



**Knights for Israel members (l-r): Emily Aspinwall, Sam Busey, Jake Suster, Jesse Benjamin Slomowitz and Benji Osterman, accepted the David Bar-Ilan Award for Outstanding Campus Activism.**

## Knights for Israel honored at Camera Gala 2018

**By Jake Suster  
 First person**

This year, UCF's Knights for Israel was honored with the David Bar-Ilan Award for Outstanding Campus Activism. This award signified a tremendous amount of accomplishments for the organization. When CAMERA called with the great news, we understood why we were being awarded. The fact of the matter is that our presence on campus, as well as the work we do advocating, educating and celebrating the state of Israel, is effective in making the University of Central

Florida arguably the most pro-Israel college in the country.

Two years ago, KFI had faced Students for Justice in Palestine and their notorious Israeli-Apartheid Week. We answered with our own Israel Peace Week. That week was a huge success as we contested SJP's "die-in" with our own demonstration calling out their members for their lies. KFI had so much student involvement that there was never a dull moment. Our event was such a success that we made an annual tradition out of it, while at the same time, there hasn't been a single sign of SJP on our campus

or anything about the dishonest Israeli-Apartheid Week.

While we did earn this award for the work we've done in past years, this was more about the future, especially for the underclassmen that have had immense involvement these past two years. Their involvement this past year has been the greatest factor in our success, and in their eyes, they are not looking to lose that momentum. They are only striving to improve this wonderful organization. It speaks volumes that we went

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## A must-see film addresses the growing threats to the West

The new Central Florida Chapter of the Zionist Organization of America will host the screening of the hard-hitting documentary film, "Fight of Our Lives: Defeating the Ideological War Against the West," followed by Q&A with director/producer Gloria Z. Greenfield at its first community event on June 19, 7:30 p.m., at Congregation Ohev Shalom.

"The Fight of Our

Lives" opens with a warning from historian Niall Ferguson, "Civilizations, empires, great powers can fall apart very fast. Collapse can come quickly, like a thief in the night."

The film addresses the threats—both internal and external—facing Western civilization today.

Greenfield's works center around anti-Semitism, history, Judeo-Christian values, freedom and democracy. Her previous work includes "Body and Soul—The State of the Jewish Nation" in 2014, "Unmasked Judeophobia" in 2011, and "The Case for Israel—Democracy's Outpost" in 2009. She is the president of Doc Emet.

Mark Tapson, a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center and a featured speaker in the film, wrote in Frontpage Mag, "With 'The Fight of Our Lives,' Gloria Greenfield has created a riveting and disturbing, but ultimately enlightening and inspirational, clarion call for the Western world to wake up and reverse its decadent course before it's too late. Its urgent message is one that deserves as wide an audience as possible."

The documentary features observations and insights

from well-known historians, journalists, and thinkers such as Ferguson, Alan Dershowitz, Melanie Phillips, Alan West, and many more respected commentators from academia, human rights organizations, and think tanks.

"In the film, Niall Ferguson recalls Edmund Burke's observation that civilization is a pact between the dead, the living, and the yet unborn," stated Tapson. "I cannot stress enough how important it is to view 'The Fight of Our Lives,' take its message to heart, and honor that pact by standing up when and where you can in defense of the West."

This event is open to the public and free of charge. Congregation Ohev Shalom is located at 613 Concourse parkway S, Maitland.

For more information,



**Gloria Z. Greenfield**

contact Daniel Layish at Dlayishmd@gmail.com or Sharona Whisler, ZOA executive director, Florida Chapter, at swhisler@zoa.org or 917-673-6123.



## JNF's Plant Your Way website

NEW YORK—Jewish National Fund revealed its new Plant Your Way website that easily allows individuals to raise money for a future trip to Israel while helping build the land of Israel.

First introduced in 2000, Plant Your Way has allowed many hundreds of young people a personal fundraising platform to raise money for a trip to Israel while giving back at the same time. Over the last 18 years, more than \$1.3 million has been generated for Jewish National Fund projects, typically by high school students. The new platform allows parents/grandparents along with family, friends, coworkers and classmates to open Plant Your Way accounts for individuals from birth up to the age of 30, and for schools to raise money for trips as well. Fifty percent of the money raised supports Jewish National Fund initiatives and the balance is applied towards a scholarship towards their trip to Israel.

Yishai Goldflam, Jewish National Fund's executive director for Israel Advocacy and Education shared, "This new website is the easiest way for an individual to fund a trip to Israel. With contributions matched by businesses, it has never been simpler to raise and put money away for a great trip for the participant that will also help the land and people of Israel. The fact that

it can be applied to any Jewish National Fund trip and the Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI-JNF) is a huge bonus because donors can take advantage of the 100 percent tax deductible status of the contributions."

Some of the benefits include:

- Donations are 100 percent tax deductible;
- It's a great way to teach children and young adults the basics of fundraising, while they build a connection to Israel and plan a personal trip to Israel;
- Funds raised can be applied to any Israel trip (up to age 30);
- Participant can designate to any of Jewish National Fund's seven program areas, including forestry and green innovation, water solutions, disability and special needs, Israel advocacy and education, heritage sites, research and development, and community building;
- The new platform is user and digital friendly, allowing a campaign to be created in only a few steps;
- Money raised can be applied toward the world class accredited Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI-JNF).

For more information or to sign up, visit [jnf.org/plantyourway](http://jnf.org/plantyourway) or contact [Education@jnf.org](mailto:Education@jnf.org) or call 212-879-9305 x245.

## To Michael Chabon, from biblical Hebron

**By Yishai Fleisher**

(JNS)—At a recent graduation of Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, novelist Michael Chabon berated the Jewish community of Hebron: "I abhor an enclave, too, a gated community, a restricted country club, or a clutch of 800 zealots lodged in illusory safety behind a wall made from the bodies of teenage soldiers, gazing out in scorn and lordly alarm at the surrounding 200,000 residents of the city of Hebron," he said.

So, here are a few points to consider in answering Chabon:

While today Hebron Jews number only 800, consider that together with our adjacent sister city Kiryat Arba we are a block of 10,000 Jews. Furthermore, we are a tourist destination for 700,000 visitors and pilgrims yearly, including 35,000 just on Shabbat Chayei Sarah. The Israeli government coalition has backed Jewish rights in Hebron and recently normalized purchase of Arab properties, given authorization to build 31 new apartments, and given the Jewish com-

munity of Hebron status as an independent community. Moreover, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley has consistently stated that the U.S. government's decision to leave UNESCO was a direct result of that organization's effort to rebrand the Tomb of the Fathers and Mothers in Hebron as a Palestinian World Heritage Site. Michael, while you may try to marginalize us, the people of Israel and the U.S. government stand with Hebron!

The IDF defends Hebron for two reasons: Jews have every historical right to be in Hebron, and at the same time we are under constant attack from the jihad. It is not our zealousness that provokes violence, but rather a hateful ideology that has taken hold of our region. Michael, why do you give the attackers a pass while blaming the victim?

The Jewish community of

*Chabon on page 15A*



## UCF rabbi has led 18 Birthright Trips to Israel



Rabbi Chaim Lipskier (kneeling, bottom left) with the group of students from the May Mayanot Birthright trip to Israel.

Rabbi Chaim Lipskier, co-director of Chabad at the University of Central Florida, returned home tired but happy after leading his 18th Birthright trip to Israel. More than 700 students have joined Rabbi Lipskier on the Mayanot Birthright tours over the last nine years while another 600 have gone on trips organized by Chabad of UCF.

The 10-day trip travels all around the Holy Land, seeing ancient and modern sites, taking in Israel's history, culture, politics and stunning natural beauty. The intensive tour gives the participants a deep insight into their Jewish identity and its connection to the Jewish homeland.

Rabbi Lipskier joined the trips to act as a spiritual lead-

er, while expert Israeli tour guides taught the students about the history and meaning of the sites they visited, from museums to beaches, and deserts to archaeological digs. The groups also spend a meaningful and restful Shabbat in Jerusalem.

"My experience as a participant on Mayanot Birthright was one of the most special experiences I've ever had as

a young Jewish woman," said Sadie Weintraub, who went on Birthright with Rabbi Lipskier in May. "Being able to spend Shabbat at the Kotel added not only the connection to my Judaism, but also to the land of Israel."

Rabbi Lipskier encourages students to take part in the transformative Birthright trip, and many of the participants are in-

spired to become active in Jewish life on campus on their return.

"The Mayanot trips are always wonderful experiences and it's great to get to know the students so well and see them learn and grow," said Rabbi Lipskier, "But the most important thing is the lasting impact that it has on so many participants, giving them an inspirational

grounding on which they can build a lifelong commitment to their Jewish Heritage."

Mayanot works in partnership with more than 250 Chabad on Campus centers around the world to provide Taglit-Birthright Israel trips.

Rabbi Lipskier is already looking forward to his 19th trip, planned to take place this winter.

## Orlando Senior Help Desk offers hurricane season advice

By Lisa Levine

An approaching hurricane fills many people with dread and uncertainty. And as Central Florida was reminded only last September with Hurricane Irma, any year can bring us one (or more) of these extreme weather events.

Seniors may feel especially vulnerable and alone before, during, and immediately after a weather emergency—and many with good reason. Medical, mobility, and many other issues that may affect seniors can reach crisis proportions when normal routines and services are interrupted or unavailable. As the hurricane

season officially gets underway, the Orlando Senior Help Desk is an excellent resource for questions and concerns regarding seniors safety during weather emergencies.

Nancy Ludin, senior resource specialist for Orlando Senior Help Desk and executive director of the Jewish Pavilion, said that seniors who live in a facility that's geared for them—whether an independent living community, assisted living or a skilled nursing facility—are in the best possible place in the event of a hurricane.

"The senior communities are all very well prepared for hurricanes," Ludin said.

"They all have generators and they all provide meals during the entire experience. They have a record of all medications and of special requirements for health care items that run on electricity, and they are prepared to make sure that those will be available in an emergency."

Although local family members may be concerned about their elder relatives and want to bring them to their home to ride out the storm, especially if they are expressing anxiety as the storm approaches, Ludin advises to resist the impulse. "Basically, if you have an older adult in one of those communities, with a hurricane coming, you can relax. They will be incredibly well cared for. And they'll be much safer there than they might be when riding out the storm in your single family home."

To help curb anxious feelings, it's a good idea to remind elder relatives of the added safety features in place at their facility. Such residences have to meet strict requirements for building codes and mainte-

nance, generators, emergency planning, and laying in supplies. On-site staff will move in to stay during the storm and its aftermath, ensuring continued routines, activities, services and meals.

If your parents or other relatives are still anxious, Ludin advises joining them at their facility to ride out the storm rather than bringing them home with you. In fact, Ludin did just that last September when Hurricane Irma struck Central Florida, staying with her mom at her apartment in Oakmonte Village's independent living building in Lake Mary.

"It was an incredible experience," she said. "First of all, there was absolutely nothing to worry about: there was air conditioning, the generators worked, there was no flooding—any of the things that you would worry about at home. They had lots of food, and they had the meals prepared ahead of time. They had entertainment, so you had something to do as you waited out the storm."



Nancy Ludin (r) stayed with her mom, Gloria Newberger, at Oakmonte Village during Hurricane Irma and was impressed by the staff's preparation and dedication.

The Oakmonte staff slept over, "so when we got up in the morning, breakfast was served," recalled Ludin. "It was like living in the lap of luxury! And the seniors were not nervous, given the circumstances."

Since "hunkering down" for a hurricane enforces plenty of down time, Ludin said, "it's a great opportunity to connect with your loved one and be in a safe place yourself. And all facilities will not only welcome you, but not even charge you for a meal or anything like that."

For seniors who live on their own, Ludin recommends that they do not stay at home when the area they live in is threatened. If they cannot get to the home of a family member, she said, they should go to a hotel, which will be well prepared with food and generators in case of emergency. "Their medication should be brought

with them, and they should have a list of their doctors and medicines with them, as well as emergency contacts. They should prepare clothes, health needs, and supplies for more than one day."

Most importantly, they should leave home well before the approaching storm becomes a serious safety threat. "They should be well prepared," Ludin said. "But they shouldn't be alone."

The Orlando Senior Help Desk is a free resource for Central Florida seniors and their families, providing guidance to help them make informed choices. It is a program of The Jewish Pavilion serving people of all faiths, and it is sponsored through generous partners and donors. To learn more or ask a question, call 407-678-9363. Additional information on issues seniors face can be found at [OrlandoSeniorHelpDesk.org](http://OrlandoSeniorHelpDesk.org).



### JFS Orlando needs summer volunteers

Since school is now out and students have time on their hands, now is a good time to volunteer at JFS Orlando. It is one way to garner volunteer hours for the Florida Bright Future scholarships, plus it's a good way to spend those hot, lazy summer days. Being a volunteer is a gift you give to others and yourself.

Opportunities include helping in the food pantry, babysitting, assisting in the office, community outreach and much more.

Apply today at <http://www.jfsorlando.org/volunteer/>

## RAISE applications now being accepted

The RAISE program for young adults with special needs is now accepting online applications for a limited number of fall positions.

RAISE is a 6- to 12-month work and social skills training program offered through the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando that is open to all faiths and provides paid employment at our partnering

Jewish agencies. In addition, RAISE assists our employees in the transition to finding employment in the community.

If you know a young adult who may benefit from RAISE or you are interested in volunteering as a Job Coach, please apply online: [jfgo.org/RAISE](http://jfgo.org/RAISE) or contact the JFGO office: 407.645.5933 ext 236

# Elaine Holstein, last surviving parent of the four Kent State shooting victims, dies at 96



Jeffrey Miller

By Steve North  
First Person

(JTA)—For nearly half a century, Elaine Holstein was periodically confronted with one of the most haunting images in modern American history: the bone-chilling picture of Kent State University student Jeffrey Miller lying on the pavement seconds after being fatally shot in the mouth by an Ohio National Guardsman during an anti-war protest.

Photographer John Filo



Author Steve North and Elaine Holstein, whose son Jeffrey Miller was killed in the 1970 Kent State shootings, seen in 2016.

later said, “The volume of blood that was flowing from his body was as if someone tipped over a bucket.” And, of course, there was the teenage girl kneeling over Jeff, screaming in horror, her arms raised in anguish.

Most baby boomers remember that photo as a symbol of May 4, 1970, the day four unarmed college students were killed on their own campus. For Elaine Holstein, however, the photograph depicted the



John Paul Filo/Valley News-Dispatch  
John Filo's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of Mary Ann Vecchio, a 14-year-old runaway, kneeling over the body of Jeffrey Miller minutes after he was fatally shot by the Ohio National Guard at Kent State University, May 4, 1970.

cruel death of her beloved 20-year-old son.

Holstein died Saturday at age 96; she was the last surviving parent of the four Kent State victims. (Three of the four students were Jewish; nine other students

also were wounded in the gunfire.) I'd known her since May 1980, when as news director of the Long Island, New York, radio station WLIR, I invited her to my studio to speak about Jeff on the 10th anniversary of

what became known as the Kent State Massacre.

I was immediately impressed with this tiny, typical Jewish mother. She had worked as a high school

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## US calls for urgent Security Council session to respond to attacks on Israel

By World Israel News

The US condemned the Palestinians following the worst day of bombing by Gaza-based terror organizations that Israel has experienced since Operation Protective Edge, and called for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said the UNSC “should be outraged and respond” to the largest attacks emanating from Gaza since 2014, which are “directed at innocent Israeli civilians.”

Throughout Tuesday and the following night, the Gaza-based Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror groups relentlessly fired more than 100 rockets and mortars at Israeli communities surrounding the Strip, one of which exploded in a kindergarten.

The majority of the explosive projectiles were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system or exploded in open spaces, but some fell inside Israeli communities and seven Israelis, in-

cluding three soldiers, were injured in the shelling. One soldier sustained moderate wounds and required intensive surgery.

Haley said “the Palestinian leadership needs to be held accountable for what they're allowing to happen in Gaza.”

The US Mission to the UN said it expects a UNSC meeting to take place Wednesday afternoon.

The European Union's (EU) foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, called for an immediate halt to the rocket and mortar fire.

“Indiscriminate attacks against civilians are completely unacceptable under any circumstances,” she said.

Earlier Tuesday, Emanuele Giaufret, the EU envoy to Israel, tweeted that “indiscriminate attacks are totally unacceptable and to be condemned unreservedly.”

Israel called on the world to condemn the Hamas terror organization and take action against it.

Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon called on the

Secretary General and the Security Council to condemn Hamas for their attacks against Israel.

“Since the early morning, dozens of rockets and mortar shells were fired from the Gaza Strip at Israeli population centers as a continuation of Hamas and Islamic Jihad's terror activities. These sustained attacks have continued unabated throughout the day,” Danon wrote to the Secretary General and members of the Security Council.

“For weeks we have warned that the violent riots along the security fence with Gaza, that included IEDs [Improvised Explosive Devices] and the firing of weapons at our security forces, were not spontaneous protests, but rather part of a coordinated violent attack against the State of Israel,” the letter said.

“The shells and rockets fired at our citizens leave no doubt as to the true intentions of those who incited, encouraged, and even paid for those ongoing riots,” he continued.

“In the interest of restor-

ing calm and protecting civilians on both sides of the fence, I request that you strongly condemn Hamas and hold the terrorist organization accountable for these latest attacks,” Danon concluded.

‘Indiscriminate attacks against civilians’

British Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa Alistair Burt condemned Hamas and the Islamic Jihad terror groups

“Indiscriminate attacks against civilians, especially those that risk killing or injuring children, are completely unacceptable under any circumstances,” he tweeted.

France condemned “these unacceptable attacks, which are targeted at civilians, thankfully without fatalities. France's commitment to Israel's security is unwavering,” the French Foreign Ministry stated.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau likewise condemned the attacks, saying “Israel has every right to defend itself against these



AP/Mary Altaffer  
US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley.

deplorable attacks by the terrorist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Our thoughts are with everyone affected today.”

In a rare show of support for Israel, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney “strongly” condemned the firing of rockets from Gaza at Israel.

“I continue to advocate strongly for people of Gaza who live in impossible conditions—but this Hamas-led

violence undermines the Palestinian cause” and is “counterproductive to political progress,” he stated.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said it had instructed embassies across the globe to seek similar condemnations of Palestinian fire.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said Israel expects “decision-makers around the world” to issue “unilateral condemnations of the terror attacks.”

## US statement condemning rocket attacks on Israel blocked in UN Security Council

(JTA)—A U.S.-drafted statement condemning rocket attacks on Israel was blocked in the United Nations Security Council by Kuwait.

Kuwait is a non-permanent member of the council and represents the Arab countries.

It blocked the resolution proposed on Wednesday ahead of an emergency Security Council meeting called by the United States to discuss

the nearly 24 hours of rocket and mortar strikes by Hamas and Islamic Jihad from the Gaza Strip on southern Israeli communities.

Kuwait had circulated its own draft resolution about two weeks ago calling for an international protection mission for the Palestinians following weeks of border clashes that left more than 100 Gaza Palestinians dead and hundreds injured.

“We cannot agree to the text put forth by your delegation especially as we are considering a draft resolution that deals with the protection of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories and the Gaza Strip,” Kuwait said in an email to the U.S. mission, according to the French news agency AFP, which saw the email.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley,

responded to the block of the resolution during the emergency council meeting.

“It is outrageous for the Security Council to fail to condemn Hamas rocket attacks against Israeli citizens while the Human Rights Council approves sending a team to investigate Israeli actions taken in self-defense,” she said.

“I urge the members of the Security Council to exercise

at least as much scrutiny of the actions of the Hamas terrorist group as it does Israel's legitimate right of self-defense.”

Some 200 rockets and mortar shells are believed to have been fired from Gaza at southern Israel by the Palestinian terrorist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad from Tuesday morning until 5:17 a.m. Wednesday. Code Red rocket alert sirens were triggered at

least 166 times there during that time, according to the Israeli military.

Hamas on Wednesday morning announced that a cease-fire agreement had been reached, and no projectiles have been fired since the announcement of the informal cease-fire reportedly brokered by Egypt. The Israeli army said it would refrain from attacking Gaza as long as there is calm.

# Heeding Democratic warnings

By Caroline Glick

Every day Israel is subjected to a torrent of warnings from Democrats.

"You will pay a price for your support of President Donald Trump," we are told.

"He won't be president forever, and when he's gone, watch out!"

The basic notion, repeated over and over again is clear enough. If Israel doesn't want to be punished by the next Democratic White House, which we are warned will make us long for Barack Obama, we'd better stop talking about the fact that Trump is the best ally and friend Israel has ever had in the White House.

These warnings are not baseless. The data are unmistakable. Republicans are more sup-

portive of Israel than they ever have been. Democrats are abandoning Israel in droves. In January, Pew reported that liberal Democrats side with the Palestinians over Israel by a margin of nearly two to one. Conservative Republicans support Israel over the Palestinians by a margin of more than 16 to 1.

The yawning gap in support plays out in multiple ways. Last week, 70 House Democrats sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanding that Israel not destroy illegal Palestinian construction in the south Hebron hills.

No serving Democratic lawmakers attended the opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem.

How is Israel supposed to deal with this wide and growing gap in partisan support? Before taking a stab at the answer, we first must

understand what is causing the Democrats to turn against the Jewish state.

There are two primary causes for the current trend.

The first has to do with President Trump.

Never in US history has a president been demonized and delegitimized by his political opponents as Trump has been by Democrats. Since the day he was elected, Democrats have sought to overturn the election results.

Every policy Trump enacts is subjected to immediate delegitimization. Democrats attack every position Trump adopts as morally defective, somehow treacherous and utterly illegitimate.

Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem and move the US Embassy to Israel's capital is case in point. In 1995, Democrats and Republicans joined together to overwhelmingly pass the Jerusalem Embassy Act mandating the transfer of the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. It passed the Senate 93-5.

Every year since lopsided majorities in both houses have voted in favor of resolutions

enjoining successive administrations to follow the law and move the embassy. In the past four presidential elections, the Democrats' party platform has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and supported moving the embassy to Jerusalem.

Given this background, the obvious move for Democrats would have been to applaud Trump for finally doing what none of his predecessors did.

Instead, with some notable exceptions, Trump's move was met with stony silence by the vast majority of Democrats. And several powerful lawmakers, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and prominent senators Dianne Feinstein, Dick Durbin, Chris Murphy and Bernie Sanders condemned the move.

The only possible explanation for their abrupt abandonment of a policy they had dutifully followed for 23 years is Trump. They revile him and reject him to such a degree that they prefer to abandon long-held positions

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## Everywhere

### The 'Invisible Presence' at the Singapore Summit

By Mel Pearlman 2018

The diplomatic world is aglow with optimism regarding the apparent and sudden turnabout of Kim Jong Un, the North Korean dictator, as he appears to have overnight transformed from nuclear bully to a peace-loving flower. His rapprochement with South Korea and renunciation of his nuclear program has won him a summit meeting with President Trump in Singapore on June 12, 2018.

Since the two heads of state share similar egotistical personalities and erratic mindsets it comes as no surprise that there would be bumps and surprises along the way, which as of this writing, makes the scheduled summit meeting an on-again/off-again affair. Kim's initial peaceful posture and subsequent belligerence, justified the U.S. cancellation of the summit; and Kim's subsequent reversal of hostility after further "consultations" with China, justified the American reconsideration to attend the on-again summit.

Kim, at a very young age, took over the country from his late father who in turn inherited this dictatorial country from its communist founder, Kim's grandfather. Each of their respective regimes has been characterized by sheer brutality, enslavement, torture, starvation and complete isolation from the outside world. In addition, no North Korean leader has ever kept any international agreement with the United States or the West.

Soon after taking office from his deceased father, the young and inexperienced Kim unceremoniously had his own uncle summarily executed so as to remove him as a threat to his power. Not to be outdone by this crime, he arranged for his half brother to be murdered by hired assassins who intercepted and gassed him to death on Feb. 13, 2017, while he was passing through Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia.

Of course President Trump is taking all the credit for Kim's almost surreal conversion and attributing his own success in doing so by out-bullying Kim and threatening North Korea with massive destruction should Kim point his nuclear tipped rockets at the United States or any of its Asian allies. Hard-core Trump supporters, but not "everyone" as the president contends, are talking about another premature and unearned Nobel Peace prize, the first of course being awarded to President Obama. President Trump is a long way from winning or even being considered for the prize.

Was it in fact a true change of heart by a repentant Kim or a rational and thoughtful decision to reverse his belligerent nuclear policy as a result of the U.S. stance? I definitely think we can rule out the former. But what about the latter? Was Kim and his gangster government even capable of responding rationally to U.S. threats?

Not long after the hostile verbal exchanges between the U.S. and North Korea became so hot that it brought the reality of imminent war on the Korean Peninsula into the public conversation, another significant event occurred. Kim was summoned to Beijing by President Xi for an "amicable discussion" of the situation which the Chinese leadership concluded was getting out of hand. Make no mistake about the fact that China, while giving Kim a long leash, calls the international policy shots in North Korea.

If you want to know how this is going to turn out, look to China's interests in East and Southeast Asia. China is in the process of building up its armed forces, not to go to war, but to globally challenge American leadership. China understands that its own economic growth to sustain its military build-up and keep its people content is dependent on good economic and other relations with the U.S. This is not an easy task given the erratic behavior of the two summit participants. A successful outcome of the summit meeting between Kim and President Trump is a little more likely with the "invisible presence" of the Chinese leader at the negotiating table.

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

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

# International Farhud Day stymies invented history

By Edwin Black

When International Farhud Day was proclaimed at a conference convened at the United Nations headquarters on June 1, 2015, its proponents wanted to achieve more than merely establish a commemoration of the ghastly 1941 Arab-Nazi pogrom in Baghdad that killed and injured hundreds of Iraqi Jews. Farhud means violent dispossession. The Farhud was but the first bloody step along the tormented path to the ultimate expulsion of some 850,000 Jews from across the Arab world. That systematic expulsion ended centuries of Jewish existence and stature in those lands.

Jews had thrived in Iraq for 2,700 years, a thousand years before Mohammad. But all that came to end when the Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, led the broad Arab-Nazi alliance in the Holocaust that produced a military, economic, political, and ideological common cause with Hitler. Although Husseini spearheaded an international pro-Nazi, anti-Jewish Islamic movement from India to Central Europe to the Middle East, it was in Baghdad—a 1,000-kilometer drive from Jerusalem—that he launched his robust coordination with the Third Reich.

In 1941, Iraq still hosted Britain's Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which controlled the region's oil. Hitler wanted that oil to propel his invasion of Russia. The Arabs, led by Husseini, wanted the Jews out of Palestine and Europe's persecuted Jews kept away from the Middle East. Indeed, Husseini persuasively argued to Hitler that Jews should not be expelled to Palestine but rather to "Poland," where "they will be under active control." Translation: send Jews to the concentration camps. Husseini had visited concentration camps. He had been hosted by architect of the genocide Heinrich Himmler, and the Mufti considered Shoah engineer Adolf Eichmann not only a great friend, but a "diamond" among men.

Nazi lust for oil and Arab hatred of Jews combined synergistically June 1-2, 1941, burning the Farhud into history. Arab soldiers, police, and hooligans, swearing allegiance to the Mufti and Hitler, bolstered by fascist coup plotters known as the Golden Square, ran wild in the streets, raping, shooting, burning, dismembering, and decapitating. Jewish blood flowed through those streets and their screams created echoes that have never faded.

The 1941 Farhud massacre, which was launched in tandem with an attempted takeover of the British oil fields and London's airbase at Habbaniya, set the stage for the Mufti-Hitler summit and the establishment of three Islamic and Arab Waffen SS divisions in central Europe under Himmler's direct sponsorship. After the State of Israel was established in 1948, Mufti adherents and devotees throughout the Arab world, working through the Arab League, openly and systematically expelled 850,000 Jews from Morocco to Lebanon. Penniless and stateless, many of those refugees were airlifted to Israel where they were absorbed and became almost half the families of Israel.

Remembering the tragic facts of the Farhud process will make it harder for the newly invented history to take root. After the Arabs

rebranded themselves as "Palestinians" in May 1964 with the backing of the Soviet KGB, a new narrative began to come together. In part, it pretends that the Arabs of Ottoman and then British Palestine did not arrive in the seventh century during the Arab-Islamic Conquest, as history records. Their narrative now asserts that are actually descendants of the Canaanites and the Philistines. Palestine is named for the Philistines. After the Jews were expelled by the Romans in about 135-136 CE, the name of their nation was changed from Judea to Syria Palaestina. But in truth, the Israelites gave rise to the only true surviving Canaanites. The Philistines were Greek Island sea invaders defeated by Ramses III in about 1150 BCE and sequestered into the Gaza Pentapolis, not Arabs from the Arabian Peninsula who conquered in the seventh century CE.

Invented Palestinian history also asserts that present-day Israelis are almost entirely transplants from such alien regions as the Ukraine, Poland, Brooklyn, and Germany—or descendants thereof. Remembering the Farhud helps us understand that almost half the early Jewish families in newly declared Israel were not from across the sea, but rather from across the river, across the bridge, down the road, and plucked from the same culture.

What's more, the fabricated Palestinian history laments that Palestine became just a consolation prize for the Holocaust—a tragedy that either never occurred or was a purely European misdeed for which Arabs are not responsible and in which they were not involved. Remembering the 1941 Farhud and the Arab-Nazi alliance that sparked it, locks in Arab involvement in the Holocaust as one of full partnership with the Third Reich. This Nazi-Arab alliance thrived, complete with tens of thousands of Islamic and Arab volunteers arduously fighting in the trenches, coordinating diplomatic and strategic affairs through the Arab Higher Committee, broadcasting nightly incendiary hate messages beginning with words "Oh Muslims," and undertaking all things calculated to advance a German victory which promised an Arab state in Palestine and a disappeared Jewish population. No wonder the Arab marketplaces were filled with placards that exhorted, "In Heaven, Allah is your ruler. On Earth, it is Adolf Hitler."

The established and incontrovertible facts chronicling the Arab world's deep and enthusiastic anti-Jewish alliance with the Third Reich during the Holocaust, which exploded into the Farhud, plus the subsequent population shift that Arab governments engineered to expel 850,000 of their own Jewish citizens, make it impossible to weave a fabric of invented history. Recognizing, remembering, and reminding the world of those facts on International Farhud Day, June 1, will help all participants and observers of the Arab-Israeli conflict confront the true legacy that has helped create today's stalemate. Recognition is the first step along the painful path toward reconciliation.

*Edwin Black is the New York Times bestselling author of IBM and the Holocaust, and the prize-winning book The Farhud—Roots of the Arab-Nazi Alliance in the Holocaust. In 2015, Black organized and founded International Farhud Day.*

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# Why the Palestinians can't say 'yes' to Trump

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS)—Can the Palestinians finally not miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity? That paraphrase of Abba Eban's famous quote provides the key question to ask about the Middle East peace plan the United States is expected to unveil during the coming weeks.

It's also a point of disagreement between me, and my friend and esteemed colleague Daniel Pipes, the president of the Middle East Forum. Pipes disagrees with my May 22 column, in which I argue that the putative peace plan that will be presented in the name of U.S. President Donald Trump is nothing for Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to worry about.

The Trump plan will reportedly be predicated on a two-state solution and necessarily involve Israel withdrawing from much of the West Bank. Under virtually any circumstances, it would be opposed by most of Netanyahu's governing coalition. But given the recent behavior of the Palestinian Authority and the continuing threat from Hamas in Gaza, there is little current support for such a scheme outside of the far left. Even in theory,

the notion of repeating Ariel Sharon's Gaza experiment in the far larger and more strategic West Bank strikes most Israelis as not so much misguided as utterly insane.

Nevertheless, I argue that there is no need for Netanyahu to treat such a plan as a crisis. As long as the Palestinians remain unwilling to make peace under any circumstances—let alone on terms that are clearly less generous than the ones offered by Ehud Barak in 2000 and 2001, or Ehud Olmert in 2008—there is no reason to think that they won't reject the Trump plan out of hand.

Pipes and I agree that the Trump plan is doomed. We both believe Palestinian national identity is inextricably tied to their century-old war on Zionism. That makes it impossible for them to accept, at least under present circumstances, the notion of a two-state solution that would end the conflict and bring actual peace, as opposed to a mere pause in the fighting before it resumed under less advantageous circumstances for the Israelis. I further agree that the only way for peace to be made possible is for the West to cease putting forward futile peace plans as long as the Palestinians fail to explic-

itly concede defeat and admit that their long war against the existence of a Jewish state has failed.

But Pipes disagrees with my confidence that the Palestinians will continue to say "no." He argues that this may be a moment like that of 1993, when Yasser Arafat pretended to make peace with Israel long enough for the Oslo Accords to be negotiated and signed. Though the pretense was soon dropped, the damage had been done, and Israelis have lived with the bloody consequences of that deception and their own understandable willingness to believe in the hope of peace. Oslo provides a precedent for the Palestinians not missing an opportunity to empower their terrorist leaders by means of a brief deception.

The question now is whether history can repeat itself—with either Abbas or whoever succeeds the ailing Palestinian leader accepting Trump's terms without ever intending to achieve peace and pocketing the concessions that he will make to them. Since it is clearly in their interests to do so, Pipes thinks that they may accept Trump's plan.

I disagree because the political edifice Arafat created as a result of his Oslo ruse makes

it virtually impossible for a successor to play the same game. Post-Oslo Palestinian politics is, if anything, even more predicated on the notion that credibility belongs only to those who threaten or commit violence against Jews. Far from having more leeway to compromise, they have less now than Arafat had in 1993.

Moreover, the Fatah leadership is constrained by its rivalry with Hamas in a way Arafat didn't have to contend with. Any move towards a two-state solution that means accepting a Jewish state and giving up the "right of return" for the descendants of 1948 refugees will boost Hamas and undermine Fatah's hold on power.

If Trump were willing to go as far as his predecessors in pushing for Israeli concessions, especially on Jerusalem, there might be some reason for Netanyahu to be concerned about the Palestinians taking the bait. But with the Americans only offering the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis (rather than all or part of eastern Jerusalem) as the capital of a putative Palestinian state, there is simply no way that any of their leaders can agree to even discuss it. If they wouldn't back down for someone as sympathetic to

their ambitions as President Barack Obama, they're not going to do it for Trump, whom they view as an enemy.

Is Trump sincere about wanting Middle East peace? He's more interested in opposing Iran, as well as in assuring his Sunni Arab allies in that struggle than in empowering the Palestinians. But there's little doubt that his ego is such that he covets the glory of brokering the "ultimate deal." If the Palestinians were willing to negotiate, he'd probably make the Israelis "pay" for Jerusalem and his appropriately tough stance on Iran.

But Netanyahu knows that he can sit back and simply wait for the Palestinians to reject Trump's efforts, as they have already warned the Saudis—who told Abbas to accept Trump's offer—they will do.

Pipes's warning that no one should be "giddy" about Trump recognizing Jerusalem and moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv is sensible. But it is equally sensible for the pro-Israel community to understand that the current administration has rejected the failed Oslo mindset that governed the actions of Trump's predecessors. Trump's instinctive distrust of the foreign-policy establishment's conventional

wisdom means that he thinks the Palestinians have to be held accountable in way that Obama, Bush and Clinton did not.

While a diplomatic ingénue like presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner might actually believe that the peace plan he has helped craft will succeed, Trump's current foreign-policy team of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Advisor John Bolton is clearly more realistic. That's why, although caution is always commendable, predictions that U.S.-Israel relations will inevitably return to the same toxic dynamic that characterized them under the Obama administration are wrongheaded.

With an Iran empowered and enriched by Obama's nuclear deal—using Syria as a base to attack the Jewish state—and Hamas undaunted by the failure of its latest assault on the Jewish state, Netanyahu has plenty of security challenges to contemplate. But a Trump peace plan with the Palestinians is still likely to be the least of his worries in the coming months.

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

## Glick

From page 4A

than admit that he did exactly what they have wanted the president to do for the past 23 years.

The second cause of the Democrats' abandonment of Israel is the rise of identity politics within the party.

For the past decade or so, a struggle for the soul of the Democratic Party has been going on between moderate Democrats, in the Bill Clinton mold and the far Left. The Clinton Democrats ascribe to traditional liberal democratic values and views of America and its role in world affairs. They believe that the protection of liberty and civil rights are the beating heart of American identity and that America has an indispensable and uniquely moral role to play as a superpower in world affairs.

Opposing them are lawmakers and activists from the far Left who believe identity politics should govern the party's positions and policies. Identity politics reject the notion that people should be

judged by their achievements and character.

Instead its subscribers assert that people should be judged based on their membership in various ethnic, racial, gender and sexual identity groups.

Perhaps the best encapsulation of identity politics was given this week by a New York Times editor on the paper's twitter feed. In a post reporting the results of the gubernatorial primaries in Georgia, the editor wrote, "History in Georgia: Stacey Abrams became the first black woman to be a major party's nominee for governor after winning her Democratic primary."

The paper applauded Abrams for being born a certain race and a certain gender. It told us nothing about her qualifications for office. All the Times thinks we need to know is that Abrams is black and a woman. This is why she should be governor.

Unfortunately for Israel and its supporters, these same forces determined that Israeli Jews and their American supporters should be opposed and

the Palestinians, including Hamas, should be supported.

People are judged only by their placement on the ladder of victimhood.

Obama's hostility toward Israel, his repeated intimations that Israel is a colonialist outpost while the Palestinians are the indigenous people of the land of Israel were part and parcel of his across-the-board effort to enable the radical Left to take over the party.

When the causes of the Democrats' alienation from Israel are properly understood, it becomes self-evident that Israel did nothing to precipitate the current situation. It is equally clear that Israel is powerless to reverse the current trends. Only the Democrats can do that.

And so we return to the question: What can Israel do to minimize the partisan divide over support for the Jewish state in America? First, Democrats advise Israel to keep Trump at arm's length. We should stop supporting him and applauding and thanking him for his support for Israel.

Second, they say, the government should maintain faith with Obama's pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel policies. Among other things, this means that Israel should permanently deny Jews the right to exercise their property rights in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. Israel should also prop up Hamas and the PLO.

If Israel does these things, the Democrats say, then a future Democratic president will be more likely to develop a constructive relationship with Jerusalem than he or she otherwise would be.

There are two problems with this advice. First, it involves abandoning the proverbial bird in the hand for a bird that not only flew out of the tree but is swiftly vanishing over the horizon. If present trends in the Democratic party continue, there is little chance that a future Democratic president will be supportive of Israel. The party's rank and file would revolt.

The second problem with the advice that Democrats are providing is that if Israel lis-

tens to them, it will be at even greater risk of being harmed by a hostile administration in the future.

Among other things, this means securing Israel's long-term strategic interests in Judea and Samaria by applying Israeli law to Area C.

It means diminishing Israel's strategic dependence on the US by vastly diminishing with the short-term goal of eliminating US military assistance to Israel. That aid should be replaced with US-Israeli joint projects to jointly develop weapons systems and advance other common strategic goals.

Securing Israel's long-term strategic interests means vastly diminishing Hezbollah's capacity to wage war against Israel from Lebanon.

And it means destabilizing with the goal of overthrowing the Iranian regime.

The Democrats who are saying that by supporting Trump, Israel is turning itself into a partisan issue, are themselves responsible for turning support for the Jewish state into a partisan issue. By denying

that Israel has a right and a legitimate interest in standing with a president that is supportive of and takes concerted steps to advance the US-Israel alliance, they are saying Israel has no right to be supported by its supporters.

Israel must support its supporters and oppose its opponents, without regard to their political affiliation. Israelis support Trump because Trump supports Israel not because he is a Republican. By the same token, Israelis support Senate Minority leader Charles Schumer not because he is a Democrat, but because he supports Israel.

Democrats are right that Trump won't be president forever. Israel needs to heed their warnings not by distancing itself from the administration, but by working with the Trump administration to secure its long-term strategic interests and goals.

Democratic and Republican supporters of Israel will certainly support our efforts.

*This article was originally published in The Jerusalem Post.*

## 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.*

## HUC-JIR leadership's criticism of Israel is pure chutzpadik

Dear Editor:

This defense of the indefensible is very disappointing.

In response I have decided to return the Sherut L'Am award presented to me by the HUS.

I have been a member of the Jewish Communal Service since 1972; a product of two Schools of Jewish Communal Service (HUC-JIR and Hornstein/Brandeis) led by Jerry Bubis z'l and Bernie Reisman z'l.

One of the proudest days of my professional career was when the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion awarded me the Sherut L'Am Award, nominated by Jerry Bubis z'l and presented by Rabbi David Ellenson, on May, 15, 2006.

Therefore, it is with a mixture of anger, disappointment and sadness that I have decided to return this Sherut L'Am award to the HUC-JIR.

My anger at the Reform movement has been growing for a few years.

Their leadership's ongoing and public criticism of Israel is pure chutzpadik. They want to influence Israeli decisions on issues of security yet are not willing to make aliyah, pay Israeli taxes, or serve in the IDF.

Their membership and leadership's support for JStreet has done nothing but strengthen those who wish to destroy Israel.

And, now, the HUC-JIR (LA campus) invites an anti-Israel author to speak at its graduation.

The JTA story makes one want to scream. The headline: Michael Chabon attacks Jew-

ish in marriage and Israel's occupation in speech to new rabbis. What were those who chose Chabon thinking?

One of the graduates, Morin Zaray, penned a heartbreaking piece, "How My Graduation Was Ambushed."

HUC Interim President and Chancellor Emeritus Rabbi David Ellenson, and Joshua Holo, Dean of the Jack H. Skirball Campus of HUC-JIR in Los Angeles, co-authored a defensive piece that was very disappointing (to say the least): "Why we invite political debate over Israel at a Jewish university" (Editor's Note—see page 5A, June 1 issue of the Heritage).

We can differ on this con-

cept (to me, it is pure chutzpadik for American Jews to debate issues of Israeli security). However, this was, for sure, not the time nor the place to have such a debate, this was a graduation ceremony speech. Again, what were the leaders of HUC thinking?

Considering the challenges Israel is currently facing, having Chabon as a graduation speaker is just beyond the pale. It is the breaking point—I just cannot, in good conscience, hold on to an award presented by an institution and a movement that has moved so far away from being under the tent of the pro-Israel community.

*Paul Jeser  
Los Angeles*

# What's Happening

## A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT

JUNE 8  
8:04 p.m.  
JUNE 15  
8:06 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, JUNE 8

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Torah Portion—Shlach Avot: Chapter 3; Numbers 13:1-15:41. Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 10

Chabad of North Orlando—Multimedia concert in honor of the Rebbe, 7:30 p.m. at Nate's Shul, 1701 Markham Woods Rd., Longwood. For tickets and more info: www.JewishNorthOrlando.com or call 407-636-5994.

### MONDAY, JUNE 11

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, JUNE 12

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

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

Temple Israel—Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Neely, noon – 1 p.m. A parashat discussion class. Open to the public, no RSVP needed. Info: 407-647-3055.  
 SPARK—Lunch and Learn, 12:30 p.m. Join Jewish women and explore the relevance of the

weekly Torah portion within modern-day life, with free lunch at 954 S. Orlando Ave., Winter Park. Info: Sarah Gittleston at sgittleston@joinorlando.org  
 Grief Support Group—Meets at Brookdale Island Lake, 160 Islander Court, Longwood. 10:30 a.m.- noon. Led by Rabbi Maurice Kaprow. Info: 407-678-9363.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 14

Congregation Beth Sholom—The Rabbi's Torah Roundtable Discussion Group, 1 p.m. at the Sumter County Administration and Library Building, 7375 Powell Road, Wildwood.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 15

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

# Russia gives Israel green light to attack Syria

By World Israel news

The Kremlin has given Israel a green light to launch attacks in Syria on condition that Syrian President Bashar Assad's assets are not targeted, the London-based Arabic-language newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat reported Friday, according to Israel Hayom.

According to the report, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu assured Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman during their meeting in Moscow on Thursday of Russia's approval for Israeli strikes, the report said.

After the the meeting

with Shoigu, Liberman said on his Twitter account that "Israel appreciates Russia's understanding of our security needs and in particular the situation on our northern border."  
 "The dialogue with Russia will continue," Liberman added.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday said foreign militias should leave southwestern Syria as soon as possible, state media outlet TASS reported.

Lavrov echoed comments he made earlier in the week when he said that only Syrian troops should be stationed in rebel-held Daraa province, a

region adjacent to the Israeli border that has emerged as a flashpoint in a wider standoff between the Jewish state and Iran.

Assad told Russian TV Thursday that Syria had no Iranian troops on its soil.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned his government would not allow Iran to maintain a military presence anywhere inside Syria.

The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement Thursday, saying Netanyahu and Putin spoke by phone and discussed "the latest regional developments and Iran's foothold in Syria."

## Quote of the Week

"No Arab ruler will consider the peace process seriously so long as he is able to toy with the idea of achieving more by the way of violence."

— Yitzhak Rabin z'l, former prime minister of Israel

### Manageable puzzle "Serpents of Scripture" by Yoni Glatt koshercrosswords@gmail.com

#### Across

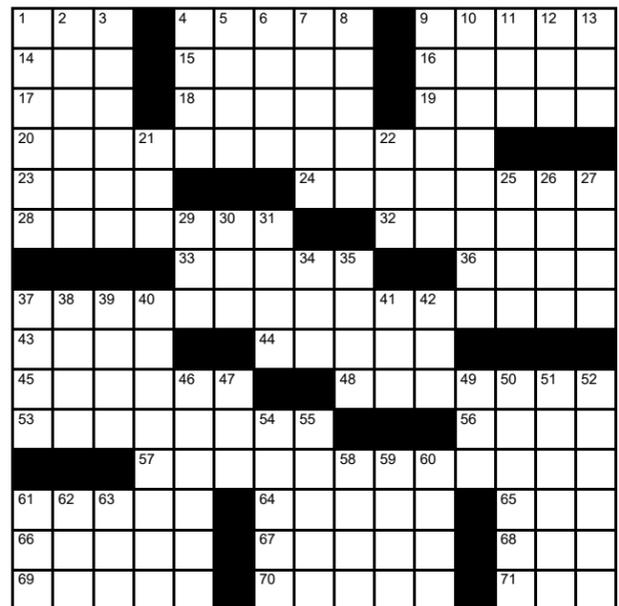
- Friday letters that precede "F"
- Does nothing
- Notable Dead Sea company
- "Tell \_\_\_ About It" (Joel hit)
- Not level
- Former Israeli prime minister
- Rock sub genre
- Kind of ray
- CBS series that, oddly, was filmed in L.A.
- Giant swimmers around Samuel's mom?
- Singer India. or painter Aroch
- Priority for charities
- Joseph's hooded father?
- Almodovar and Martinez
- Funnel-shaped
- Actress Fisher in "The Great Gatsby"
- Ruth's squeezing husband?
- Summit
- Trial's partner
- French president Jacques, 1995-2007
- Poisonous grandfather of Moses?
- Island capital whose name means "sheltered bay"
- 100 mg, say
- King who might pose a threat to 20, 28, 37, and 57-Across?
- "Ariel" poet Sylvia
- Really enjoy a piece of babka
- Asher of literature
- Yemen's capital
- 18th Hebrew letter
- Gaza to Jericho dir.
- Ark groupings
- Loads and loads
- Jewish Federation of Greater \_\_\_ Moines

#### Down

- 1984 Leon Uris novel

- Commentary on the Mishna
- Like many a "Twilight Zone" ending
- Tibetan monk or "Why?"
- Baruch follower
- "From A to \_\_\_" (multivitamin ad line)
- Rock's John
- "Iron Man" villain Obadiah
- Where to meet Pac-Man?
- Like some Orthodox Jews
- Biblical queen mother: II Kings 18:2
- Diesel of "Boiler Room"
- "\_\_\_ Dream Will Do" (song from "Joseph...")
- Opposite of paleo-
- Airport sched. abbr.
- While lead-in
- Most recent "Star Wars" film
- Russian ruler, once
- Email option, for short
- Joey, for short
- Writer Frank
- Hebron's home: Abbr.
- Letters under shift, on

- many comps
- "Goldberg Variations" composer
- Shmona, to Pablo
- Former dictator Idi
- Worst possible, as a review
- Fish eggs
- Mr. Berlin, for short
- Greetings in 53- Across
- \_\_\_-de-sac
- Words not often heard under a chuppah
- Combined, as assets
- Strict Sabbath observer of antiquity
- "John Wick" star
- \_\_\_ bet (owes money)
- Amherst school, briefly
- Shape of a football field, in Australia
- Lymph gland
- Got big
- Nintendo DS competitor
- Shohei Ohtani's team, on the scoreboard
- "\_\_\_ ledodi, v'dodi li"



See answers on page 14A.

"I'm lost without it!"

"It's inexcusable!"

"My week is not complete without it!"

"I can't live without it!"

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

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

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# Seinfeld would love this S'mores Babka



By Shannon Sarna

(The Noshers via JTA)—Babka is an Eastern European yeasted cake with deep Jewish roots and also great American popularity. One of babka's most notorious moments was in an episode of "Seinfeld": Jerry and Elaine head to Royal Bakery to pick up babka for a dinner party, and when there is no more chocolate babka, they are somewhat devastated to be forced to bring cinnamon, "the lesser babka."

Meanwhile, babka has been experiencing quite a resurgence in the past few years since the launch of Breads Bakery in the U.S., which boasts one of the most decadent babkas, made with a European-style laminated dough (i.e. with lots of butter).

These days you can find sweet and savory babkas across the country and all over the Internet, a trend I am proud to embrace. I've experimented with lots of babka flavors: sweet, savory, Latin-inspired and just about everything in between.

This s'mores babka, which is ideal for summertime or brunch or dessert or just because, is featured in my cookbook "Modern Jewish Baker" along with several other flavors. But the s'mores is still my favorite.

It's not the chocolate babka; it might be a little better. I think even Jerry and Elaine would agree.

**Ingredients:**

For the dough:

- 1 tablespoon dry active yeast
- 1/3 cup plus 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 cup lukewarm water
- 4 1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 cup whole or 2% milk (or almond milk)

3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter (or margarine), melted  
2 large eggs

**For the filling:**

- 1/3 cup chocolate hazelnut spread
- 1/2 cup marshmallow fluff
- 1/4 cup crushed graham cracker crumbs

**For the topping:**

- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
  - 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
  - 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted
  - 1 1/3 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
  - 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
- Suggested equipment:**  
stand mixer, 3 medium sized

(8 1/2-by-4 1/2) loaf pans.

**Directions:**

1. To make the dough: Place the yeast and 1/2 teaspoon sugar in a small bowl. Add the lukewarm water and stir gently to mix. Set aside until foamy, 5 to 10 minutes. In a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook, mix together the flour, 1/3 cup sugar and 2 teaspoons vanilla.
2. In a medium saucepan, scald the milk (bring almost to a boil, until milk is just simmering). Allow to sit for 1 minute to cool just slightly.
3. With mixer on low, add the water-yeast mixture, milk and melted butter. Add eggs one at a time.
4. When the dough begins to come together after 2 to 3 minutes, turn off the mixer and scrape down the sides. Raise the speed to high and mix for another 5 to 10 minutes until the dough is shiny, elastic and smooth. It may seem like a long time to mix, but the result is worth the wait. (You can also knead vigorously by hand for 10 minutes if you don't have a stand mixer.)
5. Place dough in a greased bowl with a damp towel on top. Allow to rise 1 to 2 hours.
6. Prepare the 3 greased loaf pans.
7. To make the crumb topping: Place all ingredients in a bowl. Using a wooden spoon, mix until crumbs form.
8. Cut the dough into 3 equal parts (use a food scale for precision). Roll out one part into a rectangle. Spread with one-third each of the chocolate hazelnut spread, then marshmallow fluff, and then sprinkle with graham cracker crumbs and roll up along the shorter side.
9. Once the dough is formed into a swirled log, cut it straight down the middle so the filling is exposed. Cut 1/2 inch off each

end. Layer each cut piece on top of one another and twist. Place in a greased loaf pan.

10. Repeat with the other 2 pieces of babka dough. Lightly drape a kitchen towel over the top of pans.

11. Allow to rise another 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 F. while the dough rises. Top with crumb topping. Bake for 30 minutes.

12. Allow to cool for 5 to 10 minutes. Using a butter knife, loosen sides of the babka from the pan and place on a wire rack to cool. Makes 3 babkas.

Shannon Sarna is the editor of *The Noshers*.

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

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**'Licks and Hugs' program gratifies Oakmonte seniors**



Animal visits stimulate seniors to talk about pets they had as children, notes Jackie Jones McAleer, a volunteer for Pet Rescue by Judy. Jackie is holding Siamese kitten Darla, the hit of the day among the seniors.



"I'm his best friend." That's what this lovable mutt appears to be thinking, resting in the lap of Sienna Activities Director Karen Teixeira.

Hugs" program sponsored by The Jewish Pavilion, dogs provided by Pet Rescue by Judy visit residents monthly. "It's a wonderful program," noted Karen Teixeira, the activities director at Oakmonte's Sienna Memory Care community. "The seniors really enjoy the unconditional love from the animals."

On a recent Tuesday, Jackie Jones McAleer, who has been volunteering for Pet Rescue by Judy for five years, was one of the volunteers who brought over five dogs and a Siamese kitty named Darla.

"Darla is tiny and lovable. They (the seniors) just loved holding her," McAleer said.

To volunteer to take part in the "Licks and Hugs" program, contact the Jewish Pavilion at 407-678-9363. For more information on the animals at Pet Rescue by Judy, visit [www.petrescuebyjudy.com](http://www.petrescuebyjudy.com).

**By Jane Edelstein**

Everyone knows that dogs make great companions. But they also make great visitors,

as seniors living at the Oakmont Village in Lake Mary are pleased to discover month after month.

As part of the "Licks and

**IDF destroys Gaza terror tunnel after terrorists enter Israel**

**By Aryeh Savir**  
World Israel News

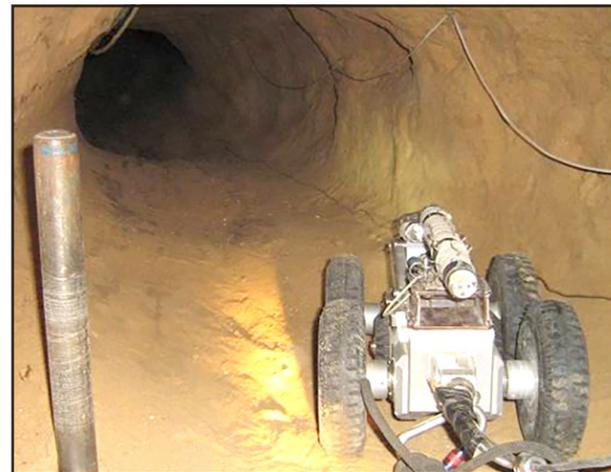
Israel Air Force aircraft on May 22 bombed an "underground Hamas terror infrastructure" in northern Gaza and two military targets that belong to the terror organization's naval force.

The IDF stated that the strikes were in response to the cross-border incident that occurred earlier in the day in which a number of terrorists infiltrated Israel from the Gaza Strip and set a military post on fire.

Palestinian sources reported that the strike on the naval target set a boat on fire.

The IDF underscored that the air strikes were carried out in response to "Hamas' ongoing attempts to dispatch drones and fire kites, with the intention of conducting terrorist activity and setting Israeli territory on fire."

"The IDF views these continued attempts with great severity, specifically



Hamas' daily attempts to damage Israeli security infrastructure and threats to the safety of Israeli civilians," it said in a statement. "The IDF is determined to fulfill its mission to protect Israeli civilians."

"The Hamas terror organization is accountable for all threats originating from the Gaza Strip, above and below ground, and will bear

the consequences for its actions against Israeli civilians and Israeli sovereignty," the statement added.

Tuesday night's airstrikes occurred after an IDF tank targeted a Hamas observation post in the southern Gaza Strip immediately following the cross-border incident.

IDF on page 15A



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# Scene Around

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



**Mireille Knoll**

**Important to every Jew, every lover of Israel...**

I received this letter from the World Jewish Congress. I pass it along (with my personal comments):

"Israel must continue to thrive, now and always.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the modern State of Israel, and marvel at its remarkable and inspiring achievements (in medicine, science, etc.),

this is the solemn commitment that we embody in both our thoughts and our actions.

Israel is the only Jewish state. It is a refuge for Jews seeking a safe haven and a beacon of hope that connects Jews around the world to one another. And it is in the name of this unbreakable bond that we must continue to fight back against the forces of anti-Semitism and those who seek to delegitimize the State of Israel, now more than ever.

As an elderly Holocaust survivor is brutally murdered in her own home in France, as neo-Nazis march in the streets of Sweden and Bulgaria, as anti-Semitism reaches record levels in the UK and as member agencies at the United Nations continue to target Israel with biased and one-sided resolutions. Just as we have defeated our enemies throughout history to witness the miraculous rebirth of the State of Israel in our time, we will continue the fight against evil and hatred and bigotry.

And again we will win!"

(The Holocaust Survivor mentioned was Mireille Knoll, She was found dead in her bed after neighbors called the fire department upon seeing smoke coming from her apartment. After an official inquiry, leaders of the Jewish community insisted that authorities treat the killing as an anti-Semitic hate crime.)

**AARP fraud watch warnings...**

AARP and the United States Postal Inspection Service are joining forces for Operation Protect Veterans, fighting back against fraudulent scam artists. As a military widow and a military mom, I feel obligated to pass them along:

1. VA Loan Scams—offers to refinance VA loans at extremely low rates.

2. Update your file scam—an imposter claiming to be from a government agency attempts to get a veteran's personal information to "update their file" so they can maintain their benefits.

3. Secret Veteran Benefits Scam—Veterans are told they qualify for "secret" government programs or benefits that offer thousands of dollars—but first, they attempt to collect personal information or a fee.

4. Pension poaching scam—Scammers often offer veterans lump sum payments up front, in exchange for signing over all their future monthly benefit checks.

5. Aid and attendance scam—Veterans (or their family members) receive an offer to move their assets into a living trust so that they can qualify for financial assisted-living benefits.

**Jewish Pavilion Mensch...**

Judy Appleton has been working as a program director for the Jewish Pavilion in the Winter Park, Oviedo and Winter Springs independent, assisted and skilled-nursing facilities for more than eight years. All of the senior communities she visits are "in her backyard" near her home, family and personal life. Her personal motto is "Making a Difference in the Lives of Others." Appleton adds: "My position as a program director with The Jewish Pavilion affords me the opportunity to live by my motto. Reaching out to Elders and bringing food, fun and fellowship to them... does make a difference in their lives."

When asked what she loves about what she does, Judy responded "Being able to connect with elders. Touching their minds and bodies."

Judy connects with the seniors on a personal level. She serves her neighbors and strangers alike in many ways. "Beyond the courtesy of opening/holding doors, financially supporting the local organizations to bringing the neighbors garbage cans up from the side of the road. There are countless ways that I spread good will."

(I remember Judy as a little girl. I was friendly with her parents Helen and Larry. Besides being one of the cutest little ones I ever met, Judy was the sweetest and kindest. It seems those qualities still remain.)

**JCC39s Cinema Sundays...**

On Sundays at 2 p.m., movies are shown in the Roth JCC, Maitland, Senior Lounge. Refreshments are also available. On June 10th the movie will be "Swing Time" starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

**JCC39s Meet & Mingle Mondays...**



**Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers**

On June 11th, Religion of Life will be presented by Rabbi KAPROW. The program is always followed by refreshments and social time.

**Robbi Etzkin knows what kids love...**

Summer is here (well, its almost always here in Florida) and Robbi says: "On Sunday, June 10th, from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Summer Sundays Pool Parties are back at the Roth Family Jewish Community Center in Maitland.

Come hang out with your friends, play games, have a bite and enjoy music around our beautiful pool."

Papa Johns Pizza is the sponsor.

RSVP to the Maitland JCC, 407-645-5933

**One for the road...**

Moshe is driving to downtown Orlando where he has an important meeting to attend. But when he gets there, he can't find a place to park. He drives around, he waits, he even tries a bit farther away, but all in vain. So in desperation he looks up at the sky and says, "Oh Lord, if you will find me a parking place in the next five minutes, I promise you I will stop gambling, I'll eat only kosher food, I'll stop going with shikasas and I'll observe shabbes properly." Almost immediately, he sees a car pulling out of its parking place and quickly takes its place. Again Moshe looks up at heaven and says, "Oh Lord, there's no need for you to find me a parking place—I've already found one."



**Judy Appleton**

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**Sudoku (see page 14A for solution)**

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## Video shows woman berating man for putting on tefillin at Israeli airport

JERUSALEM (JTA)—An Israeli woman mocked a Chabad rabbi at Ben Gurion Airport as he helped another man don tefillin.

The woman, whose actions were captured on a cellphone video posted on Facebook, mocked the men, laughing and screeching on Monday morning as they practiced the religious rite. She yelled at them in Hebrew to "move because you are bothering me" and asked rhetorically, "Why are you doing this here? There are people here."

Several people in the terminal asked her to tone down,

but instead she became louder.

The video, which has had more than 300,000 views since Monday, was posted by Gad Kaufman, the businessman who put on the tefillin with the help of the Chabad rabbi manning a booth at the airport.

Kaufman, who was leaving Israel for a business trip, wrote a post in Hebrew with the video.

"An amazing incident took place this morning at the airport, when I was politely asked by a Chabad man if I wanted to put on tefillin," he wrote. "I said yes, and then

a woman with a crazy look jumped up and started cursing, harassing and disturbing! It is really shameful that being a Jew in this country means being persecuted by leftist Bohemians. If I were a Muslim or a Christian, would it be more legitimate for her...?"

The woman was identified by the Israel National News website as Pnina Peri, a visiting assistant professor of Israel Studies at the University of Maryland. Peri, who formerly taught at Israel's Sapir Academic College, is an expert in multicultural theories. Her husband, Yoram

Peri, served as president of the New Israel Fund, which supports left-wing causes, from 1999 to 2001 and is the director of Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies at the University of Maryland.

Many of the responses to the video criticized the woman for her actions. Several also praised the Chabad rabbi, identified by Channel 20, a religious news station, as Rabbi Meir Herzl, the director of the Chabad House in the Jerusalem suburb of Pisgat Zeev, for his restraint in not responding to her.

## JCRC celebrated Jewish American Heritage Month with fun facts and games



**Team Hillel wins the Teamwork Trophy! Members of the team are (back row, l-r), Andrew Max, Aaron Weil, Sharon Weil, Sam Friedman; (front row, l-r), Danielle McKinstry, Emily Block, Jennifer Waldholtz.v**

The Jewish Community Relations Council closed out Jewish American Heritage Month by hosting the first annual Jewish Trivia Night on May 31, at The Roth Family Jewish Community Center in Maitland.

Five teams competed for the "Avodet Tzevet" (teamwork) trophy. JCRC Co-chairs Dori Gerber and Michelle Zaltsberg organized the evening, which featured multiple rounds of trivia and even more laughs.

"Our goal for trivia night was two-fold: to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month and to provide an opportunity for Jewish groups in the com-

munity to come together and do something fun, as one of JCRC's initiatives is to build bridges in our community," said Zaltsberg.

This year, the JCRC decided to put more of an emphasis on Jewish American Heritage Month. Every weekday for the month of May, JCRC put out a "fun fact" through social media about Jewish American heritage, encouraging others to share their thoughts on topics ranging from history and culture to veterans and inventors. After engaging the community to learn about Jewish history, the month concluded with an opportunity for people to show off

their knowledge of all things Jewish at JCRC's first annual Jewish Trivia Night.

By all accounts, the evening was a smash hit, with 25 eager participants competing for the trophy. "It was great to see so many Jewish organizations represented, including the Federation, BBYO, Kinneret, the Jewish Academy, Hillel and JOIN Orlando," recounted co-chair Gerber, "the enthusiasm for the event exceeded our expectations – it was a great success and we are optimistic this will only get bigger and better every year."

The combined team of Kinneret and the Hillels of UCF, Rollins and Stetson took home

the trophy, narrowly defeating a Jewish Academy of Orlando team, who came in second. "The theme of the night, including the trophy itself, was 'teamwork,' which is what JCRC is all about," said JCRC Director Ben Friedman. "We

find ways to work together to accomplish shared goals for our community. If we can have fun along the way, that's a huge plus."

The Jewish Community Relations Council is a funded committee of the Jewish Fed-

eration of Greater Orlando, which works to amplify the Jewish voice in public discourse. You can stay in touch on Facebook and Twitter by following @OrlandoJCRC, or contact Friedman at BFriedman@jfgo.org.

## How to make a Georgian cheese boat (Khatchapuri)



Shannon Sarna

### Khatchapuri

By Shannon Sarna

(The Noshers via JTA)—I first fell in love with adjaruli khatchapuri, also known as Georgian cheese bread or cheese boat, at Marani Restaurant in Queens, New York. This cheesy-carby deliciousness is basically all the comfort food you could possibly crave in one single dish: cheese, runny egg yolk and butter, all being held by homemade bread.

Khatchapuri and khinkali, a dumpling most often stuffed with meat and spices, are two of Georgia's most recognizable dishes (and yes, I am talking about the country, not the state). And they are pure comfort food, even if you've never been exposed to Georgian food. Georgian cuisine reflects influences from Turkey, Russia, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Armenia, and prominently features walnuts and several unique Georgian spices.

The Jews of Georgia date back to the Byzantine Empire and have had a long existence in the country. Separate from the Ashkenazi Jews who lived in Russia, they maintained a unique culture all their own, which was influenced by the diverse surroundings of the region and the Silk Road, the ancient routes of trade through Eurasia.

Since my introduction to khatchapuri a few years ago, I have traveled back to Marani several times, but I wanted to enjoy this cheesy specialty in the comfort of my own home, so I recently set out to conquer the dish.

This dough is very easy to make, comes together quickly and doesn't require a long rise. Which means you don't have to feel intimidated about making it at home. Could you use a store-bought pizza dough? Absolutely, just keep in mind it will not stretch quite as easily or as large as the traditional khatchapuri dough, which is softer. And also, it's not quite as authentic. Not that I am judging.

After many trial runs and some research, I suggest using a combination of mozzarella cheese, Muenster cheese and brynzda, which is feta-like. I found that feta can be too salty for this dish, so if you cannot find brynza but have access to several different kinds of cheese, go for one that is slightly less salty, such as a Bulgarian-style.

Ingredients:

For the dough:

2/3 cup warm water  
1 teaspoon dry yeast  
1/4 teaspoon sugar  
1 1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons sea salt  
1 tablespoon olive oil plus more for brushing

For the filling:

1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese  
1 1/2 cups shredded Muenster cheese

1 cup brynzda cheese (can also use feta)  
4 tablespoons butter

2 egg yolks, carefully separated from the white  
Special equipment: pizza stone or dark baking sheet, parchment paper

Directions:

1. Combine warm water, yeast and sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with dough hook attachment, or just a large bowl, and allow the yeast to bloom (start to bubble). Allow to sit for 5 minutes.

2. Add flour, salt and olive oil, and mix on low for 2 minutes until dough starts to come together. Raise speed to medium and mix for another 3 minutes. The dough will be soft—don't expect it to be super firm, and try to resist the urge of adding more flour.

3. Place dough in an oiled bowl and cover with plastic or a towel. Allow to rise in a warm spot in the kitchen for 1 hour.

4. While dough is rising, preheat oven to 450 F. and place a pizza stone in the oven. If you don't have a pizza stone, you can use a baking sheet (a dark color baking sheet is better for this).

5. To make the filling: Combine the cheese in a small bowl. Cut butter into 1 tablespoon portions (you will use 2 tablespoons for each cheese bread).

6. When dough has risen, divide into 2 pieces. Working on top of a lightly floured piece of parchment, gently stretch each piece of dough into ovals 12 inches long.

7. Spread a quarter of cheese mixture in the middle of each bread, leaving 1/2 inch border all the way around.

8. Pinch the ends, rolling tight to form points on either side. Add the remaining cheese evenly onto each bread.

9. Brush the bread with a light coating of olive oil. Allow to rise again 15 minutes.

10. With the bread remaining on the parchment paper, slide onto the pizza stone or baking sheet. (You can make the breads one at a time or bake simultaneously.)

11. Bake for 13-14 minutes, or until golden and the cheese is bubbly. Remove cheese bread from oven and gently add egg yolk to the middle of the bread, taking care not to break. Bake for another 1-2 minutes.

12. Remove from oven and immediately add 2 tablespoons butter to the bread, one on either side of the egg yolk.

13. Serve by swirling the yolk, cheese and butter all together. This dish is best eaten while still hot. Makes 2 breads.

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

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# Israel's conversion laws are about to get stricter

By Ben Sales

(JTA)—Jewish converts in America may have a much harder time being accepted in Israel because of a new set of regulations proposed by Israel's Chief Rabbinate.

If adopted, some activists in Israel say, the new guidelines for religious courts could drive a deeper wedge between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

The Chief Rabbinate, which controls Jewish marriage, divorce, conversion and burial in the Jewish state, is largely run by haredi Orthodox leaders. For years it has clashed with rabbis in America, even Orthodox ones, who have more liberal interpretations of Jewish law.

The Chief Rabbinate does not consider non-Orthodox Judaism to be valid, so it does not accept the authority of Conservative and Reform rabbis. And in recent years, it has had a series of public disputes with Orthodox rabbis whose authority it rejects.

This week, hoping to clarify exactly which Orthodox rabbis meet its standards, the Chief Rabbinate published a list of draft criteria for religious courts in the Diaspora. If a religious court meets the criteria, the Jewish conversions it conducts will be recognized by the Chief Rabbinate. If not, the Chief Rabbinate will not consider its converts Jewish.

The same goes for Jewish ritual divorces: The Chief Rabbinate will accept them only if they are performed by a qualified religious court.

This matters for non-Israeli converts and divorcees if they ever want their religious or marital status recognized in Israel. Those who convert in America under an unrecognized religious court, for example, would not be able to marry in Israel because the Chief Rabbinate controls Jewish marriage there. Likewise, divorced individuals would

not be able to remarry in Israel if their Jewish divorce is not recognized. Children from a female convert's second marriage would be forbidden to marry a Jew.

The document's language is in the past tense, which means it could apply retroactively—rejecting the status of Jewish converts who formerly were accepted in Israel. In other words, a convert accepted by the Chief Rabbinate this year could be rejected next year.

The criteria demand that the courts be permanent and operate year-round. Their rabbis must demonstrate fealty to Orthodox Jewish law and be endorsed by a major Orthodox organization.

This means non-Orthodox rabbis and rabbinical courts will be rejected. So will graduates of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, a liberal Orthodox seminary in New York City, because they are not recognized by the Rabbinical Council of America, the major U.S. Orthodox rabbis' group. Ad hoc religious courts, often set up in small communities for a specific person's conversion, also will not be approved.

If two courts are serving the same local population of Jews, only one will receive approval. Courts that want to apply for approval must submit their rabbis to an exam on Jewish law administered by the Chief Rabbinate.

The Chief Rabbinate says the criteria are an attempt to set transparent, objective standards. At a Knesset meeting on the proposed criteria this week, Knesset member Uri Maklev of the haredi United Torah Judaism party said that "clarifying what is Judaism is an obligation in [rabbinical] courts and a fundamental principle upon becoming part of the Jewish people."

In the past, the religious authority has rejected the qualifications of an Orthodox rabbi because it deemed

him insufficiently observant of Jewish law. That's what happened in 2014 when the Chief Rabbinate rejected a conversion affirmed by Rabbi Avi Weiss, the prominent liberal Orthodox rabbi and founder of Chovevei Torah.

But in other cases, the Chief Rabbinate has rejected rabbis' authority simply due to bureaucratic confusion. In 2015, one of its district courts rejected the authority of Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, a widely respected Modern Orthodox rabbi in New York, even though Israel's chief rabbi vouched for him.

As of now, one midlevel bureaucrat, Rabbi Itamar Tubul, decides which rabbis and marriages are accepted by the Chief Rabbinate. Last year, JTA obtained a so-called "blacklist" of Diaspora rabbis whose authority the Chief Rabbinate had rejected.

Critics are calling the criteria demeaning and overly strict. Itim, an Israeli non-profit that works to navigate and challenge the Chief Rabbinate's bureaucracy, called the list a "power grab."

"These 'criteria' show the Chief Rabbinate's disdain for world Jewry, blatant attempt at power consolidation, and profoundly un-Jewish approach," Rabbi Seth Farber, Itim's founder and director, said in a statement. "Itim will fight this using every legislative and legal tool available."

The Israel Democracy Institute think tank called the document "very problematic."

"The proposal creates a reality in which the Israeli rabbinate extends its monopoly over Jews' personal status in areas of marriage and divorce—beyond Israel," Shuki Friedman, director of the institute's Center for Religion, Nation and State, said in a statement. "Thus the rift between Israel and Diaspora Jewry could grow, many Jews around the world may feel alienated, and immigration to Israel could decline."

## OBITUARY

### SHARON EISEN WRIGHT

Written by the family

Sharon "Sherry" Eisen Wright, 80, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at her residence.

Born in Chicago, on May 15, 1937, she was the daughter to proud parents Samuel Eisen and Gertrude (Scher) Eisen. She graduated as an honor student from Nicholas Senn High School (Class of 1954), went to Indiana University, left to start a family in Chicago, and then moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1972.

She was predeceased by her late husband, Sheldon; brother Corky, and sister-in-law Joyce. Survived by three daughters—Shelly, Jodi and Rachel; one son, Michael; daughter-in-law Zanda; brother Jim; sister-in-law Madeleine; and grandchildren—Jessica, Zachary, and

Alise. She is also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends.

She never met a stranger, always gave a smile, spoke kind words, laughed, lit up any room, was genuine, carried herself with grace and dignity, was selfless, unassuming beautiful, quickwitted, joyful, loving, intelligent, and determined to make others happy. Her joys in life included being a devoted mother, grandmother, wife, sister, aunt friend, sorority sister, singing in the choir, dancing, attending theater, Friday night services, holidays, knitting, baking, traveling, dining, antiquing, playing mahjong, driving fast, laughing, and surrounding herself with the company of friends and family. She was an avid community volunteer who also belonged, and gave freely of her time and money, to countless charities,

religious organizations, and international causes.

She touched so many lives with her conscious decision to be happy, and spread joy to all those she encountered, as that was her sole purpose. Please honor her memory with a smile, laughter, or a kind deed.

A memorial tribute took place on June 8th at 11 a.m. at Beth Shalom Memorial Chapel, 640 Lee Road, Orlando 32810, to be followed immediately by a celebratory party to her legacy of joy at Café Murano, 309 Cranes Roost Blvd, Altamonte Springs FL 32701.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions in her memory to the Orlando Chapter of Hadassah, 645 Stafford Terrace #153, Altamonte Springs FL 32701.

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

## Central Florida Synagogues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

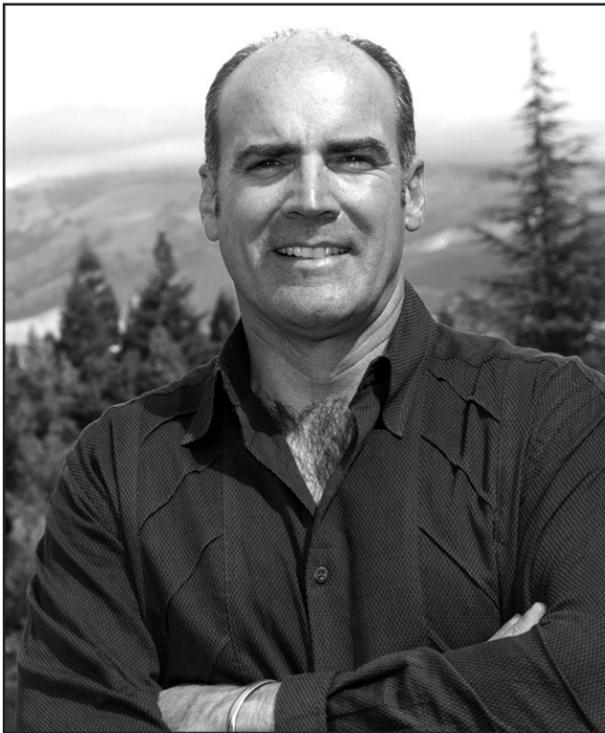
**Temple Shir Shalom (R)** Services held at Temple Israel, 50 S. Moss Rd., Winter Springs, 407-366-3556, www.templeshirshalom.org; Shabbat services: three Fridays each month, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

# Who is an anti-Semite?

## Republicans and Democrats grapple with the question



**John Fitzgerald is a Republican running for a House seat in California.**



**Leslie Cockburn is a Democratic congressional candidate in Virginia.**

(JTA)—Two congressional races have been beset in recent days with charges of anti-Semitism, and each case—in California and in Virginia—uncovers challenges for Jews in the Republican and Democratic parties.

For Jewish Democrats, it's about Israel and the party's left wing. For Jewish Republicans, it's about extremists.

In both cases, Jews in the respective parties are grappling with old problems made sharper by recent developments. Democrats for years have had a left wing that tended to see Israel as a problem more than an alliance, but the party's drift from the country in recent years has brought a once marginal tendency to the fore.

Republicans, similarly, have repudiated fringe candidates who embrace far right and even Nazi identities, but President Donald Trump's on-again/off-again embrace of the "alt-right" has lent greater urgency to facing down extremist GOP nominees.

John Fitzgerald, in California's 11th District, is at least the third Republican nominee

in a congressional district expected to vote Democratic who has associations with the far right. (Two others are in Illinois. In all three cases, extremists seized the opportunity when the state and national GOP ignored unwinnable races and secured the Republican nomination by default.)

Fitzgerald peddles myths, for instance, that an army of Jews working in government are in fact Israeli citizens. (They are not. A list he links to on his campaign website generously includes a number of non-Jews presumed to be Jewish, among them National Security Adviser John Bolton.)

In Fitzgerald's case, GOP condemnation was so swift, landing in inboxes before much of the media knew his anti-Semitism was a thing. In a statement sent Tuesday evening to the media, the Republican Party in California said it took steps to remove the endorsement automatically conferred on him when he became the nominee.

"The California Republican Party's Board of Directors took swift and decisive action to eliminate any support for John Fitzgerald due to anti-Semitic comments he made recently, those views have no home in the Republican Party," the state party chairman, Jim Brulte, said in a statement. "As always, California Republicans reject anti-Semitism, and all forms of religious bigotry, in the harshest terms possible. We reject John Fitzgerald's campaign and encourage all voters to do the same."

In the same release, the Republican Jewish Coalition said that "the California Republican Party has been a good ally in our fight against anti-Semitism in the past, and we proudly stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them on their decision to reject support for Fitzgerald."

It has been a busy season for the RJC and its condemnations of putative neo-Nazi candidates. Two weeks ago its target was Patrick Little, a U.S. Senate hopeful in California who says Jews control the United States.

Little, the RJC said, "is a white nationalist whose anti-Semitic, racist, bigoted views put him far outside of the GOP and civil discourse."

Little has told David Duke, the best-known American white supremacist and former Ku Klux Klan leader, that he thinks Trump could one day be persuaded of the merits of his anti-Jewish arguments.

His optimism is fueled in part by an administration that has been populated by alt-right figures and a president who equivocated in his condemnation last year of the neo-Nazis who marched in Charlottesville, Virginia, in a protest that included deadly violence.

Charlottesville is in Virginia's 5th Congressional District, once solidly Republican, but now a possible pickup for Democrats eager to retake the U.S. House of Representatives with the sudden announcement this week by incumbent GOP Rep. Tom Garrett that he will not seek re-election.

The Democratic nominee, Leslie Cockburn, is a journalist who perhaps is best known as the mother of actor Olivia Wilde ("House"). But 27 years ago she earned notoriety of a different sort when she co-wrote "Dangerous Liaison: The Inside Story of the U.S.-Israeli Covert Relationship" with her husband, Andrew.

Virginia's Republican Party this month seized on the book to cast Cockburn as a "virulent anti-Semite."

By way of evidence, it quoted reviews at the time from Commentary, the conservative pro-Israel magazine, and The New York Times. Neither review calls the 1991 book anti-Semitic, although Commentary does insinuate that it is hostile to Jews per se. Joined with another review I uncovered, in the Los Angeles Times, the book's principal sins appear to be that it is often vaguely sourced, sensationalist and driven by a lazy anti-imperialist agenda. (The headline to the Commentary review is, irresistibly, "Inside Dopes.")

Virginia Jewish Democrats appear to agree that the book is problematic, but not anti-Semitic, as they indicated in interviews with The New York Times this week after Cockburn attended a salon organized by Charlottesville Jews, and also in a posting on Blue Virginia, a pro-Democratic blog.

"We urge voters in Virginia's 5th who consider themselves allies to Jews in Virginia and throughout the country to go out and discover the truth for themselves: that these charges against Leslie Cockburn are false, made in bad faith, and should be dismissed for not even meeting the lowest bar of evidence to support them," said the Blue Virginia post by David T.S. Jonas and Lowell Feld.

Jonas and Feld acknowledged that the book was lacking in some respects.

"The writing can be too sensationalist at times, making it seem like the authors are pushing too hard, rather than letting readers come to their own decisions," they wrote.

At the Charlottesville salon, The Times reported, the consensus was that Cockburn was not anti-Semitic, but that she represented a trend among Democrats unsettling for pro-Israel Jews.

"None of us think she's anti-Semitic," Sherry Kraft, an organizer of the meeting, told the newspaper. "That's not even an issue. It's more where are you about Israel. There's a lot of negativity toward Israel from the political left right now and people who call themselves progressive."

Plunging into political marriages is a delicate affair, but there are indications that the spouse who has Israel issues is not Leslie but her husband. Internet searches came up with plenty on Andrew Cockburn, who just last year was peddling the far left and baseless accusation that Israel is aligned with the Islamic State, and who in a 2007 Oxford Union debate spoke about a pro-Israel "stranglehold" on debate in the United States.

For Leslie Cockburn, all I got was this 1991 appearance on C-Span with her husband pitching their book. Leslie Cockburn, who weathered Scud attacks on Israel as a journalist during the first Gulf War, seems quite enamored with the country. She fretted at the time that Israelis were vulnerable not just to Scuds but to misfired U.S.-operated Patriot anti-missile missiles.

"Israelis are very interesting people, also," she said. "The fact is, Israelis love to talk and tend to be, at least in this business—in the arms business and in intelligence—fairly gregarious, and also they have a lot of feuds with each other, very strong personalities. It's a very interesting group of people to work with."

Will Cockburn's co-authorship of the book hurt her? She's already pushing back hard, taking to Twitter to call Republicans "desperate" and to quote an Israeli historian, Irad Malkin, as saying the anti-Semitism charge is "outrageous."

In a season where partisan divisions on Israel are deepening, Republicans will naturally run on the pro-Israel relationship. Campaigning in Tennessee this week, Trump spoke at length about his decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. The move earned him a standing ovation last week at a closed-door, minimum \$50,000 a head fundraising dinner in New York, according to a report in Politico.

And Democrats stumping for Jewish votes will circle back to the threats posed by Trump's flirtations with the alt-right, and the overlap between the alt-right and plain old Nazis.

"At a time when American Nazism is on the rise and literally has cost Virginians their lives, we don't have the luxury to simply let these bad-faith charges go unanswered," Jonas and Feld wrote. "There is a real and present danger facing American Jews, and it's not coming from authors of a book that no one has actually shown contains anti-Semitic passages."

# HERITAGE

FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

## The Back to School Issue...



# IS BACK!

**Publication Date: August 3, 2018**

**Advertising Deadline: July 25, 2018**

# Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

## Roseanne sobbed and apologized about racist tweet in unaired interview with Rabbi Shmuley Boteach

(JTA)—Roseanne Barr reportedly cried and apologized for her racist tweet in a podcast interview with Rabbi Shmuley Boteach.

Barr “was sobbing and very apologetic about the whole thing,” according to the Hollywood Reporter, which cited an unnamed source. Boteach did not air the interview.

The call in to the podcast came two days after ABC canceled her show last week over the tweet mocking Valerie Jarrett, a former adviser to President Barack Obama and an African-American. The tweet said the “muslim brotherhood & planet of the apes had a baby=vj.”

The reboot of Barr’s immensely popular late 20th-century sitcom had drawn high ratings.

Barr later deleted the tweet about Jarrett, which drew widespread criticism, and issued an apology, saying she had made “a bad joke about her politics and her looks.”

Barr, who is Jewish, and Boteach, a rabbi to several stars, have been friends for 20 years. She has not given any in-depth interviews on the tweets and her firing.

On Saturday evening, Boteach tweeted about the interview: “I did record a podcast with my friend @therealroseanne & I have decided not to release it out of respect for Roseanne. I want to give her space to reflect on the recent events and releasing the recording is a decision she will make at the appropriate time.”

He also tweeted: “I have known @therealroseanne for 20 years. She has apologized for what she acknowledges is a violation of Torah values & in the spirit of Jewish repentance. It is time America learned to forgive so that we may together affirm the image of God, and equal dignity of all humankind.”

Barr canceled a planned appearance on comedian Joe Rogan’s podcast that had been scheduled for Friday. **Ugandan rabbi: ‘We as a Jewish community need to be treated like any other Jewish community’**

(JTA)—A Ugandan rabbi called on Israel to recognize his community after the government ruled against allowing members to move to the Jewish state.

Rabbi Gershom Sizomu confirmed a report in Haaretz last week that the Israeli Interior Ministry had denied a community member’s immigration application. The Interior Ministry, according to Sizomu, said the decision represented its stance on the Ugandan Jewish community, not just the applicant, Kibita Yosef.

Sizomu, who leads the community of approximately 2,000 people, urged Israel to give Ugandan Jews the same rights afforded to Jews worldwide.

“We as a Jewish community need to be treated like any other Jewish community in the Diaspora,” he told JTA

from Kampala, where he serves as a member of the Ugandan parliament.

Israel’s Law of Return gives anyone who has at least one Jewish grandparent, is married to a Jew or has converted to Judaism the right to move there. Yosef, who is currently staying at a kibbutz in southern Israel, is the first Ugandan Jew to try to immigrate to Israel, according to Sizomu.

Sizomu emphasized that his community was not looking to immigrate to Israel en masse and that the decision would not change their practices.

“We are not Jewish for purposes of immigration,” he said. “We are Jewish because that is who we are, and we will never change that, whether they recognize us or not.”

The Ugandan community, also called the Abayudaya, traces its roots to the early 20th century, when a former leader read the Bible and embraced Judaism. Most members were converted under the auspices of U.S. Conservative rabbis in the early 2000s and thus are not recognized as Jewish by Israel’s mostly haredi Orthodox Chief Rabbinate

In 2016, the Jewish Agency for Israel recognized the community for the purposes of the Law of Return, seemingly opening a path for its members to immigrate to Israel. However, the Abayudaya have struggled to obtain government recognition to do so. In December, Israel denied a visa application by another member of the community to study at a yeshiva in Israel, leading to accusations of racism.

Today the community, which is based in the rural town of Mbale, has seven synagogues—including a 7,000-square-foot synagogue center that opened in 2016—a mikvah and two Jewish schools.

“We feel like we have an established Jewish community that deserves to be recognized by Israel,” Sizomu said.

On Friday, Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, who leads the Conservative movement’s Rabbinical Assembly, called the Israeli decision “unlawful.”

“This is completely inconsistent with more than two decades of Israeli practice of Conservative converts—who are by the way halakhically converted to Judaism under our auspices—who had been recognized as Jewish for the purposes of the Law of Return,” she told JTA, using a phrase meaning that something was done in accordance with Jewish law, or halakhah.

Schonfeld said that the movement and its allies were planning “to use all means at our disposal to see that this is reversed.”

Sizomu said that despite the latest decision he remained hopeful about his community gaining status in Israel. In August, 40 young Ugandan Jews will travel to the Jewish state on a trip organized by Birthright, an organization that provides free trips to Israel to young Jews around the world. It is the first time Ugandan Jews will participate in such a trip.

## Bill Clinton says public apology to Monica Lewinsky was enough

(JTA)—Former President Bill Clinton said his public apology for his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky was enough.

NBC’s “Today” show correspondent Craig Melvin asked Clinton in an interview aired Monday if he had ever apologized to Lewinsky, who was 22 and Clinton’s subordinate when they began an affair more than two decades ago.

“I apologized to everybody in the world,” Clinton said of his public apology.

Melvin followed up by asking Clinton if he had ever apologized privately.

“I have never talked to her. But I did say publicly on more than one occasion that I was sorry. That’s very different. The apology was public,” he said.

Clinton made his public apology in 1998 during the National Prayer Breakfast.

“I don’t think there is a fancy way to say that I have sinned,” he said there. “It is important to me that everybody who has been hurt know that the sorrow I feel is genuine—first and most important, my family, also my friends, my staff, my Cabinet, Monica Lewinsky and her family, and the American people.”

Clinton told Melvin that at the time the affair became public, “I felt terrible then and I came to grips with it.” He said later in the interview: “I dealt with it 20 years ago plus... I’ve tried to do a good job since then with my life and my work.”

Clinton also said that he did not regret his decision to fight impeachment, and noted that he left the White House \$16 million in debt from his defense.

Clinton and author James Patterson appeared on “Today” to promote their jointly authored novel “The President is Missing.”

In an apparent response to the “Today” interview, Lewinsky tweeted Monday that she is “grateful to the myriad people who have helped me evolve + gain perspective in the past 20 years.”

She also tweeted a link to a personal essay she wrote in February for Vanity Fair on the 20th anniversary of the investigation into the affair, in which she admitted that she suffers from PTSD over the fallout from the investigation and publicity, and that the #MeToo movement had changed her perspective on the affair and its aftermath.

## Starbucks chairman Howard Schultz to step down

(JTA)—Starbucks’ founder and executive chairman Howard Schultz is stepping down.

Schultz, who previously served as the coffee giant’s CEO, is leaving his position at the end of June, The New York Times reported on Monday.

In an interview with The Times, Schultz, a Democrat who has publicly criticized President Donald Trump, did not deny speculation that he was considering a political career.

“I want to be truthful with

you without creating more speculative headlines. For some time now, I have been deeply concerned about our country—the growing division at home and our standing in the world,” said Schultz, 64.

“One of the things I want to do in my next chapter is to figure out if there is a role I can play in giving back,” he added. “I’m not exactly sure what that means yet.”

Under Schultz, Starbucks became a vocal part of the national conversation on issues such as gun violence, gay rights, race relations, veterans rights and student debt. Its advocacy did not always run smoothly. A 2015 campaign, Race Together—which aimed to spark a national conversation about race relations in its shops—was seen as a public relations failure. Recently, the coffee chain came under fire after two African American men were arrested inside a store in Philadelphia in April after they asked to use a restroom without buying anything.

Schultz has written about his hardscrabble Jewish upbringing in New York, and about his transformative encounter in Jerusalem with Rabbi Nosson Tzvi Finkel, who headed the Mir Yeshiva.

He received an award from Aish Hatorah, a Jewish Orthodox pro-Israel group, in 1998.

## Israel sends aid to Guatemala in wake of deadly volcano eruption

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel has sent emergency aid to Guatemala following the eruption of the Fuego volcano.

The eruption Sunday of the volcano, which is located less than 30 miles from the capital Guatemala City, left at least 25 people dead and dozens injured, according to reports. It is not yet known how many people are missing.

The volcano, whose name means fire in Spanish, erupted twice: just before noon and again after 6 p.m. Some 2 million people were affected by its ash, according to The New York Times.

On Sunday evening, Israel announced that it had sent a delivery of food and medicine to the Central American country. Israel’s Foreign Ministry said it also discussed with local authorities how else it could be of assistance.

Last month, Guatemala moved its embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv in a ceremony attended by President Jimmy Morales. The move came two days after the United States made its transfer.

## Man arrested in repeated vandalism of suburban Boston eruv

(JTA)—A local man was arrested a day after police in Sharon, Massachusetts, posted on Facebook that the suburban Boston community’s eruv had been repeatedly vandalized.

Yerachmiel E. Taube 28, was arrested Saturday on charges of malicious destruction of property, destruction to a religious organization, interference with civil rights and disorderly conduct. He was scheduled to be arraigned

Monday morning in Stoughton District Court.

According to Jewish law, an eruv is an artificial boundary that allows Jews to push and carry objects outside their homes on the Sabbath and holy days. The eruv is made up of a series of poles and string.

Some 40 volunteers for the Sharon Eruv Society, which helps maintain the eruv on a weekly basis, had offered a reward for information about the vandalism. The eruv was constructed in 1990.

On Friday, Sharon Police in their post reported that the eruv “has been the subject of extensive vandalism over the last few weeks” The post included photos of downed poles and special markers that make up the boundary markers.

According to the police post, the eruv “has served as a critical piece of infrastructure for the Jewish community by creating a sense of togetherness for hundreds of households in the Town of Sharon.”

The ADL New England praised the Sharon Police for investigating the incident and making an arrest. “The eruv is an important religious and communal symbol for the Jewish community in Sharon, with a long history and meaning for the Jewish people. While we do not yet know what motivated this act, we are nevertheless deeply disturbed by the repeated desecration. When one community’s ability to worship is attacked, our collective religious freedom is threatened. We are grateful to Sharon Police for investigating the incident and ensuring accountability and justice for violating the community’s right to religious practice,” Robert Trestan, ADL New England regional director, said in a statement.

**German nationalist party co-head apologizes for calling Nazi era ‘speck of bird poop’ in country’s history**

(JTA)—The co-head of the nationalist Alternative for Germany party said that he regrets calling the Nazi era a “speck of bird poop” in German history.

Alexander Gauland, a 76-year-old attorney and journalist, made the statement on Saturday to a meeting of the party’s youth wing. He said in remarks that were widely reported and widely condemned that Germans must take responsibility for 12 years of Nazi rule but that “Hitler and the Nazis are just a speck of bird poop in more than 1,000 years of successful German history.”

A group of party moderates on Sunday condemned Gauland’s remarks and called for a public apology.

Gauland on Monday issued a statement in which he said that he had used the words “bird poop” to express his “deepest contempt for Nazism.”

“It was never my intention to trivialize or deride the victims of this criminal system,” he also said, according to The Associate Press.

Chancellor Angela Merkel through her spokesman on Monday called it “shameful that we have to deal with

such comments by a lawmaker in parliament.” The spokesman also said that the government strongly rejects any downplaying of the Nazi era.

In national elections last year, the Alternative for Germany Party, or AfD, which was launched in 2013, finished in third place, securing 94 seats in the national parliament, the Bundestag, which has 709 seats in all.

Bjorn Hoche, the AfD party leader in the eastern German state of Thuringia, caused a stir last year when he said that paying too much attention to the Holocaust was making German history “appalling and laughable.” He called the Holocaust memorial in Berlin a “monument of shame” and has recommended a radical departure from “these stupid politics of coming to grips with the past.”

## Argentine special prosecutor Alberto Nisman was murdered, appeals court confirms

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (JTA)—Argentine special prosecutor Alberto Nisman was murdered as a direct consequence of his accusation against former President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner of a cover-up of Iran’s role in the 1994 AMIA Jewish center bombing, a federal court ruled.

The Argentinean Federal Chamber of Appeals on Friday backed the federal judge who is leading the investigation, Julian Ercolini, who ruled last December, more than two years after Nisman’s death, that it was a murder and not a suicide.

On Jan. 14, 2015 Nisman sued the president at that time, claiming that Kirchner and other officials of the government decided to “not incriminate” former senior officials of the Islamic Republic and tried to “erase” their roles in planning the bombing of the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires that left 85 dead and hundreds wounded due to an agreement with Iranian officials.

Four days later Nisman’s body was found in his apartment, with one shot in his head, just hours before he was to present evidence to Argentine lawmakers that the government covered up Iran’s role in the bombing.

According to this upper-level court, in the current investigation “there are clues with sufficient importance to sustain as a hypothesis that the destiny of Nisman ... was decided as a consequence of the nature, seriousness and scope of the complaint filed a few days before,” wrote judges Martín Irurzún and Leopoldo Bruglia.

The court confirmed the original murder ruling by Ercolini and his indictment of the security officials who were tasked with protecting Nisman at the time of his death. In that December ruling, the judge also charged Diego Lagomarsino, a former IT employee of Nisman’s, as an accessory to murder.

The Federal Chamber of Appeals also urged the judge to continue “with the speed and seriousness that such a grave fact imposes”



## Gala

From page 1A

from an executive board of four students this past year to a board of 12 students (almost all of the applicants had applied just finishing their first year at UCF).

First year UCF student Emily Aspinwall is just one of the many incredible

stories that made this award so meaningful. Entering UCF, she never saw herself being involved with Israel advocacy, and had no Jewish background. When she approached Knights for Israel, a mutual friend asked if she could help table for community service. We allowed her to volunteer in return for community service, and through her volunteer work

she only became more and more interested in learning about Israel. It wasn't long until she started coming to all of our events, intrigued to educate herself. She eventually entered into a leadership role, attending AIPAC as part of our delegation, leading events, and after only one year she will begin the Fall of 2018 as the vice president of KFI

and UCF's newest CAMERA Fellow.

After attending the Gala, she said, "This gala has inspired me to work towards being a better member of our now award-winning club, Knights for Israel. I felt at home with those who shared my aspirations of creating better Israel advocacy areas on and off campus with those I am proud to call my friends.

I am honored to be a member of such a hard-working and inspirational club, and as my university's CAMERA fellow next year, I will strive to continue the message of advocacy and inclusivity Knights for Israel brings."

What this honor meant to me as a leader was truly life changing. To earn this award during my one year of presidency, I can't imagine

a stronger note on which to end. While I will no longer be president of Knights for Israel, I will continue to do my part in making sure our success continues for years to come. The student involvement we possessed this year indicates to me that the organization will be in great hands and that Israel and I have nothing to worry about at UCF.

## Chabon

From page 1A

Hebron does not "gaze out in scorn" at our Arab neighbors. We have many friends and colleagues among the Arab community—those who reject jihad. We often meet with sheikhs and mukhtars in Hebron and in nearby villages. It is people like Michael Chabon, who don't know much about the reality on the ground, that prefer to paint Hebron

as endlessly violent and in conflict. Michael, look past your bias and see that there is also much hope in Hebron!

In general, Chabon's commencement speech is reflective of a man who, on the one hand, is desperate to assimilate, hating all Jewish separateness as he does, yet possessing a great arrogant urge to condescend, to look down at his people and be judgmental. The Jews of Hebron don't suffer from this

inner-hypocrisy identity crisis. Unlike Chabon, we are not opting out of Judaism, but rather staying true to 3,800 years of Jewish history in this place, and instead of assimilation, we remain committed to the vision of the founders of our peoplehood buried here as a testimony to faith, courage and humility. Maybe Michael Chabon hates Hebron Jews because he resents Jewish continuity?

The Jewish community of Hebron has written to HUC the following letter:

Shalom Dear HUC,

It will not surprise you that Michael Chabon's much-talked-about speech at your L.A. commencement was certainly disappointing to us here in the Jewish Community of Hebron. In our mind, his harsh onslaught missed many truths about our community including the fact that Jews

have lived here for 3,500 years, that the tombs of the founding fathers and mothers of the Jewish people are found here and that we are its caretakers, and that we have many good relations with our Arab and Muslim neighbors.

I believe and would urge you to consider, that after such a harsh denunciation of our community at your institution, that we the Jews of Hebron, should have an

opportunity to redress those condemnations.

If you would amenable, I would like to discuss the possibility of giving a talk at Hebrew Union College about the historical Jewish narrative of Hebron.

Looking forward to your reply,

*Yishai  
International spokesman,  
Jewish Community of  
Hebron, Israel*

## Holstein

From page 3A

secretary in Plainville, New York, before returning to college, earning her master's degree, and becoming a psychiatric social worker when she was nearly 60.

As we began the interview, Holstein kvelled, proudly telling me about her boy.

"He was a cute kid; dark curly hair, very bright and precocious," she said. "He did very well in school and skipped first grade, which became a problem because he was short and always felt like a baby.

"When he was little, he wasn't that easy to get along with because I think he was a protester from the very beginning. Jeff had a kind of strong will. But his saving grace was he had a great sense of humor and a great intelligence, so he was marvelous company and I always enjoyed him. We had a very good, close relationship."

As a teenager, Holstein recalled, Jeff was typical of the times.

"He liked the Mets, music, math and motorcycles. He had posters up all over his room: Jimi Hendrix, The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane. ... I don't think that's the group's name anymore, right? I got a good education from him.

He was very insistent that I share in what he loved so much," she said.

In early 1970, on a visit to New York City, she and Jeff strolled around Greenwich Village, and he bought a small leather ring with a peace insignia. He had been an anti-Vietnam War activist since the age of 16, when he wrote a poem titled "Where Does It End?" It included the lines "A teenager from a small Ohio farm clutches his side in pain, and, as he feels his life ebbing away, he too, asks why, why is he dying here, thousands of miles from home?"

At the time, Jeff had never been to Ohio and had no idea his own life would end in the state.

In 1970, Jeff transferred to Kent State from Michigan State University.

That May, Holstein received a phone call from her mother.

"She heard on the radio there were protests at Kent State, and she was worried about Jeff. So I called Jeff and told him Nana was upset," Holstein said. "He said it's nothing to worry about. We talked about him getting a summer job in which he'd make those posters that said 'War is unhealthy for children and other living things.'

"Two days later, Jeff

called me in my office. He was concerned I might hear about more demonstrations and get nervous about it, and he wanted to reassure me. He mentioned Nixon's speech calling the anti-war students 'bums,' and the impression I got wasn't so much of anger but of wry amusement. There was going to be a rally at noon, and he said 'I think I'll go over there; is that OK with you?' I thought, what power do I have to tell him no, from Long Island?"

Her voice breaking, Holstein said "And that was the last..."

Miller took part in the May 4 protest against the expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia and against the presence of the Ohio National Guard on the Kent State campus. The shooting of those unarmed protesters led to massive demonstrations across the country. A federal commission later determined that the shootings were unjustified, although no criminal convictions were obtained against any National Guardsman.

Holstein, who was divorced from Jeff's father, Bernard, heard about the shootings on the radio as she drove home from work and thought to herself, "I'm going to call Jeff and tell him to come home and wait

until this blows over." She dialed his number at college; a young man answered, and she asked to speak with Jeff. After a pause, he said, "He's dead."

As Holstein sank onto her bed, thinking it had to be a mistake, her soon-to-be second husband, Artie, grabbed the phone and was given the name of the hospital where the victims had been taken.

"I thought maybe somebody had borrowed Jeff's wallet. This doesn't happen to people you know," Holstein said. "But then I heard Artie say, 'Oh, he was wearing a leather ring with a peace insignia?' And I knew it was Jeff."

Within hours, the entire country had seen the iconic photograph, which won the Pulitzer Prize later that year. I asked Holstein how she managed to deal with it.

"In the first year," she remembered, "I was just running. We drove across country to California, and walked into a place, and there was that photo, wall-sized, of Jeff lying there. I felt like someone was hitting me on the head, just pounding me. I think what's happened over time is that's how Jeff looked when he was lying in bed, so the only way I can bear to look at it is to think that's Jeff sleeping.

"I kind of resent the fact that everyone knows Jeff as

the figure on the ground and not as he really was."

We ended our interview, I shut off the mike and Holstein grabbed her pocketbook.

"I don't want you to only think of Jeff like that either," she said, taking out a well-worn red wallet. "Come, look."

She showed me pictures of Jeff with her older son, Russell, photos from elementary school, of his bar mitzvah, of him playing drums. It was beyond heartbreaking.

Holstein gave me a copy of Jeff's 1966 poem that day, which I've had framed on my wall ever since. I began a tradition of calling or writing her every May 4, on Jeff's secular "yahrzeit."

Three years ago, she emailed saying "It means so much to me that you still keep Jeff in your thoughts. It's amazing, so long after his death, you and other people who never knew Jeff still think of him. How he would love that!"

In 2016, at age 94, Holstein drove to my house for lunch, and for the first time I showed her Jeff's poem on the wall; she beamed. This year, on May 4, I emailed her, as usual. The next day my phone rang.

"Steve? It's Elaine. Thank you for the email. I actually was planning to fly to Kent

State this week to speak at the annual ceremony. But I was just diagnosed with terminal cancer, and I was about to call you and let you know," she said.

I expressed my sorrow and concern, but Holstein immediately said, "Really, I'm perfectly content to settle for this. I'm 96, a good age, and it looks like this will go pretty fast."

And then, she sighed.

"I had a good life. The only horrible thing that ever happened to me was Jeff's death."

Holstein raised her children in New York, first in the Bronx and later Plainview.

After her 1969 divorce from Jeff's father, she lived in Queens with her second husband, Artie Holstein, a high school principal, whom she married in 1971.

Elaine remained in Queens after Artie's death and spent the winters in Florida until her cancer diagnosis. She then moved to an assisted living facility in Wayland, Massachusetts, near her son Russell's home.

Elaine Holstein once told me that on May 4, 1970, she woke up as one person, and by the time she went to sleep that night, she was someone else entirely. I think many of us who remember that horrendous day can say exactly the same thing.

## IDF

From page 8A

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman revealed that the "underground Hamas terror infrastructure" targeted in the air-strikes was a terror tunnel. "The attempts to attack

the state of Israel from the air, through the fence and underground will be blocked with a wall of steel and with the IDF's might," he stated, advising Hamas' leadership to accept "that their military project is a failure" and invest instead in "improving

the lives of the residents of Gaza."

This is the tenth terror-tunnel Israel has destroyed in recent weeks. Each tunnel costs millions to dig and build.

On Monday night, a Palestinian drone flying from

Gaza breached Israeli airspace and fell in an open field in the Sha'ar Ha'Negev Regional Council area. The IDF stated that the drone "was under inspection."

These latest events occurred amid the daily violence on the Israel-Gaza bor-

der, orchestrated by Hamas, the Islamic terror group that rules the Strip and calls for Israel's destruction.

The March of Return culminated last Monday with a bloody day of violence, during which some 60 Palestinians, mostly terrorists

by Hamas' own admission, were killed.

Since then, the border has been the quietest since the riots began eight weeks ago, while the IDF remains on high alert in the area in anticipation of another possible flare-up.

## Jihad

From page 14A

message has been received, or whether Gaza and Israel will be plunged into a new conflict just four years after the end of the last one.

Already, however, signs are emerging that the terror factions have made up their mind to escalate things in an unusual manner. By targeting civilians, including children on their way to

kindergarten, PIJ knowingly forced Israel into a stringent military response. By continuing to fire throughout the day, PIJ is sending the message that it is not backing down.

'Feels as if they are stepping things up'

Dr. Col. (res.) Moshe Elad, one of the founders of the security coordination between the IDF and the Palestinian Authority, said

PIJ and Hamas have been engaged in a struggle and competition over prestige and funds. PIJ, for its part, is concerned with maintaining a good image in front of the Iranians, he said.

Iran, he added, "is seeking to activate organizations, whether in Yemen, the Golan Heights or in Gaza."

PIJ is older than Hamas, established in 1981 with the direct backing of Iran

two years after the Islamic revolution, explained Elad. When it was first set up, the organization was named after Iran's first Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, he added, before it was criticized for being too Iran-oriented as a Sunni organization. It then changed its name to Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The group's founders included Palestinian intellectuals like Fathi Shaqaqi

(assassinated in Malta in 1995), and current leader Ramadan Shalah, who is based in Damascus, Syria.

"Hamas's ties with Iran are artificial, motivated by financial interest. But PIJ's connection to Iran is established, older and more significant," said Elad. "Hence, when Iran decides which organization to activate, PIJ is more available. There are internal struggles in Gaza; Hamas

does not want to ignite the region. But in recent days, I can't say why, it seems to have allowed PIJ to escalate."

"When I listen to Shalah and to PIJ's spokespeople in Gaza, it feels as if they are stepping things up. They are allowing themselves to escalate," he added.

Meanwhile, the IDF said in its statement that it "is prepared for a wide variety of scenarios."

# These Jewish camp counselors want to teach their kids about the occupation



Participants in a camp counselor training by IfNotNow in the Boston area, May 27, 2018.

## By Ben Sales

(JTA)—When Aviva Schwartz started praying publicly for Palestinians at her Jewish summer camp, she knew it would be controversial.

Schwartz had grown up ensconced in the Conservative movement, had attended three of its Ramah camps and had moved up the ranks as a staff member at Ramah Wisconsin. When Israel's war in Gaza broke out in the summer of 2014, she was the unit head for incoming seventh-graders, a position reserved for staff veterans.

She was also a college student who, after a lifetime of pro-Israel education, was becoming more critical of Israel's control of the West Bank and its treatment of Palestinians. So when fellow staff members began saying Kaddish, the mourners' prayer, for Israelis killed in the conflict, she began praying for Palestinian victims as well.

Her superiors let her do it, but they did not back her up when she felt backlash from her unit counselors.

"I felt pretty strongly that we needed to acknowledge and remember the lives of Palestinians and Israelis," Schwartz said. "Particularly, Israeli staff were incredibly upset and uncomfortable. I wasn't told not to do that, and I don't feel like I was really given support in the form of the camp backing me, to support me in my conversations with upset counselors."

Now, with tensions in Gaza again running high, Schwartz wants to help other Jewish camp counselors do what she did: talk about Palestinian narratives and challenge Israeli actions while at camp. She was among the organizers of a daylong training for counselors on how to discuss the issue with campers and staff, both informally and in camp programs. The goal is to encourage counselors to present divergent sides of the

conflict rather than solely a pro-Israel line.

The May 27 session in Boston attracted about a dozen counselors from eight Reform, Conservative and liberal Zionist camps. It was run by IfNotNow, a group of young Jews that opposes Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and American Jewish support of it.

"Having to relearn and re-evaluate your whole childhood and mentorship and teaching because of the feeling of being lied to is a potentially life-shattering moment," said Schwartz, now an employee of the campus group Hillel at the University of Washington. "I don't want campers to have to think, oh, did my counselors know the occupation is happening and they're just lying about it?"

It's a change of pace for IfNotNow, which focuses much of its energy on public and often disruptive protests of large American Jewish organizations. But in March, members

of IfNotNow met with Mitchell Cohen, the national director of Ramah camps, to outline their concerns with what they feel is an overly one-sided Israel curriculum at the camps.

Cohen proudly acknowledged that Israel is portrayed in a positive light at the camps. Ramah, like other Jewish camps, infuses Israeli culture into much of its programming. Campers study Hebrew daily, perform Israeli dances, sing Israeli songs, eat Israeli food and learn about the country's history. Delegations of Israeli counselors and staff work at all of the camps, whose founding was inspired partly by the ethos of early 20th-century labor Zionism.

Several Ramah staffers attended the training. But Cohen said he wasn't worried about what they discussed and is open to nuanced Israel education—though any educational program counselors put on this summer will, like all others, have to be vetted by their camps' senior staff.

"Some people use the word occupation in quite harsh ways," he said. "Some people use it in more mild ways. Certainly the fact that there is a difficult situation between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, a conflict, people suffering on all sides. This is something we don't have a problem talking about at camp."

Cohen said the camps' top priority is fostering a sense of affection in campers toward Israel as a Jewish homeland. He noted that a range of perspectives exist within Israel regarding the conflict, but there are red lines.

"To the extent that there are liberal opinions that are critical of Israel that are not Zionist, anti-Zionist, we would never allow that at camp," he said. "First we teach a love for Israel. Then we teach the nuances and the conflict."

Noam Weissman, who is consulting with a Jewish camp on its Israel curriculum, also says an Israel curriculum should combine love and nuance. Weissman, senior vice president for education for Jerusalem U, a video-focused Israel education organization, says kids need to learn about the diversity and complexity of Israel, but from a place of love.

Loving Israel, he said, "builds in a real confidence of Jewish peoplehood, a love for oneself and a confidence for oneself."

"We want to be able to ask tough questions, but we want to do it in a contextualized way that says we love Israel, we care about Israel," Weissman said. "The occupation needs to be discussed and the different perspectives on the occupation need to be discussed, but the foregone conclusion that the occupation is 'bad' is indoctrination just like anything else that they're claiming is indoctrination."

Weissman was referring to claims by some Jewish critics that the "pro-Israel" approach is also indoctrination, and that Israel advocacy groups only discuss the Palestinian side in order to debunk it.

At the IfNotNow training, participants began by talking about their camps and why they feel attached to them. Following seminars on the history of American Jewish camps and IfNotNow's activism, participants discussed how to talk about difficult issues with children. After brainstorming ideas of how they would discuss the conflict with their campers, the participants saw a presentation by counselors from Habonim Dror, the liberal Zionist youth movement, about their curriculum on Israel and the Palestinians.

Adina Alpert, a lifelong camper at Ramah in Ojai,

California, who co-organized the training, said the event was coming from a positive place: The counselors do not want to hurt their camps, even if they were unhappy with some of the Israel education they received there. Alpert fondly recalled a wealth of Israeli cultural programs at camp. But she also felt that lessons on Israeli history, the Israeli War of Independence and subsequent events did not present the Palestinian point of view.

"These are not communities we want to be leaving or alienating or becoming isolated from," she said. "We want to do this work within our communities because we love our communal moments of joy and growth [while] thinking back and reflecting on the moments where our Israel education wasn't what we wanted it to be."

But ahead of the conference, counselors were not exactly sure what their ideal Israeli-Palestinian program would look like. Some suggested having campers read Palestinian stories or poems, or see Palestinian artwork. Others suggested studying Palestinian texts or having a Shabbat program framed around the Palestinian experience. Another idea was to have campers read a number of opinions and perspectives regarding a recent event in the region, like the recent clashes on the Gaza border.

Alpert said "if campers hear the term 'Palestinian' in a non-derogatory way, that would be a success."

Maya Seckler, an incoming gardening counselor at the Reform Eisner Camp in Massachusetts, wants to expose her campers to Palestinian life by placing signs next to each vegetable with its name in Hebrew, English and Arabic.

"I want to expose kids to Arabic and Palestinian culture," she said. "That's part of Israeli culture, that all three languages are going to be on every sign, and it's not ignoring a whole group of people in Israeli history and Israeli culture. Both are valid and both are important."

An incoming unit head at Ramah Outdoor Adventure in Colorado, Sylvie Rosen, said she has not formulated programs yet for her campers because she wants to talk first to her counselor staff. But if violence flares up in Israel this summer, she does not want to shy away from it.

"Going into ninth grade, I think they're old enough to hear stories from families living in the West Bank, living in Gaza," she said. "If the violence in Gaza continues throughout the summer, that's something I want to address."



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