with when you first met are now little twinkles of hope and joy. Multiple residents are talking to you about their days and things that happened when they were younger before you

even have the chance to put your things down.

How can your heart not be full? Why wouldn't you want to do this? Compassionate? You bet! Caring? Most certainly! Why? In a quote from Tevya from "Fiddler on the Roof": "I'll tell you. I don't know. But it's a tradition. And because of our traditions, every one of us knows who he is, and what God expects him to do."

At the Jewish Pavilion we keep our Jewish traditions going, so they are not forgotten, as our residents would be if we didn't do what we do.

—Walter Goldstein, Jewish Pavilion program director.

OBITUARIES

NINA REBECCA KARLINSKY

Nina R. Karlinsky, age 19, of Heathrow, passed away on May 2, 2018, at UFHealth/Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville. Nina was born on June 10, 1998, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Erica Cohen Karlinsky and Paul R. Karlinsky. The family relocated to the Orlando area and were former members of Congregation Beth Am in Longwood.

Among her many accomplishments, Nina was the Class Valedictorian of the Lake Mary Prep Middle School and the Lake Mary Prep High School. A dancer, she also earned 15 letters in various sports.

In addition to her parents, Nina is survived by her brothers, Lee M. Karlinsky and Jacob S. Karlinsky; and her grandmothers, Vivian Karlinsky and Sandy Cohen.

Funeral services for Nina were held in the Pavilion at Ohev Shalom Cemetery with Rabbi Rick Sherwin officiating. In memory of Nina R. Karlinsky, the family requests contributions to miracle network dance marathon/Nina Karlinsky/events.dancemarathon.com.

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

HERTA SYLVIA RAPP
Sylvia Rapp, Breina bat Chaya v'Yakov, age 95, of Longwood, passed away on May 6, 2018, in her home at Village on the Green. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 62 years, Ernest Rapp, and their son, Richard Rapp. She also was preceded in death by her parents, Jacob and Martha Lehrer, her sister Greta Singer (Frank) and Ernest's family, Oasis and Ethel Rapp and Berta and Alfred Schorr.

Sylvia was born Herta Lehrer on Sept. 17, 1922, in Vienna, Austria. She lived a privileged and cultured life until the Anschluss in 1938, when the Nazis invaded Austria. She lived under Nazi occupation witnessing Kristallnacht. Her family was one of the fortunate to emigrate to the US in 1939. The early years had a lasting impression on her.

Sylvia continued her education in New York obtaining a bachelor's degree from Bethany College, graduating

with honors and a master's degree in psychology from NYU. While attending an English class in night school, she met her future husband, Ernest Rapp z"l, also a new immigrant from Vienna. They married Feb. 2, 1946. For the next 10 years, Sylvia and Ernest lived in New York, raising their three daughters while Ernest advanced in architecture.

In 1956, the family moved to Orlando where they have remained. Ernest worked as an architect, designing many of the high-rise buildings in downtown Orlando until his death in 2008. Sylvia worked as a psychologist at Sunland Hospital and then as a principal at a school for special needs children.

For the past 40 years, she has devoted her life to her family, friends, volunteer work and travel. In earlier years, the family had been members of Temple Israel and then Ohev Shalom and Chabad in later years. Sylvia was a life member of Hadassah.

Mrs. Rapp is survived by her daughters, Ethel (Barry) Portnoy of Altamonte Springs, Judith (Robert) Hara of Winter Park and Sharon (Leonard) Habif of Atlanta and Jerusalem. She had a close connection to her 10 grandchildren: Adele (Howard) Fried, Adam (Donna) Portnoy, Martin Portnoy, Josh (Melissa) Portnoy, Aaron (Moriah) Hara, Jacob Hara, Miriam Habif, Livana (Psychya) Futterman and Yoel Habif. In later years, she was blessed with eight great-grandchildren: Zachary, Grayson, Easton, Colten, Eva, Lillia, Zahava and Hadassa.

A graveside service was held at Temple Israel Cemetery

with Rabbi David Kay officiating. In memory of Sylvia Rapp the family requests contributions to the charity of your choice or Haddassah, www.florida@hadassah.org.

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

JOEL M. SISKIND

Joel M. Siskind, age 49, of Windermere, passed away on Tuesday, May 1, 2018, in Fountain, Florida, in an automobile accident. Joel was born on July 10, 1968, in Louisville, Kentucky, to Karen Schusheim Siskind and the late Alan Siskind. He was a high school graduate and owned and operated an auto dealership in the Florida Panhandle. Joel was married to Donna Harris Siskind and the family relocated to the Windermere area in 2014.

In addition to his wife and mother, Joel is survived by his son, Nathan; his sister, Lori (Steven) Rosenberg of Philadelphia; and his brother, Greg (Audrey) Siskind of Memphis. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Connie Harris of the Villages; his father-in-law, Sam Harris of Pensacola; his brother-in-law Mike (Miki) Harris of Orlando; and nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held at the Pavilion at Ohev Shalom Cemetery with Rabbi Sholom Dubov of Congregation Ahavas Yisrael officiating. In memory of Joel M Siskind, a GoFundMe account has been established for Nathan. www.GoFundMe.com/NathanSiskindHockey/SchoolFund.

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



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Central Florida Synagogues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Herta Sylvia Rapp Z"l

The family of Herta Sylvia Rapp appreciates the outpouring of support during shiva.

May her memory be a blessing.

Her Loving Family

'Transparent' will end after its upcoming fifth season

(JTA)—“Transparent,” the Amazon Studios television series about the Jewish transgender matriarch of a Los Angeles family, will end after its upcoming fifth season.

Actor Jeffrey Tambor, who plays the lead role of Maura Pfefferman, was fired from the series in February, fol-

lowing an investigation into allegations that he sexually harassed two women associated with the production. In November, Trace Lysette, who plays a recurring character on the series, and Van Barnes, Tambor’s former assistant, accused him of sexual misconduct.

Creator Jill Soloway announced the show’s finale in a story about the allegations against Tambor in the Hollywood Reporter Monday.

Tambor has denied the allegations. In an interview with the Hollywood Reporter, his first since the allegations

came to light, the Jewish actor said: “Lines got blurred.”

He continued: “I was difficult, I was mean... I was rude to my assistant. I was moody. Sometimes I didn’t talk at all.”

He said of Barnes’ allegations: “I dispute her account. I did raise my voice at times, I was moody at times, there

were times when I was tactless. But as for the other stuff, absolutely not.”

“Transparent” has been a major success for Amazon, which released the show on its streaming service, garnering multiple Emmy Awards, including one for Tambor as outstanding lead actor in

2016. It is scheduled to start its final season on May 29.

Jewish themes and characters abound in the show, whose characters include a rabbi and Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe and whose episodes have been set in Israel and at various Los Angeles Jewish landmarks.

After pulling out of the Iran deal, Trump is open to Plan B—but no one knows what that is



Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

White House National Security Advisor John Bolton, center, flanked by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, left, and Vice President Mike Pence, listening to President Donald Trump announcing his decision to withdraw the U.S. Iran nuclear deal in the Diplomatic Room at the White House, May 8, 2018.

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—When President Donald Trump teased and then announced he would be

pulling the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal, the next obvious question was, what next? What was Plan B?

“Congress has heard nothing about an alternative,”

Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif., the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee said at a hearing on Iran on Tuesday. That was just hours before Trump announced that he was indeed pulling the United States out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Royce noted that he and others on the committee had opposed the deal in 2015 and had been eager to work with Trump to fix it.

Trump’s announcement was short on answers.

“Over the past few months, we have engaged extensively with our allies and partners around the world, including France, Germany, and the United Kingdom,” Trump said. “We have also consulted with our friends from across the Middle East. We are unified in our understanding of the threat and in our conviction that Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon.”

And yet, France, Germany and Britain remain committed to the deal. “Our friends in the Middle East,” particularly Israel and Saudi Arabia, wanted out. “Unified in our understanding”? Not so much.

The split was evident in the minutes following Trump’s announcement, when leaders

had responses at the ready. France, Britain and Germany jointly pleaded with Trump to do his best not to harm the deal, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, even while leaving it.

“We urge the U.S. to ensure that the structures of the JCPOA can remain intact,” they said in a statement, “and to avoid taking actions that can obstruct its full implementation by all other parties to the deal.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was eager to see the deal’s end.

“Israel fully supports President Trump’s bold decision today to reject the disastrous nuclear deal with the terrorist regime in Tehran,” he said.

Khalid bin Salman, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, said on Twitter that his country “fully supported” the pullout.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, like an array of other Jewish organizations, released a statement following Trump’s announcement recognizing the tensions and seeking a path toward reconciling them.

“We recognize that there are significant differences over this decision,” said the statement from the group, which opposed and lobbied hard against the 2015 deal. “AIPAC remains committed to working with Congress and the administration in a bipartisan fashion to forge policies that will ensure Iran can never acquire a nuclear weapons capability or realize its dangerous regional ambitions.”

How that works is less than clear. The deal swaps sanctions relief for Iran’s rollback of its nuclear program. Trump had said he might stay in the deal if it could be renegotiated to remove “sunset” clauses that allow Iran to resume some enrichment of fissile material within a decade. He also wants a tougher inspections regime and to roll a missile testing ban into the deal.

European allies said reopening the deal now, particularly in relation to the sunset clauses, was impossible, especially given the adamant

opposition of the other parties: Iran, Russia and China. Instead, they countenanced increasing pressure on Iran in other arenas, including new sanctions targeting its missile testing, and then committing to pressure on Iran as the sunset clauses loomed closer to extend bans on enrichment.

In his presidential order quashing the deal, Trump said he was ready to keep talking.

“I am open to consultations with allies and partners on future international agreements to counter the full range of Iran’s threats, including the nuclear weapon and intercontinental ballistic missile threats, and the heads of agencies shall advise me, as appropriate, regarding opportunities for such consultations,” the order said.

There maybe some room to talk. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and other leaders said following Trump’s announcement that they were ready to take up Europe’s offer to figure out a way to stay in the deal.

“If the Europeans are willing to give us sufficient guarantees, it makes sense for us to stay in the deal,” Ali Motahar, the deputy speaker of Iran’s parliament, said in remarks quoted by the Washington Post.

Additionally, the Trump administration would have to put in place staff and mechanisms to monitor compliance with U.S. sanctions, a process that could take months, giving some leeway to renegotiate a deal.

But now that the United States is out of the deal, the stars may be aligning to keep another deal from replacing it. The sanctions Trump will reinstate target countries, businesses and individuals that deal with Iran’s financial system. Simply announcing the reimposition of sanctions is likely to have an inhibitive effect on doing business with Iran, effectively crippling the deal almost immediately. And Trump made clear in his announcement he was not going to be sparing in his sanctions.

“We will be instituting the highest level of economic sanction,” he said. “Any nation that helps Iran in its quest for nuclear weapons could also be strongly sanctioned by the United States.”

Speaking to reporters afterward, John Bolton, Trump’s national security adviser, said there would be 90-180-day “wind down” periods for companies that have existing contracts in Iran.

If those sanctions kick in for European companies, it could poison the atmosphere between the United States

and those allies, making coordination on a reconfigured deal less likely.

The other circumstance clouding the prospect of a new deal was tensions between Israel and Iran in Syria. Iran has for years assisted the Assad regime in quelling the civil war in that country, and Israel has said in recent months that it cannot tolerate a permanent Iranian presence in the country.

On Tuesday, shortly after Trump’s announcement, Israel’s military increased its readiness on the northern border in the Golan Heights in response to what it is calling “unusual movements of Iranian forces in Syria”

Trump’s announcement also revived old tensions and heated rhetoric that preceded the JCPOA’s adoption. Morton Klein, the hawkish head of the Zionist Organization of America, tweeted, “I’m thrilled Trump kept yet another promise in ending catastrophic Iran Deal which I believe Obama instituted to strengthen Iran’s ability to harm Israel. We urge Trump to make clear if Iran doesn’t end their nuke program, US & Israel will be forced to consider military action.”

“A regime that serially celebrates the denial of the Nazi Holocaust—history’s most documented genocide—ever took place, can be relied upon to lie about its commitments to the international community,” said Rabbis Marvin Hier, founder and dean and Abraham Cooper, associate dean, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, in a statement. “Lying is the national anthem and magna carta of the Ayatollah’s regime.”

And former President Barack Obama, who considered the JCPOA a hallmark of his presidency, offered a rare response to a move by Trump, saying his successor had scrapped a deal that was working.

“Without the JCPOA, the United States could eventually be left with a losing choice between a nuclear-armed Iran or another war in the Middle East,” Obama wrote on Facebook. “We all know the dangers of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon. It could embolden an already dangerous regime; threaten our friends with destruction; pose unacceptable dangers to America’s own security; and trigger an arms race in the world’s most dangerous region. If the constraints on Iran’s nuclear program under the JCPOA are lost, we could be hastening the day when we are faced with the choice between living with that threat, or going to war to prevent it.”

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Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Turkey recalls ambassadors to US and Israel amid Gaza violence

JTA—Turkey recalled its ambassadors to the United States and Israel after at least 50 Palestinian protesters were reportedly killed at the Gaza border.

South Africa also recalled its envoy to Israel earlier on Monday, Agence France-Presse reported.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused Israel of “genocide” over the killings in Gaza. Tens of thousands gathered there for protests in the hours before the dedication of the new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem earlier today. Over 2,400 were injured.

The Israel Defense Forces said that it is “operating according to standard operating procedures” and claimed that several protesters were planting explosives. Some flew flaming kites across the border, and at least one started a wildfire, according to The New York Times.

Erdogan called Israel a terrorist state in December.

South Africa also announced its ambassador will leave Israel “until further notice.”

“Given the indiscriminate and grave manner of the latest Israeli attack, the South African government has decided taken a decision to recall Ambassador Sisa Ngombane with immediate effect until further notice,” read a statement from the country’s Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

The protests are part of the March of Return, a longstanding demonstration that has taken place every Friday at the border for the last seven weeks. The protests were supposed to end on May 14, the day on the Gregorian calendar when Israel became an independent state 70 years ago. The Arab world calls this event the Nakba, or “catastrophe.” Hamas leaders have called for the protests to continue beyond Monday.

“The IDF is prepared for a variety of scenarios. IDF commanders are present in the field and are conducting situation assessments. The IDF will act forcefully against any terrorist activity and will operate to prevent attacks against Israelis,” the military said in a statement that also appeared on Twitter.

“The IDF will act harshly against any terrorist activity and will act to preserve Israeli sovereignty and prevent attacks on civilians and soldiers,” the statement said.

Israeli jets strike 5 Hamas targets in Gaza

JTA—Israeli fighter jets struck five Hamas targets in a military training facility in northern Gaza.

The attacks came Monday during the dedication of the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. The strikes were in response to violence that occurred in mass protests along the Gaza border, according to a statement issued Monday by the Israel Defense Forces.

The protests, which opposed the embassy dedication, saw at least 50 Palestinians killed and hundreds injured in clashes with Israeli

forces. Tens of thousands of Palestinian protesters massed on the border as part of the March of Return, a string of demonstrations against Israel that have taken place every Friday at the border for the past seven weeks.

Earlier on Monday, an Israeli fighter jet and a tank targeted two other Hamas positions in northern Gaza following Hamas fire on nearby Israeli troops, the IDF said.

On Monday afternoon, an IDF force foiled the placing of an explosive charge near the border fence by a squad of three armed Palestinians in southern Gaza.

In a statement, IDF Spokesman Ronen Manlis called the protests a “cover for organized terrorist activity and an attempt to divert the energy directed at it from the Gaza Strip into Israel.” The statement said the IDF is prepared to respond to a wide variety of scenarios and has deployed a number of combat battalions along the Gaza border, along with special units, intelligence gathering forces and snipers.

“Our forces do not fire at demonstrators who have come to express their position on the Gaza Strip,” he said. “The action is focused on those who carry out terrorist activities against the security infrastructure.”

Jersey City to move Polish massacre monument, solving international dispute

JTA—A statue that commemorates the Polish victims of a World War II massacre will be relocated on the Jersey City waterfront in an agreement that ends a war of words between city officials and Polish authorities.

Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop and the Katyn Forest Massacre Memorial Committee arrived at the agreement on Friday, and will announce the details on Monday, the Jersey Journal reported.

The monument on the east bank of the Hudson River commemorating the Katyn Forest massacre is set to be removed due to work on a waterfront redevelopment project. The area where the statue is located is planned to be turned into a new, kid-friendly park, including a splash area.

The committee said in a statement over the weekend that the statue will be relocated to another prominent area on the Hudson River, at the foot of York Street.

Following announcement of the agreement, rallies against the removal of the statue planned by the Polish community were cancelled.

In 1940, the Soviet secret police murdered over 20,000 captured Polish citizens, including soldiers and police officers, in the western Russia forest. Several hundred of the victims were Jewish; they were killed by a gunshot to the back of the head.

Mass graves were discovered by the Germans in 1943, and the Soviet Union initially blamed the Nazis. It was not until 1990 that the Russian authorities recognized that it was “one of the grave crimes of Stalinism.”

The bronze and granite statue shows a tied-up Polish

soldier who has been stabbed in the back with a rifle bayonet. Polish-American sculptor Andrzej Pitynski created the work in 1991.

Fulop tweeted on Friday that an agreement had been reached, calling it a “win-win.” A photo with the tweet shows him standing at the waterfront with Eric Lubaczewski, the executive director of the Polish-American Chamber of Commerce. The tweet also said: “The goal was one that respects/cares/keeps the monument in an extremely prominent location to honor sacrifices while also giving #JerseyCity a chance to re-purpose our waterfront.”

Lubaczewski told the Polish Press Agency that the new location in an existing park is in a better place to allow people time to stop for private reflection. He said the monument should be moved in the next 60 to 90 days. He added that the land on which the monument will sit would be deeded to the Polish consulate or the memorial committee for 99 years.

In the debate leading up to the agreement, Fulop, who is Jewish, called a Polish senator who criticized the city an anti-Semite.

Mitt Romney calls pastor picked to lead prayer at US Embassy dedication a religious bigot

JTA—Former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney criticized the choice of Robert Jeffress, a Dallas pastor, to lead a prayer at the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.

Romney, who currently is running for the Senate in Utah, said in a tweet Sunday evening “Robert Jeffress says ‘you can’t be saved by being a Jew,’ and ‘Mormonism is a heresy from the pit of hell.’ He’s said the same about Islam. Such a religious bigot should not be giving the prayer that opens the United States Embassy in Jerusalem.”

Jeffress responded in a tweet: “Historic Christianity has taught for 2,000 years that salvation is through faith in Christ alone. The fact that I, along with tens of millions of evangelical Christians around the world, continue to espouse that belief, is neither bigoted nor newsworthy.”

Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, a Southern Baptist megachurch, is a Fox News contributor, an outspoken supporter of President Donald Trump, and host of radio and television shows broadcast throughout the United States. He preached at a private service for Trump and his family prior to his inauguration in January 2017.

Jeffress endorsed Romney, who is Mormon, for president in 2012, The Hill reported.

Jeffress told Fox News Radio on Friday that he would be delivering the opening prayer at the dedication.

He told host Todd Starnes: “In that prayer, I’m going to be recounting God’s history of faithfulness to His people, the Israelites. I’m going to be thanking God for the strong leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu, who is absolutely determined to protect Israel. And I’m also

going to be thanking God for our President Donald Trump, who had the courage to do what no other U.S. President has done, and that is to officially recognize Jerusalem and to move the embassy. This is another example of promise made, promise kept.”

Pastor John Hagee, the founder of Christians United for Israel, will deliver the benediction at the ceremony, according to CNN. In an interview on Friday with the Breitbart news website, Hagee said he told President Donald Trump he would win “political immortality” for moving the embassy from Tel Aviv.

“I told him that the moment that you do that, I believe that you will step into political immortality,” the conservative news website quoted Hagee as saying.

A Jewish investor linked to the Russia probe bought alt-right domain names

NEW YORK (JTA)—A Jewish principal in an investment firm linked to an investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election said he bought website domain names linked to the “alt-right” movement in a personal capacity.

Frederick Intrater, brother of the chief executive of Columbus Nova, said he had had for years bought domain names related to trending topics in order to later sell them off for a profit, according to a statement posted Thursday on Twitter by Washington Post reporter Eli Rosenberg.

Rosenberg had reported in the Washington Post on Wednesday that the company was listed as the registrant behind alt-right-related domain names created during the 2016 presidential election.

Social media meddling is a key part of the Russia probe, and alt-right sites were seen as sources of pro-Trump information during the 2016 campaign. Columbus Nova’s biggest investor is Russian billionaire Viktor Vekselberg, who is Intrater’s cousin and was among those targeted by U.S. sanctions imposed earlier this year punishing Russia for its interference in the U.S. election.

Intrater, who is Jewish, said his purchases of domain names related to the alt-right, a loose right-wing movement that includes white nationalists and anti-Semites, were done in a personal capacity and not related to Columbus Nova although he acknowledged sometimes having used his work emails to register the domains.

Intrater said he had bought the domain names at a time “when there was mainly an ultra-conservative perception of ‘alt right’” and that he later decided to let them expire rather than sell them since they had “connotations that are inconsistent with my moral beliefs.”

“To conclude that I support white supremacy or anti-Semitism is unreasonable given what I’ve described above and also taking into consideration that I am a Jew and son of a Holocaust survivor,” Intrater said.

Intrater reportedly has

been interviewed as part of an investigation into Russian interference into the 2016 election being led by special prosecutor Robert Mueller. The company said on Wednesday that it had hired in 2017 as a consultant Michael Cohen, the lawyer under federal scrutiny for his role in paying off a woman who said she had an extramarital affair with President Donald Trump.

At least 50 Palestinians reported dead in border protests on day of US embassy move

JERUSALEM (JTA)—At least 50 Gazan Palestinians have been killed at the border with Israel, where tens of thousands have gathered for protests in the hours before the dedication of the new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem.

About 50,000 Palestinians massed on the border by mid-afternoon on Monday. Several thousand more Palestinian protesters were located more than a quarter of a mile from the border fence in a tent area, the IDF said. There are at least 10 flashpoint areas along the border.

In addition to the dead, more than 1,000 are injured, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which has reported that one of the dead protesters is 14. The IDF said that it is responding with riot dispersal means is “operating according to standard operating procedures.”

Protesters in the West Bank also began marching from Ramallah toward the Qalandiya checkpoint near Jerusalem, with smaller marches starting out from other West Bank cities such as Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus and Jericho.

The protests are part of the March of Return, protests that have taken place every Friday at the border for the last seven weeks, leaving at least 48 Palestinian protesters dead and thousands wounded. The protests were supposed to end on May 14, the day on the Gregorian calendar when Israel became an independent state 70 years ago, which the Arab world calls the Nakba, or catastrophe. Hamas leaders have called for the protests to continue beyond Monday, however.

The IDF warned that up to 250,000 Palestinian protesters could come to the Gaza border on Monday and breach it, entering Israel.

“The IDF is prepared for a variety of scenarios. IDF commanders are present in the field and are conducting situation assessments. The IDF will act forcefully against any terrorist activity and will operate to prevent attacks against Israelis,” the military said in a statement that also appeared on Twitter.

“The IDF will act harshly against any terrorist activity and will act to preserve Israeli sovereignty and prevent attacks on civilians and soldiers,” the statement said.

In an English-language video posted on social media, the IDF warned: “On Monday May 14th, the Hamas terrorist organization plans to send armed terrorists, among 250,000 violent rioters to swarm and breach Israel’s border with Gaza and enter Israeli communities. Hamas

plans to carry out a massacre in Israel. The Israel Defense Forces will not let them.”

The B’Tselem human rights organization said in a statement in response to the Palestinian deaths: “The demonstrations held in Gaza today came as no surprise. Israel had plenty of time to come up with alternate approaches for dealing with the protests, apart from firing live ammunition. The fact that live gunfire is once again the sole measure that the Israeli military is using in the field evinces appalling indifference towards human life on the part of senior Israeli government and military officials.” The statement called on soldiers to refuse to comply with open-fire orders.

Meanwhile, at least five wildfires are burning near Jewish communities in southern Israel, which broke out after kites carrying explosives were flown from Gaza over the border.

HUC appoints Rabbi David Ellenson as interim president after death of Rabbi Aaron Panken

JTA—The Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion appointed Rabbi David Ellenson to serve as interim president, following the death of Rabbi Aaron Panken in a plane crash earlier this month.

On Monday, the Reform movement’s flagship seminary, said Ellenson would serve as interim president of its four campuses in New York, Jerusalem, Cincinnati and Los Angeles. He previously served in the role from 2001 to 2013, prior to Panken’s appointment.

Panken, a licensed pilot, was killed on May 5 at the age of 53 while piloting a small aircraft near Wawayanda, New York, near the New Jersey border. A passenger, Frank Reiss, a flight instructor, was injured in the crash. The cause of the accident is unclear and pending investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

Panken was remembered by colleagues and friends as a joyful leader who was passionate about Israel and embodied “the best of the Reform movement.”

In a statement on Monday, Ellenson, who is concluding his tenure as director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University, praised Panken’s legacy.

“Rabbi Aaron Panken will be remembered for his leadership, skills, visions, judgment, and ability to inspire and move others to action,” Ellenson said. “I am confident that his dreams for HUC-JIR will yet be realized through the foundations he constructed and the visions he has bequeathed us. These dreams and visions will constitute his unforgettable monument, as we secure his enduring legacy.”

Ellenson is a scholar of modern Jewish thought and history who has worked at institutions including the University of Southern California, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Shalom Hartman Institute, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and New York University.

American contributors to the U.S.-Israel relationship

A.M. ('Abe') Rosenthal and William Safire

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

(Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C. via JNS)—The New York Times is well-known for its criticism of Israel, which is what makes the work of A.M. ("Abe") Rosenthal (1922–2006) and William Safire (1929–2009) stand out all the more.

When A.M. Rosenthal arrived at The New York Times in the 1950s, Jewish reporters were instructed not to use their first names if these

were "too Jewish." Its overseas bureaus deliberately limited the number of their Jewish writers, and the paper at times worried about appearing too partial to Jews. This changed when A.M. Rosenthal became managing editor in 1969, and in his subsequent positions as an executive editor and columnist. A determined truth-teller, Rosenthal was unashamed about his Judaism and unapologetic in his support for Israel.

Born in Canada and raised in a secular family in the Bronx, Rosenthal showed his Jewish consciousness with his first famous article, which appeared in 1958: "There Is No News from Auschwitz." The article exposed readers

to the horror of a visit to the death camp.

Over the decades, Rosenthal was a lucid and persuasive pro-Israel voice at The New York Times. In 1999, he presciently saw that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was not committed to peace. Whatever his public pronouncements, Arafat, stated Rosenthal, remained bent on "Israel's defeat or the desiccation of its national will." His support for Israel never ran dry until his final column.

Rosenthal's pro-Israel stance helped pave the way for his Pulitzer Prize-winning colleague William Safire, the renowned language and opinion columnist who came to the paper after leaving the

Nixon administration in 1973. Possessing a razor-sharp pen, Safire could humble the mightiest for any political or linguistic slip.

Yet he could also defend and praise, and he frequently did so in support of the Jewish state. Indeed, a consistent theme of his columns was the danger that terrorism posed to both America and Israel. On numerous occasions, Safire stridently called on Palestinian leaders to renounce violence and turn to building their society.

Safire enjoyed a decades-long friendship with late Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and in many interviews with him, Safire allowed Sharon's opinions on



Alamy Stock Photo, Richard Ellis; Associated Press
William Safire (l) and A.M. ("Abe") Rosenthal.

strategic matters to gain a fair hearing in the most important international venue. The Safire-Sharon friendship proved especially vital during the years of Second Intifada (2000-05), when Safire, often speaking with Sharon, con-

veyed the grave threat that Israel faced and the necessity of its self-defense.

These two fixtures at the "Grey Lady"—America's most prestigious newspaper—consistently made the case that justice was on Israel's side.

Some rabbis say it isn't kosher to borrow from Quicken Loans because it's run by Jews

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA)—If you're an Orthodox Jew with a mortgage from Quicken Loans, you might be in trouble.

Agudath Israel of America, a major haredi Orthodox organization, issued a Jewish legal ruling last month prohibiting Jews from taking out loans from the company because it is majority-owned by Jews. Quicken Loans, which claims to be America's largest mortgage lender, also owns Rocket Mortgage, the online mortgage agency.

Jewish law, known as halacha, forbids Jews from charging interest to other Jews. So

Jews are allowed to own mortgage agencies and lend to non-Jewish customers but they are not allowed to sell fellow Jews a 30-year fixed rate (or anything else). Likewise, if you're a new Jewish homeowner, halacha says you are not allowed to take out a mortgage with a Jewish-owned company. The same also goes for other kinds of loans.

"Prominent leading halachic authorities have issued a [ruling] that any Jew who obtains a loan with interest from QL or any of its subsidiaries is in danger of transgressing the prohibition of Ribbis D'oraisa," said the Agudath Israel ruling, using a Hebrew term for the bibli-

cal commandment against interest.

So what do Jews do if they want to lend each other money—say, in Israel, where most businesses are owned by Jews? There is a way out.

In the Middle Ages, rabbis devised a contract called a "heter iska," or business permit, that technically transforms the loan into a co-investment. Instead of being a lender and a borrower, the two parties are now "business partners," where one supplies the capital and the other uses it as they see fit.

Agudath Israel says Jews can keep using Quicken Loans—that is, if they sign a heter iska.

On Monday, Quicken responded to a query saying it was open to the idea.

"Over the next 30 days, Quicken Loans will assemble a committee to quickly and efficiently dive into the issue of 'Heter Iska,' and once and for all attempt to find a solution that the observant Jewish community, as well as our legal and capital markets team, finds acceptable. I am confident that this can and will be achieved," said a statement attributed to Dan Gilbert, chairman of Rock Holdings, Quicken's parent company. Gilbert also owns several sports franchises, including the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Agudath Israel is resolute on the issue: no heter iska, no Quicken Loans mortgage. And if you're an Orthodox Jew with an existing Quicken Loans mortgage? Too bad. You need to dissolve it and start over.

"The rabbis of the Conference felt an obligation to let the public know... that loans can only be taken out from the company with a valid heter iska," Agudath Israel's spokesman, Rabbi Avi Shafran, wrote in an email to JTA. "Existing loans should be dissolvable and re-created within a heter iska framework to permit them."

Rabbi Mordechai Frankel,

director of the Institute of Halacha at Star-K, a kosher certification agency, said some smaller Jewish-owned banks are familiar with using the heter iska.

"There are small banks that are Jewish-owned that do have the heter iska," he said. "If the person lives in an area with a large concentration of Orthodox people, the bank will become comfortable with the concept and become more open to it."

Frankel doesn't know whether Quicken would agree to the contract. But if not, he said, there are always the big banks—which are all, as far as he knows, kosher to lend money.

Embassy

From page 1A

see who could offer the most expansive plaudits as their constituents posted memes on social media describing the president in almost messianic terms.

Addressing the dedication ceremony via video, President Donald Trump asserted that "for many years we failed to acknowledge the obvious, the plain reality that Israel's capital is Jerusalem." He bragged that "on my direction, the United States finally and officially recognized Jerusalem as the true capital of Israel."

Likely responding to Palestinian assertions that such recognition hampers efforts at a negotiated settlement to the conflict, Trump asserted that the United States was "committed to facilitating a lasting peace agreement" and to the maintenance of the status quo on the Temple Mount.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked his American counterpart effusively, saying that Israel had "no better friends in the world" and that "by recognizing history" Trump had "made history."

"Thank you, President Trump for having the courage to keep your promises," he continued. "Thank you for making the alliance between Israel and America stronger than ever."

Despite the violence accompanying the embassy move, Trump adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner told attendees at the ceremony that "previously unimaginable alliances are emerging" and that the U.S. would support a peace agreement in which "both sides can get more than they give." Last week, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain welcomed Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal and re-impose sanctions on Tehran.

Kushner also laid the blame for the fighting in Gaza squarely on the Palestinians, stating that "those provoking violence are part of the problem and not part of the solution."

Likewise, Netanyahu, who juxtaposed Trump's Embassy decision with the Balfour Declaration promising British support for a Jewish homeland, called Monday a "great day for peace."

"The truth and peace are interconnected. A peace built on lies will crash on the rocks of Middle Eastern realities and the truth is that Jerusalem will always be the capital of the Jewish state," he said. "May the truth advance a lasting peace between us and our neighbors."

Both administration figures and Israeli politicians heaped praise on the president in response to the em-

bassy move. At a reception organized by the Orthodox Union at Jerusalem's Waldorf Astoria hotel on Monday morning, former Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., one of the architects of the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act, told JTA that it had been "very frustrating and disappointing every time a president of the United States suspended the implementation of that act" and that he was "thrilled" by Trump's decision. The Jerusalem Embassy Act recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and called for the relocation of the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but Trump's predecessors declined to implement it, citing foreign policy concerns.

Asked if he believed that Trump's involvement would turn Israel into a partisan issue, Lieberman replied that his bill had been bi-partisan and "support for Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is broadly supported by members of both parties."

Others present were unrestrained in their praise. U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman extolled the president's "courage, vision, strength and moral clarity." The O.U.'s Mark Bane called Trump "God's messenger on this important day." Citing his decision to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal, Justice Minister

Ayelet Shaked called Trump the "the [Winston] Churchill of the 21st century."

This rhetoric was off-putting to some attendees, who decried what they saw as excessive. While there was no question that the embassy move was significant, "the focus needs to be on the essence and not about Trump," opposition MK Pnina Tamano-Shata of Yesh Atid told JTA.

"To compare him to Churchill or to Balfour is a little exaggerated. The state of Israel and the people of Israel know that our capital is Jerusalem and the transfer of the Embassy is [correct] but let's take things in proportion. I am for our nation celebrating but we also need to be careful that we don't excessively praise in an exaggerated sense of euphoria ... and not to raise up a man in an exaggerated way," she said.

Asked about how Israeli leaders were addressing Trump, Dan Shapiro, who served as U.S. ambassador to Israel under President Barack Obama, told JTA that it was understandable that they were engaging in "hyperbole" because "it's become accepted in international circles that the way to gain favor with President Trump is to engage in excessive flattery."

Shapiro said he supported the embassy move but harbored reservations about

how it was implemented. He explained that Israel was doing "everything possible to have the best possible relation with the president of the United States" and that this was "completely legitimate."

However, he cautioned, "it would be advisable to bear in mind the significant number of Americans deeply who are alienated from this president on other issues" and to work on "maintaining the historic bi-partisan nature of this relationship."

MK Ayman Odeh, an Arab Israeli who heads the Knesset's Joint List, linked the killing of Gaza protesters—who are engaged in a six-week series of demonstrations to coincide with Israel's 70th anniversary celebrations—to the embassy dedication.

"The opening of the American embassy in Jerusalem and its grand ceremony is part of the same policy that has claimed the lives of dozens of Gazans," Odeh said in a statement. "Today, there is nothing to celebrate. The opening of the embassy is yet another provocative step that signals the destruction of the notion of peace. The Netanyahu-Trump alliance continues to deepen the conflict."

Meanwhile, in East Jerusalem, the mood was subdued. Near the Damascus Gate, tourists and Arab shoppers mingled, watched by dozens

of police officers clad in body armor and carrying automatic weapons. Local residents, while unhappy with the American decision, seemed apathetic in the face of a reality they couldn't change.

Inside the Old City's Arab market, a man who identified himself only as Yassir sat in his dress shop, watching news footage from Gaza. "Trump is playing with fire," he said. "There could be war all over. The people of Gaza don't care if they die." Asked why there wasn't any significant unrest in East Jerusalem, Yassir replied resignedly that it was "very difficult living directly with the Israelis" and that any young man who went out in the street would end up with a police record that would follow him for life.

"It's different in Gaza, the authorities support the protests," he said.

In a nearby restaurant, a man named Tawfik expressed similarly fatalistic attitude, asserting that the Israelis had Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states in their pockets. Trump, he said, was "more Jewish than the Jews." The Palestinians "have to be smart," he continued, claiming that if Jerusalem residents took to the streets "the Jews will kill us and say we are against peace."

"I'm not ready for my son to go out and die," he said.

Shabbat

From page 1A

Havdalah with people from around the country.”

Everyone on the trip stayed in the homes of observant families. Layish said it made for a “truly tranquil Shabbat.”

Dr. Bruce Hoffen highly recommends Shabbat in the Heights. He, too, “experienced a beautiful and meaningful Shabbat with wonderful people, inspired learning and elegant meals.”

Hoffen had heard how beautiful Shabbat in Crown Heights was from his eldest daughter, Sara. In November 2017 she attended Pegisha, a Chabad Shabbaton for Jewish college students in New York City.

“After her trip,” he stated, “I knew I had to go to Crown Heights and see for myself how

amazing a Shabbat weekend could be.”

The weekend included speakers, spirited worship and a Shabbat lunch with 45 people, hosted by Rabbi Majesky’s parents in their home. The group also had the opportunity to visit the Rebbe’s house (Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson) and grave.

“It was a truly Jewishly transformative experience,” said Hoffen.

For Akiva Anderson, the most meaningful part of the weekend was going to 770 Eastern Parkway (central headquarters of the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement) and the Ohel (The Rebbe’s resting place).

“I have learned so many of the Rebbe’s teachings, heard so much about his love for every human being and been

touched and inspired by Chabad Shluchim - the Rebbe’s emissaries,” he said. “It was very moving to visit 770, and was touching to watch and hear the Chassidim singing ancient melodies at the end of Shabbos in 770. One can feel very close to Hashem at these holy places.”

For Layish the trip also meant spending quality time with old friends and making new friends. “I would go back again in a heartbeat!”

For more information on how to join this trip next year or learn of other JLI programs, please contact Rabbi Yanky Majesky at Rabbi@JewishNorthOrlando.com or 407-636-5994

But don’t wait until next April, the Majeskys will be leading a local group to the National Jewish Retreat in Rhode Island this August



The Central Florida group posing in front of 770 Eastern Parkway. back row (l-r), Akiva Anderson, Dr. Bruce Hoffen, Staci Layish, Dr. Dan Layish; front row (l-r), Jerry and Susan Lewin, Chanshy and Rabby Yanky Majesky (holding baby Menny), and Happy and Arnie Frank. Not present for the photo were Ken Feldman and Dr. Michael and Ody Zerivitz.

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both body and soul. For more information on the

Retreat, please visit www.JRetreat.com.

Kay

From page 1A

years later, they moved to Israel for a year so Rabbi Kay could study in Jerusalem, and then returned to New York to complete preparations for his ordination. Rabbi Kay’s first pulpit was in a newly formed small congregation in Naples, Fla.,

where he spent a student year and continued as rabbi for two years.

When the opportunity arose to join a well-established congregation in Orlando as assistant rabbi, Rabbi Kay was intrigued. He recalls that the day he came as a candidate to meet the COS leadership and professional staff was a

Wednesday—a busy day for the religious school and youth programs. He was very impressed with the vibrant and engaged congregation he was introduced to that day, and the people he met were impressed with him. It was clear from the beginning that this would be a good fit.

His nearly 14 years of

service to Ohev Shalom have given him important insights that will serve him well in his new role, Rabbi Kay noted. “Jo and I already know what it’s like to raise a child, navigate B’nei Mitzvah and teen years, and be empty nesters in this community,” he said. “We experience so many of

life’s joys and losses, successes and failures, here—we’re not only community leaders, we’re community members, too.”

Of his new position as spiritual leader of COS, Rabbi Kay said, “I’m honored and humbled to step into this role just as Ohev Shalom celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Our second century begins in a rapidly changing world, with challenges that past generations never imagined and potential that past generations never dreamed of. Meeting the challenges and tapping into the potential are the keys to our continuing success in serving the Jewish community.”

Rowling

From page 5A

“play music, accept awards, attend exhibitions, festivals or conferences, run master classes or workshops” anywhere in the Jewish state, Rowling refused to sign on to these hateful letters demonizing the Jewish state. Instead, she joined 150 other British writers and artists pledging to resist pervasive calls to boycott Israel.

“Israelis will be right to ask why cultural boycotts are not also being proposed against... North Korea and Zimbabwe, whose leaders are not generally considered paragons by the international community,” Rowling and her fellow signatories wrote in their Oct. 23, 2015 letter: “Cultural engagement builds bridges, nurtures freedom and positive movement for change.”

France Manifesto

A few days after Rowling’s recent twitter exchanges attacking anti-Semitism, hundreds of French cultural and political figures wrote their own manifesto denouncing the wave of extreme violence that has seen Jews murdered and attacked in France over the past several years. The letter appeared in French newspapers on Sunday, April 22, 2018.

Over 300 French celebrities and politicians, including former President Nicolas Sarkozy and the actor Gerard Depardieu, noted “In our recent history, 11 Jews have been assassinated - and some tortured - by radical Islamists because they were Jewish.”

The signatories decried this horror and declared that a “new anti-Semitism” char-

acterized by “Islamist radicalization” is sweeping France, endangering the country’s half a million Jews. “We demand that the fight against this democratic failure that is anti-Semitism becomes a national cause before it’s too late. Before France is no longer France.” Their letter appealed for the French public to stand side by side with their nation’s Jews.

Kippah Walk in Berlin

A similar move to show solidarity and support for a Jewish minority was also announced this week in Germany. On April 17, 2018, a 21-year-old Israeli Arab named Adam Arush was visiting Berlin and decided to conduct an experiment after a conversation with a Jewish friend. “My friend told me that wearing Jewish symbols in public is not safe in Berlin,”

Arush later explained. Arush couldn’t believe it was really so dangerous, so he put on a kippah and headed out for a walk in Berlin to see what would happen.

Soon, a 19-year-old Syrian asylum seeker set upon Arush, hitting him with a belt and screaming “Jew” in Arabic. Arush had to be rushed to the hospital, but not before filming his attack, which quickly went viral.

Berlin’s Jewish community organized a “Kippah Walk” on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The community handed out thousands of kippahs, aided by a broad group of religious, political and academic organizations who urged Berliners to don a kippah in solidarity with the Jewish community.

Similar walks are being planned in other German

towns too. A kippah walk in the eastern German city of Erfurt will end at a local synagogue. “If you can’t make it to Erfurt, then wear a kippah wherever you happen to be at that time,” the organizers are explaining to the many Germans who plan to walk in solidarity with their nation’s Jews.

In Frankfurt, Deputy Mayor Uwe Becker called on his city’s residents to don kippahs on April 25, as well - and even posted a picture of himself online wearing the Jewish head covering to help motivate his city.

It’s not always simple to stand up for our principles. J. K. Rowling put it well in her bestselling Harry Potter series: the kindly headmaster Albus Dumbledore tells his students, “We must all face the choice between what

is right and what is easy.” Rowling’s stirring opposition to anti-Semitism is an inspirational example of standing up principles, no matter how unfashionable they might seem.

And this week, luminaries including J. K. Rowling, French celebrities and German officials are making it clear they stand with the embattled Jewish minorities within their midst. Let’s all heed their example and start standing up in opposition to anti-Semitism and Jew-hatred wherever it exists.

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

Diaspora

From page 5A

refuse to give up. Seeing a Jew drift away from our heritage and traditions, away from our people, hurts me. It is like watching a sibling walk away from the family—I’ll do what I can to stop it and make him return. We are losing millions of Jews, and history will judge our efforts to reverse this dangerous trend. Giving up simply is not an option.

Over the past five years, we have invested unprecedented resources into creating an infrastructure capable of working with Jewish leaders to save a generation of Jews. Through Project Momentum, Campus Engagement and other projects, we will do everything we can to keep our family intact.

As we celebrate Israel’s 70th Independence Day, we find ourselves at a crossroads: One

path leads to a utopian situation, the other to an almost dystopian reality. If we make the wrong choice, in 50 years we will find ourselves with a small U.S. Jewish community feeling anything from apathy to disdain toward Israel. They won’t feel connected to us, and we won’t feel connected to them. The right choice, however, will help ensure that 50, 100 and 500 years from today, the world Jewry

community will be large, with a strong Jewish identity and open embrace of Zionism.

Such a path, in my vision, also leads to the communities in Israel and the world working together to fulfill the Jewish destiny—doing good and repairing a broken world. This isn’t a simple task;

it will take effort and time. But it must be done.

In 2018, unlike 1948, Israel is a strong country, and while we greatly appreciate and welcome the support of Diaspora communities, we no longer depend on it. After 70 years of the Diaspora Jews helping Israel, it is time for Israel to

help Diaspora Jews.

Naftali Bennett is Israel’s minister of education and Diaspora affairs.

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

Calm

From page 7A

the Lebanon War] but it can definitely get to this point. If it’s a war against Iran it means it’s going to get quite crazy.”

Despite the tensions, most of the Israelis who spoke with JTA said they supported Trump’s decision. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made opposing the deal—and Iran’s nuclear ambitions—the centerpiece of his tenure. When the deal was passed in 2015, both the

Israeli governing coalition and its opposition came out against it.

“Even if there are tensions, it’s important for us to have security,” said Yosef Yosef, 56, of Tel Aviv. “In general I think we needed to cancel the agreement. I don’t trust Bibi at all, but Bibi isn’t relevant to whether there should be an agreement.”

Israelis also said that threats of war are nothing new. Terror groups have existed on Israel’s border for

decades, so the possibility of conflict is always there. This, they said, was just another one of those times.

“We’re already used to tension, so it hasn’t crossed the line where I really start to worry,” said Moria, 34, a Tel Aviv resident who declined to give her last name. “Every so often there’s something it seems like we need to be worried about, and we’ve already become jaded. So in some ways, yes, it’s troubling, but I don’t feel existential angst.”

Dvorchik

From page 1A

support and helping me along every step of this journey. I’d also like to thank all the coaches that have helped me get to this point, especially Coach Eli, Coach Elvig and Coach Carter. I also want to thank Chris Rubio, I wouldn’t

be where I am today without you. Thank you to all my amazing teammates and anybody else who has helped me along the way. With that being said, I’d like to announce my commitment to further my academic and athletic career at the University of Central Florida!”

Don’t be surprised to find one day Dvorchik’s name listed with wide receiver Julian Edelman or quarterback Jay Fiedler or offensive tackle/guard Kyle Kosier—all three of whom are on the list of 10 greatest Jewish football players according to the American Jewish Historical Society.

Deal

From page 4A

and nuclear domains, the above scenarios illustrate the range of options available to the regime. By ending its adherence to the JCPOA—a

move this author advised against—the U.S. must be prepared to offset any of the above responses by Iran.

Behnam Ben Taleblu is a Research Fellow focusing on Iran at the Foundation for

Defense of Democracies in Washington, D.C.

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The Italian cycling champion who saved Jews during the Holocaust is given honorary Israeli citizenship



Keystone/Hulton Archive/Getty Images
Gino Bartali in 1954.

By Ben Sales

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Gino Bartali had already won the

Tour de France once and the Giro d'Italia twice when he started taking the most dramatic bicycle rides of his life.

Bartali was an Italian cyclist who grew up in a Tuscan village and whose championships in the mid-1930s were the pride of the nation—and Benito Mussolini's fascist government. But the admiration was not mutual: Bartali refused requests to dedicate his Tour de France championship to the dictator, and later began working to undermine fascism and save its victims.

In the early 1940s, Bartali worked secretly as a courier for the Italian resistance. Nicknamed the "Iron Man of Tuscany," Bartali was famous for hours-long training rides through the Tuscan Hills, and he would hide documents in his bicycle frame and ferry them between resistance bases.

When the Nazis occupied northern and central Italy in 1943, Bartali began transporting fake identity papers for Italian Jews. His efforts earned him the designation of Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, in 2013. And on Wednesday, in a ceremony at its museum, he was posthumously given honorary Israeli citizenship.

"His legend is unique because he used the very same pedals to win many competitions, but one [victory] was the most beautiful, the richest, the bravest of all," Gianluigi Benedetti, Italy's ambassador to Israel, said at the ceremony.

"The greatest victory that Gino Bartali brought home was the one against evil."

The ceremony was part of the lead-up to the Giro d'Italia, one of cycling's three major races along with the Tour de France and the Vuelta de Espana. The Giro takes place mostly in Italy, but is holding its "Big Start," the race's opening three stages, in Israel this year for the first time. The first stage will be dedicated to Bartali's memory.

"There is nothing more symbolic than dedicating our participation in the Giro to the man who won the Giro and saved so many," said Ran Margalio, head of the Israel Cycling Academy team. "We

have a special connection to him, a psychic connection, human connection, national connection."

Born in 1914, Bartali was a devout Catholic, and was married by Archbishop Elia Dalla Costa of Florence, who also aided in hiding Jews during the Holocaust, according to a biography provided by Yad Vashem. When Bartali began aiding Jews during the Holocaust, he worked with the Florentine Rabbi Nathan Cassuto, who operated the network of hidden Italian Jews. Cassuto was killed by the Nazis.

For a year, Bartali ferried false papers for Jews, enabling them to escape to safe places like Switzerland. He also hid a Jewish family in an apartment he owned in Florence. He would avoid capture by asking police not to touch his bike, which he said was configured specially for his racing. But his activities raised suspicion in 1944 when no races were taking place because of the war and he was arrested.

"He was a very generous person," his granddaughter, Gioia Bartali, said in a speech in Italian at the citizenship ceremony. "He saved human life. He was a man of peace."

After the war, Bartali refused to speak about his activities out of humility, so the exact number of Jews he saved is not known. Years later he told his story privately to a relative of Cassuto, and since then it has been pieced together by survivors and acquaintances.

Bartali went on to win the Giro d'Italia in 1946, the first year it was held after World War II. He won the Tour de France in 1948, a dozen years after his first title. He died in 2000.

"He did it because he could not accept the injustice that exists in the world," Benedetti said. "He kept his heroic acts a secret for many years because, as Gino Bartali said, 'Good should be done, and not said.'"

Giro d'Italia provided flights and lodging to JTA.

Obama, Kerry slam Trump's withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal

By Batya Jerenberg
World Israel News

It was the signature deal of Barack Obama's presidency, and President Trump's dramatic announcement Tuesday that he was withdrawing from it engendered very sharp reactions from both the former president and his secretary of state, John Kerry, who oversaw the negotiations with Iran.

Obama reiterated the main argument he made when Congress was debating in 2015 whether to agree to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the formal name of the nuclear accord.

"Without the JCPOA, the United States could eventually be left with a losing choice between a nuclear-armed Iran or another war in the Middle East," he said, adding that a

nuclear Iran "could embolden an already dangerous regime; threaten our friends with destruction; pose unacceptable dangers to America's own security; and trigger an arms race in the world's most dangerous region."

He also invoked the upcoming US negotiations with North Korea as another reason why the president's decision was "so misguided."

"The consistent flouting of agreements that our country is a party to, risks eroding America's credibility, and puts us at odds with the world's major powers," his statement continued.

What Obama left out of his statement is that the JCPOA was an international compact that was entered into by the United States only through an executive agreement signed by Obama. It

was never a treaty ratified by Congress. The White House deliberately constructed it differently since a treaty needs to be approved by two-thirds of Congress, a hurdle which many believe the JCPOA never could have overcome.

Indeed, over 50 senators voted to disapprove the deal the three times they tried, while in the House of Representatives the various resolutions introduced against different parts of the deal were handily won by deal's opponents. However, the requirement in this case was to get veto-proof and filibuster-proof majorities to kill the accord, and this could not be done.

Kerry claims withdrawal hurts Israel

Kerry's condemnation of the pullout perhaps surprisingly mentioned Israel specifically as being a potential

loser from Trump's move, even though Jerusalem has always stood firmly against the accord and praised Trump unstintingly for keeping his campaign promise to get America out of the "horrible deal," as Trump repeatedly called it.

"Today's announcement weakens our security, breaks America's word, isolates us from our European allies, puts Israel at greater risk, empowers Iran's hardliners, and reduces our global leverage to address Tehran's misbehavior, while damaging the ability of future Administrations to make international agreements," Kerry said in his statement.

Earlier in the week, Trump condemned Kerry for conducting "shadow diplomacy" over recent weeks with both the Iranians and fellow-

signatories in Europe to try to preserve the deal, calling his meetings "possibly illegal." Kerry's spokesman rejected the accusation in a written statement.

"I think every American would want every voice possible urging Iran to remain in compliance with the nuclear agreement that prevented a war... Like America's closest allies, he believes it is important that the nuclear agreement, which took the world years to negotiate, remain effective as countries focus on stability in the region," stated Kerry's spokesman.

What Obama left out of his statement is that the JCPOA was an international compact that was entered into by the United States only through an executive agreement signed by Obama. It was never a treaty ratified by Congress. The White House deliberately constructed it differently since a treaty needs to be approved by two-thirds of Congress, a hurdle which many believe the JCPOA never could have overcome.

Jewish and pro-Israel groups' reactions pour in on Trump's withdrawal from Iran deal

By Sean Savage

(JNS)—Reactions from American Jewish and pro-Israel groups poured in following U.S. President Donald Trump's decision on Tuesday afternoon to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal.

Among mainstream Jewish organizations came both strong support and tepid approval for the decision.

World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder lauded Trump for his "unmistakable message to Iran that its threats will not be tolerated."

"Iran is a rogue nation ruled by a regime that cannot be trusted to honor its word, and even more so with nuclear capabilities that would enable it to wreak havoc on the world and cause a catastrophic arms race in the region," said Lauder. B'nai B'rith International

also commended Trump on his decision.

"B'nai B'rith is encouraged that the president recognized the deal's many weaknesses. We urge our European partners to join the United States in pressuring Iran to curb its nuclear activity. The reimposition of sanctions would send a clear message that the existing agreement cannot stand, and an Iran with nuclear weapons will not be tolerated," President Gary P. Saltzman and CEO Daniel S. Mariaschin said in a statement.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said it hopes that Trump's announcement will allow for an agreement "would ensure that Iran never obtains a nuclear-weapons capability that would augment its ability to create mayhem in the region through its support of terrorism."

Chairman Stephen M. Greenberg and executive vice chairman/CEO Malcolm Hoenlein added: "We hope that a more comprehensive arrangement with stricter compliance rules, a prohibition against the development of long- and short-range ballistic missiles, any weaponization program, and, of course, human-rights violations will become a reality. Sanctions targeting banking and energy sectors of the Iranian economy should be imposed."

Similarly, the American Jewish Committee, despite noting its past opposition to the agreement in 2015—which the Jewish group said did not contain provisions on Iran's ballistic-missile development, destabilizing regional behavior, weakness in the inspection regime and dangerous sunset clauses—said it had hoped to see "the

deal 'fixed,' not 'nix'd,' at this stage of the game," said AJC CEO David Harris.

"We can only hope that today's action by the president, significant as it is, will not end the effort to find common ground," said Harris. "The last thing anyone should want is a wedge driven between the U.S. and our European partners, as Iran would inevitably become an unintended beneficiary. And given Iran's current and future threats to regional and global security, that should be an outcome no one in the U.S. or Europe wants."

The Anti-Defamation League also took a more measured approach, neither praising or condemning the announcement.

"With or without the JCPOA, the administration, Congress and the international community must cooperate to reach an end that all desire: to prevent Iran from acquiring

nuclear weapons, its aggressive militarism across the region, its direct threats against Israel and other U.S. regional allies, and its unacceptable, systemic human-rights violations against ethnic and religious minorities, women, LGBTQ, activists and other groups inside Iran," said ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt.

In 2015, the ADL expressed "deep reservations" about the Iranian nuclear deal, calling its shortcomings "too great a risk to the U.S. and for our critical allies like Israel."

However, Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of left-wing "pro-Israel, pro-peace" group J Street, came out squarely opposed to Trump's announcement. "It's a very sad day when the United States abdicates leadership, reneges on its word and walks away from a deal that has successfully blocked all of Iran's pathways to a nuclear bomb."

Orthodox Jewish groups voiced support for Trump's decision, with the National Council of Young Israel calling it "historic and heroic," while the Orthodox Union said it will "support the president's coming actions to bring true and lasting security to the Middle East and beyond."

Christians United for Israel, with more than 4 million members and purportedly the largest pro-Israel group in the United States, also applauded the decision.

"This deal was flawed from the beginning, and largely backed by those far more focused on securing an agreement than preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons," said CUI founder and Chairman Pastor John Hagee. "No agreement based on Iran's lies and the Obama Administration's half-truths was going to withstand the test of time."