

Orlando visionary Roz Fuchs honored with Human Service Award

By Christine DeSouza

“In Judaism, prophets were considered visionary not because they predicted the future, but because they saw possibilities. Roz has always been someone with the ability to both see possibilities and then take that all-important step and make them happen,” said David Bornstein of his cousin Roz Fuchs, this year’s recipient of the Heritage Human Service Award.

From an array of multi-colored glass vases arranged neatly on a bookcase to the artwork on the walls and the simple arrangement of chairs and couches all brought together by a 1920’s-era area rug, handed down through the family, Roz Fuchs’ home is a reflection of the woman herself—elegant, unassuming, organized, down-to-earth, strong and gentle. Talking with her, one instantly feels she is a good friend to have, and that is exactly how so many others feel about her.

Kehillah exhibit curator Marcia Jo Zerivitz said of her, “(Roz) keeps track of people, makes each feel indispensable and is concerned about their personal lives. Choosing Roz for this award is brilliant. Fervent about Jewish values, she genuinely cares about our heritage and continuity. I don’t know how she juggles all the pieces in the midst of her own intense life. Roz is a ‘doer’—a gem!”

“If you want a job done and done well, ask Roz. Her attention to detail

and thoughtful approach to all that she does is extraordinary,” said Sara Stern, last year’s recipient of the Human Service Award. “Her impeccable taste, thoughtful consideration and exemplary work ethic make all that she touches turn to gold. This community is fortunate to have someone who is so dedicated to its well being and the preservation of its history. Roz is a remarkable person and so deserving of the Heritage Human Service Award.”

To mention everything that Fuchs has been involved in would probably take up the entire newspaper. Her close friend Barbara Chasnov said it best, “When asked to write something about my dear friend, Roz Fuchs, for her most deserved Human Service Award, I didn’t know where to start. Not because I didn’t have anything to say, but quite the opposite. There’s so much to say about my amazing friend!”

“I am thrilled that my dear friend Roz is being recognized for her humanitarian work,” said Ina Porth from Hadley, Mass. “Roz is a very special woman and part of an extraordinary family. Doing good, always compassionate, always ready to help is in her genes. She did not fall far from tree, citrus at that. Any job she takes on is done with a full heart and done in only a way Roz can do...completely, correctly and with full measure.”

Daughter of Leon and Bea Ettinger, sister of Marilyn Crotty and

Jeffrey Ettinger, and niece of Flossie Gluckman, Jerome Bornstein, Dorothy Morrell and Rita Levy, Fuchs was raised surrounded by Jewish community activists. Five members of her family had served as Federation presidents before she served from 1996 to 1998.

“Her mother, Bea Bornstein Ettinger, I feel, set the example and standard of how you can be a devoted wife and mother and still make a difference by caring for those who often didn’t have a voice,” said Chasnov.

As a youth, Fuchs joined BBG, was a founding member of the first USY Chapter in Orlando, and spent her summers at Camp Blue Star—all of which fed her love for Israel and the Jewish community.

Fuchs left Orlando for college in Madison, N.J. She got married and moved to Kinston, N.C. Orlando’s loss was North Carolina’s gain.

“Roz is a driven leader, intelligent, cognizant of the community and world around her and the needs—and she springs into action,” said Zerivitz.

It seems that wherever Fuchs goes, if there isn’t a Jewish group or organization that is needed, she will start one. Case in point, she was a founding member of Congregation Bayt Shalom, a conservative synagogue in Greenville.

“Four couples started it,” she said, “and it is still there.”

She was also volunteer education



Roz Fuchs

director of Bayt Shalom from 1978 to 1984.

While living in North Carolina, Fuchs became a key contact in AIPAC. A key contact is a person who has a personal relationship with legislators, and it just so happened that one of her neighbors was a state senator and his wife taught her children how to swim. She was also a member of the NC AIPAC Cabinet.

“The way North Carolina was organized at that time, we had a cabinet made up of Jewish people from all over the state who would come together,” she explained.

“My days with AIPAC started a long time ago,” she said. “The first

policy conference I went to had maybe 500 people—now it is over 18,000 people!”

In Orlando, Fuchs was a community chair of AIPAC from 2001-2006, and served on the AIPAC National Advisory Board from 2005-2006, and she was awarded the AIPAC Leadership Award in 2006.

Fuchs also served on Gov. Jim Hunt’s North Carolina/Israel Scholar Exchange Advisory Board. Because the tobacco industry was transitioning in North Carolina, the governor saw that NC could benefit from the agricultural industry in Israel. He formed a Cabinet that figured a way for research professors from Israeli universities to come and work here while NC professors went to Israel.

But enough of Fuchs changing the Jewish world and agricultural industry in North Carolina! She returned to Orlando in 1985 and this community has been blessed with her endeavors ever since.

“When Roz returned to Orlando with her young family, it didn’t take her long to become involved with the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando, her synagogue, Congregation Ohev Shalom, and the Bornstein Young Leadership Training program. She never tired of giving back to her Jewish community that certainly influenced her love of Judaism and Israel, and to this day, she is always thinking of ways to improve our

Fuchs on page 15A

Call for EU to recognize Israel’s sovereignty over Golan Heights

By Yossi Llelmpkowitz

(EJP via JNS)—A member of the European Parliament has called on the European Union to recognize Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

“It is in the interest of the European Union to stop considering the Golan Heights as an ‘occupied territory’ and to recognize Israel’s sovereignty over this territory,” said Fulvio Martusciello, Italian MEP who



Hadas Parush/Flash90

An old Israeli tank with a flag overlooking the Syrian town of Quneitra in the Golan Heights.

chairs the European Parliament delegation for relations with Israel.

The E.U. considers the Golan Heights as “occupied territory” by Israel since the country took over the region from Syria in the closing stages of the 1967 Six-Day War. The Golan Heights has a strategic importance for the country, as it gives Israel an excellent vantage points for monitoring Syrian movements. The topography provides a natural buffer against any military thrust from Syria. The area also provides

a third of Israel’s water supply.

Despite its official neutrality in the Syrian conflict, the State of Israel has provided humanitarian aid to Syrian war victims, an effort that has been drastically geared up since June 2016, but it has also strongly opposed the presence of Iranian military or of its proxies.

According to MEP Martusciello, recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights “will give trust to the E.U. as a broker in the Middle East peace process and even a potential to use it as leverage.”

“In a time where the E.U. is receiving refugees escaping the war in Syria it is time to take a clear position and recognize the importance of having Israel as the de jure sovereign of this territory,” he added.

For Martusciello, the European Union “needs to reinforce its engagement with the State of Israel.”

“We have seen a turbulent region where Israel has been an oasis of democracy despite the tensions with the Palestinians and the situation in Gaza,” he said.

Gene Starn, dies at age 94

Heritage Florida Jewish News founder, Eugene “Gene” Starn of La Posada, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 14, 2018, surrounded by family and friends in the Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center Hospice Unit.

Starn was born May 17, 1924, in Youngstown, Ohio. He was the son of Harry and Helen Starn.

Starn had journalism in his blood at a young age. When he was 14, Starn published the Hobby News, a neighborhood “scandal sheet.” At 17, he was editor of the Voice of South High. While in college at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, he originated a Cinderella Ball, featuring Alvino Rey’s Orchestra. He was also instrumental in starting WOUB-AM/FM, the campus area radio station, which thrives today.

After being drafted into the army during WWII, Starn was trained as a tank mechanic.

“On arrival in New Guinea, he was informed that he was now a refrigeration mechanic. Something he knew nothing about! Being Gene, he figured it out!” said his nephew Joel Kresner.

At 26, Starn became the news director at Youngstown’s new CBS-affiliate WKBN-AM/FM TV, and twice won



Gene Starn

the radio-TV News Director Association’s distinguished achievement award, now known as the Edward R. Murrow Award.

At 32, Gene and his wife, Elaine, moved to Denver, Colorado, and opened ALWESCO, which grew into a prosperous wholesale decorative building material distributor. After selling the business, Starn, now 50, and Elaine retired to Orlando to golf, play ten-

Starn on page 14A



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Orlando Senior Help Desk: What can we help you with?



Nancy Ludin helps callers to Orlando Senior Help Desk navigate the many choices families must make as their elders age.

By Lisa Levine

When Gloria Danvers was preparing to move her mom to Central Florida to live with her, she had a lot of questions she needed answered in order to make the transition successful. Her mom, Ann, was a smart and active woman who was still working at her medical transcriptionist business at the age of 82, but she had been having health problems

and it was clear that changes needed to be made.

Danvers, a Winter Park hypnotherapist who also has a St. Augustine office, knew she needed good advice. "I had to start getting resources to make sure that my mom is happy and taken care of all the time and that she has in interest in life and there are things to do," she said.

Fortunately for Danvers, her business networking

had brought her into contact with Nancy Ludin, executive director of The Jewish Pavilion and the Orlando Senior Help Desk. Although Danvers is not Jewish, she was aware through Ludin that the Orlando Senior Help Desk offers free advice for anyone who calls, regardless of religious affiliation.

One of the things Danvers sought advice about was what to do when switching banks to take advantage of concierge services that her mother's bank did not offer and that would make life easier as she dealt with mobility constraints.

When she called the Orlando Senior Help Desk and spoke with Ludin, "she gave me fantastic information," Danvers said. "Not only to say, 'this is what the banks can do,' but she also had Penny in her office to say, 'these are the things that you don't want to do, and let me tell you why. She gave me information I needed that I didn't even know I needed.'"

Penny Goldstein D'Agostino is chief financial officer and managing director for The Jewish Pavilion and Orlando Senior Help Desk. She is also

a partner with her husband, David, in Infinity Financial Group, an Altamonte Springs financial advising and tax preparation business, and she contributes a wealth of knowledge in personal finances as an Orlando Senior Help Desk counselor.

D'Agostino said she gave Danvers the same advice she frequently gives others regarding banking. If children want to help parents manage their financial lives, "often the banks will say to a parent 'have them come in and we'll add them to your account,'" she said. "That is absolutely the wrong thing to do, because it means that money, which is the parent's money, can be attachable in case the child has a financial emergency. Once the child puts their name as a signatory on the bank account, that means the money is considered legally theirs."

Instead, D'Agostino advises that parents consult with a lawyer to give the child

a power of attorney if that comes to be required. Also, the parent can give the child access to the account through the Internet so he or she can be of assistance with monitoring inflow, outflow, and bill paying. Another important arrangement to make with the bank is to enter the child as beneficiary of the account after the parent dies, which many banks term as the account being "payable on death." This no-cost arrangement avoids the account being tied up in probate.

"If something happens, the child can immediately access the funds with nothing more than a death certificate," D'Agostino said.

Another issue Danvers sought help for is securing a trustworthy companion for her mother on the days when Danvers works from her office in St. Augustine. Ludin was ready with a recommendation, which was a great relief for Danvers.

"I have somebody in place that can come and keep her company and play cards with her. And knowing that this person is vetted by Nancy and the Orlando Senior Help Desk gives me a lot of confidence," said Danvers. "Nancy is just a goldmine of information."

Better still is the peace of mind that comes from knowing that any further help Danvers may need is just a phone call away. "I really feel that I can reach out and ask Orlando Senior Help Desk, and I really appreciate the services that they offer," said Danvers.

Callers to the Orlando Senior Help Desk hotline are offered guidance on choosing senior living options, home health services, elder law, hospice, adult day care, financial arrangements and more. For more information, go to OrlandoSeniorHelpDesk.org. To access this free service, call 407-678-9363.

Renowned violinist returns for Kabbalat Shabbat service



Zoriy Zinger

Congregation Beth Shalom of Leesburg invites the community to a very special warm, joyous, and festive Shabbat service on Friday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m.

This uplifting service of music and song, led by Rabbi

and Cantor Karen Allen, who will be playing her keyboard, features world-class violinist Zoriy Zinger.

Zinger was a soloist in the Russian Symphony Orchestra before reaching fame in America. Rabbi Allen and

Zinger have collaborated in numerous venues, including several concerts.

Beth Shalom's Kabbalat Shabbat takes the form of the usual Friday night service, enhanced with musical instruments and additional songs.

This will be a wonderful celebration of the Jewish spirit in music from Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox traditions, inspiring congregants to leave humming or singing tunes learned as a child, along with new versions of prayers.

An Oneg Shabbat with refreshments will follow the service.

The synagogue is located at 315 North 13th Street in Leesburg, with the entrance on Center Street. For more information see our website at www.bethsholomflorida.org or call 352-315-0309.

Laugh your tuchas off with SAK at Temple Israel

Temple Israel will be temporarily transformed into a comedy club on Saturday, Aug. 25, as Orlando's famous SAK Comedy Lab entertains the crowd with a personalized, one-hour show.

Start the night off with dessert, coffee, and schmoozing in the social hall at 8 p.m., followed by a brief but beautiful Havdalah service led by



Rabbi Neely in the sanctuary. Stay in the sanctuary after the service, and grab a seat for the comedy show from 9 to 10 p.m., complete with an MC and music.

The show is \$10 per person and appropriate for children 10 and up. Free babysitting is available for younger children, making this an easy and unique date night featuring some of Orlando's funniest folks.

Please RSVP by Monday, Aug. 20 at <http://tiflorida.org/sak-comedy-lab-event/>.

HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

The Back to School Issue...



IS BACK!

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'L'dor v'dor' always at the Jewish Pavilion

The Jewish Pavilion strives to include the family members of seniors in its local facilities so that they can engage in Jewish Pavilion life with their loved ones. We always wish to invite family members to our programs, as they are wonderful opportunities to bring children and grandchildren together with their elders and continue celebrating our meaningful and rich traditions, together.

If you have any elderly family members in a living community here in Central Florida.. Please reach out to us at The Jewish Pavilion so that we may include you in our programs. HIPPA Privacy Laws prohibit our organization from obtaining family contact information via the facility. It is our goal to practice "L'dor v'dor" and to continue to connect family and generations through learning and love.

—Judy Appleton, program director of The Jewish Pavilion



Susie and Mark Stone, with his mother, Sylvia Stone.

Zuckerberg says Facebook won't delete Holocaust denial posts

By Ben Sales

(JTA)—Mark Zuckerberg says he wants to give everyone in the world a voice. But what happens when some of those wishing a voice are Holocaust deniers?

That question was posed to the Facebook founder in an interview Wednesday with Recode, a tech news site, about the social network giant's role in fighting false news and ensuring the safety of users.

Zuckerberg's answer placed two values in tension: On the one hand, he said, Facebook prioritizes allowing people to express themselves—even if, he said, they “get things wrong.” On the other hand, he doesn't want Facebook to serve as a platform for harming people or groups.

So while Facebook would not remove a post denying the Holocaust, Zuckerberg said, it would push that post down the News Feed to make sure it doesn't go viral.

“I'm Jewish, and there's a set of people who deny that the Holocaust happened,”

he told the interviewer, Kara Swisher. “I find that deeply offensive. But at the end of the day, I don't believe that our platform should take that down because I think there are things that different people get wrong I don't think that they're intentionally getting it wrong, but I think...”

At that point, Swisher jumped in: “In the case of the Holocaust deniers, they might be, but go ahead.”

“It's hard to impugn intent and to understand the intent,” Zuckerberg said. “I just don't think that it is the right thing to say ‘We're going to take someone off the platform if they get things wrong, even multiple times.’”

“What we will do is we'll say, ‘OK, you have your page, and if you're not trying to organize harm against someone, or attacking someone, then you can put up that content on your page, even if people might disagree with it or find it offensive.’ But that doesn't mean that we have a responsibility to make it widely distributed in News Feed.”

News Feed is the display of

items that greet a Facebook user when they access the service. The items can range from a personal update from a close friend to a widely shared news story or video.

There are some cases in which Zuckerberg said Facebook would remove content with false news. The New York Times reported on people in Sri Lanka and Myanmar who used the platform to spread false rumors against the Muslim minorities of those countries, leading to deaths in both places. So Zuckerberg said Facebook is more willing to remove false, inciting content in those places.

Several Jewish figures have criticized Zuckerberg's statements. Deborah Lipstadt, the Holocaust historian, said that though governments should not criminalize Holocaust denial, social media platforms also should not give it any space.

“I do not believe that non-governmental entities, such as Facebook, should be posting denial claims,” Lipstadt wrote in an email to JTA. “Freedom of the press means

the press should be free of governmental control. It does not mean that the press or social media platforms have to provide space for deniers.”

Lipstadt also wrote that the notion that denial is an unintentional error is “ludicrous.”

“Holocaust denial is no different than Sandy Hook mass killing denial,” she wrote, referring to conspiracy theories falsely claiming that the 2012 school shooting was a hoax. “It's not a ‘mistaken’ notion of history. It is a deliberate distortion, made in the name of hatred. Simply put: Denial is a form of antisemitism and racism.”

Jonathan Greenblatt, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, also said in a statement that Facebook should take a harder line on Holocaust denial.

“Holocaust denial is a willful, deliberate and long-standing deception tactic by anti-Semites that is incontrovertibly hateful, hurtful, and threatening to Jews,” he said. “Facebook has a moral and ethical obligation not to allow its dissemination. ADL



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks at the F8 Facebook Developers conference in San Jose, Calif., May 1, 2018.

will continue to challenge Facebook on this position and call on them to regard Holocaust denial as a violation of their community guidelines.”

Facebook has faced criticism from both sides: from users and watchdogs who don't want it to act like a censor, and from those who think it needs to draw the line on odious conspiracy theorists like Infowars, Holocaust deniers and the like.

“What each side of this conversation has in common, whether they acknowledge it or not, is a fear of Facebook's power: Its power to activate prejudice at scale, by giving Infowars a platform, or its power to cut off a key distribution channel for any given publication,” Max Read wrote in an essay on Zuckerberg's comments for New York magazine.

US report finds only 20,000 Palestinian refugees in the world

By Ariel Kahana

(Israel Hayom via JNS)—Members of the U.S. Congress are demanding the State Department make public a key report that includes precise figures on the number of people who became refugees in the 1948 War of Independence.

The existence of the State Department assessment, compiled and classified under the Obama administration, was first disclosed by the Washington Free Beacon six months ago.

Lawmakers say the report

could impact how the United States views the refugee issue when the actual number of refugees is made public and is significantly smaller than the number of Palestinian refugees according to the United Nations.

Once the largest donor to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which provides assistance to Palestinian refugees and their descendants, in January the United States cut \$65 million of a planned \$125 million in aid funds to agency.

The agency, which asserts that there are 5.1 million Pal-

estinian refugees worldwide, focuses on providing health care, education and social services to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. All other refugees fall under the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican, told the Free Beacon that access to the report was necessary for Congress to provide oversight for American taxpayers.

“UNRWA lashes out against America and engages in anti-Semitic incitement. Hamas terrorists use UNRWA facili-

ties to target Israeli civilians,” Cruz was reported as saying. “The American people deserve to see this reported State Department assessment, so Congress and the administration can have a transparent and productive debate about America's role in the organization.”

Sources who have seen the report say that the State Department's assessment was that only 20,000 of the 700,000 Arab refugees who fled Palestine during the War of Independence are still alive and displaced from their homes.

While researching material for her 1984 book *From Time Immemorial*, American journalist Joan Peters learned that the United Nations made the conscious decision to differentiate Palestinian refugees from all other refugees. Refugees are generally defined as people who fled a permanent home, while in the Palestinians' case, someone who lived in Palestine for as little as two years prior to Israel's establishment in 1948 could be considered a refugee.

In addition, unlike all other refugees, Palestinians refu-

gees pass their status on to their descendants. As a result, Palestinian refugees are said to number in the millions.

Israel has begun to raise the issue in the international arena, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that U.N. funds should be transferred to Palestinians through the U.N. refugee agency and that UNRWA should be abolished. Doing so, however, would require the U.N. General Assembly to pass a resolution in favor of the move, which is unlikely given the international forum's anti-Israel bias.

Jerusalem court issues lien on ships headed to Gaza, with proceeds going to Israeli victims of terror

By Josh Hasten

(JNS)—In a rather rare judgment, a Jerusalem District Court just issued a lien on two large ships that are part of a Gaza-bound flotilla set to arrive in Israeli waters later this month, with the intent that the sea vessels can be sold, with proceeds going to families of Israeli victims of Hamas-sponsored terror attacks.

The strategy to seek a lien on the ships in order to benefit the victims was introduced to the court by the Shurat

HaDin-Israel Law Center' NGO on behalf of two Israeli families (Weinstein and Gavish) who for years have been involved in various lawsuits against Hamas for the murder of relatives.

On Dec. 1, 2001, 14-year-old Adam Weinstein from Givon Hahadasha was killed along with 10 other young people in a Hamas suicide-bombing on Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall. Three members of the Gavish family were shot dead on March 28, 2002, when a Hamas terrorist armed with a rifle infiltrated their home

in the Samaria community of Elon Moreh.

According to Shurat HaDin founder attorney Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the successful approach, which persuaded the court to issue the lien last week, was to convince Judge Moshe Drori that while organizers of the flotilla are claiming that the ships are to be turned over to Gazans for their benefit, “there is no question that Hamas would take the ships away from the residents to be used for terrorist operations [against Israel].”

Valued at around 100,000

euros (nearly \$120,000), Darshan-Leitner tells JNS that the boats—named Freedom and Return, set to leave for Gaza from a port in Sicily—are so large (some 80 feet and 65 feet, respectively) that their only purpose will be to enhance Hamas's naval terror units.

According to Darshan-Leitner, the organizers of the new flotilla are comprised of various Muslim extremist groups affiliated with Hamas, as well as the Turkish IHH terror organization—the same group behind the 2010 flotilla that saw Israel Defense Forces' soldiers raid one of the ships, the Mavi Marmara, and after being brutally attacked were forced to open fire, killing nine of the terrorists on board.

Darshan-Leitner says the leaders of this latest flotilla have announced that “they are not bringing any humanitarian aid on board, but that they are turning over the vessels themselves, to be used by children's youth groups in Gaza. But we know with 100 percent certainty that Hamas will not give the boats to the residents of Gaza.”

She explains that once the flotilla reaches Israeli

waters, the Israeli Navy will spring into action and tow the boats into the Ashdod port, while the organizers will be deported from Israel. Thanks to the court's lien, the two vessels will then be sold in the free market, with the proceeds earmarked for the Weinstein and Gavish families.

‘Hamas interested in bolstering its naval commando units’

One of the experts who testified in court on behalf of Shurat HaDin was Arieh Spitzzen, the former head of Palestinian Affairs for COGAT: The Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories. COGAT is responsible for overseeing Israel's civilian and humanitarian policy in Judea and Samaria, and Gaza.

Spitzzen told JNS that he was able to prove to the judge how Hamas in Gaza “cynically steals humanitarian aid and equipment earmarked for use by civilians for terror purposes.”

He said that “Hamas's modus operandi is to seize any equipment earmarked for the civilians if it can be used to enhance their military capabilities.”

Spitzzen cited examples of such instances, including how

Hamas intercepted concrete sent by Israel to Gaza in an effort to help rebuild schools and hospitals following “Operation Protective Edge” in 2014, and diverted the building material towards their terror tunnels.

Spitzzen also explained to the judge that “all these years, but especially in the last few years, Hamas has been interested in bolstering its navy and its naval commando units. This is extremely important for them.”

He added that “since Israel has found solutions for the underground [terror] tunnels, and is using the Iron Dome system to intercept missiles, and has halted suicide-bombers arriving from Gaza, military operations to be launched from the sea have become their focus.”

Brig. Gen. Noam Feig (ret.), who served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Israeli Navy, also testified against Hamas as part of last week's proceedings. Spitzzen said Feig was able to explain to the court in detail how Hamas could weaponize the two ships for use against Israel should they fall into their hands.

Lien on page 15A

Law banning Breaking the Silence from Israeli schools

(JNS)—A law banning groups grounded in the criticism of Israel Defense Forces' soldiers and the operations of the IDF passed on Tuesday in the Knesset.

Education Minister Naf-tali Bennett and Shuli Mualem-Refaeli, the Jewish Home Party co-authors of the bill, said the law would also apply to institutions

that attempt to delegitimize Israel abroad.

The bill passed its second and third reading by a vote of 43-24.

It was specifically aimed at Breaking the Silence, an organization that questions the actions and morality of the IDF, particularly in Judea and Samaria. The organization has come under criticism not

just for attacking the actions of Israeli soldiers, but the Jewish state itself around the world, and for publicizing stories of the abuse of Palestinians that were later proven to be false.

“Anyone who wanders around the world attacking IDF soldiers will not enter a school,” Bennett affirmed in a statement.

Who is betraying America?

By Caroline Glick

Did US President Donald Trump commit treason in Helsinki when he met Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin? Should he be impeached?

That is what his opponents claim. Former president Barack Obama's CIA director John Brennan accused Trump of treason outright. Brennan tweeted, "Donald Trump's press conference performance in Helsinki [with Putin] rises to and exceeds the threshold of 'high crimes and misdemeanors.' It was nothing short of treasonous."

Fellow senior Obama administration officials, including former FBI director James Comey, former defense secretary Ashton Carter, and former deputy attorney general Sally Yates parroted Brennan's accusation.

Almost the entire US media joined them in condemning Trump for treason.

Democratic leaders have led their own charge. Democratic Congressman Steve Cohen from Tennessee insinuated the US military should overthrow the president, tweeting, "Where are our military folks? The Commander-in-Chief is in the hands of our enemy!"

Senate minority leader Charles Schumer said that Trump is controlled by Russia. And Trump's Republican opponents led by senators Jeff Flake and John McCain attacked him as well.

Trump allegedly committed treason when he refused to reject Putin's denial of Russian interference in the US elections in 2016 and was diffident in relation to the US intelligence community's determination that Russia did interfere in the elections.

Trump walked back his statement from Helsinki at a press appearance at the White House Tuesday. But it is still difficult to understand what all the hullabaloo about the initial statement was about.

AP reporter John Lemire placed Trump in an impossible position. Noting that Putin denied meddling in the 2016 elections and the intelligence community insists that Russia meddled, he asked Trump, "Who do you believe?"

If Trump had said that he believed his intelligence community and gave no credence to Putin's denial, he would have humiliated Putin and destroyed any prospect of cooperative relations.

Trump tried to strike a balance. He spoke respectfully of both Putin's denials and the US intelligence community's accusation. It wasn't a particularly coherent position. It was a clumsy attempt to preserve the agreements he and Putin reached during their meeting.

And it was blindingly obviously not treason.

In fact, Trump's response to Lemire, and his overall conduct at the press conference, did not convey weakness at all. Certainly he was far more assertive of US interests than Obama was in his dealings with Russia.

In Obama's first summit with Putin in July 2009, Obama sat meekly as Putin delivered an hour-long lecture about how US-Russian relations had gone down the drain.

As Daniel Greenfield noted at Front-page magazine Tuesday, in succeeding years, Obama capitulated to Putin on anti-missile defense systems in Poland and the Czech Republic, on Ukraine, Georgia and Crimea. Obama gave Putin free rein in Syria and supported Russia's alliance with Iran on its nuclear program and its efforts to save the Assad regime. He permitted Russian entities linked to the Kremlin to purchase a quarter of American uranium. And of course, Obama made no effort to end Russian meddling in the 2016 elections.

TRUMP IN contrast has stiffened US

sanctions against Russian entities. He has withdrawn from Obama's nuclear deal with Iran. He has agreed to sell Patriot missiles to Poland. And he has placed tariffs on Russian exports to the US.

So if Trump is Putin's agent, what was Obama?

Given the nature of Trump's record, and the context in which he made his comments about Russian meddling in the 2016 elections, the question isn't whether he did anything wrong. The question is why are his opponents accusing him of treason for behaving as one would expect a president to behave? What is going on?

The answer to that is clear enough. Brennan signaled it explicitly when he tweeted that Trump's statements "exceed the threshold of 'high crimes and misdemeanors.'" The unhinged allegations of treason are supposed to form the basis of impeachment hearings.

The Democrats and their allies in the media use the accusation that Trump is an agent of Russia as an elections strategy. Midterm elections are consistently marked with low voter turnout. So both parties devote most of their energies to rallying their base and motivating their most committed members to vote.

To objective observers, the allegation that Trump betrayed the United States by equivocating in response to a rude question about Russian election interference is ridiculous on its face. But Democratic election strategists have obviously concluded that it is catnip for the Democratic faithful. For them it serves as a dog whistle.

The promise of impeachment for votes is too radical to serve as an official campaign strategy. For the purpose of attracting swing voters and not scaring moderate Democrats away from the party and the polls, Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Steny Hoyer say they have no interest in impeaching Trump. Impeachment talk, they insist, is a mere distraction.

But by embracing Brennan's claim of treason, Pelosi, Hoyer, Schumer and other top Democrats are winking and nodding to the progressive radicals now rising in their party. They are telling the Linda Sarsours and Cynthia Nixons of the party that they will impeach Trump if they win control of the House of Representatives.

The problem with playing domestic politics on the international scene is that doing so has real consequences for international security and for US national interests.

Consider, for instance, Europe's treatment of Trump.

Europe is economically dependent on trade with the US and strategically dependent on NATO. So why are the Europeans so open about their hatred of Trump and their rejection of his trade policies, his policy towards Iran and his insistence that they pay their fair share for their own defense?

Why did EU Council President Donald Tusk attack Trump with such contempt and condescension in Brussels? Tusk, who chairs the meetings of EU leaders, is effectively the EU president. And the day before last week's NATO conference he chided Trump for criticizing Europe's low defense spending.

"America," he said with a voice dripping with contempt, "appreciate your allies. After all you don't have that many."

That of course, was news to the countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and the Middle East that depend on America and work diligently to develop and maintain strong ties to Washington.

Leaving aside the ridiculousness of his remarks, where did Tusk get the idea that

it is reasonable to speak so scornfully to an American president?

Where did EU's foreign policy commissioner Federica Mogherini get the idea that it is okay for her to work urgently and openly to undermine legally constituted US sanctions against Iran for its illicit nuclear weapons program?

The answer of course is that they got a green light to adopt openly anti-American policies from the forces in the US that have devoted their energies since Trump's election nearly two years ago to delegitimizing his victory and his presidency. Those calling Trump a traitor empowered the Europeans to defy the US on every issue.

Trump's opponents' unsubstantiated allegation that his campaign colluded with Russia during the 2016 elections has constrained Trump's ability to perform his duties.

Consider his relations with Putin.

If there is anything to criticize about Trump's summit with Putin it is that it came too late. It should have happened a year ago. That it happened this week speaks not to Trump's eagerness to meet Putin but to the urgency of the hour.

After securing control over the Deraa province along Syria's border with Jordan last week, the Assad regime, supported by Iranian regime forces, Hezbollah forces and Shiite militia forces began its campaign to restore regime control over the Quneitra province along the Syrian border with Israel.

As Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and all government and military officials have stated clearly and consistently for years, Israel cannot accept Iranian presence in Syria. If Iran does not remove its forces from Syria generally

and from southern Syria specifically, there will be war imminently between Israel, Iran and its Hezbollah, Shiite militia and Syrian regime allies.

Israel prefers to fight that war sooner rather than later to prevent Iran and its allies from entrenching their positions in Syria and make victory more difficult. So, in the interest of preventing such a war, Trump had no choice but to bite the political bullet and sit down to discuss Syria face to face with Putin to try to come up with a deal that would see Russia push Iran and Hezbollah out of Syria.

From what the two leaders said at their joint press conference it's hard to know what was agreed to. But Netanyahu's jubilant response indicates that some deal was reached.

Certainly their statements were strong, unequivocal signals to Iran. When Trump said, "The United States will not allow Iran to benefit from our successful campaign against ISIS," he signaled strongly that US forces in eastern Syria will support Israel in a war against Iran and its allied forces in Syria just as it fought with the Kurds and its other allies in Syria against ISIS.

When Putin endorsed Israel's position that the 1974 Syrian-Israeli disengagement agreement must be implemented along the border, he told the Iranians that in any Iranian-Israeli war in Syria, Putin will not side with Iran.

Time will tell if we just averted war. But what we did learn is that Israel's position in a war with Iran is stronger than it could have been if the two leaders hadn't met in Helsinki.

And this is exceedingly important.

Glick on page 15A

Shipley speaks

Where Jews are losing



By Jim Shipley

Jews used to be used to losing. The poor shlep. The cringing schlemiel. The Hebrew prayers that call for God's help; God's blessing. While Jabotinsky was exhorting the Jews of Eastern Europe to either leave for what was then Palestine or arm themselves, most Jews shrugged and continued to live their miserable lives. Some listened to Jabo. The rest shrugged and sighed. And 20 years later - died by the millions.

Out of the Holocaust the Third Jewish Commonwealth was born. They took in millions of Jews. Some fleeing persecution and death, others eager to help build the Jewish Nation. Today? A nation of less than 10 million people has the twelfth largest GDP in the world.

While the Arab nations ignore their brethren living in refugee camps, Israel successfully settled new citizens from 20 countries, including every Arab nation from which they were thrown out in the 1950s and 60s.

As a part of the Egypt/Israel peace treaty, Israel reluctantly took Gaza. The Egyptians had ruled that strip of desert for decades. They kept the locals in check by hanging them on light poles on the main streets. Israel did a remarkable thing in 2005. They gave Gaza back to the Arabs.

When Israel left Gaza, they left behind a flourishing greenhouse vegetable industry that exported food to most of Europe and beyond. What did the Arabs do? On day one they smashed all the greenhouses, stole the electrical equipment and destroyed an industry that could have added significantly to their economic growth.

Israel did little to let the world know about this. It was really the first battle of a new kind of warfare—fought in the press and on TV and now online. And this was the first battle Israel lost.

Great at high tech, creating new forms of agricultural science, an army numbered among the best in the world (out of necessity), but they suck at public relations, Facebook, Twitter and the mainstream American Press.

Consider this scene in Israel where a group of young women on a Birthright Trip demonstrated for IfNotNow, the "organization" that holds demonstrations about Israel's "treatment" of Palestinians.

A guy named Golan, the Israeli leader of the Birthright Group, had no answer for them. While the girls of IfNotNow were calm (as they were trained to be) Golan lost his cool and got

in a one-way shouting match. Not cool. The leaders and others of the Birthright professional and volunteer staff should be trained to have a calm, logical discussion with IfNotNow and other similar groups.

Ever wonder who finances J Street, IfNotNow, BDS and the rest? Dig deep, you will find Arab and Iranian and Far Right money. Have you seen an expose of this? I didn't think so.

So, Hamas sends groups of young Arabs to the Israeli border with Gaza to "protest," try to cross the border, send flaming kites to burn Israeli farms and sling shot at border guards. When is the last time you saw on Facebook, television or in the daily newspaper a picture of a burning Israeli farm?

Have you seen young Arabs loading their kites? Young Arabs using sling shots to try and kill Israeli soldiers guarding the border? Of course not.

Now, the American public does not want a scholarly discussion of the Arab/Israeli "conflict." We Americans like "good guys" and "bad guys." Always have. Of the top eight box office hits in the first half of 2018 seven are "Super Hero" comic book characters. That is the state of mind in this country.

The ability of Israel to combat this propaganda war and prove we are "the good guys" is sadly inadequate. Ask the average American whose fault it is that Palestinians are dying at the border, chances are you'll get a shrug. The inattention and lack of knowledge of the "average" American is a disgrace and believe me, the politicians and their manipulators know full well how to take advantage of that.

Is Israel blameless in the Gaza mess? Certainly not. Their policies have at times been overbearing and counterproductive. Israel does not know how to use social media. The folks who invented instant messaging and Waze and so much more fumble the ball when it comes to the one media outlet from which over half the nation gets its news. They do not "Troll." They do not have an organized cyber group to target specific areas in the U.S.

This is a war Israel cannot afford to lose! It is the duty of the rest of us to post, to write, to talk about the truth. We can admit to the mistakes of this right-wing Israeli government that often bows to the religious bigotry of some of its key supporters, but Israel is the country for every Jew. The Nation of Israel is one in which you have citizenship the minute you set foot on the land.

Play your part.

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Israel's Nationality Law will humiliate the Jews of the Diaspora

By Ariel Picard

JERUSALEM (JTA)—There are many problems with the Nationality Law nearing passage as the Knesset wraps up its summer session on Sunday, not the least of which is that there is no reason for it. No Israelis challenge the Jewishness of the state, thus the law is unnecessary.

Unfortunately, something unnecessary can also be harmful. The language of the bill, which is officially called "Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People," gives constitution-like force to the notion that Israel is a state for the Jews, from its flag and national anthem to the Hebrew language. It demotes Arabic from an officially recognized language to a "special" status. The latest version softened a declara-

tion that could have led to exclusive, Jewish-only towns to say that Israel "views the development of Jewish settlement as a national value and will act to encourage and promote its establishment."

The effect of this measure is to humiliate non-Jewish citizens of Israel, especially its Arab citizens. If it passes and remains on the books, Israeli Arabs will be told that they may be citizens but will be reminded every day that they are not part of the nation.

Jews in America will never be able to understand what that means because for them, being American is being a citizen and a part of the nation. The unique and challenging situation in Israel is that the country differentiates between nationality and citizenship—that is, all citizens of Israel are consid-

ered "Israeli," but individual ethnic and religious groups, like Jews, Arabs and Druze, are assigned a "nationality." The new Basic Law would enshrine that distinction in a way that comes close to making non-Jewish Israelis second-class citizens, a slap in the face to Israeli Arabs.

What should especially concern Diaspora Jews about the bill is Article 6B, which says "The State of Israel will make an effort in the Diaspora to reinforce the link between the State of Israel and the Jewish people."

On its face it may look OK, but it reinforces the misguided Israeli perception that only in the Diaspora is the link between Israel and world Jewry weakening. In fact, Israel and world Jewry are supposed to be a partnership, reinforcing one another. Just as we know

many in the Diaspora are drifting away from Israel, we know many Israelis do not recognize their connection to the Diaspora.

The words "in the Diaspora" were added because of pressure from haredi Orthodox parties afraid the law would push the State of Israel to accommodate the religious concerns of non-Orthodox Jews as a show of their connection to Israel. The haredim feared that the previous wording could have been used to establish in law such things as the enlargement of the egalitarian Western Wall prayer area that has been scuttled by the government. It would have been a sign of the state's recognition of Diaspora Jews with different Jewish practices.

But now the bill's wording makes clear that the government's efforts should be done

only in the Diaspora. Israeli law would not require Jews in Israel to make any effort to accommodate Jews coming from the Diaspora. In other words, Israelis have nothing to learn from you and owe you no favors. We are the big brother; we know it all.

If this law comes into being, the logical outcome should be that Israeli Jews turn around the current equation and send donations to Jews in America. In reality, regardless of whether this legislation passes, I cannot imagine that happening.

Why is this legislation gaining traction now? Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is always under criticism from Israel's right, usually in the form of attacks by his Education and Diaspora Affairs minister, Naftali Bennett, sees this as a painless sop to the right

and a final accomplishment before the Knesset adjourns for the summer.

With a whiff of early elections in the air, this bill likely will be the Knesset's ultimate action before the curtain falls. Netanyahu would have it as a last-minute buttress to his right-wing credentials. But this action, however symbolic, is a symbol that neither Israeli Arabs nor the Diaspora need or want to hear.

Rabbi Dr. Ariel Picard is director of the Shalom Hartman Institute's Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought and a member of the institute's Executive Committee.

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

Poland's Muslim ban

By Daniel Pipes

(JNS)—On being designated prime minister of Poland this past December, Mateusz Morawiecki made the extraordinary statement that he and his government want to "transform [the European Union], to re-Christianize it."

Struck by this grand vision of Poland's destiny, and particularly interested in the near-total ban on Muslim migrants (Morawiecki again: "We will not accept migrants from the Middle East and North Africa in Poland"), I just spent a week in Warsaw to understand why that country differs so sharply from Western Europe and what this implies.

I found a raging debate

over the country's civilizationist (usually and inaccurately described as "far-right") party, Law and Justice (PiS, pronounced "peace"). More precisely, Poles disagree on the question: Did PiS foment or respond to anti-Muslim feelings?

PiS critics portray it (like other civilizationist parties) as riding imaginary fears and specious emotions to political power. Other than the 1683 siege of Vienna, they point to Poles' historic good relations with Muslims, including seven centuries of exemplary ties with the tiny Turkic-speaking body of Muslims living in Poland, the Lipka Tatars; the Polish nobility's romantic notions of their Iranian ("Sarmatian")

origin; the Ottoman Empire refusing to recognize the partition of Poland; and PiS itself warmly welcoming Chechen immigrants to Poland in the early 2000s.

In this interpretation, PiS and compliant media raised the specter of violence and other tensions concerning Muslims in Western Europe, scaring sufficient numbers of Poles that it could form the first single-party government of the post-communist era. Critics argue that PiS demagoguery debases and endangers Polish democracy while undermining the European Union.

PiS supporters reverse this account. In their telling, a steady diet of news from Western Europe of jihadi violence,

"taharrush" (collective sexual harassment) and "grooming gangs," honor killings, female genital mutilation, criminal activity, welfare fraud and cultural aggression prompted a demand from below for the party to adopt an anti-immigration and anti-Islamization platform. The Merkel Tsunami of 2015-16, with its million-plus Muslims walking through Europe, frightened Poles. Accordingly, some 75 percent of them reject Muslim immigration. So, even if PiS's main rival reaches power, they note, the Muslim ban will stay.

Of these two interpretations, I find the second far more convincing. PiS is no more responsible for the fears of immigration and Islamization than Europe's other

civilizationist parties, such as Austria's Freedom Party or Italy's League. They all respond to a growing unease, mainly from the bottom of the socio-economic spectrum. They represent Europeans who fear for their civilization.

That said, there is much to criticize about PiS. It lavishes money on welfare payments the government cannot afford and has adopted the idea of "dependent market economies" from the anti-capitalist economic theorist Thomas Piketty. In a surprising nod to the communist past, PiS wants to make the state more powerful, for example, by taking control of the judiciary. It engages in conspiracy theories (especially about the airplane

disaster in Smolensk in April 2010). It sponsored the idiotic law that would land someone in jail for referring to "Polish death camps" then made things worse by talking about "Jewish perpetrators" of the Holocaust. (Though, under international pressure, it did backtrack last week on the threat of prison.)

Noting these problems, I maintain that the party should be educated and monitored, not demonized, so it can learn from its errors while protecting the country from the potentially existential threat of Islam's intrinsic drive for power.

Daniel Pipes (DanielPipes.org, @DanielPipes) is president of the Middle East Forum.

When it comes to the Holocaust, there are no alternative facts

By Jack Rosen

For the past century the American Jewish Congress has stood as a staunch, robust opponent of any and all who would harm our people. While this is our primary mission, we are equally duty bound to call out friends and family should they stumble in their uncompromising defense of the Jewish people. In this vein, and with a heavy heart, I feel it is my obligation to critique the State of Israel for signing a joint statement with Poland praising the latter's efforts to end a dispute over Holocaust legislation that would have criminalized identification

of Poles complicit in Nazi crimes.

The Holocaust is one of the most significant events in modern history and the worst genocide in human history. It is an event that changed the course of the Western world and had a monumental effect on Jews across the world. The Holocaust is no one's property and no one has the right to rewrite or decide on its facts and stories. Nevertheless, Poland and Israel are treating the Holocaust as if it was their property to decide what happened and what did not. It is not their prerogative and with that they took a step too far.

While the bill in question may have been rendered less dangerous, it goes nowhere near to ensuring that the legions of Poles who, by turning a blind eye to or through direct cooperation with German wartime crimes, enabled the Holocaust. By signing this cosmetic statement, the Israelis fail to address the underlying issue that gave rise to this problem in the first place: rising anti-Semitism and extremism in Poland, manifested by a concerted, strategic campaign of Holocaust denial.

Don't just take the word of this one man, born in a post-World War II displaced

persons camp, whose family was annihilated through direct Polish support for the German extermination campaign. Yad Vashem and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum—two institutions with unimpeachable credentials in ensuring that Holocaust research remains accurate and thorough—have been unsparing in their reasoned condemnation of Israel's willingness to be party to potential Holocaust revisionism.

The Joint Israeli-Polish statement runs counter to objective historical research and, by failing to address resurgent Polish anti-Semitism,

gives cover (inadvertently, I am sure) to revisionist arguments asserting that the Polish government-in-exile during World War II defended Jews in the face of the Nazi onslaught. The reality, precisely to the contrary, is not only that the government did not defend beleaguered Jews, but in many cases was an active partner in their destruction on an industrial level. I address this issue from a deeply personal place: My own Polish Jewish family was burned alive during the war by Poles who purported to protect them.

I am of a generation of Jews who, from the cradle, proudly looked to the Jewish state as

a "light unto the nations," an exemplar of righteousness, humanity and fealty to historical accuracy in the face of those who would deny the undeniable in furtherance of intolerance and hate. It is my sincere hope that Israel's momentary deviation from this ethos is a fleeting anomaly.

As much as I love the Jewish state and would defend it with my life, I will never agree that it has the right or ability to alter history, especially when such revisionism is potentially so damaging to the Jewish people.

Jack Rosen is president of the American Jewish Congress.



What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT

JULY 27
8:01 p.m.
AUGUST 3
7:56 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, JULY 27

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

Torah Portion—Va'etchanan, Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11; Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26.

MONDAY, JULY 30

Israeli Folk Dancing—7:30-8:15 p.m. instruction, 8:15-10 p.m., requests. Tonight will be the annual July/August birthday party. Everyone is invited to come dance and celebrate. Bring snacks to share! 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, JULY 31

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

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 Gittleleson at sgittleleson@joinorlando.org

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

Jewish philanthropist questioned by Israeli airport security

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA)—A prominent Jewish philanthropist says he was aggressively questioned by Israeli airport security after going on a Jewish tour of Palestinian areas of the West Bank.

Meyer Koplow, chair of Brandeis University's board of trustees and a longtime donor to pro-Israel causes, was delayed for 30 minutes by a security agent at Ben Gurion International Airport Sunday before being allowed to board his flight. Koplow's visit to Israel included a trip to the West Bank with Encounter Programs, a nonpartisan organization that brings Jews to Palestinian areas to meet Palestinians and see their society firsthand.

He believes he was called for questioning after security personnel found a brochure in his luggage titled "This Week in Palestine," which he had picked up in a Bethlehem hotel lobby. Agents had placed a note in the same pocket of his luggage informing him that the bag "was opened for the purpose of carrying out a security check."

Koplow was questioned by a security agent for 10 minutes in the departure hall, after

which he was told to wait and eventually allowed to board his flight.

"The best way I can describe it is a badgering form of questioning where before you finish giving one answer, you're being asked the same question again as if what you said is not credible," Koplow told JTA. "She asked what purpose could possibly be served by people visiting the territories. She asked that several times."

(Full disclosure: This reporter was a participant on the same Encounter tour that Koplow attended last week. Participants left Israel separately, and this reporter was not at the airport while Koplow was questioned.)

Koplow said he appreciates Israeli personnel checking luggage for the purposes of security, but he feels that the questioning he experienced "goes a level beyond that."

"I applaud the careful security, including examining people's luggage," he told JTA. "But not for materials that they're taking with them out of the country that aren't in the nature of what you would call classified materials. Why would you do that other than to send a message that the government doesn't welcome

your engaging in any kind of inquiry."

Koplow was disturbed as well by "the manner of the continued implication that I wasn't telling the truth or all of the truth," he said. He added that describing his past involvement with Jewish and Israeli causes did not change the tenor of the interrogation, which was conducted in public view.

In addition to his position at Brandeis, Koplow is a board member of the UJA-Federation in New York and has served as the president of his synagogue, Young Israel of New Rochelle. He told JTA that he has given millions of dollars to Israeli causes.

"The most disturbing question she asked me, and she asked me more than once, was what was I going to do with the information I learned in the territories," Koplow said. "What business is it of security at departure as to what I'm thinking or what I might say?"

Koplow subsequently spoke with Dani Dayan, Israel's consul general in New York, who apologized for the incident while justifying the questioning on security grounds.

"We intend to continue

Security on page 15A

Quote of the Week

"All I've done with Israel is tell the truth."

— Nikki Haley, US ambassador to the UN

Medium puzzle "Yidish Names" by Yoni Glatt koshercrosswords@gmail.com

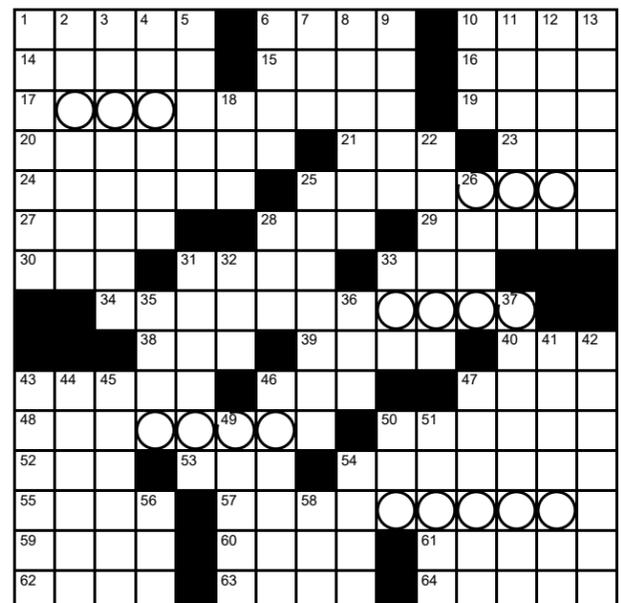
Across

- Basketball's ___ World Peace (Ron Artest, once)
- "Bus Stop" playwright William
- Dancer-turned-spy Mata
- Arab chiefs
- Jaguars, e.g.
- Oldest of the Baldwin brothers
- Foolishness from Fleischer?
- First name at Woodstock
- Some Jewish laws
- Common Market inits., once
- Arabic "son of"
- Pewter, brass, etc.
- Feeling proud for Miranda?
- Bar mitzvah boy, for one
- Wallace of "E.T."
- "Don't Look Back in Anger" band
- Harris and O'Neill
- Great leading man Grant
- "Mind Medicine" author Geller
- Rascally Moranis?
- ___ of the land
- Helps out the Tinman
- Fla. neighbor
- All-Bran alternative
- Took a loss
- Baby holder
- Rag for Groening?
- Not crunchy
- Clamor
- Cistern
- Nuts
- Misfortunes
- Admirable homemakers for Rhymes?
- "Mr. Robot" actor Malek
- Did some bending?
- Blue stuff for Elvis
- Mouth, so to speak
- "Green" sin
- Pluralizers

Down

- Absolutely require
- Sent without a stamp
- Indefatigable
- King in "The Little Mermaid"
- Analyze (some opals)
- Yucky
- Rob Roy's refusal
- Sit shiva, say
- Beauty queen named after a Persian queen
- "The ___" (Uris book)
- Cops check them out
- Leah of "Kevin Can Wait"
- Cake toppings
- Shabbat has 25: Abbr.
- Legendary Leachman
- Kind of speaker
- Nonclerical
- Beats Dr.
- Milk, in Israel

- Evanescence singer Lee
- Link
- Chowder no-no, for the kosher keeper
- What Moses did on Mount Nevo
- Jews just focussed on the written Torah
- Tart, green juice drink
- Bottomless pits
- Souvenir item
- Eye-related
- Louise's partner in film- dom
- Get
- Kind of count
- Periodic or pool
- It's corny
- Stir up
- A well-mannered woman
- Sample, as wine
- Two before Deut.



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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Walking in Jesus' footsteps more meaningful than walking on the moon

By Jonathan Feldstein

On July 20, 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong made history by becoming the first person to set foot on the moon. His timeless and famous remark at the time, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," will go down as one of the most iconic phrases of all time. Yet, when Armstrong visited Israel in 1994 he was brought to a place in the Old City of Jerusalem and asked Meir Ben Dov, his host and noted archeologist, if Jesus himself actually would have walked there.

"I told him, 'Look, Jesus was a Jew,'" recalled Ben-Dov. These are the steps that lead to the Temple, so he must have walked here many times."

Armstrong asked if these were the original steps, and Ben-Dov said that they were.

"So Jesus stepped right here?" asked Armstrong.

"That's right," answered Ben-Dov.

"I have to tell you," Armstrong said to the Israeli archaeologist, "I am more excited stepping on these stones than I was stepping on the moon." Indeed we know that for a Christian visiting Israel is a life-changing and faith building experience. This is played out in numerous ways including visits to the Old City and specifically the Temple Mount where Jesus preached and worshipped

along where he was crucified and buried, to the Jordan River where he was baptized, and of course the Galilee, and Nazareth, his hometown. As much as there are countless affirmations of Christians visiting Israel and having literally divine experiences, Armstrong's comments and frame of reference considering that he was the first man to step on the moon especially affirms this reality. But, ask any Christian who has been to Israel and at least nine out of ten times you'll hear a similar affirmation, and the desire to visit Israel again. And again.

Run for Zion was conceived in order to provide such an opportunity for Christians to have this same experience, albeit in a unique and boutique way. More than simply a tour of the Land, Run for Zion provides a series of meaningful and hands on experiences, one might even say a "foot on" experience. At its core, Run for Zion has the special privilege of promoting unique opportunities for Christians to run in Jerusalem, anywhere from a full to half marathon or 10 km. For non-runners wishing the same experience, there's also the opportunity to walk through Jerusalem's historic streets and experience the same things but slower.

While it's common for runners to listen to music to pass the time and motivate them along, in Jerusalem runners

often run with no music, in order to not be distracted from the views and experiences. Running through the Old City itself is powerful, but one gets to run around the Old City and appreciate its view from the south, and from the east (which is one that Jesus would have seen in approaching the holy city from the Mt. of Olives). Affirming that Jesus was a Jew in the Land and was very clear to reiterate God's promise of Genesis 12:3, obligating his disciples to bless Israel, Run for Zion also provides meaningful and tangible opportunities for all participants to bless Israel and its people. Participants will have the opportunity to have friends and family sponsor their participation, the proceeds of which will go to a wide range of services that help millions of Israelis of all different backgrounds. And because God's promise of Genesis 12:3 is a formula that is reciprocal, Run for Zion will also play an important role not just by being the beneficiary of the financial blessing, but in blessing those who bless Israel by providing significant subsidies to participants, reducing financial barriers that might prevent somebody from being able to travel to Israel, increasing the total number of people who are able to share this experience. Running through Jerusalem's ancient streets will certainly



Runners in a Run For Zion marathon in Jerusalem.

be the anchor and main draw whether it be for athletes who run regularly, or for students to middle-age folk who may run or walk briskly a few times a week just for exercise. Maybe even some mall walkers will take the leap of faith and come to Jerusalem. However, more than the run itself, there will also be meaningful and interactive tourist experiences along with unique programs, worship, speakers, and an opportunity to interact directly with the people and programs that are the recipients of the financial blessing.

If you're a runner, walker, or aspire to be one and you're a Christian and want to visit and experience Israel, Run for Zion may be for you and provides an easy way to participate. If your church,

college or other group wants to bring a team to participate together, Run for Zion offers that seamlessly.

If you're neither but want to bless Israel and stand alongside Run for Zion in its ability to maximize the blessings for Israel and all participants, there is a special need. There are Christians living in Moslem countries for whom life is not easy and because many of the countries in which they live do not recognize Israel and its right to exist, much less that Jerusalem is its capital, for most, visiting Israel is only a fantasy. Run for Zion has been approached to help Christians in these countries participate and has taken on the responsibility to offer additional subsidies to such people, as well as to help se-

cure visas which, on their own could not only be impossible, but even dangerous.

Please visit RunforZion.com to find out details, inquire about participating, or making a donation so others can.

Jonathan Feldstein was born and educated in the U.S. and immigrated to Israel in 2004. He is married and the father of six. Throughout his life and career, he has been blessed by the calling to fellowship with Christian supporters of Israel and shares experiences of living as an Orthodox Jew in Israel. He writes a regular column for Standing With Israel at charismanews.com and other prominent web sites. He can be reached at firstpersonisrael@gmail.com.

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Harissa Salmon Nicoise Salad recipe

By Chaya Rappoport

(The Noshervia JTA)—Harissa is a spicy, rich-flavored North African chili paste and it is one of my favorite condiments to use in the kitchen. It is traditionally made with roasted red pepper, chiles, garlic, and a mixture of spices, depending on the family and exact origin. You can easily find several varieties in the supermarket (usually in the ethnic foods aisle), but I prefer making my own, in part so I can control the level of spice.

A traditional Nicoise salad features baby potatoes, haricot verts, European-style tuna, olives and hard boiled egg. In this amped-up version, many of the traditional elements remain, but the tuna is swapped for a harissa-smothered salmon and preserved lemon is added for some North African authenticity, which makes it brighter and punchier.

Nicoise purists might balk at this recipe, but I promise: This spiced salmon salad is delicious, filling and perfect to enjoy all summer.

Notes:

* You can simplify this recipe by buying harissa already made.

* Don't stress about making your own dressing—you can also dress it simply with olive oil and lemon juice or white wine vinegar.

* You can prepare the salmon, potatoes, haricot verts and hard-boiled eggs ahead of time, and when ready to serve, simply assemble. It makes it a great dish for entertaining or Shabbat lunch.

Ingredients:

For the salad:

4 ounces small red and purple potatoes

Kosher salt

4 ounces haricots verts (string beans), trimmed

4 ounces heirloom cherry tomatoes, halved crosswise

1 or 2 hard boiled eggs, halved crosswise

4 cups lettuce and/or mixed greens, washed, dried and chopped

1/4 cup black or Nicoise olives, pitted

Flaky salt and fresh black pepper, for serving

For the salmon:

6 ounces fresh salmon, skin removed

2 tablespoons olive oil

Prepared harissa (around 1/2 cup to 1 cup depending on size of salmon and your preference)

For the harissa:



1 large red pepper

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 small red onion, diced

4 cloves garlic, minced

4 dried red chiles

1 tablespoon tomato paste

1/4 cup fresh parsley

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground cumin

1/4 teaspoon ras el hanout

1 1/2 teaspoons smoked paprika

For the dressing:

4 oil-packed anchovy fillets, finely minced

1 tablespoon whole grain Dijon mustard

1 small shallot, finely minced

1 small clove garlic, finely minced

1 tablespoon white wine vinegar

2 teaspoons finely chopped preserved lemon peel

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

1. To make the harissa: Broil the red pepper on high for about 25 minutes, turning occasionally, until blackened on the outside. Transfer to a bowl, cover with plastic wrap and let cool. This is called sweating, and it allows you to easily peel the skin off the pepper. Peel the pepper and discard its skin and seeds.

2. Rehydrate the chiles by placing them in a bowl of hot water for 10 minutes.

3. Heat the olive oil in a frying pan over medium heat, and fry the onion, garlic and rehydrated chiles for 10 to 12 minutes, until dark and smoky. Now use a blender or a food processor to combine all the harissa ingredients until smooth, adding a little more oil if needed.

4. Preheat the oven to 425 F Place salmon on a baking paper lined baking dish and rub with olive oil. Spread harissa thickly on top, reserving the rest for something else. Bake for 10 minutes.

5. Meanwhile, prepare the rest of the ingredients. Place potatoes in a medium saucepan and add cold water to cover by 1 inch.

6. Bring to a boil, season with kosher salt and cook until fork-tender, 15–20 minutes. Transfer potatoes to a plate with a slotted spoon.

7. Return water to a boil and cook haricots verts in same saucepan until crisp-tender, about 2 minutes.

8. Using a slotted spoon, transfer to a bowl of ice water. Chill until cold, about 3 minutes. Transfer to paper towels and pat dry.

9. To make the dressing: Mash the anchovies and mustard in a small bowl to form a coarse paste. Add the minced shallot, garlic and preserved lemon to the bowl; whisk in the white wine vinegar. Slowly whisk in the olive oil. Season vinaigrette with salt and pepper as needed.

10. Using a fork, flake the harissa salmon into large pieces; halve reserved potatoes crosswise.

11. Arrange lettuce on a platter; season with salt and pepper. Drizzle with half of dressing.

Top with separate piles of potatoes, haricots verts, tomatoes, the hard-boiled eggs, olives and salmon.

12. Drizzle salad with remaining dressing. Sprinkle with flaky salt and pepper.

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

The Noshervia 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.TheNoshervia.com.

As Hamas ups the ante in Gaza, Israel loses patience, hitting back

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS)—In its desperate effort to break out of isolation and prevent the Gazan economy from collapsing, Hamas is marching Gaza to the very brink of war with Israel.

All of Hamas's recent actions are designed to use blackmail, terrorism and the threat of war to force a change, as well as get major funds flowing into the Gaza Strip.

These efforts began several months ago with mass marches on Fridays and border-infiltration attempts. That ended with a high number of casualties on May 14, but failed to create substantial change, and Hamas's strategic distress continued. It then turned to mass arson attacks on Israel's agricultural southern regions instead. Farms and fields near the border with Gaza have experienced dozens of blazes per day, costing tens of millions of dollars in damage, and burning swaths of land.

In the past few days, Hamas began ramping up the pressure further, escalating clash-

es along the border. On Friday, Hamas dispatched thousands of Palestinians to the border, where rioters hurled grenades, firebombs and rocks at Israel Defense Forces' soldiers.

One grenade blast injured an IDF officer; those behind the attack were hit by IDF fire. The Israeli officer's condition is stable, but the incident marks a new level of violence.

Israel has been watching this escalation for some time and was not terribly surprised by it.

An internal debate has been taking place over the extent of measures that Jerusalem can take to ease restrictions on Gaza, yet doing so without providing material or propaganda gifts to Hamas.

As this debate occurs, Hamas, under pressure, keeps upping the stakes.

In response, the IDF launched three waves of airstrikes on Hamas targets on Friday and Saturday. These airstrikes could be one of the final warnings that Hamas receives from Israel, calling on it to de-escalate.

The situation has been made more explosive due to a

new insistence by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad to respond to all Israeli strikes with projectile attacks on Israeli communities.

As a result, southern Israeli communities—already dealing with weeks of arson—have now again been showered with mortars and rockets, with more than 100 being launched on southern Israel on Saturday.

Yet both sides have stopped short of going to war. Hamas is sticking to short-range fire, and Israel's airstrikes have destroyed tunnels, command posts and other military targets, but did not target senior Hamas members.

The situation cannot last much longer this way. Hamas is employing a highly dangerous yet calculated strategy of brinkmanship, aimed at getting the main actors of the region—Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority, as well as the international community—to recognize its rule over Gaza, end Hamas's isolation and inject major investment into the territory.

Yet Hamas has been unwilling to do anything to end Gaza's isolation. It refuses to slow down its weapons-production programs. It continues to stick to a radical Islamist ideology and remains committed to the destruction of Israel, as well as the toppling of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

It plans to keep Gaza armed to the teeth, to take over the West Bank and to keep the flames of conflict alive.

Trapped in its own paradox

At the same time, Hamas



Abd Rahim Khatib/Flash90

Smoke and fire rises from a location, reported to belong to Hamas following an Israeli air strike in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah on July 14, 2018.

wants to rule over a Gaza that has its own sea port, that has economic relations with its neighbors, and territory in which the international community invests large amounts of money in infrastructure and the economy.

As a result, Hamas continues to be trapped in its own paradox, and cannot decide if it is a terror entity or a state. It's trying to dance at two weddings, and it is playing with fire.

If Hamas has concluded that it can wage endless attrition against Israel's south, it will likely soon discover that it has miscalculated. Although Israel has little desire to get bogged down in Gaza's urban warfare jungle, it would do so if Hamas leaves it no choice.

The head of Hamas in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, is likely aware

that a war now with Israel has nothing good to offer him. He has tried and failed to launch a reconciliation effort with his rivals in the West Bank: the Palestinian Authority. That effort was aimed at relaxing the chokehold that P.A. leader Mahmoud Abbas has placed around Gaza.

In the past months, the P.A. has reduced payments for electricity to Gaza, lowered salaries for its employees in Gaza and in general treats Gaza as a break-away rebel province that deserves to be punished and isolated, and cut off from funding.

Iran has been able to take some advantage of this vacuum, inserting cash assistance to the armed wing of Hamas, in addition to its support of Palestinian Islamic Jihad. But that isn't enough to

solve the festering crisis facing Gaza's civilian economy. If that ends up collapsing, Hamas's regime will be in jeopardy due to resulting anarchy. Hamas would go to war with Israel before allowing that to happen.

That, in effect, is what Hamas is threatening to do if no solution is found for Gaza's economy.

The latest escalation between Israel and Hamas is, in essence, an explosive attempt to conduct negotiations, using bombs as message delivery systems. Hamas is signaling its desire to open Gaza to the world, end its isolation, and gain legitimacy; Israel is signaling that its patience is about to run out.

There is no way of knowing whether Hamas will back down or head over the abyss.

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Scene Around

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

The future is here...

I am so proud of Israel and all of its fabulous accomplishments. For instance, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is the epicenter of a talent and technology boom that is transforming the world:

The Advanced Technologies Park (ATP) is a public-private partnership with Ben-Gurion University (BGU), the Beer-Sheva municipality and Gav-Yam Negev. Tenants include EMC, Oracle, Deutsche Telekom, Elbit, Jerusalem Venture Partner's Cyberlabs, Hewlett Packard, Allscripts, WeWork, as well as BGN Technologies, BGU's technology transfer company, and others.

When completed, the ATP will encompass 16 buildings on 23 acres, with two million square feet of office and lab space. It will bring 11,000 high-tech jobs to the Negev, allowing BGU graduates to remain in Beer-Sheva and surrounding communities.

Scientists at BGU's Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research are developing desalination and water reuse technologies to ensure the availability of high quality water for Israel, its neighbors, and drought-stricken regions throughout the world. They are working with China, India, and across Africa, implementing and improving water systems. They're even working with California and other state officials to solve local water management issues.

Read this and smile...

Researchers at BGU's National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN) and Center for Regenerative Medicine, Cellular Therapy and Stem Cell Research are working on treatments and potential cures for various forms of cancer, genetic diseases, autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases, injuries, and more.

(So many of my family members and friends died of cancer that I got all choked up when I read this. Maybe all cancers will be curable in my lifetime... or at least my three sons and my grandchildren.)

An example of their progress, (and not only cancer) a team of scientists created an algae-based patch that mends damaged tissue. Another group is helping reverse the effects of osteoarthritis and bone injury through cartilage regeneration. One research team is attempting to regenerate heart cells from cells taken from the hand, while another is working on the development of nano-drug carriers that target cancer cells, eliminating side effects, and improving recovery chances.

(I'm smiling, especially because recently I went to the hospital wanting a face-lift. They gave me a heart valve instead! Oh well...)

Wait! There's more...

With the goal of reducing the world's reliance on fossil fuels, researchers at BGU are developing a wide range of alternative energy solutions. Innovations include converting carbon dioxide and hydrogen into a green fuel that could power diesel-powered vehicles and jets; a breakthrough in solar energy storage that could power a country even at night; clean and efficient thermoelectric power generation; and the production of biofuels from microalgae, liquid fuels from a variety of feed stock, and fuel for cars made from recycled tires.

(Israel... you are the hope of the world!)

Scams, scams, scams...

It's bad enough that every third phone call I receive is a scam these days. Here's another to be warned about: CharityWatch gives the Humane Society of the United States a D rating for using half of every donation dollar on overhead... and the Better Business Bureau has removed its accreditation of HSUS.

If you want to help homeless pets, please give to your local shelter.

(I love dogs and have never been without one. In fact, I told my spouse before he died, that our dog, Chloe, was our biological child. He replied that he's been known to lay down with bitches! Oy vay!)

She was special...

I know the Heritage covered this sad news, but Harriett Lake was a treasure and I feel compelled to say something.

She was always a joy to be around, and always so kind to me, as was her deceased husband, Hymen.



Nancy Ludin (l) and Harriett Lake.

And according to NANCY LUDIN, CEO of the Jewish Pavilion, "she was a local philanthropist and patron of the arts, was a true woman of valor and all of Central Florida is a better place because of the changes she made to our world."

(And another word from me. Harriett Lake was a beautiful woman, inside and out. It's hard to imagine a world without her.)



Oprah Winfrey

JCC39ers Cinema Sundays...

On July 29th in the Senior Lounge of the Roth Family JCC in Maitland, the movie "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," featuring OPRAH WINFREY, will be shown.

(Not to be missed!)

Shout-Out...

Greetings and a Happy Birthday to Outback Restaurant, Aloma Avenue, Winter Park, server, KALEN PENTON, who always does a great job!

Also, one of my favorite people in the world, BENJAMIN AGAMIE, is celebrating 25 years of dedicated service to UPS. (so nu? Bring me a package!)

One for the road...

Miriam and her friend Renee meet up in their local cafe for their usual chat. The subject of their discussion this time is the untimely death of one of their friends. "I felt absolutely terrible when I heard the news about Sonia," says Miriam.

"Yes," says Renee, "I too felt awful on hearing the sad news, especially as she was the same age as us. If only I could find out in advance exactly where I'm going to die." "Why?" asks Miriam, "What good would it do if you knew where?" "Because I would then make sure I never go there," Miriam replies.

(Will that work????)

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez criticizes Israel for 'the occupation of Palestine'

By Charles Dunst

NEWYORK (JTA)—Democratic congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez decried the "occupation of Palestine" during a television interview.

Appearing July 13 on PBS's "Firing Line," Ocasio-Cortez, 28, also described herself as "a firm believer in finding a two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Ocasio-Cortez, a member of the Democratic Socialists

of America, upset 10-term incumbent Joe Crowley in last month's primary in New York's 14th Congressional District, which straddles Queens and the Bronx. Although she has commented infrequently on foreign affairs, in May she called the killing of Palestinian protesters by Israeli troops at the Gaza fence a "massacre."

On "Firing Line," host Margaret Hoover asked Ocasio-Cortez "What is your position on Israel?" Ocasio-Cortez responded, "I believe abso-

lutely in Israel's right to exist" She added: "I am a proponent of a two-state solution." The candidate said her previous position on the Gaza clashes "is not a referendum on the State of Israel."

"The lens through which I saw this incident, as an activist, as an organizer - if 60 people were killed in Ferguson, Missouri, if 60 people were killed in the South Bronx, unarmed, if 60 people were killed in Puerto Rico - I just look at that [Gaza] inci-

dent more through just, as an incident, and to me, it would just be completely unacceptable if that happened on our shores," she said.

"Of course the dynamics there, in terms of geopolitics... is very different than people expressing their First Amendment right to protest," Hoover replied.

Israel and its supporters have noted that among those killed in Gaza were members

Occupation on page 15A

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Sudoku (see page 14A for solution)

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First women tank commanders begin their duties in the IDF



The first four female tank commanders in the Israel Defense Forces pose with Brig. Gen. Guy Hasson, head of the Armored Corps.

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS)—The first four female tank commanders in the Israel Defense Forces have successfully completed their grueling training course and will now begin their operational duties. Several additional female soldiers will serve in other duties in tanks.

The new female commanders and tank crew members will conduct critical border-defense missions, though they will not belong to brigades that would maneuver deep into enemy territory in case of war.

Sgt. Charlotte Feld-Davidovici of Tel Aviv, who moved to Israel from the United Kingdom in 2016, had served in the Karakal border-defense infantry brigade that defends the Egyptian border before joining the pilot program for

female soldiers in the Armored Corps.

“Today, I have concluded it as one of the first four female tank commanders,” she said. “The training course was definitely a mental and physical challenge, which was made even more difficult because we were just four female combat soldiers among a sea of male combat soldiers.”

“However, I do believe it was a great success. And this is only thanks to my personal commanders and the other three girls. Army friends are like no other friends you could have in any other place in the world,” said Feld-Davidovici. “Becoming one of the first female tank commanders in the IDF means not only do I get to fulfill my role in defending the country, but I also get the opportunity to bring women forward in combat and open up chances for future

generations to defend their country, just like their male counterparts.”

The IDF began incorporating women into units from its very establishment, during the 1948 War of Independence.

Partly due to manpower shortages, women served in combat roles within its ranks during the 1948 conflict, playing a highly active role in artillery and intelligence units.

They also were members of infantry units during that time. However, afterwards women were generally barred from combat service until more recent years, when a change in the military-service law occurred.

IDF commanders today say the integration process is being informed by in-depth examinations of data, and by the results of trials, which

shed light on the operational advantages of such reforms.

Some controversy and even some criticism

Israel is one of the few countries in the world that sets mandatory military service for women. Until now, most female combat soldiers have served in mixed-gender light-infantry units, such as Karakal, and the Lions of Jordan, which defend the Egyptian and Jordanian borders.

In 2017, the first female fighter jet deputy squadron commander was appointed, and in 2011, the first combat helicopter female appointed received her wings from the air force.

Now, the IDF Armored Corps is moving forward with a staged plan to incorporate women in border defense missions.

Nevertheless, the program has attracted some controversy and criticism, particularly from a number of conservative commentators and rabbis. Some have questioned whether women could handle the rigors of the Armored Corps; others have feared that having females in combat roles could threaten the country's national security.

The IDF, for its part, has said that the data created by its trials fully supports the position that women who pass the intensive tests and training courses are fully capable of taking up tank roles (as members of all-female tank crews).

In general, the IDF has remained committed to increasing gender integration, with women serving in combat roles increasing from 547 in 2012 to 2,700 in 2017.

Female soldiers have for many years played a vital role in a range of combat-support units, such as the navy's operator control rooms.

'Achieved all goals set for them'

Lt.-Col. Beni Aharon, commander of the Armored Corps Command Battalion, described the intensive training that the female commanders—the first of their kind—underwent.

The purpose of the pilot program, he said, “was to examine whether and how women can be integrated as combat tank commanders” for border-defense missions.

Army recruiters chose candidates for the program from among existing infantry battalions that already incorporate female soldiers. Specifically, he said, they were on the lookout for highly motivated participants.

A four-week selection process included a gathering of medical data, questionnaires that gaged levels of motivation and feedback with the candidates' commanders.

A group of 30 candidates then made it to the training stage. They began a six-week Armored Corps professional training course held in a base in the Eilat Mountains.

They then underwent an ad-

ditional 14 weeks of advanced training, which “is nearly identical as the training” for the male soldiers, with a few adaptations to match their future work of defending the Egyptian border.

The trainees gained expertise in firepower, urban warfare, navigation and how to run a tank, stated Lt.-Col. Aharon.

Finally, they began operations in their platoon, which is under the command of the co-ed Karakal unit that secures the border with Egypt.

In the final stage, the IDF selected a number of the female soldiers for the commander's course, which they completed in recent days.

Aharon described the program as a “success,” adding that “the soldiers achieved all of the goals that were set for them.”

While there were no unusual injuries or illnesses during this time, five female soldiers could not complete the Armored Corps course, mostly due to medical issues that arose during training. A medical team accompanied them throughout the training process.

“The pilot integration program of female tank commanders... ended successfully,” the military said in a statement. Its results will be presented within the next few weeks to senior IDF commanders, who are likely to continue to the program based on its results.

Pro-BDS groups urge rejection of anti-Semitism definition

(JNS)—Three-dozen far-left pro-BDS Jewish groups from around the world have signed a statement rejecting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism over its alleged conflation of anti-Semitism and criticism of Israel.

The statement, spearheaded by the anti-Israel U.S.-based group Jewish Voice for Peace, said that the IHRA definition, which has been adopted by a number of Western countries, “is worded in such a way as to be easily adopted or considered by western governments to intentionally equate legitimate criticisms of Israel and advocacy for Palestinian rights with anti-Semitism,

as a means to suppress the former.”

The statement said the conflation “undermines both the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality and the global struggle against anti-Semitism.”

“It also serves to shield Israel from being held accountable to universal standards of human rights and international law,” the statement said. “Israel does not represent us and cannot speak for us when committing crimes against Palestinians and denying their UN-stipulated rights.”

Among the other U.S.-based groups that signed the letter are Jews for Palestinian Right of Return, Jews of Color

& Sephardi/Mizrahi Jews and Jews Say No!

The statement by the far-left Jewish groups comes amid an intense debate within the United Kingdom's Labour Party over the adoption of the IHRA definition.

The Labour Party, which has been dogged by allegations of anti-Semitism in recent years centered around party leader Jeremy Corbyn, adopted an amended version of the IHRA definition that left out some formal examples of anti-Semitism largely dealing with Israel.

The move to adopt the amended version came despite an outcry of opposition from dozens of Jewish leaders, British Jewish organizations and even Labour Party politicians.

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Can the US and Israel rely on Putin to force Iran out of Syria?

By Sean Savage

(JNS)—U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin just concluded a bilateral summit in Helsinki, Finland, that proved to be one of the most widely anticipated meetings in years—or, at least, since the meeting with North Korea. While the discussions centered on relations with Europe and the United States, a topic that also took high priority was the ongoing civil war in Syria.

Over the last month, the Syrian regime—backed by Russian, Iran, Hezbollah and Shi'a militias—has launched a massive operation in its south to defeat one of the remaining rebel strongholds in the country. Not only has the operation, spurred on by Syrian President Bashar Assad, led to a massive humanitarian disaster, but it has brought Iran and its terror proxies even closer to the Israeli border.

The issue of Iran's presence has been a growing concern for Israel and the United States. Israel has raised alarms over Iran and its Shi'ite terror proxies establishing a permanent presence in post-war Syria, especially along the demilitarized Israeli-Syrian border.

Since the beginning of the year, Israeli and Iranian forces have come close to a full-scale conflict over Iranian provocations along the Israeli-Syrian border and even into Israeli territory itself. In February, an Iranian drone was shot down by Israel after it crossed into Israeli airspace. This led to retaliatory Israeli airstrikes inside of Syria that saw an Israeli F-16 shot down.

Tensions again threatened to boil over in May, when Israel carried out its largest airstrikes in Syria in decades against Iranian infrastructure in the country.

Since then, the Israeli Air Force has continued smaller-scale airstrikes in Syria in response to Syrian or Iranian provocations, as well as targeted Iranian efforts to transfer weapons into Syria to bolster pro-Iranian militias and Hezbollah.

But Tehran has dismissed any suggestion that it will leave.

"We came [to Syria] not at the invitation of the United States, and we will not leave because of its threats," Ali Akbar Velayati, a close adviser to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said at the Valdai Discussion Club last week while visiting Moscow.

At the same time, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has met with Putin three times in the last six months to press him on the issue. Last week at a meeting in Moscow, Netanyahu firmly told Putin that "Iran needs to leave Syria."

Then on Saturday, Netanyahu spoke with Trump by phone, saying the topics discussed were "Syria and Iran, first and foremost."

Following the Putin-Trump meeting, Netanyahu issued a statement saying that he "commends" the commitment by President Trump for Israel's security during the summit. He also said he "appreciates the security coordination" between Israel and Russia and the "clear position expressed by President Putin regarding the need to uphold the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement between Israel and Syria."

U.S. makes clear that it's staying put in Syria for now. Nevertheless, while both Israeli and American leaders seem to be focused on discussing with Putin on Iran's presence in Syria, it remains unclear the extent that Putin is able or even willing to force Iran out of the country.

Anna Borshchevskaya, an expert of Russia's policy towards the Middle East at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, told JNS that Putin does not have the leverage or desire to force Iran out.

"I don't think he [Putin] can get Iran out. Even if Putin wanted to do this, which is doubtful at the very least, Putin doesn't really have any leverage over Iran to do this. Putin wants to appear as a peacemaker, a mediator; he would like to be elevated to this role. And then he will play all sides, to elevate himself," she said.

According to Borshchevskaya, true peace and stability in Syria would undermine Putin's ability to stay as the chief mediator; therefore, any Russian promises have to be met with skepticism.

"We already saw what appeared, at the very least, [to be] a superficial withdrawal from southern Syria, she said. "If anything, it appeared to be a deception because these people appeared to just switch into Syrian uniforms."

And, she added, "Lavrov already said it's impossible to get Iran to completely withdraw from Syria."

Reports in recent weeks have continually suggested that Russia has been working to remove Iranian from along the Israeli-Syrian border and to create a buffer zone. But Israel is still demanding a full withdrawal.

Vice Admiral John Bird, USN (ret.), who currently serves on JINSA's Gemunder Center Iran Task Force, told JNS that Putin is concerned with anything that can jeopardize his country's strategic position in Syria.

"Assad is reconquering the country, the world has

seen Russia stand by its ally and bolster its prestige, and Russia also has secured permanent naval/air bases—all at relatively little cost to itself. Iran's entrenchment in Syria could risk everything Putin has gained," he said.

"However, if Iran and Israel get into a full-blown war that potentially threatens the Assad regime and/or forces Russia to get involved," then this could jeopardize that situation, he said.

For its part, the United States has limited leverage in Syria. The American involvement in Syria has mainly been focused on the eastern half of the country, where the Islamic State terror group established the capital of its so-called caliphate in the Syrian city of Raqqa. While a U.S.-led coalition have largely dismantled this caliphate in Syria and Iraq, the Islamic State threat still remains.

Nevertheless, National Security Advisor John Bolton said in recent days that the United States will remain in Syria as long as the threat from the Islamic State and Iran continue.

"I think the president's made it clear that we are there until the ISIS territorial caliphate is removed, and as long as the Iranian menace continues throughout the Middle East," Bolton told ABC News.

In the past, Trump has suggested pulling all U.S. forces out of Syria, which has led to some concern among observers that it would lead the United States to have even less sway over Middle East regional developments.

Bird said that Trump needs to "develop a position of strength" in order to properly negotiate with Putin on Syria.

"Putin likely would love to continue being the irreplaceable diplomat that arbitrates between Israel and Iran, but Trump must convey to Putin that all of this could be lost if Israel has to go to war to prevent Iranian entrenchment in Syria."

Similarly, Borshchevskaya said that instead of reaching a deal on Syria, Trump should make it clear to Putin that America is not leaving Syria.

"Trump should assure Putin that the U.S. is not leaving Syria, and that the U.S. will push back against Iran militarily on the region," she said. "What Putin wants is to see America retreat; it is a strong American presence that will deter Putin and Iran as well."

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Does Israel need a law to define itself as the nation-state of the Jewish people?



Miriam Alster/Flash90

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, seated second from left, leading a Likud faction meeting in the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem, July 16, 2018.

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel is debating legislation that supporters say states the obvious. Critics, meanwhile, say the measure will divide Israeli society and damage its relationships with the rest of the democratic world, especially Jews in the United States.

The premise of the so-called Nationality Law is simple: It enshrines in Israel's quasi-constitutional Basic Law that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people. But after that it gets more complicated.

Much of the bill, sponsored by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, deals with obvious signs that Israel is a Jewish state, such as affirming the symbols on the flag and shield, setting the Hebrew calendar as the country's official calendar, recognizing Jewish holidays and days of remembrance, and naming Jerusalem as the capital.

Other parts of the law, however, have raised the hackles of segments of Israeli society and the Jewish Diaspora. These include clauses relegating Arabic to a "special" status instead of an official language, promoting the establishment of Jewish communities throughout Israel and addressing the state's relationship with Diaspora Jewry. That the words "democracy" and "equality" do not appear once in the text have sounded alarm bells among its critics.

Israel's president, Reuven Rivlin, called the law a "weapon (for) our enemies." Outgo-

ing Jewish Agency head Natan Sharansky said it would end up "driving a wedge between Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora." And thousands of Israeli protesters, Jewish and Arab, marched through Tel Aviv over the weekend to protest discriminatory aspects of the legislation.

In the 11th hour before the Knesset was to vote on the legislation—it is expected to pass—a leader of American Jewry flew to Israel and spent nearly two days discussing the bill and criticizing it face to face with Israeli lawmakers.

Jerry Silverman, president and CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America, told JTA on Monday that the Nationality Law "took over the agenda" of his trip. Prior to leaving for Israel, he spoke to the major Jewish organizations about their concerns over the legislation. While he was not permitted to address the Knesset joint committee working to massage the language of the legislation before it comes to the plenum for a vote sometime this week, Silverman said he sat in on the meetings and was recognized publicly as a representative of Diaspora Jewry.

He said he discussed the concerns of American Jewry with many lawmakers and key members of the Knesset, as well as the Prime Minister's Office.

Silverman told JTA he is concerned that the legislation, with its focus on the Jewish aspects of Israel, will alienate young American Jews who are "so social-justice conscious today." He said there are

several parts of the legislation that "American Jews would struggle with."

Changing the status of the Arabic language is being seen as "discriminatory," according to Silverman. Arabs make up about 20 percent of Israel's population.

A section stating that Israel is responsible for preserving the connection of Israel with worldwide Jewry also has drawn criticism. Critics fear it is worded in such a way as to weaken the ability of Jews in the Diaspora, and even in Israel, to promote pluralism inside the Jewish state or petition the Supreme Court in Israel to hear cases on issues that affect Diaspora Jewry, such as the establishment of the egalitarian prayer section of the Western Wall.

The wording of a clause that would have allowed for the establishment of communities based on one religion or nationality was changed Sunday to instead reflect "national value in developing Jewish communities and will act to encourage, promote and establish them." Haaretz said the clause nonetheless promotes the establishment of "Jewish-only communities."

The previous wording of the clause would have "emboldened and given a lot of fuel to the BDS movement," Silverman said, echoing the statements of many on social media and even in the halls of the Knesset. Some, especially Arab Israelis and their supporters, have used the word "apartheid" to describe the provision.

The author of the original Nationality Law nearly a de-

cade ago—Avraham Diskin, a political scientist and Hebrew University professor—rejects criticism of the legislation, which he calls "declarative" and "without a lot of practical" consequences.

Diskin told JTA that it is "high time" for a Basic Law that specifically identifies Israel as a Jewish state, in addition to the many Israeli laws that mention Judaism and the Jewish character of the state.

There are "many people around the world outside of Israel, mainly Arabs, who are not ready to accept allowing the Jews to have their own nation state," Diskin said. He added that in Israel, some challenge the notion of Israel as a Jewish state—Jews among them.

Diskin said the law is most needed, however, because of the Israeli Supreme Court. He and other critics of the high court say it has ignored the Jewishness of the state, for example in cases of Palestin-

ian residency rights in Israel, rights of foreign converts to citizenship, land purchases by the Jewish National Fund, draft deferments to haredi Orthodox youth and the deportation of illegal migrants.

Israel's Declaration of Independence repeatedly notes the connections of the Jews to Israel and that Israel is being established as the nation-state of the Jewish people. Unlike the Basic Law, however, the Declaration of Independence is not a legal document.

Diskin said there is nothing in the legislation that violates human rights or the rights of minorities.

Amir Fuchs, a researcher at the Israel Democracy Institute, said the legislation resembles the preamble of an as-yet unwritten Constitution, and that "there is no [democratic] country in the world that has not specifically enumerated the right of equality in its constitution." The legislation has "no clear statement that the state will have equal rights for all its citizens," he told JTA.

"This is what is missing. This is the problem," Fuchs said.

He acknowledged that other Basic Laws deal with Israel's democratic nature and individual rights, including the one on human dignity and liberty. At least two other Basic Laws refer to Israel as both Jewish and democratic.

Fuchs, who heads the Defending Democratic Values Program at the Israel Democracy Institute, said there is no need for the new legislation since it is clear that Israel is a Jewish nation-state based on its symbols, language and holidays, among other things.

He said he does not oppose the idea of a law stating that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people, but that such a law should also ensure that the state will have equal rights for all its citizens.

But Fuchs does not believe that Israel will look substantially different after the passage of the legislation and disagrees with those who say it will turn the country into an apartheid state. The tipping point, he said, will be in close Supreme Court decisions, where the "Jewish" element could take precedence over the "democratic" element.

The legislation is set to come up for a final vote before the end of the Knesset's summer session on Sunday. The coalition has enough votes for passage because the haredi Orthodox parties are willing to support it. The haredi parties in the past have opposed the legislation due to its nationalist nature. But the addition of the word "religious" to a clause on the right to self-determination in part softened their stance.

Silverman said that as a sovereign state, Israel has the right to pass such legislation. The Israeli and the American Jewish community are "pretty young environments for the two major Jewish communities in the world. And we are both going through growing pains."

Jewish organizations in the United States will be watching to see how the law is applied practically, particularly in cases involving Diaspora Jewry.

"Israel has to be the nation-state for all Jews," Silverman said. "That cannot be limited in any way."

Israeli troops save life of Palestinian baby in Hebron



Israeli Border Policewomen stationed at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

By United with Israel

Israeli Border Police operating in the city of Hebron on Sunday night saved the life of a nine-month-old Palestinian baby.

The troops, stationed at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, heard shouts coming from a house situated near the holy site. They rushed to the scene to find an unconscious baby boy whose face had turned blue and whose family was extremely distraught.

The troops began to administer CPR as an Israeli medical team arrived at the scene, and the baby's breathing was finally restored.

The baby was then evacu-

ated for further medical treatment.

The Border Police commanders praised the troops for responding rapidly and professionally.

Not the first time

"This is not the first time that Border Policemen have provided medical treatment to Palestinians in the areas they operate, and this is in accordance with values the troops are educated on, the values of human life and helping your fellow human being," the police stated.

"Despite the complexity of the missions and the areas in which the Border Policemen operate, the troops operate to ensure the safety and security

of a variety of populations with no distinction between religion, race or gender," the police added.

This incident is by no means a unique instance of Israelis providing Palestinians with medical treatment. Israeli hospitals and medical teams have a long track record of treating Palestinian patients.

Israel and the IDF regularly offer medical services and expertise to Palestinian care providers and patients, in many cases free of charge.

In July 2015, the IDF established an entire reserves company with the sole mission of providing medical care and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian population.

IDF medical teams and Israeli civilian emergency units from communities in Judea and Samaria regularly treat local Arabs, often after car accidents, for a broad array of ailments and injuries. Walking to an IDF checkpoint or to the front gate of an Israeli community for medical treatment is common practice among Arabs living in the Palestinian Authority-administered territories. During some months, Israeli medics treat more Palestinians than Israelis.

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Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Druze leaders challenge Israel's nation-state law

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Druze leaders in Israel filed a challenge with the Supreme Court over legislation passed by the Knesset making Israel the “nation-state of the Jewish people.”

The Druze leaders, including three Knesset members, called it “extreme” and said it discriminated against Israel’s minorities, the Times of Israel reported.

Arabs make up nearly 20 percent of Israel’s population. Members of the Druze minority serve in the Israel Defense Forces.

The lawmakers were from both the ruling coalition and the opposition: Hamed Amar of the Yisrael Beytenu party, Akram Hasson of the Kulanu party and Salah Sa’ad of the Labor party.

Meanwhile, Communications Minister Ayoub Kara, a Druze lawmaker of the Likud Party, is likely to get an increase in his security detail after death threats made against him and his family after he voted for the law.

Kara has received death threats online and was subjected to physical harassment.

Israel rejects Russian offer to keep Iranian forces in Syria 60 miles away

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel rejected a Russian offer to keep Iranian forces in Syria some 60 miles from the border with Israel.

Instead, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted that Iran leave the country completely, an unnamed senior Israeli official told reporters on Monday following a meeting in Jerusalem between Netanyahu and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Netanyahu also demanded that all long-range missiles that could reach Israeli territory be removed from Syria, the Israeli official said during a briefing, according to Israeli reports.

Israel is concerned that Iran will stockpile “hundreds and thousands of missiles” in Syria. “Iran wants to turn Syria into a second Lebanon. And we’re determined to prevent that,” the official said.

“The removal of Iran must include the removal of long-range weapons, halting the production of precision weapons as well as the air defenses that protect the missiles, and the closure of border crossing that permit smuggling of this weaponry to Lebanon and to Syria,” said the official, according to Haaretz. “Russia has a certain ability to prevent this. They are a significant factor in Syria.”

The official said that the two-hour discussion “was a very important meeting at a significant time, during which we delved into many details, produced maps and shared intelligence, and explained in great detail our policy.”

The Russian delegation that came to Jerusalem on Monday also included Russian Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov. Netanyahu said at the start of the weekly Cabinet meeting on

Monday that the Russia delegation was in Israel “at the request of President Putin, in a conversation he had with me a few days ago.”

Also at the meeting were Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman, National Security Adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat and IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot.

Prior to the meeting, Netanyahu said, according to a statement from his office: “The link between us is extraordinarily important and it exists, as you have seen, in the direct meetings between myself and President Putin and between our staffs. I appreciated the words that were spoken by President Putin together with President Trump regarding the security of Israel during the recent summit.”

JCC camp counselor faces child pornography charges

(JTA)—A camp counselor at a Jewish community center in Tarrytown, New York has been accused of possessing and distributing child pornography.

Benjamin Bojemski, 20, was arrested and charged with possession and distribution of child pornography in Greenburgh town court, the Shames JCC on the Hudson in Westchester County said in a statement Friday.

Shames Jewish Community Center said it had conducted a background check before Bojemski was hired as a counselor at its River Friends Day Camp in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

“We take our responsibility to our members and community very seriously; in particular as a provider of services to children,” the JCC’s executive director, Rabbi Andrew Ergas, said in the statement. “Creating safe and secure environment is at the core of our mission and values as an agency.”

Entire Western Wall is ‘danger zone,’ archaeologist says

(JTA)—After a large stone fell from the Western Wall on Monday, an Israeli archaeologist declared the holy site’s entire plaza a “danger zone.”

Other stones “could immediately fall” and hurt people, Zachi Dvira told The Times of Israel. He is completing a Ph.D. on the archaeology of the Temple Mount.

The boulder that fell Monday morning at one of the sight’s areas designated for egalitarian mixed prayer weighed about 220 pounds, according to Israel Radio. It missed all onlookers but landed close to a female worshiper.

“I didn’t hear or feel anything until it landed right at my feet,” Daniella Goldberg, 79, told Hadashot TV news. She said that they “tried not to let the incident distract me from my prayers.”

Israel “doesn’t do proper preservation [of the site] because of politics,” Dvira said, arguing that the controversy surrounding the egalitarian prayer area has prevented the proper upkeep.

While the egalitarian section has been closed since the incident, he believes visitors should stand a few feet back from the wall in all of its sec-

tions, for safety reasons. He noted that several rocks from the Temple Mount’s other three supporting walls have fallen in recent years. The rock that fell Monday was broken in two from moisture created by the plants in the wall.

“It’s a matter of life or death,” he said.

In 2004, large pieces of Western Wall stone fell during Yom Kippur, injuring one worshiper.

The Western Wall’s official rabbi weighed in on Monday’s event, noting it happened the day after Tisha B’Av, during which Jews mourn the historical destruction of the First and Second Temples.

“This is an unusual and most rare incident that has not occurred for decades,” said Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch. “The fact that this powerful incident happened a day after the 9th of Av fast, in which we mourned the destruction of our temples, raises questions which the human soul is too small to contain, and requires soul-searching.”

Haredi Orthodox men vandalize campaign poster of woman running for Jerusalem mayor

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Several haredi Orthodox men were captured on video vandalizing the campaign posters of Rachel Azaria, the only female candidate for the mayor of Jerusalem.

The incident took place on Sunday night, hours after the posters were affixed on 300 Jerusalem city buses. The half-dozen vandals, clad in long black suit jackets and black hats, removed the photo of Azaria, which showed her from the shoulders and up.

Azaria, a member of Knesset for the Kulanu party, announced her candidacy two weeks ago for the October municipal election.

The campaign, which had been scheduled to launch on Monday morning, is being run under the slogan: “Believe it. We can live together.”

Akaria said in a tweet that she received information from haredi Orthodox supporters who made it clear that the vandals are a “small and fanatic group that does not represent the haredi Orthodox community in Jerusalem.” She vowed to rehang the ads and continue her campaign “because we know it is possible to live here together.” The tweet also included video footage of the vandalism.

Extreme haredi Orthodox sects object to seeing images of women, calling it a lack of modesty, and have vandalized posters and billboards over the years. Bus companies have in the past refused to hang such ads out of fear of vandalism.

Stanford student threatens to ‘physically fight’ against ‘Zionist students’

(JTA)—A student at Stanford University threatened to “physically fight” against Israel’s passing of legislation making Israel the “nation-state of the Jewish people.”

Hours later, Hamzeh Daoud, 20, who will be a junior at the university,

amended his post to read “intellectually fight” but not before the original post had been saved in screenshot by at least one campus organization.

In his original post which appeared on Friday morning, Daoud wrote, “I’m gonna physically fight Zionists on campus next year if someone comes at me with their ‘Israel is a democracy’ bullshit. And after I abolish your ass I’ll go ahead and work every day for the rest of my life to abolish your petty ass ethno-supremacist, settler-colonial state.”

Under the post he included a link to an article in the left-wing Israeli newspaper Haaretz titled “Jewish Nation-state Law Makes Discrimination in Israel Constitutional.”

Some four hours later he amended it to read “intellectually” instead of “physically” and added a comment: “I edited this post because I realize intellectually beating Zionists is the only way to go. Physical fighting is never an answer to when trying to prove people wrong.”

Daoud is an active member of the campus Students for Justice in Palestine and identifies as a “third generation Palestinian refugee,” the Stanford Daily reported. He previously served on the undergraduate Senate. His is a graduate of the Amman Academy in Amman, Jordan.

On Saturday, the Stanford College Republicans called on the university to fire Daoud from his residential assistant position over the threat, and posted a screenshot of Daoud’s original post to Facebook.

In an email to the student newspaper, Daoud said he was “appalled” over the law passed by Israel’s Knesset and “took to Facebook to share my pain.” In a second email to the newspaper he wrote: “I apologize if I made anyone feel unsafe. That was not the intent and will never be an intent of mine at all.”

University spokesperson E.J. Miranda told the student newspaper that Stanford officials are aware of Daoud’s post, and that Student Affairs staff are “following up” on the matter.

Dutch city blocks Turkish developer’s plan to turn synagogue into eatery

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—A Dutch municipality rejected a Turkish entrepreneur’s plan to transform a 125-year-old synagogue into a restaurant.

The city council of Deventer in the east of the Netherlands last week deemed the plan “inconsistent with the building’s character,” a decision which blocked the plan of developer Ayhan Sahin to turn the tall, neo-Moorish style Grand Synagogue into an eatery, Joods.nl reported. He bought the building in January.

Tom Fürstenberg, chairman of Deventer’s Beth Shoshanna Jewish community, made up of several dozen members, said he was “relieved” following the decision. In April, he had told the regional newspaper De Stentor that it would be “scandalous” if the municipality approves Sahin’s plans.

Fürstenberg had also said the plan ran contrary to agreements made with Sahin. The Jewish community had hoped to continue to be able to use the establishment for religious purposes under new ownership.

In recent years, the small Jewish community of Deventer could no longer afford to maintain the large building, which is a listed national monument. It was sold to a local church, which resold it to Sahin for an undisclosed amount, the report said.

Across the Netherlands, nonprofit organizations and municipalities have taken over synagogues in cities without Jewish communities, turning them sometimes into popular museums, as in Groningen.

In 1940, in the days following the German invasion of the Netherlands, members of the Dutch National Socialist Party ransacked the Deventer synagogue as police stood by, destroying the interior. By 1943, Deventer had no registered Jewish residents. The vast majority of them were murdered in Nazi death camps. The interior was restored after World War II.

Sahin told De Stentor that his plan to turn the synagogue into a restaurant “is very interesting and one that would appeal to a lot of people from outside” the city of Deventer. He also said he regrets hearing the local Jewish community would be without a space to worship if the plan is approved, but added he is “not the Salvation Army.” He also said he would be willing to allow the community to keep using the building if they pay “full rent” for it.

Negotiations are underway between Sahin, the city, the Jewish community and other parties for a solution which that would allow the community to continue to worship at the synagogue.

Jewish US soldier buried 74 years after going missing during World War II

(JTA)—A Jewish-American soldier from World War II who was listed as missing for more than 70 years was buried in California.

Staff Sgt. David Rosenkrantz was buried on Friday at the Riverside National Cemetery, where four of his brothers also are buried, in a funeral 74 years after his death.

His remains were recovered and identified in March, near the farm where he was killed, the Los Angeles Times reported.

More than 30 of his relatives, including nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and their children, attended the funeral, according to the Times.

Rosenkrantz became a hometown hero three months after being shipped out to Europe in 1943, when he and another paratrooper were mistakenly dropped into an Italian unit and all 200 of them surrendered to the two American soldiers.

Rosenkrantz was killed at the age of 28 during Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands, in a battle

chronicled in the 1977 film “A Bridge Too Far.”

Rosenkrantz’s dog tags, which were stamped with a “J” for Jewish, had been returned to the family in March 2012, according to a website in his memory maintained by his nephew Dr. Phillip Rosenkrantz. According to the website, the dog tags were found not long after the war by a farmer and turned over to the U.S. Army. They were then misplaced and found by the army in 2011 and later released to the family.

Phillip Rosenkrantz eulogized his uncle and received the folded American flag that had draped his coffin during the funeral.

“This is a day I have been hoping for over 20 years,” he said in his eulogy, according to the Times. “We now have some closure.”

The soldier’s remains had been recovered from the farm where he was killed by Canadian soldiers and buried in an American military grave in the southern part of the Netherlands. This was discovered by a Dutchman named Ben Overhand, who as a teenager began trying to find the remains of soldiers who helped liberate the Netherlands and saw the website dedicated to Rosenkrantz. His research led to finding the soldier’s body.

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the federal agency responsible for recovering the remains of missing soldiers, exhumed the remains last year.

Israel fires interceptors at Syrian missiles that appeared to be targeting the north

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Israel for the first time fired the David’s Sling missile defense system, following the launch of two Syrian surface-to-surface missiles.

The missiles, carrying about a half a ton of explosives, fired on Monday morning as part of Syria’s long-running civil war, at first looked likely to land in northern Israel near the Sea of Galilee, which triggered the launch of the medium-range missile defense system.

One of the missiles abruptly changed course and landed in Syrian territory. The second rocket also landed in Syrian territory, according to reports.

The rockets set off Code Red alerts in communities throughout the Golan and northern Israel.

According to Haaretz, one of the Israeli interceptors was self-destructed when it was clear the Syrian missile was not going to enter Israel; the fate of the other interceptor was not reported.

Each David’s Sling interceptor missile costs around \$200,000. In the last month, Patriot missiles have been fired twice in order to intercept unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, from Syria that entered Israeli airspace.

David’s Sling became operational in Israel in April 2017. It is intended to supplement the Iron Dome system, which targets short-range rockets, and the Arrow system for long-range ballistic missiles.

Understanding the Syria moment at the Trump-Putin news conference

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The media, Congress, the international community—just about everybody is reeling after the joint news conference on Monday in Helsinki bringing together President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Among other remarkable declarations, Trump seemed to agree with Putin by doubting the U.S. intelligence community's assessment that Moscow mounted an effort to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. The American president said he favored Putin's offer to allow U.S. investigators to interview Russians in the investigation, although Putin conditioned it on allowing Russian investigators to pursue charges against Americans. Trump said Russia's law enforcement was more efficacious than its U.S. counterpart.

The reaction was swift and angry from all sides of the political spectrum. But there was at least one corner

of apparent normalcy in the news conference: Russia and the United States seemed to agree that any Syria outcome should reassure Israel about its security needs.

"The south of Syria should be brought to the full compliance with the treaty of 1974 about the separation of forces—about separation of forces of Israel and Syria," said Putin, speaking extensively and with some detail on the subject. "This will bring peace to Golan Heights, and bring a more peaceful relationship between Syria and Israel, and also to provide security of the State of Israel."

The disengagement Putin referred to allowed Israel and Syria to coexist more or less without incident from 1974 until the 2011 civil war that wracked the country and brought in U.S. and Russian involvement.

Trump in his remarks said Israel's security was preeminent both in American and Russian considerations of Syria.

"We've worked with Israel

long and hard for many years, many decades. I think we've never—never has anyone, any country been closer than we are," Trump said. "President Putin also is helping Israel. And we both spoke with Bibi Netanyahu, and they would like to do certain things with respect to Syria, having to do with the safety of Israel. So in that respect, we absolutely would like to work in order to help Israel. And Israel would be working with us. So both countries would work jointly."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in turn, welcomed the attention. In a statement, he commended "the abiding commitment of the U.S. and President Donald Trump to the security of Israel." Netanyahu also "very much" appreciated "the clear position expressed by President Putin regarding the need to uphold the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement between Israel and Syria."

Beneath the comity there lurked several significant differences of how each side sees the outcomes.

Does Iran stay?

Implicit in Putin's emphasis on ensuring Israel's security in the "south" is that Iran, Russia's de facto ally in assisting the Assad regime's bid for survival, will be absent from that region, as will its proxy, the Lebanese militia Hezbollah.

But Netanyahu wants Iran out of Syria, period. Prior to meeting with Putin last week in Russia, the Israeli leader met with top Russian officials and said in a statement that he "made it clear that Israel will not tolerate a military presence by Iran or its proxies anywhere in Syria."

Netanyahu met with Putin and has spoken with him since; it's not clear yet whether Putin is willing to commit to an Iran-free Syria. Two considerations may factor into Putin's reluctance: Iran sees its continuing presence in Syria as critical, and removing it may be too daunting for a Russia that is preoccupied in multiple corners of the globe. Putin also might want a "give" in exchange for banishing Iran

from Syria—perhaps U.S. and international recognition of its annexation of Crimea.

Who takes the lead?

Putin made clear that he sees the United States and Russia as equal partners in determining the outcome in Syria.

"Russia and the United States apparently can act proactively and take considerable leadership on this issue, and organize the interaction to overcome humanitarian crisis and help Syrian refugees to go back to their homes," he said.

Trump, notably, did not object. Israel has long relied on U.S. preeminence in the region—there is no better guarantee for Israel than its closest ally taking the lead in determining outcomes. Israel watched in dismay as the Obama administration conceded some leadership in Syria to Russia; it's not likely to welcome open equal leadership between the two powers.

The same goes for much of the U.S. Congress.

"It is imperative that Congress hold hearings on the

extent and scope of any cooperation with Russia in Syria regarding Iran's presence," Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a top Republican, said on Twitter.

What happens to Assad?

Israeli governments prior to 2011 opposed any bids to remove the Assad regime, saying its leadership of Syria was the least worrisome of multiple terrible options. That changed when Israelis saw the extent of the carnage during the civil war and Assad's willingness to use chemical weapons against his own people.

For Russia, however, Assad staying in place is a bottom line: That's the mission to which it committed troops, hardware and reputation for the past seven years. Israel again seems on board with having Assad stay.

"They have an active interest in seeing a stable Assad regime and we in getting the Iranians out. These can clash or it can align," a senior Israeli official told Reuters last week. "We won't take action against the Assad regime."

Starn

From page 1A

nis and help care for Elaine's mother.

Instead of retiring, the Starns (always a team) combined Gene's journalistic heart and his savvy business acumen to found the Heritage Central Florida Jewish Newspaper on Aug. 27, 1976. At that time, the paper covered Central Florida to both coasts. Starn wanted to provide the Jews of Central Florida information about what was going

on in the Jewish world, both at home and worldwide.

"They often joked about how the masthead should have a NY Times-style box reading 'All the Jews that's fit to print,'" said Kresner.

After six years of growing the paper, they sold it to Jeff Gaeser, who dropped the "Central" from the masthead.

"He taught me about the Jewish newspaper publishing business and later about the stock market when we formed a stock-buying club," said

Gaeser. "I learned a lot from him over the years."

Once again Starn retired, but continued to write a weekly column for the paper. Today the paper is bigger and growing, and Starn is prominently credited as editor/emeritus.

At 66, Starn founded the Orlando Jewish Genealogical Society and became the coordinator for worldwide Romanian and Polish special interest groups.

At 77, the Starns retired again and moved to Delray Beach, Fla., however, he couldn't stay retired. Always ready to help a Jewish cause, Starn became public relations director for the Judaica Music Rescue Project at Florida Atlantic University, aiming to reclaim all the Jewish music, performers and composers ever made.

By the time he was 80, Starn felt it was time to slow down. "Stop and smell the

roses and enjoy life's relaxing moments." That didn't last long. When Starn moved to La Posada in Palm Beach Gardens to retire permanently, he started a weekly newsletter to keep the residents informed and also to provide a forum for him to vent his opinions!

Still active at 90, in 2014, Starn started teaching a class in memoir writing. He sponsored a weekly Sunday at Sundown program of conversation, pizza and bingo for fellow residents.

Starn met many famous and infamous people along the way, but cherished most the dear friends and relatives he got to know during his lifetime. But always above all, was his love for Elaine.

Sid Davis of Bethesda, Md.—a former NBC Washington Bureau chief White House correspondent, award-winning journalist, and friend of Starn for more than 70 years—lauded Starn as a great

friend and mentor during their early days at WKBN. He expressed great sadness hearing of Starn's passing. Davis, as a young reporter, witnessed the assassination of President John Kennedy and was on the plane to Washington, D.C., with first lady Jackie Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson's swearing in. Davis said he had one date with Elaine, but intimated that Starn won out.

Starn was preceded in death by his brother, Hyman (Rose) Stern*; and sister, Rae (Joseph) Cohodas; brother-in-law, Arthur Regenstein; and sister-in-law, Dorothy (Stanley) Kresner.

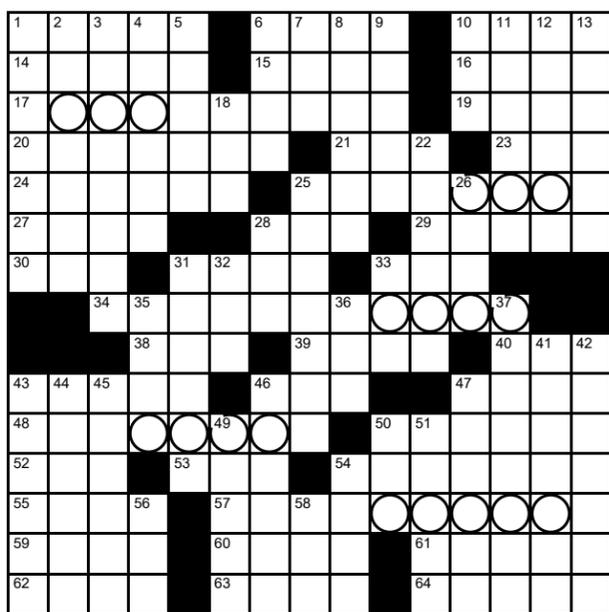
He is survived by his wife, Elaine Rose Regenstein; Starn, who resides in the La Posada Memory Care Unity, Palm Beach Gardens; niece, Blanch Katz of St. Helen's, Oregon; brother-in-law Myron (Phyllis) Regenstein of Boca Raton; niece, Fran (Nick) Rackoff of Tampa; niece,

Marilyn (Al) Nolan of Newbury Port, Mass.; nephew, Steve (Denise) Cohodas, Newburyport, Mass.; niece, Terri (Sheldon) Beasley of Elkton, Fla.; nephew Joel (Sue) Kresner of Orlando; special friend, Fran Hooper of La Posada; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Gene Starn's family would like to thank the La Posada staff and management and all the caregivers. Special thanks to chief watchdog/caregiver Erin Britten and last, but not least, "caregiver extraordinaire," Linda Mitchell, West Palm Beach.

There will be a military funeral at 11 a.m. on Aug. 13, 2018, at Bay Pine National Cemetery, St. Petersburg, Fla. Donations in Gene Starn's memory can be made to Trustbridge Hospices, trustbridge.com and/or the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando, jgsgo.org

* The spelling Stern is correct.



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Fuchs

From page 1A

changing Jewish lives in today's Orlando," said Chasnov.

"It was an interesting time," Fuchs reflected, "because all of a sudden I was on committees with people like Abe and Zelig Wise, who were close family friends. I knew them as a child! And now I'm sitting around a table as adult to adult. It took me a while to get comfortable with the change."

Her portal back into community was through her children. She enrolled her son, Sam, in the Hebrew Day School—and went on to serve as president from 1988 to 1990.

Fuchs joined Temple Israel, where her parents had been founding members, and her middle child, Jill, was bat mitzvahed there. A few years later, Fuchs switched to COS where Jill attended confirmation classes, and she began serving on the COS board as an officer and trustee.

Fuchs has served as the chairman of the Women's Division, and admits that she has probably served on every Federation committee!

"Without question, Roz Fuchs is the most determined human being and detail-oriented person that I have ever met," said Rabbi Aaron Rubinger. "I never want to be on her committee because she expects that same commitment from everyone!" he added jokingly.

But that's the thing—no one ever says no to Fuchs!

"When Roz asks for help I always say yes," Bornstein stated, "not out of obligation but because I know she will

make it a success. And then I step out of the way and let her do her magic. Perfectly, of course, with unrivaled execution and outstanding leadership."

"Every organization wants a Roz Fuchs on their committees—that's how they are successful," Rubinger added. "She is incredible. People who know her know this is true. She is remarkable."

Chasnov concurs, "If she is on a committee or chairing a project, there's no doubt in anyone's mind that it will be successful."

One of the very successful Federation programs founded by Fuchs is the Jerome J. Bornstein Young and Senior Leadership Programs.

"I chaired the human resources development committee for strategic planning," she explained. "Out of that came a recommendation that we should have an emerging leadership development group and a senior leadership group every other year."

In true Fuchs fashion, she and her committee went to every agency and synagogue and asked what kind of things they want their leaders to know. Agencies and organizations then nominated people to be selected.

"At the time, my Uncle Jerry had just passed away and my parents decided to make an endowment for the program and we named it for Jerry," Fuchs said.

"The first group loved it so much, they didn't want it to end, and so instead of being from August to May, we added six months, but then realized that was too long."

The Young Leadership Program settled down to a nine-month course every

other year. She directed the program for 14 years.

"I'm very proud of that," Fuchs expressed. "It was a very rewarding experience for me, not only did I make a lot of friends, which was great, but then to see the group gel and become a team and the participants became presidents of synagogues or agencies or chaired committees."

Fuchs vision for the Leadership programs was broader than just training people for leadership roles.

She explained in her well-reasoned way, "The other part of our philosophy was that by having people that came from all different areas in the community, they realized that the JCC alone doesn't make a community. A synagogue by itself doesn't make a community. That there's value and importance in everything that everybody is doing. As people got to know each other, they were able to cross boundaries. Somebody active at the J could call up somebody active at JFS and say 'I'm working on such-and-such committee, how about joining me?' Cross-pollination is really important. People burn out staying with the same agency or organization. So it was really good."

The Senior Leadership program was to take place on alternate years. It never developed. Fuchs was disappointed, but her vision for this program is still hopeful.

"Maybe have four fabulous programs a year. Have a retreat and meet with somebody outstanding and talk about important issues of the day and do a mission to eastern Europe and Israel, have a scholar-in-residence," she envisioned.

"I still think it's a great concept. It would be to keep people from burning out—refresh them, get them reinvigorated and I think that's important."

One program, again chaired by Fuchs, that unified community was the Dorothy Morrell Cultural Series, which brought many famous speakers and entertainers to Central Florida—Wolf Blitzer, Joan Rivers and Alan King to name a few. Morrell had run a cultural series in earlier years. "It was phenomenal and very significant in the community," Fuchs recalled. So when Morrell died, Fuchs was hoping something would be done in her memory. She and her mom, Bea, started thinking and together they came up with the idea of a cultural series for the JCC. Fuchs approached Marvin Friedman, executive director of the JCC at the time, and he agreed with the idea, but an endowment was needed, which was happily provided by Morrell's children.

Most people probably don't know or remember that before Kehillah, Fuchs was the project coordinator of "Our Story," a community history from 1947 to 1999 for JFGO's 50+ anniversary. She did the research and much of the writing of this 82-page documentary of the Orlando Jewish community. "Our Story" is this editor's go-to book for information about the Orlando Jewish community's past. And it paved the way to the three years of work that went into creating a 100-year history of the Orlando Jewish community.

"The 100 Years of Jewish Community project began with Roz seeing something

that could be bigger than was originally imagined," said Bornstein.

The exhibit was presented to the community for 100 days, and coincided with Ohev Shalom's 100th Anniversary yearlong celebration.

"Although she has given so much of herself over the years, I believe the most meaningful gift that she gave to our community was the Kehillah Exhibit at the Orange County History Center," said Chasnov. "The exhibit was conceived and delivered by Roz's pure determination and will to make it happen. There were so many moving parts, committees, research, cataloguing, editing, and coordination to put this project together. It was her knowledge and love of Orlando and the historical memory of the Jewish community that drove her each day to keep the project on track to its conclusion."

"I am truly blessed to have worked closely with Roz on the COS Centennial and Kehillah exhibit and to have acquired her friendship along the way," said Stern.

"When I volunteered to work with Roz as the Kehillah exhibit curator, I instantly gained a close friend for life. Roz is a 'doer'—a gem," stated Zerivitz.

"When I first saw the exhibit, I literally cried with emotion to see what Roz first dreamed and then became a reality. It was so meaningful as every word, photo, and detail was thought out to perfection," Chasnov recalled.

For Fuchs, the Kehillah exhibit revealed all the contributions the Jewish community has made to help make Orlando what it is today, and she is proud of what she sees.

"We know our communities faults, but we don't praise all the good things," Fuchs commented. "[The community] is filled with generous, talented people. When you add up all the different organizations and the amount of dollars raised for all the good things—it's a lot to be proud of!"

Her vision for Kehillah is not over. Currently, Fuchs is working on creating a website of the exhibit—complete with a 360 video of the exhibit, the catalog and merchant map—to be used for research purposes and preserve the history of this community

The driving force behind Fuchs is her unwavering belief that the life-blood of organizations is the volunteers. Asked what she sees as the greatest need in the Jewish community today, she responded (after much thought) that she'd like to see the Senior Leadership program revived. Perhaps she could be in the first group to be invigorated and refreshed in order to continue giving to the Jewish community she loves so dearly.

"Roz is a treasure to our community," Chasnov expressed, "and I can only hope, that she goes from strength to strength as we all are the recipients of her passion and love for Orlando and the Jewish people around the world."

Space does not permit the listing of all of Fuchs' awards throughout her years of service to the Jewish community. However, Sara Stern will share much more about her as she presents the Human Service Award to Roz Fuchs at the Federation Annual Meeting on Aug. 5 (held from 10 a.m. to noon) at The Roth Family JCC.

Lien

From page 3A

In reaction to the ruling, Dov Weinstein, Adam's father, told JNS that he welcomes "anything that can stop the killing."

He added, "The most important thing to understand is that the leaders of Hamas and the PLO don't really care about their own people. Everything they do is to make themselves rich, while both

Israelis and Palestinians pay the price."

Weinstein noted that his family's case against Hamas in a separate legal proceeding has been going on for 17 years for bureaucratic and po-

litical reasons, and that their concern isn't whether or not they see the money from the sale of the ships. "The point is that we have to do a lot more to stop [terror groups] from money-laundering and stop

the support they get from other countries," he said. "By taking away the ships, we are taking away their power."

In 2006, the Gavish family won a 90 million NIS (\$25 million) ruling against Hamas,

but even so they have yet to receive any compensation. Darshan-Leitner however is optimistic that as a result of this ruling, the ships will be sold and the families will in fact receive reparations.

Glick

From page 4A

Trump is being condemned for adopting a conciliatory tone towards Putin while employing a combative tone towards the Europeans and particularly Germany at the NATO sum-

mit. This criticism ignores how Trump operates in the international arena.

Trump views his exchanges with foreign leaders as separate engagements. He has goals he wishes to advance with China; with North Korea; with Russia; with Canada;

with Mexico; with Europe; with Britain; with US Arab allies. In each separate engagement, Trump employs a combination of carrots and sticks. In each engagement he adopts a distinct manner that he believes advances his goals. So far, unlike Obama's for-

eign policy by this point in his presidency, none of Trump's exchanges have brought disaster on America or its allies. To the contrary, America and its allies have much greater strategic maneuver room across a wide spectrum of threats and joint adversaries

than they had when Obama left office.

Trump's opponents' obsession with bringing him down has caused great harm to his presidency and to America's position worldwide. It is a testament to Trump's commitment to the US and its

allies that he met with Putin this week. And the success of their meeting is something that all who care about global security and preventing a devastating war in the Middle East should be grateful for.

Originally published in The Jerusalem Post.

Security

From page 6A

with a clean sheet even if it means paying a price on other fronts," Dayan wrote in an email to Koplou on Tuesday. "That price includes sometimes our image being damaged. The total and complete security of our aviation

and its passengers is and will continue to be our first priority. All other considerations are subordinated to that."

But Dayan wrote he regretted how Koplou was treated.

"I wish to express once more my sorrow for the inconvenience and embar-

assment caused to you," he wrote. "I hope your next departure from Ben Gurion Airport will be more pleasant."

Koplou told JTA that the incident will not deter him from visiting or engaging with Israel in the future.

His story first appeared

in a Twitter thread about the incident written by his son, Michael Koplou, policy director at the Israel Policy Forum, a group that advocates for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The younger Koplou wrote that his father's story "is a perfectly sad

microcosm of everything wrong with the way Israel treats information as a threat and American Jews as objects of suspicion."

"We have moved from Israel being worried about tangible security threats, to treating BDS advocates and protestors as if they are

security threats, to treating any evidence of basic engagement with Palestinians as security threats," Michael Koplou wrote, using an acronym denoting the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel. "Simple information is treated as dangerous."

Occupation

From page 9A

of the Hamas terrorist group, which encouraged its followers to breach the border fence. Hamas has acknowledged that at that May demonstration, 50 of the 61 killed were its members.

"Yes," Ocasio-Cortez conceded, adding, "But I also think that what people are starting to see at least in the occupation... of Palestine [is] just an increasing crisis of humanitarian condition

and that to me is just where I tend to come from on this issue."

When Hoover, a former aide to President George W. Bush, asked Ocasio-Cortez to clarify what she meant, Ocasio-Cortez paused and answered: "I think what I meant is like the settlements that are increasing in some of these areas in places where Palestinians are experiencing difficulty in access to their housing and homes."

After Hoover asked Ocasio-

Cortez to expand on her comments, the candidate said: "I am not the expert on geopolitics on this issue," and "I just look at things through a human rights lens and I may not use the right words... Middle Eastern politics is not exactly at my kitchen table every night."

Her comments on Israel have prompted criticism from the right and left.

"Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is doing a great service. Her argument is twofold:

Israel a colonizing occupier of Palestine, and that she doesn't know anything about the conflict," wrote Seth Mandel, op-ed editor of the New York Post, on Twitter. "Accurate: those who think this have no idea what they're talking about. At least she's honest."

The Republican Jewish Coalition tweeted: "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez bashes Israel while admitting she is clueless about what is going on there. She simply toes the far-

left, radical agenda. Elected Democrats are endorsing this when they endorse her."

Asad Abukhalil, a professor in political science at California State University, Stanislaus, lamented that Ocasio-Cortez's comments about a two-state solution and support for Israel's right to exist are "a sign that you have become an already mainstream Democratic candidate."

"Israel's right to exist" is a euphemism for Israel's

right to occupy Palestine," Abukhalil added. "@Ocasio2018 should have known that."

Although the Democratic Socialists of America endorses the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, Ocasio-Cortez has not discussed her position on the boycott.

Tom Perez, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has called Ocasio-Cortez the "future of our party."

Leading tech figures declare Israel the 'epicenter of magic'



Emerging REALITY group participating in team building activities on Banana Beach in Michmoret.

innovation, startup culture, startup mentality and why the output of success is so high. I thought I had good insight on that, but now, after the first couple of days [on this trip], I have a much better insight on this."

Schilowitz related a story from years ago when he was interviewed by a magazine in Silicon Valley. When asked where he thinks the best innovation in the world comes from, he replied, "I know you want me to say Silicon Valley, but I'm telling you it's not Silicon Valley. It's this little strip of desert in the Middle East that really has made the most relevant tech of our generation. And what is ironic is that the countries that surround that little strip of desert are often trying to eradicate it from the planet using all the technology that was developed by that little strip of desert... And it's troubling to me that those [countries] don't realize that this is a jewel. It has to be treasured, regardless of your political dynamics, because you can't execute anything without this little strip of desert. It's fascinating, and it's probably only getting started."

Schilowitz expressed amazement that "most of the 8 billion humans on Earth are touching multiple things that came out of Israeli innovation every single day, multiple times a day, for many hours a day, every single day of their lives—and they have no idea that it came from Israel... It's just so extraordinarily relevant, and it's almost impossible to imagine that it all comes from this [tiny country]."

'It blew my mind'

Amanda Goldfine, head of marketing partnerships at Oculus, was equally enthusiastic, telling JNS that this was her first time in Israel. "I've been wanting to come for a long time, so it's exciting to be here... I'm learning a ton."

Asked what appealed to her about joining the program, she mentioned a few reasons.

"Obviously, it's great networking to meet people who are in similar industries with similar interests. We are learning a ton about each other and about ourselves in the process," she said. "On the other hand, getting a chance to learn about leadership, the industry in Israel, such a huge tech scene... being able to learn about all the different aspects of life and culture here... learning about different types of leadership

and how [people here] have been able to thrive despite everything."

Goldfine also expressed her appreciation for the program. "Everyone on the itinerary looks really impressive, and it's sometimes the people you don't expect that you end up learning the most from."

Her best praise she saved for Israel: "It's really impressive that such a small country is such a big tech powerhouse."

Toshi Hoo, director of the Emerging Media Lab, Institute for the Future, told JNS, "I've been to Israel before, and it blew my mind."

"What really drew me," he said, "was that I wanted to get out of Silicon Valley. I need to understand more about AI, and I've got incredible experts on the tour with me."

Hoo said he is looking forward to all of the presentations the program set up. "It's so well-curated. It's not just interesting, enriching, tantalizing and delicious. You really feel the sense of curation of the relationships, and I feel the encouragement to self-actualize on this trip. They're bringing all this outside stimulation and incredible new relationships, so it's transformative."

'There's a lot happening'

Tyler Wunsch, head of sustainability at Tesla, actually found out about the REALITY program while he was in Morocco at a fish market when an Israeli couple asked to join him at his table. When he admitted that he hadn't yet been to Israel, they told him about REALITY tour. When he returned home, he Googled it and became interested.

"I'm here to learn about the companies and the technology and the overall culture that is Israel," he told JNS. "There's a lot happening."

Like Goldfine, Wunsch expressed his delight at being in Israel for the first time. "If I were Jewish, I would have gone on Birthright. I'm not, so I wasn't able to."

"This is a unique opportunity to come to a country and experience the culture, the food, but yet be on this curated journey that allows you to meet with the locals, allows you to meet with people hustling in business, who are really making things happen," he explained. "It's probably one of the most unique experiences that I've had."

Schilowitz summed it up best when he said: "If you think technology is magic, this is the epicenter of magic."

By Israel Kasnett

(JNS)—Why sit behind a desk all day when you can explore Israel and meet experts in your field at the same time? That's where REALITY Experience, an initiative by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, comes in. The program, which offers 12 distinct journeys, each with its own unique focus, "brings inspiring influencers from around the globe on a transformative journey through Israel to reignite their passion and potential for repairing the world."

JNS was invited to meet with some of the participants of Emerging REALITY, a program described on its website as "a transformative leadership experience in Israel specifically designed for leaders in the areas of augmented reality, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, robotics, computer vision, blockchain and immersive media creation who appreciate the value of collaboration, camaraderie and imagination."

Ted Schilowitz, a futurist at Paramount Pictures, was full of energy and enthusiasm when he sat down with JNS. "This is quite a week. It's like a summer camp," he said. "It's not just to see Israel, but to learn Israel, to really understand what makes it tick. And to see, from the particular bent of this group, why Israel is such a hotbed of



AUGUST 2, 2018 ★ 7:00 PM ET ★

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Miami/Ft. Lauderdale - WTJV (NBC)

Orlando - WESH (NBC)

Panama City - WMBB (ABC)*

Pensacola - WEAR (ABC)*

Tallahassee - WCTV (CBS)

Tampa/St. Pete - WFLA (NBC)

West Palm Beach - WPBF 25 (ABC)

*These stations will air the debate with a one hour delay at 7:00 pm Central Time

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IDF arrests terror suspects in Judea, finds submachine gun

(JNS)—Israeli security forces arrested 19 terror suspects and rock-throwers in raids across Judea and Samaria overnight on Sunday, confiscating multiple illegal guns in Hebron and confiscating thousands of shekels marked to fund terror acts.

Riots broke out as IDF troops arrested terror suspects in eastern Jerusalem and just outside the city in Kafr Bidu, with Arab residents throwing objects

and rocks at soldiers, who responded with riot dispersal equipment.

No injuries were reported on either side.

During raids in Hebron, the IDF confiscated an M-4 assault rifle, an air pistol, ammunition, magazines and gun parts, according to officials.

Border Police arrested one man who was part of a group attempting to cross the security fence from Samaria

into Israel by climbing over it with a ladder. Forces chased them on foot, but some of the men managed to enter Israel, whereas others turn back and fled towards Samaria.

During the chase, one of the men threw away a pink backpack featuring a picture of Barbie, which was found to contain a Carlo-style, locally made submachine gun, a cellphone and a bolt-cutter for cutting through metal fencing.