



Students proudly share their goals for the future on the first day of school at the Jewish Academy of Orlando.

Jewish Academy of Orlando kicks off school year with increases

The Jewish Academy of Orlando began the new school year with advances in student retention and enrollment, as well as improvements in the technology and fine arts programs.

Year-over-year enrollment increased 14 percent, and the school achieved a 95 percent retention rate, an improvement from prior years.

"We are excited to begin the school year with such positive momentum in recruitment and enrollment," Head of School Alan Rusonik stated.

For years, Jewish Academy has been a technology leader with 1:1 iPad and computer programs, innovation lab, and

other advances. This year, the school's technology offerings include upgrades to robotics, coding, 3D printing, and programming capabilities; all made possible through a matching grant from a generous donor.

In addition to the expansion of its technology department, the fine arts program continues to grow. The school was one of 10 schools chosen to participate in a grant by the highly prestigious Teacher Institute for the Arts program, sponsored by Kol HaOt Art Institute, under the auspices of American/Israeli artist David Moss. Jewish Academy's art teacher, Penny

Goldstein, stated, "We are excited that our teachers are now trained with cutting edge techniques to integrate art and Judaic studies."

Rusonik added, "We pride ourselves in continually making improvements to the school to make the student, parent, and family experiences the best they can be. We look forward to sharing even more exciting news and advances in the coming months."

To learn more about the Jewish Academy of Orlando, please visit <https://www.jewishacademyorlando.org> or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JewishAcademyOrlando>.

Nazi camp guard Jakiw Palij deported from US to Germany

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA)—A former guard at a Nazi concentration camp was deported to Germany overnight from the United States, where he had lived for decades.

Jakiw Palij, 95, had lived in Queens, New York. He served as a guard at the Trawniki con-

centration camp near Lublin, Poland, during World War II, and may face prosecution in Germany for his actions.

Members of New York's congressional delegation last year urged the Trump administration to deport Palij, whose citizenship was revoked in 2003 based on his wartime activities, human rights abuses and immigration fraud, NBC reported. A federal court also ruled that he had assisted in the persecution of prisoners at the camp, though it stopped short of finding him responsible for deaths.

A statement released by the White House after Palij landed in Germany early Tuesday commended President Donald Trump and Immigration and Customs Enforcement for "removing this war criminal from United States soil."

"Despite a court ordering his deportation in 2004, past administrations were unsuccessful in removing Palij," the statement said. "To protect the promise of freedom for Holocaust survivors and their families, President Trump prioritized the removal of Palij."

Palij was born on former Polish territory, an area now located in Ukraine. He immi-

grated to the United States in 1949 and became a citizen in 1957, but concealed his Nazi service saying that he spent World War II working in a factory on a farm.

Palij told Justice Department investigators who showed up at his door in 1993, "I would never have received my visa if I told the truth. Everyone lied."

He later admitted to officials that he attended a Nazi SS training camp in Trawniki in German-occupied Poland and then served as an armed guard at its adjacent forced-labor camp.

According to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Trawniki camp was part of Operation Reinhard, the Nazi operation to murder the approximately 2 million Jews residing in German-occupied Poland.

Because Germany, Poland, Ukraine and other countries refused to take him, he continued living in limbo in the two-story, red brick home in Queens he shared with his wife, Maria, now 86.

Germany's Foreign Office said its decision to accept Palij showed the country was accepting its "moral responsi-



Nazi War Criminal Jakiw Palij

bility." And Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told the German tabloid Bild that those who "committed the worst crimes on behalf of Germans" would be held accountable.

A reporter from ABC News who was present when Palij was removed by ICE on Monday morning described him as "looking frail with missing front teeth visible through his white beard. The only noise he made was a pained howl as agents hoisted him

Nazi on page 14A

Newton residents sue school board

NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS—On Aug. 9, 2018, the community group Education Without Indoctrination filed a lawsuit against the School Committee of Newton, Massachusetts, in Massachusetts Superior Court on behalf of three Newton taxpayers. The lawsuit claims multiple violations of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law stemming from the school committee's handling of a burgeoning scandal over anti-Semitic lessons and the promotion of Islamic religious beliefs as objective facts in the public school district's history classes.

In teaching world history, Newton Public Schools use hateful educational materials funded by the Saudi oil company ARAMCO and the government of Qatar. As a result, Newton public school students are propagandized with materials that slander Israel and the Jewish people, and that falsify history to promote the Islamic religion in public schools. Just this past May, Newton North High School invited an anti-Semitic group to screen Palestinian propaganda films to its students. For this, NPS Superintendent David Fleishman earned a rebuke from the New England branch of the Anti-Defamation League and Boston's Jewish Community Relations Council.

Parents and taxpayers seeking information on what is happening in Newton classrooms have been met with a

wall of silence and secrecy. "The Newton School Committee and the district's superintendent, David Fleishman, have been stonewalling parents since 2011," said Tanya Gorlin of EWI. "And the classroom bias just keeps getting worse every year."

"All that secrecy has now crossed into illegality," said Karen Hurvitz, a member of EWI and counsel for the Newton taxpayers in this lawsuit against the Newton School Committee. "For months now, dozens of Newton citizens have come before the school committee to complain about the non-objective, anti-Jewish, and Islamic religious lessons, as well as about Superintendent David Fleishman, who has refused to stop it being taught. Yet the names of all these citizens and summaries of what they said were deliberately omitted from the school committee meeting minutes month after month."

According to the complaint, the Newton School Committee also concealed written evaluations of Superintendent David Fleishman from the public, in contravention of its own policy and the Open Meeting Law.

In their complaint, the Newton taxpayer plaintiffs seek orders compelling the school committee to present all written evaluations of Superintendent Fleishman at an open meeting, to acknowl-

Newton on page 15A

KCOA seeks 8 over 80 nominees

The Kinneret Council of Aging's Annual 8 over 80 Honorary Dinner is designed to recognize area residents who have contributed to the betterment of the Central Florida community. Who will be the newest honorees?

On Sunday, March 3, 2019, KCOA will pay tribute to eight individuals over the age of 80 who have made significant contributions in the Central Florida area and continue to live lives of remarkable achievement, vitality and civic engagement. This coveted honor is one of the most prestigious awards for older adults in our community.

"The event creates an overwhelming sense of community by recognizing and celebrating these amazing 8 individuals who have contributed their time and talent for the betterment of our community," said Lynn Fenster, Chair, 8 over 80 Gala.

"Each honoree has an impactful story to tell and we look forward to their sharing it with us as well as celebrating their legacy of leadership and

outstanding achievements," said Sharon F. Weil, director of Programming and Development, KCOA.

The year's event, including a reception and gala dinner, will be held in the Delaney Dining Room at Kinneret. We are currently seeking nominations and ask that you consider who you know that is worthy of this distinction. Nomination forms are available at www.kinneretliving.org or by calling the Kinneret office at 407-425-4537. Note that individuals may nominate more than one person.

Kinneret Apartments, located in downtown Orlando, provides subsidized housing to 280 independent seniors. For information on the facility or to find out how you can donate to KCOA, please go to www.kinneretliving.org or contact Sharon Weil at 407-425-4537.



New boards usher in a New Year at The Jewish Pavilion



Jewish Pavilion Board of Directors 2018-2019. Seated (l-r): Valerie Chestnut, Susie Goebeler, Sheila Kramer, Mary Carter Eick, Marlene Adler. Standing (l-r): Sammy Goldstein, Jason Mendelsohn, Barry Kudlowitz, Peter Schoenberger, Carina Gerscovich, Faye Novick, Dick Appelbaum (former board member), Mo Kaprow, Terri Fine, Paul Stenzler, Nancy Ludin. Not pictured: Toby Vandemark, Tracey Kagen, Alan Kronenberg, Noreen Levitt, Elise Schilowitz, Geanne Share, Ken Davis.

By Lisa Levine

The Jewish Pavilion Board of Directors welcomed a new executive committee and six new members at its August meeting. Former board member Dick Appelbaum reviewed the past year's accomplishments and installed the new executive committee and board. The new president for a two-year term is Faye Novick. Barry Kudlowitz is vice president, Terri Fine is secretary and Toby Vandemark is treasurer. Immediate past president Paul Stenzler remains on the executive committee and board. New board members are Marlene Adler, Mary Carter Eick, Sheila Kramer and Susie Goebeler. Valerie Chestnut and Ken Davis are returning to the board after a hiatus.

Novick has been a board member for eight years and a Friends of The Jewish Pavilion member for 10 years, as well as its immediate past president. Soon to be retired from her event-planning business, Novick has been

involved in planning many of the Pavilion's events over the years and has volunteered at Pavilion programs and holiday services. She and her husband, Bill, have been married for 23 years and have lived in Orlando for most of that time.

"I am honored to be president of this engaged and caring board," said Novick. "The Jewish Pavilion serves an important need in our community. I am looking forward to working with the organization as we safeguard its present and future."

The Friends of The Jewish Pavilion has also launched a new year as the busy fall season approaches. Longtime Friends member Marlene Adler was inducted as president, and Denise Beumer, Marian Bromberg, Tandy Cunningham, Sondra Hoffman, Rebecca Kleiman, Jennifer Landa, Terry Newman, Stacy Soll, Miriam Varnagy and Tracy Weiss were welcomed to the Friends board this year. Many of the members are very active volunteers at the senior living facilities served by The Jewish



Friends of The Jewish Pavilion 2018-2019. Seated (left to right): Gloria Newberger, Renee Pitt, Jen Landa, Elise Schilowitz. Standing (left to right): Nancy Ludin, Lisa Levine, Denise Beumer, Susan Livingstone, Marlene Adler, Jane Edelstein, Randy Cunningham, Susie Stone, Marian Bromberg, Corinne Brail. A number of members are not pictured.

Pavilion and will be helping at some of the many Rosh Hashanah celebrations.

Coming on the heels of the New Year and fall holidays will be the much-anticipated Gems and Jeans 2018 Gala on Oct. 28, celebrating The Jewish Pavilion's milestone 18th anniversary of bringing engaging programs and friendly visits to seniors in

living facilities all over Central Florida. The Gala committee of the Friends of the Pavilion has been working hard for many months to make it an event to remember.

A new year often brings change, and The Jewish Pavilion is pleased to announce that Susan Bernstein is the new program director for Longwood, Lake Mary and

Sanford, taking over from Emily Newman, who has retired.

"We are very excited to welcome Susan Bernstein as our new program director," said Nancy Ludin, executive director of The Jewish Pavilion. "She comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience in Jewish communal work. Susan is an excellent guitarist and has been leading

Sabbath and holiday services as a volunteer for The Jewish Pavilion for several years. Through her volunteer work, Susan is familiar with many of the elder care buildings we serve. Susan is bright, energetic and compassionate, and she has developed superb relationships with our seniors, volunteers and the staff at the facilities."

Beth Am to host the 'Rosh ha-Shana experience'



Mark Davids demonstrates how the shofar is blown.

Recognizing that the school districts of Seminole and Orange counties will be in session during Rosh

Hashanah, Congregation Beth Am in Longwood will offer an innovative, alternative worship "experience" on

Monday, Sept. 10, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. for all students and their families who will not have had the opportunity to attend services on the 1st Day of Rosh Hashanah. This will be followed by a brief Tashlich service that's BYOB (Bring Your Own Bread).

According to Greg Alman, vice-president for Religious Activities at Beth Am, "We were not pleased to see this year's Orange and Seminole County school calendars did not include days off for the Jewish holidays and we wanted to do something about it. We designed the 'Rosh ha-Shana Experience'

for the occasion. This is not intended as a substitute for our morning services at Beth Am or any synagogue in Central Florida. This will be an 'experiential' hour for students and their families to get a taste of Rosh Hashanah. There will be a Shofar Service, apples and honey, familiar chants and discussion of some major themes of Rosh Hashanah. And we

will encourage everyone in attendance to take a short walk to the neighboring lake to cast away their sins at a Tashlich service before returning home for dinner."

Alman added, "We are opening this 'Rosh ha-Shana Experience' to all Central Florida Jewish students and their families, regardless of synagogue affiliation and to those with no synagogue af-

filiation. No ticket is necessary to enjoy what Rosh Hashanah has to offer. At the very least we want everyone to have the opportunity to hear the sounding of a shofar to usher in the New Year!"

More information on the "Rosh ha-Shana Experience" and the High Holy Day services at Congregation Beth Am can be found at www.CongBethAm.org.

JSU kickoff event this Sunday

JSU is back in full force and is now in seven high schools around Orlando. JSU is a student run Jewish Club at local high schools where teens of all affiliations and backgrounds get to explore Judaism in a fun, accepting, and engaging environment.

JSU has hundreds of clubs all over the country, with seven of them right here in Orlando.

There will be a JSU kickoff event on Sunday, Sept. 2 from noon to 2:30 p.m. at 9101 International Dr., #1032 in Orlando. The cost is \$12 per person.

For more information about the clubs or the JSU Kick off Event, contact Daniel Nabatian at 516-426-8484, dnabatian@joinorlando.org or Aliza Nabatian at anabatian@joinorlando.org or 786-350-0621.

When "I DO" becomes
I'M DONE.

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Explore bereavement

For those grieving the loss of a loved one there is hope. Once again, JFS Orlando, in coordination with the Jewish Pavilion and in cooperation with The Hospice of the Comforter and VITAS Healthcare, is holding a Grief Support Group on Thursdays

from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The group meetings began on Aug. 30 and will continue to meet Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, and Oct. 4.

The meetings take place at Congregation Ohev Shalom, 613 Concourse Parkway South, Maitland.

For registration or questions, contact JFS clinical therapist supervisor Ashlyn Douglass-Barnes at 407-644-7593, ext. 247 or email her at ashlyn.douglass-barnes@jfsorlando.org

A \$5 per session contribution is suggested.

Episcopal bishop apologizes after sharing false stories about Israeli atrocities

(JTA)—A senior clergywoman in the Episcopal Church of Massachusetts has apologized for comments accusing Israel of fabricated atrocities.

During a speech last month to the church's General Convention, Bishop Suffragen Gayle Harris claimed that she had witnessed Israeli security forces arrest a 3-year-old on the Temple Mount and shoot a 15-year-old in the back 10 times after making a comment to a group of soldiers. Harris, the second-highest ranking Episcopal official in the state, later clarified that she had heard the stories from a third party.

"I was there a couple of years ago on the Temple Mount," Harris said. "A three-year-old little boy, a Palestinian with his mother, was bouncing a rubber ball. The ball happened to sort of roll away from him and go over the side down to the Western Wall otherwise known as the Wailing Wall. And immediately, Israeli sol-

diers camp up to the Temple Mount and attempted to put handcuffs on a three-year-old little boy—for bouncing a rubber ball."

In a statement last month accusing the church of coming "close to a blood libel," the Simon Wiesenthal Center noted that there is a high wall surrounding the Temple Mount, making it unlikely that such a small child would be able to bounce a ball high enough for it to reach the Jewish prayer-goers below.

A video from the Boston-based Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, or CAMERA, helped drive the story, and it wrote a letter to Harris. CAMERA also referred to the accusations as a blood libel.

In the second case, Harris described how a teenager was walking down the street and asked a group of soldiers a question that they found offensive.

"He began to run as they threatened him and they shot

him in the back four times he fell on the ground and they shot him another six," she said.

Harris' comments generated widespread outrage among members of the local Jewish community. After vocal opposition from the The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston and the local branch of the American Jewish Committee, she issued a statement clarifying her remarks.

"For my entire adult life I have maintained that the State of Israel must exist, with safe borders and the establishment of respectful relationships by and with neighboring countries," she said. "I have strongly condemned the actions of extremists and bigots against Jewish people in the United States.

"After reviewing my words in the House of Bishops from a transcription, I now acknowledge that I reported stories which I had heard and unintentionally framed them

as though I had personally witnessed the alleged events. I sincerely apologize. I now understand how the framing of my words could and did give the wrong impression. The fault is solely mine I acknowledge also that I did not take the opportunity to verify these stories. I was speaking from my passion for justice for all people, but I was repeating what I received secondhand. I was ill-advised to repeat the stories without verification, and I apologize for doing so."

In an accompanying statement, Bishop Alan Gates, the head of the the diocese and Harris' direct superior, acknowledged that "for Christian leaders to relate unsubstantiated accounts of Israeli violence awakens traumatic memory of a deep history of inciting hostility and violence against Jews—a history the echoes of which are heard alarmingly in our own day."

Reaffirming the church's

"condemnation of violence on all sides of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," Gates said that he grieved over the "damage done to our relationships with Jewish friends and colleagues in Massachusetts, and rededicate ourselves to those partnerships, in which we are grateful to face complexities together."

In response, the JCRC wrote on Facebook that it "welcome[d] this response from Bishop Harris and we look forward to continued engagement with her, Bishop Gates, and the Episcopal Diocese of MA as we seek to advance our shared goal of a two-state solution."

"We had a very open conversation. It led to some important soul-searching," JCRC deputy director Nahma Nadich told the Boston Globe. "We made sure to have a conversation directly with them, and the apology was issued the next day. We wanted them to understand the centuries of

accusations, unfounded accusations of violence, which spurred more violence against Jews."

The meeting, which allowed the two sides to "repair any rupture in our relationship," was "not the end of the conversation," she said.

In a statement emailed to the press, the Simon Wiesenthal Center welcomed Harris' apology as a "first step."

"Bishop Harris' apology is full-throated, sincere, but incomplete," said the center's associate dean, Rabbi Abraham Cooper.

"Bishop Harris now admits that she was not there, but uncritically repeated what she had heard from others," Cooper said. "Unfortunately, she has not yet brought herself to state that the two stories were in fact ludicrous fabrications presented to her by Palestinians that defamed the Jewish State. Will she and her Church denounce such a blood libel?"

PepsiCo to acquire Israel's SodaStream for \$3.2 billion

JERUSALEM (JTA)—PepsiCo will acquire the Israeli home soda maker manufacturer SodaStream for \$3.2 billion, the soft drink giant said Monday.

PepsiCo plans to maintain the Israeli company's current base of operations in the Negev. SodaStream will continue to operate as an independent subsidiary.

The American multinational agreed to acquire all of the outstanding shares of SodaStream International Ltd. for \$144 per share.

"PepsiCo and SodaStream are an inspired match," PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi said in a statement.

SodaStream CEO Daniel Birnbaum "and his leadership team have built an extraordinary company that is offering consumers the ability to make great-tasting beverages while reducing the amount of waste generated. That focus is well-aligned with Performance with Purpose, our philosophy of making more nutritious products while limiting our environmental footprint. Together, we can advance our shared vision of a healthier, more-sustainable planet."

SodaStream, which manu-

factures home carbonation machines that work with its own line of soda flavorings, has long been a target of advocates of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel because it was based in the West Bank.

In October 2014, SodaStream announced it would close its Mishor Adumim industrial park factory and move to southern Israel in the face of international pressure from the BDS movement, which seeks to hurt Israel's economy over its policies toward the Palestinians. The movement claimed that SodaStream discriminated against Palestinian workers and paid some less than Israeli workers.

Israeli politicians framed the significance of the SodaStream acquisition in national terms that went beyond the purchase of one company.

"I welcome the purchase of SodaStream," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu posted on Twitter. "The recent large acquisitions of Israeli companies demonstrate not only the technological capabilities but also the business capabilities that have been developed in

Israel. I welcome the huge deal that will enrich the state coffers as well as the important decision to leave the company in Israel."

Oded Revivi, who manages foreign relations for the Yesha Council, a group representing the settlement movement, called Monday's news a "day of darkness for the #BDS and its supporters" and a "day of light for the Israeli economy."

Economy Minister Eli Cohen said the purchase evoked "pride in local industry," while Justice Ministry Ayelet Shaked said the firm was "an example of Israeli creativity, innovation, coexistence and entrepreneurship."

"Worth remembering: PepsiCo boycotted Israel until 1991. Today it bought an Israeli firm for \$3.2B and pledged it will continue to operate from Israel. The story of Israel's economy in a nutshell," tweeted Israel's consul general in New York, Dani Dayan.

Addressing his father, who is a Holocaust survivor, at a news conference Monday, Birnbaum said that he was "proud that you have seen your Zionist vision come true."

Son of Mahmoud Abbas doesn't believe in two-state solution

(JNS)—An Israeli report has revealed that the son of Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas told a top Trump administration official that a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is unrealistic.

According to Israel's Channel 10, Tarek Abbas told White House special envoy to the Middle East Jason Greenblatt last September on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York that he does not think a

two-state solution is possible, and that the solution is one state with equal rights for all citizens.

Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly insisted that the only way to peace is through the creation of a Palestinian state.

The report stated that Greenblatt reached out to Tarek Abbas in order to try to push forward the Trump administration's peace efforts, according to unnamed senior Israeli officials cited by Channel 10.

Days before that, Mahmoud Abbas met with Trump to express his hope that the "deal of the century" would bring a solution to ongoing conflict between the Palestinians and Israel. Since then, Abbas has blasted Trump's deal and vowed not to engage in any negotiations led by the Trump White House.

The declaration came after Trump recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in December.

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Hamas-Israel ceasefire talks show peace impossible

By Caroline Glick

The ceasefire negotiations between Israel and the Hamas terror group's regime in Gaza point to a central truth about the nature of the Palestinian conflict with Israel. Before anyone speaks any more about a possible "deal of the century," or a "two-state solution," it is imperative that the implications of those talks be fully understood.

The ceasefire talks are being held between the sides of two separate international coalitions. On the one side are Israel, the U.S., and Egypt. On the other side are Hamas, Qatar, and Turkey.

The party that has been most notably absent from the discussions is the Palestinian Authority. The PA, which was formed in 1994 in the framework of talks between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel, is charged with running the Palestinian autonomous areas that Israel transferred to PLO control. Until June 2007, that included the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian population centers in Judea and Samaria.

In 2006, the PA held elections to its legislative council. Hamas won. In 2007, Hamas

forcibly ejected the PA from Gaza and set up its own terror regime, which has ruled—with public support—ever since.

The PLO is an umbrella organization that includes several aligned Palestinian terror groups. Fatah, which was established by Yasser Arafat in 1958, is the largest faction of the PLO. Until his death in 2004, Arafat headed Fatah, the PLO and the PA. His successor, Mahmoud Abbas, similarly sits at the helm of all three groups.

Since it was established in 1964, the PLO has insisted that it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. Since the PA was established in 1994, the PLO has sought to convince Hamas, the Muslim-Brotherhood's Palestinian terror affiliate, to join its ranks. Although Hamas and Fatah have negotiated multiple unity deals since then, many of which involved Hamas joining the PLO, none of the deals was ever fully implemented.

Since Hamas ousted Fatah forces from Gaza, on the ground, PA/Fatah has served as Hamas's financier and diplomatic representative. It has used the internationally-funded PA budget to pay for Hamas's regime in Gaza. Abbas's PLO representative Azzam al-Ahmad served as the

chief Palestinian negotiator in ceasefire talks that brought an end to Hamas's 50 day war against Israel in 2014. The PLO's international delegations represented Hamas's positions in forums like the UN.

The PA/Fatah was apparently blindsided by the current round of ceasefire discussions. In these discussions, being carried out indirectly with Israel through several different mediators, Hamas is not using the PA to represent it. And this makes sense.

To show his frustration with Hamas's refusal to cede control over Gaza to the PA in any significant way, in April 2017, Abbas stopped paying Hamas's electricity bills. He also stopped transferring money for salaries to the Hamas regime in April 2018. Given the acrimony between the two sides, it is little wonder that Hamas, uninterested in ceding its power, decided to represent itself in its ceasefire negotiations.

Abbas stubbornly refuses to accept his growing irrelevance. Rather than trying to maneuver himself into a senior negotiating role, Abbas has boycotted the talks. He has soured his relations with the Sisi regime in Egypt, by—among other things—refusing to meet with Egyptian President Abdel Fatah el-Sisi's intelligence chief, Abbas Kamel, who is overseeing ceasefire negotiations with Hamas.

Until a few weeks ago, Sisi was Abbas's strongest supporter. He accepted Abbas's demand that Fatah reassert its control over Gaza in any ceasefire deal. But Abbas's recalcitrance and contempt for Sisi's regime have brought relations to a low point. Sisi, like Israel, believes it is more urgent to prevent another war than empower the feckless Fatah leader.

Abbas's behavior has also won him the contempt of several PLO factions. While Fatah boycotts the Cairo talks, almost every other PLO faction is participating in them. The participation of the likes of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the talks shows that Abbas's long-held plan to incorporate Hamas into the PLO has been turned on its head. The PLO is joining Hamas.

And this brings us to the main reality that the current ceasefire talks expose.

Since Hamas took over Gaza 11 years ago, the U.S., Egypt, and Israel have believed to varying degrees that Gaza is a sideshow. The main story is Judea and Samaria.

Like all previous U.S. peace proposals, Trump's "deal of the century" is reportedly focused on Judea and Samaria and the PA, not on Gaza and Hamas.

But the ceasefire discussions have shown that Gaza and Hamas are the only game in town.

Since Israel removed all of its civilians and military forces from Gaza in 2005 and abandoned the area, Gaza has been an entirely independent Palestinian territory. It has international borders with Israel and Egypt. It has a population it controls. It is a Palestinian state in everything but name. On the other hand, in Judea and Samaria, there is a Palestinian autonomy inside a larger area controlled by Israel.

As Abbas said in a speech Saturday panning the ceasefire talks, "There is no state in Gaza and an autonomy in the West Bank, and we will not accept this. We will never accept the separation of Gaza [from the West Bank]."

What Abbas left out was that the reason the Palestinians do not have a state in Judea and Samaria is because the PA/Fatah, under both Arafat and Abbas, rejected multiple Israel and U.S. offers of statehood. There is no Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria because the PLO/Fatah/PLO doesn't want one.

Which brings us back to the Hamas state in Gaza.

Abbas also said, "Either we take responsibility for the West Bank and Gaza under one state, one regime, one law, and one weapons, or Hamas will take responsibility [for the West Bank]."

The situation in Gaza proves that is a lie. The options aren't Fatah or Hamas. They are Israel or Hamas.

Glick on page 14A

Shipley speaks

Nation-state law: Good for the Jews?



By Jim Shipley

It's an old story and has resonance probably only for people of a certain age whose life made it almost necessary to look at everything through the "I am a Jew" lens. Back in 1969, when I told my 93-year-old immigrant grandmother "Bubby! We just landed a man on the moon!" She replied, "Oh. Is that good for the Jews or bad for the Jews?"

Well, we've come a ways since then. But, Israel... yeah, Israel. Not as simple as it used to be. When the State became a reality in 1948, Jews around the world rejoiced. We, the People of the Book were back in their land, the land of the Book—never to leave again.

Of course, there were those who did not rejoice. Arabs who fled their homes as war loomed. Arabs from around the Middle East who were determined that Jews could never have their own nation back. Various religious sects than never could figure why Jews didn't just convert.

Israel had a left wing almost-Socialist government, a small population, a small army and huge debts. Jews around the world responded. The country grew. It assimilated Jews thrown out of Arab countries after centuries of being contributing, patriotic citizens of those countries.

It educated its populace, united them under a single language: Hebrew, the language of the Jewish people.

When America declared its independence, they sat down and wrote a constitution. And, we have been re-writing it ever since as we have grown and diversified. Israel has no constitution. It does have a bunch of basic laws. Most of which make great sense for a Jewish country re-establishing itself. Some however, do defy logic and the wishes of the majority of the population.

Today, the government of Israel is more "right" than "left." But with the diversity of parties, coalition is the only practical way to get things done—an art we have lost in America.

Let's see if we can figure out how close Israel is to America. The United States of America is

a diverse nation—designed as such. We needed immigrants. We had to fill an expanding nation with people. So we created the most unique, diverse nation on earth.

Israel is diverse. There are Jews there from every corner of the earth. Israel is the land of THE JEWISH PEOPLE. It is not the land of the Orthodox Jew or the Conservative Jew or any other type of specific Jew. It is the land of the JEWISH PEOPLE. That too is open to some type of interpretation. Does that include the black Jews of Ethiopia? The Jews discovered in Northern India? How far back do we have to go?

But, as we understand it, there is some DNA work that has proven the validity of these claims from various corners of the world. So, we have a history thousands of years older than the U.S. And, it makes sense that our people, having been sent into a Diaspora, would turn up in some wildly diverse corners. But, once they are there and their Jewish roots have been verified they are citizens of the Jewish Nation.

Israel as we said, has a language. So, under the new law, Hebrew is the official language. The U.S. has a language: A form of English. Not original, but it works. Do the people of Israel speak different languages? Of course. There is Arabic and Druze and English and Spanish and Russian and ... but as in the U.S., eventually as generations change, everybody will be speaking Hebrew.

The early Jewish immigrants to America from Eastern Europe spoke Yiddish. Their culture was built around it. From the food they ate to the newspapers they read to the radio to which they listened.

Their children spoke Yiddish in the home and English on the street. In many homes the same pattern emerges today. In Spanish speaking homes, in Arabic speaking homes, in Moroccan homes—well, you get the idea.

So, the similarity between our young nation and the much older yet newer nation of Israel are apparent. There is one huge difference: In America there is total freedom of religion and religion has no place in government.

In Israel? Well... let's save that for another time.

Letter from Israel

A three-state solution?

By Ira Sharkansky

It appears that the split between Gaza and the West Bank is serious. There's a line of culture between us and them that keeps us from knowing what's occurring. We do know that the Fatah of Mahmoud Abbas is out of touch with the Hamas that controls Gaza. We don't know more, but there's speculation that it is or isn't a matter of Abbas' stubbornness. He's in his mid-80s, and ill, and there are several competitors for his job. One or more may have connections with Gaza.

Hamas appears to be dominant in Gaza. Its competitors include several groups even more radical; and there are lots of Gazans who seem primarily concerned with earning a living.

So, at least for the time being, it appears that Gaza and the West Bank have been apart for long enough to develop their own inner cement. Qatar has stepped up to provide the money seeded to pay for what's imported to Gaza from Israel. There are two claimants on Palestine.

We're a long way from Israel recognizing any claimant. But given that there are two of them, it appears as wise to bet on three states rather than two in this little cluster.

For the time being, things will remain pretty much as they are. Israelis will quarrel about the return of two bodies and two live prisoners, without dealing with the Hamas demand that prisoners released in exchange for Gilad Shalit and captured again be released. There are also issues involved in the expectation of a Gazan port in Cyprus, with Israeli inspection of what passes through, and lots of details to be dealt with over an improvement of conditions in Gaza.

Commentators are wondering if the overall deal will hold together. At the least, there will be demands by Gazan extremists to realize their feelings against Israel. And probably pressures from whoever gains control in the West Bank to unite with Gaza, along with efforts of Hamas to improve its situation in the West Bank.

Not far away are the aspirations of Donald Trump and whatever plans there are to an-

nounce and implement his favored solution for Palestine and Israel.

Chances are that Gaza will save Israel from having to accept any kind of solution for Palestine, while Abbas dithers in the West Bank, and Egypt plus Qatar do what they can to keep Gaza peaceful.

Yet another issue capable of affecting a three-state solution is whatever happens to Israel's First Family. Currently the police are said to have finished with their inquiries into Bibi's roles in Cases #1, #2, and #4, and are about to summarize their findings. They are concerned with his receiving goodies from rich supporters, his effort to moderate the coverage received from Yedioth Aharonoth, and manipulations involving Israel's telephone company. The police summaries will take a few months. And somewhere in the planning is an indictment against Sara. We're told that'll come down after the holidays.

After the police present their conclusions about Bibi, the prosecutor will take some months to review the material. That may bring us into 2019, and whatever happens in an election.

Few are expecting the present deal with Gaza to last that long. But for the time being, that is what we may have. However, Israel closed one of its border crossings due to organized protests by Gazans. Whether this is a continuing problem, or more simply a hitch in arrangements, is not clear.

We're hearing of one group in Gaza not happy with what seems to be the deal with Israel, and that the cluster around Hamas won't be deciding until after the Muslim holiday that occurs over four days in the middle of this week.

Then are our holidays, beginning in the second week of September and lasting for the better part of a month.

There remain problems among Israelis as well as among Palestinians. There are those who demand a more aggressive stance with respect to Gaza, as well as those willing to go along with the government's efforts to arrange something of a deal. And unknown numbers who don't know, and probably don't care.

Comments welcome. irashark@gmail.com.

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

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'Fauda' and the two-state scenario

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS)—In the international hit Israeli TV series "Fauda," the head of the Palestinian Authority security service is a fictional character named Abu Maher. Played by Qader Harini, an Arab actor from eastern Jerusalem, Abu Maher is reconciled to peace and coexistence, and therefore willing to cooperate with the Israelis to combat Islamist terror.

In an episode of the show's second season (this is not a spoiler for the main plot line, so you can keep reading even if you haven't watched the series), Abu Maher takes his son—a student who sympathizes with Hamas—to lunch on the Jaffa beach inside Israel. He tells the youngster to look at the skyscrapers of neighboring Tel Aviv. Those

mighty buildings and the industry, creativity, power and wealth they represent, he says, show the permanence of Israel. The Jews are interested in life rather than death, and since they can't be defeated, Abu Maher believes that the Palestinians must choose peace.

I'm sure I'm far from the only audience member who saw that scene and pondered what life would be like if the actual head of the P.A. was someone like the fictional Abu Maher, instead of Mahmoud Abbas or the other real-life Fatah functionaries who are still fixated on the century-old war against Zionism (in which they have yet to admit defeat). With such a person leading the Palestinians, a two-state solution might indeed be possible.

I thought of that episode when I read a recent con-

troversial article in Haaretz by Ori Mark arguing that it wasn't too late for two states.

Though its statistics were questionable, it made the case that is still possible to draw a border between a viable Palestinian state in the West Bank that would leave most Jewish settlements inside Israel. His map would leave about 46,000 Jews in isolated communities that would need to be evacuated in order to implement the scheme. To make it sound less daunting, Mark calculated that meant evicting only 9,800 families.

Put that way, the idea sounds vaguely doable, even if the memory of the traumatic evacuation of far fewer Jews from their homes in Gaza in 2005 is still fresh in the minds of Israelis.

The proposal set off a debate with some of Mark's fellow

leftists lamenting that the large numbers of settlers and the political strength of their supporters makes the notion of throwing that many Jews out of their homes unimaginable. Similarly, some on the right were just as dismissive of the proposal since they believe that the two-state solution is already a dead letter, and that the movement to establish Israeli sovereignty over the territories is headed towards inevitable victory.

But the problem with the arguments of Mark and his critics is that—like so much of the debate about potential borders that has raged in the last 25 years since the Oslo Accords—they both largely ignore the main obstacle to peace: the Palestinians.

The Haaretz piece was right about two things.

One is a non-starter: the

idea that Israel can be forced back to the 1967 lines, and all of the settlements in Judea and Samaria, as well as Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem built over the so-called "green line," demolished. Though many Arabs—and what remains of the once politically powerful Israeli left and their foreign sympathizers—may still think such a scenario is possible, the notion that hundreds of thousands of Jews and their communities can be uprooted is not realistic. The settlement blocs and post-1967 Jerusalem will stay in place in any conceivable plan for peace.

But Mark's article was also correct when he noted that the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has more or less frozen the number of settlements in place over the course of the

last decade, rather than (as his critics constantly allege) vastly expanding them and thereby rendering two states impossible.

The border Mark draws with long and narrow corridors linking settlements to the rest of Israel, and a barely contiguous Palestinian state, seems crazy. So is the idea of sending the army into the 33 isolated communities that Mark envisions being left behind in a Palestinian state to drag approximately 46,000 people out of their homes. But if ordered to do it, I believe the Israel Defense Forces would accomplish the task, even if the cost in terms of civil peace and even potential casualties on both sides would not be cheap.

Yet that would only be pos-

Fauda on page 15A

Why Israel needs the nation-state law

By Mordechai Kedar

(JNS)—Much has been published against the new Israeli basic law: Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish People. Many, both in Israel and abroad, ask: Why is it necessary? How can it comport with democracy? Where does it leave minorities, particularly Muslim-Arabs, who make up some 20% of the Israeli population?

In order to understand the need for the new Nation-State law, we must understand the challenges to Israel's existence in the Middle East. First of all, there is the religious aspect. According to Islam, Judaism and Christianity are *din al-batel* (religions of falsehood) while only Islam is *din al-haqq* (religion of

truth). Judaism has been null and void ever since Islam came to the world, so there is no reason to establish a Jewish state.

In addition, according to Islam, Jews (and Christians) should live under Islamic rule as *dhimmi*s ("protected as long as they behave according to the rules of Islam") and "pay the *Jizya* out of hand while they are utterly subdued" (Koran 9:29). Thus, Jews have no right to a state, army, or police, and should live in a state of perpetual humiliation at the mercy of Muslims.

Next is the national aspect. The fact that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish People is rejected by all of Israel's Arab neighbors without exception. Consider, for instance, Article 20 of the

Palestinian National Charter, which says (with my interpretations in italics): "The Mandate for Palestine, and everything that has been based upon it" (international decisions to establish a Jewish State) "are deemed null and void. Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the true conception of what constitutes statehood" (there is no Jewish history in the Holy Land). "Judaism, being a religion, is not an independent nationality. Nor do Jews constitute a single nation with an identity of its own; they are citizens of the states to which they belong." (Therefore we Jews should leave our forefathers' land and go back to Po-

land [Auschwitz], Germany [Dachau], Iraq, Morocco...)

The new law is meant to make it as clear as possible that the Jews are a nation. As the new law states, "The Land of Israel is the historical homeland of the Jewish people in which the State of Israel was established; the State of Israel is the national home of the Jewish people in which it fulfills its natural, cultural, religious and historical right to self-determination; and the right to exercise national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish people."

Just as Italy is the nation-state of the Italian people and France is the nation-state of the French people, Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish People.

There are, nevertheless, Israeli Jews who oppose the Nation-State Law for various reasons. The first is a political reason: Because many on the left side of the political map do not like Benjamin Netanyahu in general, they oppose everything he and his coalition do as a matter of course.

The more important reason is what has happened since the 1990s, when Aharon Barak was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Starting in 1992, Barak focused on advancing and shaping Israel's Constitutional Revolution (a phrase he coined), preferring and advancing human rights at the expense of the Jewish character of the state. The best example of this revolution was what hap-

pened with the Arab al-Ard Movement, the aim of which was to abolish Israel's Jewish nature (i.e., subvert the State of Israel). Al-Ard tried to run for the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) in 1965 but was rejected by the Supreme Court. Thirty-one years later, in 1996, the Supreme Court under Barak allowed the Balad party to run for Knesset although it had and still has a similar platform to that of al-Ard in the 1960s.

Israel also has its share of multicultural acolytes who naturally oppose the law. When Israelis see the damage wrought on Europe by multiculturalism, they want to ensure that they are as far removed as possible from this

Nation-state on page 15A

Deportation of Nazi ignites a fight between right and left—you're surprised?

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA)—In the Trump era, even the deporting of Nazis can't bring Americans together.

A number of Jewish organizations and lawmakers were quick to thank the Trump administration for deporting Jakiw Palij, a former SS guard at the Nazis' Trawniki concentration camp in Poland.

But they weren't as quick as the administration itself, whose news release Monday announcing the deportation was explicit in commending President Donald Trump for making Palij's expulsion a priority while noting that "past administrations were unsuccessful in removing Palij."

"Today, @realDonaldTrump got the job done!" White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted.

Presidents are seldom shy in taking credit where credit is due, and in this case it is certainly due: Palij lied about his Nazi past when he entered the country in 1949 and became a citizen in 1957. He later admitted that he was trained by the SS and served as an armed guard at the

adjacent Trawniki forced-labor camp, where Jews were shot en masse (Trawniki's functions shifted over the course of the war). Even if his role was only to prevent their escape, that constitutes a war crime.

ABC News reported that Trump told U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell to make Palij's deportation "his No. 1 priority when he got to Berlin," which had to agree to take the deportee.

But nothing escapes politicization in these polarized times, and Monday's announcement was no exception. Critics of Immigration and Customs Enforcement pointed out that the announcement arrived only hours after a special ceremony at the White House honoring the agency. These critics said the timing was intended to deflect the intense scrutiny of the agency's aggressive tactics in removing undocumented immigrants, regardless of their criminal records. Some Democrats have called for abolishing ICE and refocusing immigration enforcement efforts only on undocumented immigrants who come to the attention of law enforcement.

"My father denaturalized and deported Nazis for a

living and he didn't need a xenophobic goon squad to do it," tweeted BuzzFeed reporter Joe Bernstein, whose father, Mike, served as assistant deputy director of the Office of Special Investigations, the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting unit. "The men and women of OSI would be disgusted by using deportations as a political stunt."

"Palij's deportation was ordered in 2004, the hold-up had to do with him being stateless, and past admins removed dozens of original Nazis, all of whom are now very old or dead," journalist Jonathan M. Katz tweeted.

"[I]t is not hard to see a malign political motive in the White House's press campaign surrounding the deportation," Josh Marshall of the liberal Talking Points Memo wrote.

Republican's seized on the Palij announcement, meanwhile, to defend the agency and the president.

"Thank you @ICEgov for apprehending an ACTUAL Nazi & deporting him. This would be a good occasion for radical Democrats to reconsider their ill-advised attacks [on] brave @ICEgov officers," tweeted Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., one of ICE's most

outspoken proponents in the Senate. His use of "ACTUAL" presumably referred to some left-wing attacks comparing ICE officers to Nazis.

Conservative provocateur Glenn Beck took a similar tack.

"ICE deports White Nazi? I thought they were white supremacists? Facts can be stubborn things," he tweeted.

James Hasson, a law student and frequent contributor to the conservative media, tweeted: "ICE arresting and

deporting an actual Nazi labor camp guard seems a tad inconvenient for the whole 'ICE is a bunch of literal Nazis' narrative."

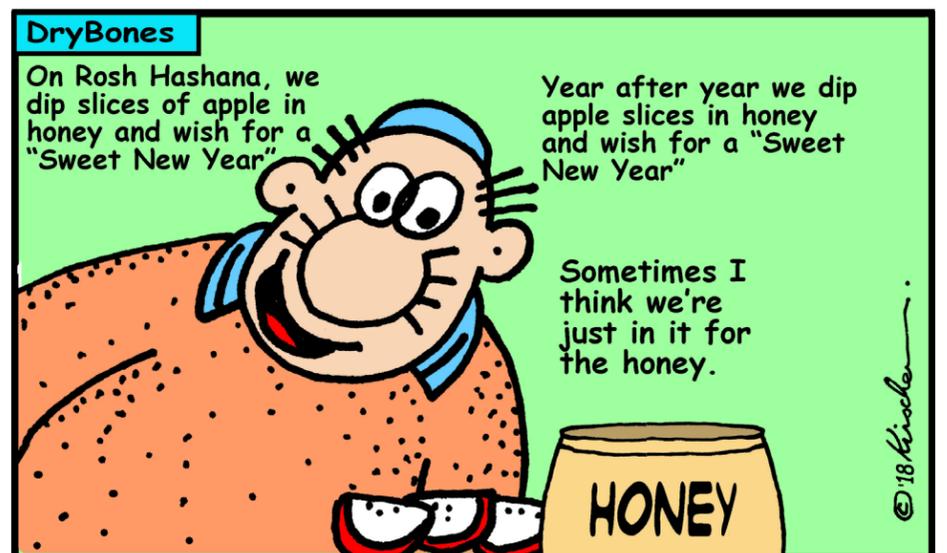
Beyond the political score-keeping, some observers sought to make some substantive points.

Marshall also wanted to talk policy, not politics, specifically about whether aggressive attempts to strip the citizenship of naturalized citizens violates a tradition that treats all citizens the same.

"Few of us would disagree that former Nazis who participated in war crimes should not be given refuge or citizenship in the U.S.," Marshall wrote. "But denaturalization is extreme and fraught device which should be employed only in the most extreme circumstances."

Whether you agree or not, Marshall's argument can't be reduced to a tweet. So it is unlikely that anyone will pay attention.

With a Wish for a "Sweet New Year"



What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT
AUGUST 31
7:29 p.m.
SEPT. 1
7:21 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.

Grief Support

JFS Orlando and The Jewish Pavilion, in cooperation with The Hospice of the Comforter and VITAS Healthcare, host a grief support group, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Congregation Ohev Shalom, 613 Concourse Pkwy S., Maitland. Registration: call 407-644-7593, ext. 247. \$5 per session contribution suggested.



"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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FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Torah Portion—Ki Tavo: Deuteronomy 26:1- 29:8; Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

The Holocaust Memorial, Resource & Education Center—Exhibit: Heroes of Warsaw, illustrations of Bill Farnsworth that highlight the courage of Irena Sendler and Janusz Korczak. On exhibit through Dec. 28.
 JSU Kickoff Event—Join with teens from seven high schools for a Virtual Reality even, noon—2:30 p.m. at 9101 International Dr., #1032 in Orlando. \$12 per person. Refreshments will be served. Info: Daniel, 516-426-8484 or dnabatian@joinorlando.org.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Israeli Folk Dancing—7:30-8:15 p.m. instruction, 8:15-10 p.m., requests. Cost: Free for JCC members, \$7 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, SEPTEMBER 4

JOIN Orlando—Torah Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. No charge. More information email rabbig@joinorlando.org.
 Orlando Hadassah—Meeting, 11:30 a.m. with guest Mark Stone who will present "Mentalmania." Couvert \$14.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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, 12:45 p.m.—1:45 p.m. Join Jewish women and explore the relevance of the weekly Torah portion within modern-day life, with free lunch at 954 S. Orlando Ave., Winter Park. Info: Sarah Gittleson at sgittleson@joinorlando.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Grief Support—JFS Orlando and The Jewish Pavilion, in cooperation with The Hospice of the Comforter and VITAS Healthcare, host a grief support group, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Congregation Ohev Shalom, 613 Concourse Pkwy S., Maitland. Registration: call 407-644-7593, ext. 247. \$5 per session contribution suggested.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

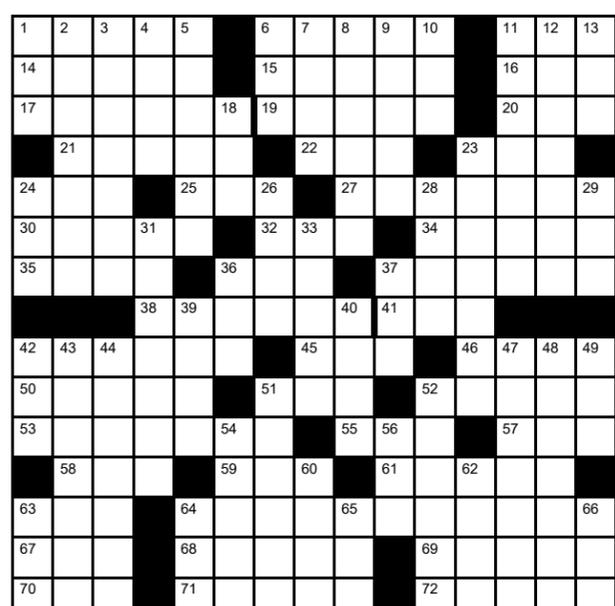
Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

Quote of the Week

"The nation-state law is meant to ensure that Israel is not sacrificed on the very same altar on which Europe is committing suicide."
 — Dr. Mordechai Kedar

Challenging puzzle "Splitters" by Yoni Glatt koshercrosswords@gmail.com

- Across**
1. Israeli juice chain
 6. Locale of 38-Across
 11. Place for some "me time"
 14. Whack-___ (it's often next to 60-Down)
 15. Words before breed or treat
 16. ___ in "Ulysses"
 17. 42-Across used the 49-Down to cross it
 19. See 17-Across
 20. Big lobby in D.C.
 21. They often accompany a hot mess
 22. Longtime NBC show
 23. Radical group of the 60s, for short
 24. ___ hanasheh (forbidden nerve)
 25. Nuts
 27. Divider of 17-Across
 30. Pledges
 32. Jew ending
 34. Daniel interpreted one
 35. She played Jane in 1997
 36. Item in a bucket
 37. Divider of 17-Across
 38. 71-Across led the Israelites through it
 41. See 38-Across
 42. Divider of 17-Across
 45. Shabbat (in)activity
 46. Challenger org.
 50. "___ Hashem"
 51. 20's dispenser
 52. Not allowed in Israel?
 53. 71-Across to 42-Across and 27-Across to 37-Across
 55. Wear wool and linen together, e.g.
 57. Octopus's defense
 58. 1 or 66, abbr.
 59. Weight abbr.
 61. Current civil war president
 63. "Just kidding!" (sarcastically)
 64. Sign of labor...or a hint to this puzzle's theme
 67. He played Pharaoh
 68. Ran, on TV
 69. Scholarly Dr. Brown
 70. Bring into play
- Down**
1. Rule opposed by Gandhi
 2. Showing excitement, e.g.
 3. What a teen might "die" of
 4. "Bridge of Spies" actor Alan
 5. Provides new weapons
 6. Canal zone?
 7. 1912 painter of Picasso
 8. Where Torah survived and thrived after 70 AD
 9. Green shampoo
 10. Guam, e.g.: Abbr.
 11. Float alternatives
 12. There's a new one almost every week
 13. King of Israel until 870 BCE
 18. US security org.
 23. Many are not for 61-Across
 24. Tribal land to the east of 17-Across, once
 26. Early Pierre Cardin employer
 28. Doing nothing
 29. Thurman of "The Avengers"
 31. On the rocks
 33. All tucked out
 36. "Give ___ minute"
 37. Sixth sense, for short
 39. "Not another word!"
 40. Hoover and Boulder, e.g.
 42. Write hastily, with "down"
 43. Burdensome
 44. Where Starbucks was founded
 47. Afro-___ languages
 48. Backyard basking spot
 49. See 17-Across
 51. Leafy shelters
 52. "Jeopardy!" "question"
 54. "The river," in Mexico
 56. Kinsler who recently joined the Sox
 60. Kind of ball
 62. Indian dress
 63. Pricey Big Apple sch.
 64. A Rubble, when squared
 65. Harris and Burns
 66. Beam of light



See answers on page 14A.

An avowed one-stater is about to be elected to Congress—is this the future of the Democratic Party?



Rashida Tlaib appearing on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," August 2018.

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Rashida Tlaib, the Democratic nominee in a surefire congressional district comprising parts of Detroit, believes in a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and says she would vote against military assistance for Israel.

Does she represent a trend? Republicans would like you to think so.

"This is the Democrat (sic) party," the Republican Jewish Coalition tweeted, attached to a story about Tlaib's view on military aid.

Is Tlaib indeed the future of the Democratic Party or an outlier?

Democrats are more sharply critical of Israel.

It's true that Democrats have become more critical of Israel. A breaking point in the relationship was the

March 2015 address by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Congress opposing President Barack Obama's Iran policy.

Most Democrats did not see eye to eye with Israel over how to stop Iran from becoming nuclear. But frustration with Netanyahu over his pugnaciousness and disagreements with a Democratic president led, some would say freed, many Democrats to criticize Israel's policies regarding the Palestinians. That was exacerbated by Netanyahu's unabashed embrace of President Donald Trump, who pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal and moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

In July, 70 Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives—more than a third of the caucus—signed a letter urging humanitarian relief for the Gaza Strip, blaming

both Israel and Hamas for the crisis.

That letter, in turn, referred to a May letter signed by 13 Democrats in the Senate—out of 49—that used the same language to say Hamas and Israel were responsible for the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza.

Bernie Sanders has become an address for Israel criticism.

The Senate letter was initiated by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., the Jewish candidate who ran a surprisingly strong campaign in 2016 for the Democratic presidential nomination. (Notably, the Israeli-American media mogul Haim Saban, a major pro-Israel Democratic benefactor, blasted the senators for signing on.)

In that campaign, Sanders set the stage for Israel-related factionalism within the party when he directly challenged Hillary Clinton on Israel issues in a debate on the eve of the New York primary.

In the debate, Sanders used Clinton's favorable reception at the recent American Israel Public Affairs Committee conferences as a dig against her.

"You gave a major speech to AIPAC, which obviously deals with the Middle East crisis, and you barely mentioned the Palestinians," he said.

A decade ago, a major candidate using AIPAC to ding a rival would have been unimaginable.

Sanders has since become the main address for Israel criticism within the party. His office has released three videos sharply critical of Israel since the March launch of Palestinian protests on Israel's border with Gaza.

But Tlaib remains alone in her positions.

Sanders has also defended Israel on the left, rejecting

the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement targeting Israel last year in an interview on Al Jazeera.

J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East policy group whose overarching issue is two states, endorses more than half of the Democratic caucus in both chambers. It pulled its endorsement of Tlaib after her post-primary

revelation that she opposes aid to Israel and backs a one-state solution.

Like many proponents of an independent state for Palestinians side by side with Israel, J Street rejects any solution that would "threaten Israel's identity as a democracy and a Jewish homeland."

Tlaib on page 13A

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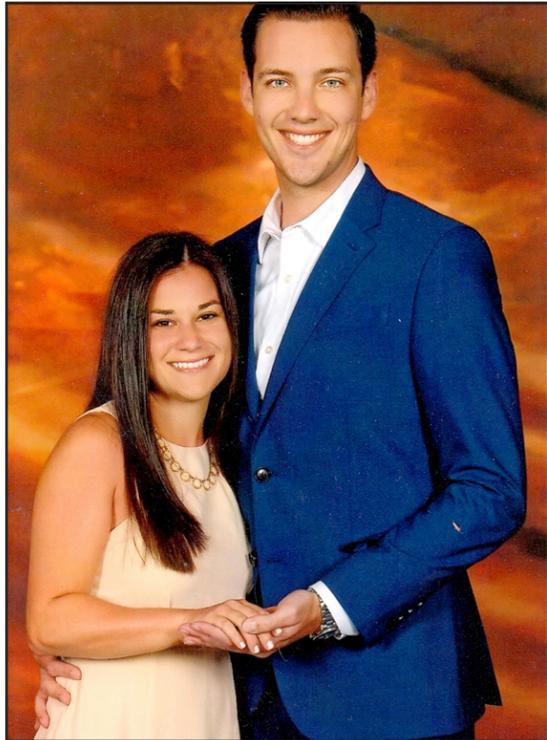
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Engagement
Announcement

Alexa Lindsay Zazik and Alexander Stuart Bourne



Mr. and Mrs. Errol Zazik of Coral Springs and Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Stuart Bourne of Apopka are delighted to announce the engagement of their children, Alexa Zazik and Alexander Bourne.

Alexa is a speech pathologist at Northwest Elementary School in Tampa. She received her bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from Florida State University and her master's degree from the University of South Florida.

Alex is a transportation development associate at RS&H in Tampa. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of South Florida.

The couple resides in Tampa with their puppy, Milo.

How Judaism and a yearlong trip around the country inspired a run for office

By Josefin Dolsten

(JTA)—Dafna Michaelson Jenet traces her political career back to conversations around the Shabbat table as a 14-year-old. She remembers hearing her parents and their friends discuss the challenges facing Cincinnati, where they were living. But the conversations would quickly be forgotten once the day of rest came to an end.

"I was distressed by this because I truly believed that they had the answer to the problems that I cared strongly about, that were plaguing our community, and they didn't fix them," Jenet said.

That feeling led Jenet, now 45, to resolve not to complain about problems unless she was willing to solve them, a promise she calls "a driving factor" in her life.

After a career in nonprofit organizations and a yearlong trip around the country, which she documented in a book, the promise led her to local politics in Colorado, where she currently lives.

In 2016, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives as a Democrat with the endorsement of President Barack Obama. Last week, Obama again endorsed her, along with 80 other Democrats, ahead of the November midterm elections.

Jenet's legislative focus is on helping struggling youth,



Sophia Laster

Dafna Michaelson Jenet says her experiences in BBYO and Hadassah gave her "the underpinnings I needed to be a legislator."

a passion that stems from the challenges faced by her son, Eitan, 16. He struggles with a severe learning disability but was unable to qualify for an individualized education plan in school, a setback that Jenet believes contributed to his attempted suicide at age 9.

"I knew that I had the access, the privilege, the means to be able to get my son the help he needed, and I was still failing my son, failing him so much that he wanted to end his life," she told JTA in a phone interview Tuesday.

Through volunteering at juvenile correction facilities, Jenet came in contact with boys who faced similar problems but had far fewer resources available to them than her son.

"Who was fighting for them? Ultimately when I was asked to run for this seat, I realized that I could make such a significant difference for children like my son and that I could work to end youth incarceration," she said.

Jenet has introduced a number of bills to help young people in her state, including to allow children as young as 12 to obtain confidential mental health services. Other measures expand access to free school lunches and provide sexual abuse prevention training to early childhood providers.

Her journey to politics was a roundabout one. In 2008, she decided to quit her job at a Denver hospital in order to travel America and meet with people who were making a difference in their commu-

nities. Each week she visited a new state. Her subjects ranged from Alfred Tibor, a well-known sculptor who created art to commemorate the Holocaust, to a woman in a small community in Alabama who started an afterschool program to keep local youth from becoming involved in gun violence.

Jenet filmed the encounters and wrote about them on a blog.

"No matter what they looked like, what they sounded like, how much money or education they had, I [felt] I could show people that they had the power to solve the problems in their communities," she said.

The project caught the attention of writer Maya Angelou, who interviewed her on the "Oprah Radio Show." Jenet also spoke about her journey on "CBS Sunday Morning."

In 2015, as Jenet was working on a book about her trip, she ran into a local politician who suggested she run for office. A year later she defeated Republican incumbent JoAnn Windholz by an eight percent margin.

Jenet was born in Tel Aviv, and her parents moved to the United States when she was a baby. She grew up in an Orthodox household, but struggled with her religious identity.

Jenet felt more at home in non-Orthodox Jewish settings and said her experiences in BBYO and Hadassah gave her "the underpinnings I needed to be a legislator."

Another challenge to her faith came when after divorcing her first husband, she fell in love with a non-Jewish man. Jenet remembers visiting the Western Wall during a trip to Israel and asking God for clarity.

"Why do you put this man in my life who isn't Jewish and is the best thing that ever happened to me? Clearly he's my bashert," she remembers saying.

The two eventually ended up marrying, though the decision led to several family members cutting ties with her.

Today, Jenet is involved with two Conservative synagogues, the Hebrew Educational Alliance in Denver and Congregation Bonai Shalom in Boulder. She calls her husband "the greatest enabler of my faith."

Prior to entering politics, Jenet worked as director of the Holocaust Awareness Institute at the University of Denver and, before moving to Colorado with her first husband, ran March of the Living for the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York. While working for March of the Living, she ended up taking Jared Kushner, then 17 years old, on one of its pilgrimages to Auschwitz.

"He was amazing, he was adorable," she said. "He really liked our kids from Denver, he ended up dating one for a little while, and when he married Ivanka and all of this stuff, quite frankly I'm like 'Oh no, Jared,'" she said.

Jenet says that being part of a political campaign in 2016, when Hillary Clinton ran for president, was "an unbelievable time to run for office and be a woman."

Under the Trump administration, she is focused on protecting rights for Colorado residents that she believes could be at risk, including women's reproductive rights.

"I am really grateful that I am elected to serve in a state legislature, and we are authorized under the 10th Amendment to do what we need to do to run our state," she said. "That means that if I see something coming down the pipe that I think is going to be harmful to my citizens, I can run a bill to protect them."



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Scene Around

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



Ralph Lauren

Who knew? department...

When I was younger and much better looking (oh quiet!), I loved to wear the latest fashions and I adored the famous fashion designers. My favorite was RALPH LAUREN.

I just found out that his real name is not Lauren, rather Lifshitz!

(A landsman!)

If you were born in 1925-1955...

This is a note to all the kids who survived the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

No matter what our kids and the new generation think about us, we are awesome!! Our lives are living proof!!

First, we survived being born to mothers who may have smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant. (No one knew the dangers.)

We slept in rooms with lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets and when we rode bikes, we wore baseball caps, NOT HELMETS!

As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, no booster seats, no seat belts and no air bags.

We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter, drank Kool-Aid made with real white sugar and we weren't overweight. Why? (Because we were always outside playing, that's why!)

We would get spankings if we deserved them and no one would call child services to report abuse.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. (Imagine that!) Also, the idea of a parent bailing out a kid who broke the law and got caught was almost unheard of!

They actually sided with the law!

Let's face it, our generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever.

No matter what our kids and the new generation think about us, WE ARE AWESOME!

(I hope you can spend a few minutes to reminisce as you read this...and most important of all... WE DON'T LIKE RAP!)

JCC39ers Cinema Sundays...

On Sept. 2, 2 p.m. in the JCC Senior Lounge, the movie "The Post" will be shown. It features stars TOM HANKS and MERYL STREEP.

Refreshments are available.

JCC39ers Terrific Thursdays...

On Sept. 6 at 1:30 p.m., "World Fair Senior Expo" featuring Milan, Italy, will be presented by the Rosen JCC, Orlando.

A bus will be available to take all 39ers and JCC members at no charge.

To RSVP, phone BARBARA GOLDBERG at 609-902-3077. (It's a cellphone).

(I've been to Pisa, Venice, Florence, Rome... and more, but never visited Milan. Sounds like great fun!)



Staff of Jewish Pavilion.

Jewish Pavilion volunteers...

Their mission is Connecting elder-care community residents and their families with a caring Jewish community that provides life-enhancing resources and experiences, but that takes a lot of moving pieces.

They are a 501c3 non-profit organization located in Central Florida serving Orange and Seminole Counties. The Jewish Pavilion is not a "place" but it has a place in the hearts of seniors throughout Central Florida. The staff and hundreds of volunteers visit seniors in more than 70 local assisted-living, long-term care, nursing, memory and rehabilitation facilities. They offer one-on-one visits, holiday programs, classes, inter-generational programs, pet therapy, Shabbat services, traditional meals, grief support, memorial programs, concerts, musical programs and so much more. They bring smiles to residents of all faiths.

When you make a donation to The Jewish Pavilion—94 percent of your money goes directly back into programs, parties and holidays for Central Florida Seniors...not administrative services, not salaries, but directly to your mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and other loved ones right here at home!

They currently have four amazing program directors that coordinate volunteers, arrange services, classes and meals, facilitate programs, sing, dance and generally make seniors happy! They need to make it easy for them to succeed in their mission and you can help by volunteering, attending and donating time or money toward their goals. You can help make a difference.

Shout-Outs...

If you find yourself dining at the Outback Steakhouse on Aloma Avenue, Winter Park, you will be lucky to get as your server, a lovely gal named KATIE LONG. She was pleasant, caring and very cute!

(Oh no! I can't handle competition!)

One for the road...

As Leah is visiting her late father's grave in Ohev Cemetery, she passes close by a woman who is sobbing and wailing at another grave. Leah can easily hear that the woman is saying, "Oh why, oh why did you die? Why did you have to die?" This question is repeated many times. After paying her respects to her father, Leah is leaving the cemetery when she again passes the sobbing woman. She is still wailing, "Why, oh why did you have to die?" Leah feels pity for this woman and walks over to try to comfort her. "Pardon me, I hope you don't mind me coming over, but I heard your cries of pain and anguish. I assume the deceased was a relative of yours?"

"No she's not," says the other woman, "in fact I never met her before."

"Then why are you so sad?" asks Leah. "Who was she? Who is buried at this grave?"

"My husband's first wife," replies the woman.

Only Jewish education can help bridge the Israel-Diaspora divide

By Pinchas Goldschmidt

MOSCOW (JTA)—Israel's passage of the nation-state law brought another round of barrages across the Atlantic underlining the growing alienation of the world's two largest Jewish communities. The issues are increasingly familiar: American pluralism versus Jewish exceptionalism, Orthodox versus Liberal, nationalism versus enlightenment.

Yes, we have a problem. Israel and American Jewry are growing apart from one

other. It would be wrong to put the responsibility of this growing schism only on the Israeli government, or Israeli civil society, since Diaspora denominations have changed, too. The American Reform movement, for example, unilaterally introduced patrilineal descent, redefining Jewishness.

These tensions were aired in Ronald Lauder's recent op-ed in The New York Times, in which the president of the World Jewish Congress argued that the nation-state law betrayed Israel's universalist values and that the country's

religious establishment was alienating non-Orthodox Jews in the Diaspora. Reading between the lines, I sensed the anguish of a father and grandfather who sees his children distancing themselves from their people and ancestral homeland.

Naftali Bennett, Israel's education and Diaspora minister, responded to Lauder's op-ed with one of his own in the same newspaper, pushing back in defense of Israel's right to pass such laws. Bennett seems uninterested in bettering relations with the Diaspora—in direct contradiction to

his title and portfolio. He did not understand that the main question posed by Lauder was not "who is right and who is wrong," but what can we do to minimize the divide between Israel and American Jewry.

As American Jews are grappling with the direction their country is taking, and struggling to identify with a non-utopian Israel, the search for fresh waters from the well of our Jewish sources is called for.

Liberal Diaspora denominations count fewer followers

Divide on page 15A



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Before her suicide, a Dutch Holocaust scholar saw deep threats to her life's work



Evelien Gans was one of the Netherlands' foremost scholars on anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

By Cnaan Liphshiz

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—On July 19, Evelien Gans, one of the Netherlands' foremost scholars on anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, jumped to her death from her fourth-story Amsterdam apartment, where she lived alone.

Gans, 67, a retired professor at the University of Amsterdam who had struggled with clinical depression for years, prepared her suicide with characteristic meticulousness. She left a carefully worded note for her life partner, Frank Diamand, and a last will and testament for her sister.

Yet only hours before jumping, Gans bought a two months' supply of her favorite olive oil.

Diamand says the purchase

shows that "her mind was on two parallel tracks": Whereas one part was preparing an exit, another was determined to live.

In that internal conflict, he said, Gans' focus on the persecution of Jews "didn't help." Nor did her growing disappointment in what she considered creeping Holocaust distortion and victim blaming by some members of her intellectual bubble, Diamand suggested.

And while Gans' work was only "one factor out of several" that led her to take her own life, "having to deal with anti-Semitism day in and day out is not good for anyone's health," said Diamand, a child survivor of the Holocaust and award-winning documentary filmmaker who had been Gans' significant other since 2006.

Gans described this effect in more vivid terms in her last major interview, which she gave to the prestigious *Vrij Nederland* weekly in January.

"It has gnawed away at me," she said about her 2016 book titled "The Holocaust, Israel and 'the Jew': Histories of Antisemitism in Postwar Dutch Society."

The subject of the book was never far from the mind of Gans, whose father, Marco, survived the war by hiding in safe houses, escaping from one to the other no fewer than 13 times.

"When she was 6, he already told her everything about the war years. How walking on the left side of the street or the right one could mean the difference between life or death," Diamand said.

Gans was born in New York, where her parents moved shortly after World War II. The family returned to the Netherlands in 1954, when Gans was 3 years old, because her father feared the outbreak of the Korea War would trigger a third world war that would endanger his family in the United States, according to the *Volkskrant* daily.

In the final and pessimistic interview with *Vrij Nederland*, Gans spoke of an increase in anti-Semitic incidents both by radical Muslims, she cited a Syrian man's anti-Semitic assault on a kosher restaurant in Amsterdam in December, among other incidents, and

what she called "an obfuscation between perpetrator, victim, bystander and collaborator" in the Holocaust.

Gans was an award-winning writer who was recognized in 2002 with the prestigious Henriette Roland Holst literary prize for her book on Social-Democrat and Socialist Jews. That year she began teaching at the University of Amsterdam, where she had been a professor of modern Jewish history until her retirement last year.

Last year, she retired from her long-held position as senior researcher of modern Jewish history and anti-Semitism at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies—Holland's foremost organization of its kind.

A quick-witted speaker and interlocutor with a proclivity for sarcasm, Gans was a regular guest lecturer at the University of Michigan and other renowned international institutions. She was interviewed frequently in the Dutch media.

But Diamand said her retirement led to a loss of social structure, leaving Gans increasingly worried about whether she alone could finish the second part of a monumental biography of two Holocaust victims whose first part she published in 2008. Gans did not have children.

"Increasingly, she fell into negative thinking patterns that didn't make sense and she

became immune to rational analysis," Diamand said.

After skipping a recent conference in Krakow, Diamand recalled Gans telling him that she was "done for" professionally because she missed the opportunity to meet several colleagues there, all of whom she already knew well and lived in the Amsterdam area.

"I told her it didn't make any sense but I saw I was not getting through to her anymore," Diamand said.

In parallel, Gans was waging an articulate war in the media against what she considered Holocaust obfuscation and inversion. Neglecting her own unfinished biography—she had to wade through 12 cardboard boxes' worth of archive material, which she had arranged in the form of a wall in her study—she took on a former ballerina over her flawed family biography.

In that book, author Isabel van Boetzelaer claimed that her father, a Nazi SS volunteer who had served in Ukraine, had no knowledge of the Holocaust. She also stated, apparently without proof, that her grandfather had plotted to kill Adolf Hitler.

Gans' friends were dismayed at the amount of effort that she had put into debunking an account so flimsy that few historians of her caliber felt merited their attention. Referencing this, her interviewers from *Vrij Nederland* asked: "Writing a book re-

quires concentration. Will you be able to ignore signs of anti-Semitism and rewriting of history?" Gans answered that she would try but could not make any promises.

She had campaigned similarly twice before in recent years for historical veracity, feeling disillusioned and angry in the aftermath.

One painful episode involved historian Bart Van der Boom, who in a 2012 book claimed that non-Jews in Holland largely failed to help Jewish compatriots in the Holocaust because they did not know the genocide's purpose and scope. Even Jews did not know this, he further claimed, or they would have escaped the minimum-security concentration camp of Westerbork.

Gans and her colleague, Remco Ensel, faulted Van der Boom for ignoring the cruel reprisals visited on relatives and friends of anyone who escaped Westerbork. But as Gans herself bitterly noted, her objections did not prevent the flawed book from being celebrated as a masterpiece, nor its author from receiving in 2012 the prestigious Libris History Prize, and the \$23,000 in cash that went along with it.

Six years later, in her final interview, Gans revisited the subject, characterizing Van der Boom's book as an ultimately successful attempt to

Scholar on page 15A



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Tuesday, September 11

2nd Day Rosh HaShanah* - 9:00am

Tuesday, September 18

Kol Nidre - 7:00pm

Wednesday, September 19

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Wohl wants to be the face of young Jewish Trump supporters

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA)—If you scroll down the Twitter feed of Jacob Wohl, former teenage hedge fund manager and current pro-Donald Trump provocateur, you'll see a stream of insults directed at Robert Mueller, liberals and a proposed plastic straw ban.

And that was just Friday morning.

To his 158,000 followers, Wohl, 20, describes himself as "Conservative, Trump Supporter, Zionist." So he seemed like an interesting person to profile for JTA. And in the 19 minutes before he hung up on me, Wohl said his share of interesting things.

He complained about children of immigrants who couldn't speak English in his second-grade class. He insisted that Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States, has a socialist government. He equated the Palestinian Authority with ISIS.

"I think that conservatives find that I really have my finger on the pulse of the issues that matter," Wohl said of his hyperactive Twitter feed, which has gained nearly 100,000 followers in the past year. "I don't spend a lot of time on things I view as unimportant."

The weekend saw more bombastic tweets. On Sunday, Wohl called Trump "the greatest friend of the Jewish People to ever occupy the White House." A day earlier he called on Barack Obama to be extradited to Israel for meddling in its 2015 elections. (A former Obama campaign aide, Jeremy Bird, worked for a nonpartisan Israeli NGO that campaigned against Benjamin Netanyahu. American campaign consultants of both parties have a long history of working on Israeli elections.)

Later on Sunday, he debated

the causes of Puerto Rico's economic misery with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the New York congressional nominee and a rising star of progressive Democrats.

The way Wohl tells his story, he began his first hedge fund, Wohl Capital Investment Group, with money from high school classmates and their parents. In a Bloomberg profile, he claimed the principal of his high school invested with him. Subsequently he started another investment fund, Montgomery Assets. Both funds are currently inactive.

But the young investor, who has been called "The Wohl of Wall Street," soon ran into trouble and has been investigated by multiple regulatory organizations. He also posted personal ads on Craigslist seeking attractive women while claiming to run a modeling agency, according to the Daily Beast. One woman accused him of posting her photo online, in a bra, as the "Wohl Girl of the Month" without her permission. The domain WohlGirls.com expired last month.

Wohl told JTA that he now does due diligence for mergers and acquisitions, though he would not reveal the name of his company or any further details.

"I'm not going to tell you because I don't like journalists meddling in my private business," he said. "It can only cause problems when journalists start meddling around in my employment situations and what I'm doing businesswise, as I've learned."

Wohl was raised and still lives in Orange County, a politically conservative area of Southern California, in a Republican home. His father, David Wohl, is an attorney who has appeared on Fox News as a commentator and describes



Jacob Wohl

himself as a campaign surrogate for Trump. Wohl has followed in his father's footsteps, appearing on Fox Business as early as 2015 to discuss his hedge fund.

His political activism ramped up with the start of Trump's campaign in 2015, and since has skyrocketed. In addition to his Twitter activity, Wohl writes pieces for the right-wing site The Gateway Pundit, runs his own right-wing news site called The Washington Reporter and co-hosts a podcast with the independent journalist Laura Loomer called "2 Live Jew," which is advertised as the "#1 Podcast for Jewish Trump Supporters." Episode titles have included "The Caliphate Comes to Toronto" and "Full Commie."

Loomer boasts of "confronting public figures" in the style of Project Veritas, the right-wing gotcha operation where she worked in 2016. Last month she asked a Democrat gubernatorial candidate in Michigan who is Muslim to "reconcile your own personal practice of Islamic law with your Marxist socialist political platform that directly

Wohl on page 15A

OBITUARIES

LEWIS N. GOLDMAN

Lewis N. Goldman, age 68, of Winter Park, passed away at his residence on Monday, Aug. 20, 2018. He was a son of the late Morris and Ida Grubert Goldman, and was born in Brookline, Mass., on Feb. 19, 1950.

He is survived by his brother, Martin, of Sorrento.

Funeral services and interment were held at Shara Tfilo Cemetery in West Roxbury, Mass. Arrangements entrusted to Beth Shalom Memorial Chapel, 640 Lee Road, Orlando FL 32810. 407-599-1180.

NAOMI (BOBBI) AVA JACKSON WISE

Naomi (Bobbi) Ava Jackson Wise, 86, died on Aug. 21, 2018. She was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., on July 25, 1932, to the late Louis and Fanny Jackson. Bobbi Wise was a beautiful woman of boundless energy and optimism. She was a loyal friend, an avid reader, and a consummate hostess who relished international travel. She grew up in Bethesda, Maryland, where she lived until moving to Miami Beach in her last year of high school. A graduate of the University of

Florida School of Journalism, she reported from the campus for the Miami Herald and then worked as a reporter at the Daytona Beach Sun until her marriage to Zelig Wise in 1956. She moved to Orlando that year and became active in civic life and the Orlando Jewish community. Mrs. Wise served as president of both the Friends of the Orlando Public Library and the League of Women Voters. She later worked at the information service of the Orlando Chamber of Commerce, as a travel agent, and welcomed visitors to the Orlando area as a guide for the International Visitor Program administered through the U.S. Information Agency. Mrs. Wise was a longtime member of Temple Israel and Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization; and a supporter of the Jewish Federation.

She was the loving and devoted wife of Zelig O. Wise, who predeceased her; mother of Michael Z. Wise, Daniel Z. Wise, and Deborah Wise Levin; grandmother of Jacob D. Wise, Sophia Pearson Wise, Sylvie Pearson Wise, Arielle Rachel Levin, Solomon San-



dor Wise, Caleb Asher Levin, and Jeremy Barak Levin; sister of Rose Jackson, Zeldia (Tiny) Arbuckle, the late Jean Brown, the late Ruth Longchamps, the late Aida Colein, and the late Pearl Gordon.

Funeral service and burial were held on Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018 at Temple Israel Cemetery in Orlando.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Friends of the Orange County Library System, the Jewish Academy of Central Florida, Temple Israel, and the Alzheimer's Association.

Central Florida Synagogues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why a former Israeli military intelligence chief stands with the Druze



Amos Yadlin, third from left, sits with leaders of Israel's Druze community at a Tel Aviv rally against the controversial nation-state law, Aug. 5, 2018.

By Amos Yadlin

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Israel's new "nation-state" law, which is widely viewed here as clumsy, unnecessary and unwise, must be amended. That's why I was proud to join tens of thousands of Israelis on Saturday night in a peaceful, unifying protest led by the Druze community.

I came to this city's Rabin Square to stand with the Druze, with whom I fought to protect the State of Israel. But I also came to celebrate Israeli democracy; the public's commitment to equality and democratic values; our independent media; and our

country's bedrock guarantees for free speech and the right to protest.

It was a quiet, dignified rally, with representation from across our diverse society. In contrast to the ill-advised vote in the parliament two weeks ago, Saturday night's rally displayed "Israeliness" at its best. Israeli flags fluttered in the square and everyone sang "Hatikvah," our national anthem, at the end of the rally.

As the initial storm over the new law subsides, any level-headed assessment reveals that its principal damage has been to stir up negative public discourse—in Israel and abroad. But make no mistake:

The Jewish state's democratic foundations remain vigorous, deeply rooted and incredibly resilient.

The law touches on sensitive issues that David Ben-Gurion and the founders preferred not to decide. These matters require time, sensitivity and the broadest possible consensus. They cannot be decided haphazardly, especially hours before a parliamentary recess, and they most certainly should not be decided by the barest of majorities (in this case, 62 Knesset members voted in favor and 55 opposed).

The new law does not go far enough in protecting minority rights and upholding the

principle of "equality" of all citizens, although this is enshrined in other legal tenets.

Due to these flaws, the new law does not command legitimacy. It stirs negative emotions and polarizes the public debate. It alienates parts of the Arab sector and has strained the special bond with the Druze community, which serves in the Israeli military. Moreover, the law has damaged ties with the Jewish Diaspora, especially in the United States, which Israel can ill afford.

In a world increasingly defined by images, the new law creates bad optics and plays into the hands of Israel's adversaries, who are already predisposed to single out Israel in the international arena.

The law must be amended in ways that align it fully with Israel's Declaration of Independence, which states that the country "will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture."

Article 4 must be amended to restore the standing of Arabic as one of the state's official languages.

Although the focus of less attention, Article 6, which deals with ties between Israel and World Jewry, should also be amended to underline the strategic value of these relations and to enshrine the principles of partnership, peoplehood and unity.

An amended law should be

passed by a larger majority in the Knesset and should be written in flexible and broad terms that reflect the dynamic nature of Israeli society.

But the sky is not falling. Israel's democratic character is safeguarded through myriad, overlapping mechanisms, including a wide body of quasi-constitutional legislation, an independent judiciary, a vibrant civil society and one of the world's most free-wheeling media sectors.

Moreover, Israeli democracy is resilient and has flourished despite our country's long and intense struggle for security and peace. Far lesser security and political challenges have seriously damaged democratic life in other countries, Turkey being just the latest example.

Democracy has many models. The United Kingdom, a well-established democracy, lacks a written constitution. The U.S. has just two political parties and winner-take-all elections. Israel, unique among democracies, has a low electoral threshold and rules that allow even the narrowest of constituencies to gain representation in national politics.

Over many decades, Israel built up a body of quasi-constitutional law that judiciously reinforced and routinized the country's democratic institutions. The supporters of the new law argued that it was time to further enshrine the state's Jewish character, and this set off an unfortunate competition among certain factions for narrow, populist political gain.

Although the measure tilts

the balance toward the Jewish identification of the state, it does not override the many checks and balances that infuse Israel's democracy, including the sacred principle of equality.

And don't think for a minute that some minority political leaders are not using this ill-advised law to grandstand and pursue their own political agendas. The fallout from the law obscures many new, positive developments, including soaring rates of Arab advancement in higher education and in the workplace, including for women.

There is much more that needs to be done to ensure greater opportunities for peripheral populations—Arab, Bedouin, Druze and even Jewish—but this misguided law does nothing to nullify or erase the enormous strides that our society has taken toward a truly shared society.

This was a case of political "friendly fire," a self-inflicted wound. But the understandable consternation should not be exaggerated or misinterpreted as undermining Israel's democratic traditions, which remain strong and resolute.

Amos Yadlin, Maj. Gen. (ret.), a former head of Israeli Military Intelligence and one of the country's best known defense and foreign policy experts, is executive director of the nonpartisan Institute for National Security Studies.

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.

Randi Weingarten wants the teachers' union to love Israel

By Ben Sales

(JTA)—The statement, issued the day Israel passed a controversial bill defining itself as a Jewish nation-state, could have come from any number of liberal American Jewish groups.

"We condemn this despicable law, as well as the anti-gay surrogacy law the Knesset recently enacted, and the detention of Rabbi Dov Haiyun for conducting a non-Orthodox marriage," the July 19 statement said. "These anti-democratic and nativist actions make it more imperative to support the progressive voices in Israel who are fighting to reclaim Israel's place as a functional, thriving democracy in the Middle East."

The author is Randi Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers.

Weingarten is Jewish. Her union, which counts 1.7

million members in 3,000 chapters, is not. It's typically more concerned with issues like raising teachers' pay and strengthening public schools than with, say, the actions of a local police department in a country on the other side of the globe.

But in an era when a growing number of unions back the movement to boycott Israel, Weingarten says supporting a progressive vision of the Jewish state is part of her union's mission. And in recent years, AFT's position on Israel sounds like that of a liberal Zionist group: Rather than boycott Israel or disengage from it, the teachers' union is embracing left-wing Israeli activists—and criticizing the country from a place of love.

"I think that Bibi and his followers are moving in the wrong direction just like I believe that Trump is moving in the wrong direction," Weingarten told JTA on Monday, referring, respectively, to Is-

raeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Donald Trump. "What we need to do is work with progressive voices and activists in Israel, of which there are many, to help bring Israel to its better angels."

AFT is not the only union to have a history of supporting Israel. American labor unions had heavy Jewish representation at the time of Israel's birth, and the country's socialist roots and still-powerful national union appeal to American labor leaders. Labor officials have told JTA that notwithstanding its right-wing government, there's a lot they admire in Israel—from universal health care to robust workers' rights.

In 2007, a long list of major labor leaders signed a statement opposing BDS, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel. Labor unions have also given millions of dollars to the Yitzhak Rabin Center, a museum and educational center honoring the assassinated Israeli Labor Party leader who signed an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

The Jewish Labor Committee, which acts as the Jewish community's representative in the American labor movement and organized the 2007 anti-BDS statement, released its own condemnation of the nation-state law as "ill-conceived and ill-timed."



Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, wants her union to build relationships with Israeli progressives.

The group's president, Stuart Appelbaum, said he is worried about Israel losing the support of U.S. progressives, but that major unions still support Israel.

"Labor remains committed to a strong and secure Israel," Appelbaum told JTA. "I think there is a shared commitment to democracy and workers' rights." He said support of Israel has not lessened, "but there are serious concerns about the current government."

Weingarten in particular has leaned into AFT support-

ing Israel's progressive camp. In 2016, Stav Shaffir, a young liberal Israeli lawmaker from the Labor Party, spoke at the AFT convention.

That year, the union also passed a resolution to partner with Hand-in-Hand, an Israeli network of bilingual Hebrew-Arabic schools with a mixed Jewish and Arab student body. Weingarten said she visits with both Israeli and Palestinian unions on her trips to the region. She has spoken at multiple conferences of the liberal Israel policy organization J Street.

Weingarten said the union's work in Israel is of a piece with its international work as a whole. She points to AFT's support for labor movements worldwide, from supporting the Solidarity movement in communist Poland and progressive causes in Latin America to opposing apartheid in South Africa.

"We were part of the democracy movement, of helping, first, that fledgling democracy, and then ultimately being a supporter

Weingarten on page 15A

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Weekly roundup of world briefs from JTA

Israeli equestrian rider withdraws from world championships due to conflict with Yom Kippur

JERUSALEM (JTA)—An Israeli equestrian rider has withdrawn from next month's world championships because the competition will take place on Yom Kippur.

The International Equestrian Federation event, which will take place this year in North Carolina, is a prelude to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, where Israel's equestrian federation hopes to compete for the first time.

Israeli rider Dan Kramer sent a letter earlier this month to the international federation saying that he would not compete due to the conflict with the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, Ynet reported last week.

"I decided not to join the other members of the Israeli national team and not to participate in the upcoming world championships in the United States, because the competition is taking place on Yom Kippur and I want to honor this day as well as the Israeli public and Jewish Diaspora," Kramer wrote in a letter to the Israel equestrian federation's chairman Kenny Lalo, Ynet reported.

Kramer, who is living in Belgium, grew up on Moshav Hayogev in northern Israel, where his family owned a horse and he dreamed of competing in the Olympics. He suffered a leg injury while serving in the Israel Defense Forces, and returned to riding as part of a physical therapy regimen. He qualified for next month's world championship last year.

Other members of the team were divided over the decision by Kramer, whose absence could cost the Israeli team an Olympic berth.

Charles Schumer wants to name Senate building for John McCain

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has garnered backing from a key GOP senator in his bid to rename a Senate building for John McCain.

The building currently is named for Richard Russell, a Georgia Democrat who served from 1933 until 1971 and who was notorious for leading opposition to civil rights reforms advanced by President Lyndon Johnson and for upholding racial segregation.

Schumer and McCain, the Arizona Republican who died this weekend, were both

members of the Senate's bipartisan Gang of Eight, which sought in vain to reach agreement on a comprehensive immigration bill.

"The Senate, the United States, and the world are lesser places without John McCain," Schumer, who is the minority leader in the Senate and who is Jewish, said Saturday on Twitter.

"Nothing will overcome the loss of Senator McCain, but so that generations remember him I will be introducing a resolution to rename the Russell building after him," Schumer said.

Sen. Jeff Flake, like McCain, an Arizona Republican, said he would cosponsor such resolution. "There are many other things we need to do but that's a good one," Flake said on Sunday on "Face the Nation" on CBS. "John McCain had his office just right near mine in the Russell building. That's where he was his entire time. I think that's a fitting tribute."

Flake's status as McCain's fellow Republican and Arizona lends the proposal heat.

Because the proposal involves congressional property, it would not need the signature of President Donald Trump.

Arab-Israeli lawmakers ask UN to condemn nation-state law

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Arab-Israeli lawmakers and the Palestinian Authority want the United Nations to condemn Israel's nation-state law.

Several lawmakers from the Joint List, an Arab-Israeli political party, are involved in an effort to get the U.N. General Assembly to officially condemn the law, along with Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian ambassador to the U.N., Hadashot news reported Sunday.

The move comes less than a month before the U.N. General Assembly, scheduled to open on Sept. 18. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is planning to join other world leaders in speaking at the General Assembly.

Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, was asked by Rosemary DiCarlo, United Nations under-secretary-general for political affairs, to respond to the charges. In a message to Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, Danon accused the Arab lawmakers of having a "close partnership" with Palestinian representatives in the U.N. "with the goal of inciting against and

defaming the State of Israel and the IDF on the UN stage."

"The Palestinian representatives, along with the MKs from the Arab parties are planning steps which are intended to sully Israel and damage its image through incitement and lies," he also wrote.

On Monday, Israel's Tourism Minister Yariv Levin accused the Arab lawmakers of "treason" and said that he hoped they would be prosecuted on the charge in Israel.

Joint List lawmaker Dov Khenin responded to the criticism saying it was "anti-Democratic and hypocritical, certainly when it comes from close associates of Netanyahu, who met and befriended anti-Semites around the world," Hadashot reported.

Loophole allows expansion of Western Wall egalitarian prayer section

JERUSALEM (JTA)—A plan to expand the Western Wall's egalitarian prayer section received final approval, using a loophole that applies to handicapped-accessible sites.

The approval was first reported late Sunday in Haaretz, which did not say when the meeting to approve the work took place.

Approval of the work under the special regulation cut months off the time it would take to begin the work, since it need only be approved by the municipal engineer and not also by both the regional and local planning committees.

The scheme to approve the fast-track process for the work was supported by the Prime Minister's Office, according to the report.

The attorney general's office reportedly was against using the loophole of as a way to approve a major and controversial project. The plan was approved by the Jerusalem municipality's legal counsel, however.

Plans to renovate the site, with a budget of more than \$7 million, have continued, despite the suspension of a comprehensive plan approved in 2016.

In June 2017, the Cabinet suspended the deal that came about as a result of negotiations between the Reform and Conservative movements, the Women of the Wall, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Israeli government. The suspension came after the government's haredi Orthodox coalition partners pressured Netan-

yahu to scrap the agreement, including threatening to bring down the government.

Netanyahu had promised to expand the area following the suspension of the comprehensive deal, though the expansion has been appealed to Israel's Supreme Court over concern that it would damage an important archeological site.

Last month, the three members of the Knesset ministerial committee charged with deciding whether to approve the plan to upgrade the Western Wall's egalitarian section resigned over political pressure from the haredi Orthodox parties. Netanyahu placed himself as head of the committee.

The comprehensive plan would have included a common entrance to the Western Wall plaza for all three sections and a public board to oversee the egalitarian prayer space and would include representatives of the non-Orthodox movements and Women of the Wall.

Jewish video gamer kills 2 and himself

(JTA)—A video gamer opened fire during a tournament in Jacksonville, Florida, killing two and then fatally shooting himself.

The gunman was identified as David Katz, 24, of Baltimore, Maryland. The Forward reported that Katz is Jewish.

Nine other people were wounded in the shooting Sunday at the Madden NFL 19 eSports video game tournament. It was held in a gaming bar that shares space with a pizzeria at the Jacksonville Landing, a collection of restaurants and shops along the St. Johns River. The bar was live-streaming the competition when the gunfire started.

It is the third major mass shooting in Florida in the last two years.

Katz was competing in the eSports tournament and used "at least one handgun" to carry out the shooting, Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams told reporters. The tournament was a regional qualifier for finals in Las Vegas with a \$25,000 prize.

On Sunday evening FBI agents searched the home of Katz's father in an upscale townhouse complex near Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Katz competed in several video game tournaments under the monikers Bread or MrSlicedBread, and reportedly won a similar tournament in 2017.

Suspect identified in anti-Semitic graffiti

attack on Jewish center in Russian village

(JTA)—Russian authorities identified a suspect in the anti-Semitic graffiti attack on a Jewish center in the Russian village of Lyubavichi, the cradle of the Chabad Hasidic movement.

The suspect was a man from Murmansk, a city located hundreds of miles north of Lyubavichi, according to Yuri Ivashkin, the mayor of the village in western Russia.

"We knew immediately this was not the work of a local," Ivashkin told JTA. "Police are still working on identifying an accomplice."

The inscriptions, reading "Jews out of Russia, our land" and featuring the Baltic variant of the swastika, were spray-painted on the wall of the Hatzer Raboteinu Nesieinu Belubavitch earlier this month.

Ivashkin's statement followed attended the dedication of a perimeter fence around one of the Jewish cemeteries in and around Lyubavichi.

Attendees traveled Sunday from Moscow to the village of 200 people to celebrate the completion there of a preservation project headed by the European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative, or ESJF. The nonprofit organization has completed similar projects in 102 cemeteries across Eastern Europe with funding from the German government.

"Initiatives like these are vital because of neglect, economic and agricultural development, and vandalism," said Rabbi Isaac Schapira, the founder and chairman of the ESJF board. The project in Lyubavichi was his organization's first in Russia since its founding in 2015.

Joseph Popack, a Jewish-American donor, funded the new fencing at a cost of \$100,000.

Located near Smolensk and the border with Belarus, Lyubavichi became a major Jewish hub following the settling there in 1813 of Rabbi Dovber Schneuri, a leader of the Chabad movement of Hasidic Orthodox Jews.

The movement, perhaps best known for its outreach to non-Hasidic Jews, also refers to itself as Chabad-Lubavitch in reference to how the town's name is pronounced in Yiddish.

Chabad established in Lyubavichi an information center and museum, which Ivashkin says attracts 500 visitors monthly to the impoverished village, which is comprised of many dilapidated houses.

Los Angeles synagogue sues city and county over destructive Skirball fire

(JTA)—The Leo Baeck Temple in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Bel Air has filed a lawsuit against the city and county over last year's Skirball Fire.

The fire, which broke out on Dec. 6, 2017, destroyed six homes and damaged 12 others, and required the evacuation of about 700 homes as well as an apartment building. It damaged 475 acres.

It was sparked by an illegal cooking fire at an area homeless encampment.

The Temple suffered significant smoke damage and was not able to reopen its facilities right away following containment of the fire.

The Stephen Wise Temple, American Jewish University's Familian Campus and the Skirball Cultural Center all were closed due to the fire and the institutions' Torah scrolls were removed for safekeeping.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Thursday against the city and county of Los Angeles by the Leo Baeck Temple alleges that the city and county could have helped to prevent the fire had they not ignored the complaints of residents, the Los Angeles Jewish Journal reported.

The city and county "knew or should have known that this presented a fire hazard, as the area is prone to wildfires because of the trees, bushes and other vegetation and foliage," according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit also argues that the city and county should have removed the encampment, or at least provided the public with a warning about it.

The temple lists four causes of action, including claims that the city and county maintained a dangerous condition on public property and allowed a public nuisance. It is asking for more than \$25,000 in damages.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti declared a local state of emergency in response to the Skirball Fire, requesting state and federal assistance. It was one of several fires burning in southern California. The other fires were known as the Thomas, Rye and Creek fires burning in Ventura County, Santa Clarita and Sylmar. California Gov. Jerry Brown also declared a state of emergency in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Tlaib

From page 7A

When it comes to the one-state solution—that is, a binational "Isratine" in which West Bank and presumably Gazan Palestinians are given the vote—Tlaib is even an outlier among the two women with whom she is most frequently grouped, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota.

Like Tlaib, they are both progressive House nominees who have sharply criticized Israel in the past. Unlike her, both have embraced

the two-state outcome and resisted signing onto the BDS movement.

"We have a very, very small number of problematic candidates with views on Israel," said Haley Soifer, the CEO of the centrist Jewish Democratic Council of America.

Remember who Tlaib is.

Much of the focus of the "is Tlaib a trend" talk is on the degree to which the Democrats are ready to impose party discipline. But there has been a tradition within both parties of allowing lawmakers to stray from orthodoxies depending

on their constituents and their own ethnic communities.

Consider, for instance, Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, who is as strident as ever in his insistence on isolating Cuba, although his Democratic Party has moved since Obama toward more openness. Democrats are not likely to second-guess a Cuban American for being a hardliner.

That thinking would apply to Tlaib, whose parents are from the West Bank, said James Zogby, the president

of the Arab American Institute and a Democrat close to Sanders.

"Rashida is a Palestinian-American woman who grew up heavily steeped in her culture and the circumstances of her issue," he said. "She's more aware of the Palestinian issue than anyone in Congress before her. It's in her bones, it's in her blood."

You want a one-state trend? Look to the Republicans.

The Trump administration, meanwhile, has retreated from endorsing a two-state

outcome, and the Republican Party platform in 2016 also removed two-state language.

Of course, the one-state outcomes favored by Republicans is one preferred by the pro-Israel right, not the pro-Palestinian left. That version envisions permanent Israeli control of much of the West Bank. But that posture creates openings for the far left, according to Logan Bayroff, the director of communications for J Street.

"Any conversation about rise in support of a one-state solution should note the fact

that our current administration has distanced itself from the two-state solution," he said.

Zogby, a proponent of the two-state outcome, says support for one state is also fueled by the actions of an Israeli government that seems set on closing off the former.

"Saying 'I support two states' has become a way of absolving yourself and doing nothing while Israel every day makes achieving two states harder to achieve" through settlement expansion and other measures, he said.

Progressives have a new definition of racism: prejudice plus power—what does that mean for Jews?

By Charles Dunst

NEW YORK (JTA)—Are Jews too powerful to be considered “victims” of racism?

Some progressives think so and have been downplaying accusations of anti-Semitism in light of a debate over prejudice and power.

This week, The New York Times took heat for hiring Sarah Jeong, a technology writer, to its editorial board. Some have called her racist against white people, pointing to past tweets in which she proclaimed that “White men are bullshit” and “#CancelWhitePeople.”

The debate over her tweets often centered around the very notion of anti-white racism, and especially whether minorities (Jeong is Korean American) can be accused of racism when ridiculing the white power structure.

Former Bernie Sanders campaign aide Simone Sanders said on CNN last week that Jeong was not being racist because racism is only “prejudice plus power”—implying that only those in positions of power over others can be racist.

Sanders’ point is not new—she is building off the work of others, such as social scientist Patricia Bidol-Padva,

who used the “prejudice plus power” definition in the 1970s. As a stand-up comedian might explain it, racism means “punching down,” not punching up.

Prominent activists such as Linda Sarsour and Melissa Harris-Perry have promoted the idea as well, and applied it to defend people they consider relatively powerless against charges of anti-Semitism.

“The thing I’m always worried about in the world is power, and how power is wielded in ways that cause inequity,” Harris-Perry said earlier this year about Nation of Islam founder Louis Farrakhan, a notorious anti-Semite. “So if you can show me that Minister Farrakhan has taken his position and used his position to create inequity and inequality for Jewish people, then I will denounce that tomorrow.”

She went on to contrast Farrakhan to President Donald Trump, whom she considers a bigot and an anti-Semite who wields actual power.

“Because Louis Farrakhan is empowered to do what? He runs an organization that controls what resources? And creates what policy? And owns property where?” Harris-Perry asked rhetorically.

Some think this new for-

mulation of racism has problematic implications for Jews, for multiple reasons.

First, it equates Jews with white and presumably institutionally privileged people, ignoring the history and ongoing prevalence of anti-Semitism.

“If Jews are seen as ‘white’ (which, in this permutation of progressivism, they are), and ‘whites’ cannot be subjected to racist attacks, then anti-Semitism becomes a trivial concern,” K.C. Johnson, a history professor at Brooklyn College, former Fulbright instructor at Tel Aviv University and regular Washington Post contributor, told JTA.

Second, it ignores the fact that Jews as a class are often falsely maligned as too powerful—which, paradoxically, would make them fair game for ridicule under the prejudice-plus-power definition.

“Antisemitism is a strange form of prejudice,” Olivia Goldhill wrote in Quartz. “Rather than denigrating Jews as inferior, it casts them as maliciously superior”—and thus worthy of denigration.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum recognizes anti-Semitism as racism and as “prejudice against or hatred

of Jews based on false biological theories.” Last month, a federal judge ruled that racial discrimination law applies to Jews, noting that anti-Semites hate Jews for their “Jewish blood” and for “the fact that they were Jewish.”

However, especially on the left, some see anti-Semitism as a wholly separate phenomenon from—and perhaps a lesser form of bias than—racism. Racism, in this line of thinking, is fundamentally worse than all other forms of prejudice precisely because it is systemic.

“I want to make the distinction that while anti-Semitism is something that impacts Jewish Americans, it’s different than anti-black racism or Islamophobia because it’s not systemic,” said Sarsour, the Women’s March leader and prominent activist in the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, in a video posted to Facebook by Jewish Voice for Peace in April. “It’s not systemic, and we need to make that distinction.”

Jews, this argument purports, are too embedded within the system—that is, too powerful—to have prejudice effectively wielded against them as racism.

Rabbi Jill Jacobs, the execu-

tive director of the left-leaning T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, largely refutes this idea.

“There is a difference between anti-Semitism and accusations of racism against white people, who are not a coherent historical ethnic group, and who have never been the victims of systemic prejudice,” Jacobs told JTA. “Jews have experienced a genocide within living memory, and continue to experience anti-Semitism both in words and in actions.”

“Ashkenazi Jews enjoy white privilege much of the time, but also regularly encounter anti-Semitism perpetrated by people of many backgrounds.”

Johnson and others suggest that the prejudice-plus-power dynamic is in play in England, where Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn has been accused of enabling anti-Semitism within his party. According to this theory, Labour is nonchalant about attacks on Jews because they are as a whole relatively affluent and politically influential unlike say, Muslims, who lack the same institutional power and therefore need increased defending.

“We’ve had a preview of how this approach operates with

recent events in the U.K. with the Labour Party,” Johnson told JTA.

Corbyn “understands racism purely through the prism of power—which, in his simplistic and vulgar Marxist worldview, Jews possess,” according to Brookings Institution fellow James Kirchick.

Bret Stephens, a conservative columnist for The New York Times, also worries about the effects of redefining racism as only able to “punch down.”

“The criterion for racism is either objective or it’s meaningless,” he wrote in a column welcoming Jeong to The Times. “If liberals get to decide for themselves who is or isn’t a racist according to their political lights, conservatives will be within their rights to ignore them.”

Jacobs, on the other hand, said she is interested in moving beyond the so-called “oppression Olympics” and toward actual problem-solving.

“There is still a lot of work to be done to dismantle racism, sexism, anti-Semitism and other isms within our society,” the rabbi told JTA. “We should focus on doing that work rather than argue about hierarchies of privilege and power.”

Nazi

From page 1A

from his wheelchair onto the ambulance stretcher.”

His deportation comes after years of protests by Jewish groups. Earlier this year, a group of more than 80 New York politicians, led

by Assemblyman Dov Hikind, petitioned the Trump administration regarding Pajil.

“I never gave up on this issue because Pajil’s presence here mocked the memory of the millions who perished,” Hikind said in a statement Tuesday. “There was no

question of his guilt. It was imperative that someone responsible for Nazi atrocities be held accountable for his crimes. While his victims can no longer seek justice, I am delighted that our President’s administration took it upon themselves to deliver justice.”

Although members of the Jewish community of New York have held demonstrations outside of his house in Queens for years, Pajil seemed unimpressed, telling the New

York Post in 2013 that he was “starting to get used to it.”

“They told us we would be picking up mines. But that was a lie,” he told the paper. “In that camp they took us—17-, 18-, 19-year-old boys. I am one of them. They did not give us Nazi uniforms. They gave us guard uniforms: pants, black; shirts, light brown; and hats with one button in the front. You could tell we were not Nazis. If you tried to run away, they take your family and shoot all of them.”

“I am not SS. I have nothing to do with SS,” he added.

Efraim Zuroff, the Eastern Europe director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said in a statement that a “14-year long campaign has finally been crowned with success. Trawniki guards do not deserve the privilege of living in the United States and that was finally achieved last night.”

Edward Mosberg, a 93-year-old Holocaust survivor from Poland and now a property developer from New Jersey,

said that although the “decision comes late, it is a good and positive action and we are grateful to the United States for bringing this evil man to receive punishment for his crimes.”

Mosberg was quoted Tuesday during a tour of the Auschwitz memorial museum in Poland. He attended it with four Republican members of Congress as part of a delegation of the From the Depths Holocaust commemoration group.

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Glick

From page 4A

In 2004, Israel decimated Hamas’s leadership in Gaza. The next year it walked away from Gaza, handing the area to the PA/Fatah lock, stock and barrel.

Rather than use the opportunity to build a state, the PA/Fatah militarized Gaza and orchestrated ever-escalating mortar and rocket assaults against Israel. Gaza’s militarization and the open transfer of massive quantities of armaments to Gaza through the Egyptian border gave Hamas the ability to rebuild its forces—and, in less than two years, oust Fatah from power.

Like the PA, Hamas uses its control over Gaza not to build a state but to expand its ability to strike Israel. This it has achieved by, among other things, developing close relations with Iran, Turkey, and Qatar, serving as an arm of their foreign policies towards Israel, Egypt and the wider Islamic world. Hamas has also developed close ties with the so-called “Islamic State” and affiliated al Qaeda organizations that operate

in Gaza and Sinai. Like the PA, Hamas has used Europe’s hostility towards Israel, and the Islamic bloc’s control over UN agencies (including the UN General Assembly), to mask its crimes and blame Israel for its aggression against the Jewish state.

Despite Hamas’s failure to develop Gaza economically, and its use of Gaza’s civilian population as human shields behind which it builds its military capabilities and attacks Israel, the people of Gaza have maintained their support for the terror regime.

Far from pushing it out for failure to govern in any recognizable sense of the term, a majority of Gazans continue to support the jihadist group and to share its program of continuous warfare against Israel, with the aim of annihilating the Jewish state. Moreover, polling data show that if elections were held in Judea and Samaria, Hamas would win them.

All of this leads to one clear conclusion.

Hamas-ruled Gaza is what a Palestinian state looks like. It is what a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria would

look like if any U.S. or other peace proposal that requires Israel to transfer control over the areas to the PA/Fatah is implemented.

The Palestinians—as a people—are not interested in establishing an independent state. They are committed to annihilating Israel. This is why all of their political factions are terror groups. That’s why one of Abbas’s possible successors is in prison for five counts of terrorist murder and the other has called for Israel to be wiped out with nuclear weapons.

This is why, in a bid to shore up popular support for Fatah, Abbas is calling for a renewal of terror attacks against Israel. And this is why Hamas, whose record is one unblemished by phony peace processes with Israel, is more respected and trusted by the Palestinians in Gaza and Judea and Samaria.

Last week, Trump’s top advisors on the Palestinian conflict with Israel, Jared Kushner, Jason Greenblatt, UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, and Ambassador to Israel David Friedman issued a statement on their much touted plan.

“No one will be fully pleased with our proposal, but that’s the way it must be if real peace is to be achieved. Peace can only succeed if it is based on realities,” it read.

While it is true that peace can succeed only if it is based on reality, it is also true that there is no realistic prospect for peace. Hamas’s terror state in Gaza is the apotheosis of Palestinian aspirations. This is what the Palestinians seek to build in Judea and Samaria and, in due course, this is what they want all of Israel to become.

Under the circumstances, the Trump administration has a choice to make. Does it want Judea and Samaria to look like Gaza? Or does it want Judea and Samaria to look like Israel? The ceasefire talks between Hamas and Israel are proof that there is no third option.

Caroline Glick is a world-renowned journalist and commentator on the Middle East and U.S. foreign policy, and the author of *The Israeli Solution: A One-State Plan for Peace in the Middle East*. Read more at www.Caroline-Glick.com.

Newton

From page 1A

edge the public comments and discussions happening

before them, and to halt all discussions of Superintendent Fleishman's professional evaluation until these orders are carried out.

Ultimately, Newton Public

Schools must investigate how biased teaching was introduced into its high schools and implement safeguards to ensure it never happens again. "Sunshine is the best dis-

infectant," said Hurvitz. We want Newton Public Schools to adopt a policy of total transparency on its curriculum, immediately stop teaching the current

biased one, vet all future curriculum materials for accuracy and objectivity, inform students that they have been misled, and hold mandatory workshops on teaching the

"new" anti-Semitism and objective Islamic history with all Newton teachers. Superintendent Fleishman is clearly unfit for this task and should be replaced."

Fauna

From page 5A

sible if the Israeli government that gave that order had the support of the majority of the Israeli people. And the only way for that to happen would be if most Israelis were convinced that they were

trading land for peace rather than for more terror, as they learned they had done at Oslo and with the 2005 withdrawal from Gaza.

That would require most Israelis to be convinced—as many were for a short while during the period of post-Oslo

euphoria—that the Palestinians had given up their century-long war against the Jews.

Such a development doesn't require a sensible map or a realistic plan for evicting a specified number of Jews from their homes.

It merely requires the

emergence of a P.A. leader like the fictional Abu Maher, who could count on the support of most Palestinians and also be trusted by Israelis. Such a person would have to be willing not only to establish peace with the Jews, but also to fight and defeat the radicals inside

Fatah, in addition to Hamas and other Islamist groups who are willing to sacrifice more generations of Palestinian children on the altar of their never-ending war.

But as long as such a figure is just a figment of the imagination of a team of Israeli TV

writers, debates about how to draw a line between two states in the small territory shared by two different peoples remain so much hot air.

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

Nation-state

From page 5A

destructive idea. If Europeans are bent on committing cultural suicide, it is of course

their prerogative to do so. But Israelis do not wish to lose their national identity, their ancestral homeland, their state, and their culture. The nation-state

law is meant to ensure that Israel is not sacrificed on the very same altar on which Europe is committing suicide.

Dr. Mordechai Kedar is a

senior research associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. He served for 25 years in IDF military intelligence specializing in

Syria, Arab political discourse, Arab mass media, Islamic groups, and Israeli Arabs, and is an expert on the Muslim Brotherhood and

other Islamist groups.

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Divide

From page 9A

in the U.S., and the Jews there are being assimilated into an increasingly secular country. The empty synagogues will have to be replaced with the classrooms of Jewish schools. The challenge of giving over 1 million Jewish children a minimal Jewish education can and should be tackled if the government of Israel will take a lead and major Jewish philanthropists will join.

In the beginning of the 1990s, when the Jewish Zionist establishment vehemently opposed the idea of establishing schools in the former

Soviet Union, Lauder was among the first to understand that Jewish continuity, especially in the secularized post-Soviet countries, can only be guaranteed by formal Jewish education. The establishment of two dozen schools in Eastern and Central Europe in the beginning of the '90s by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation guaranteed a positive Jewish identity for tens of thousands of children of Jewish families.

(Full disclosure: My wife, Dara, is the head of the Lauder Etz Chaim School in Moscow, the largest Jewish day school in the former Soviet Union with currently almost 600 children.)

Having the honor to meet and speak to many of the thousands of graduates of our schools in Moscow, I can attest to the impact on the identity and personal commitment to the Jewish cause of the students of the Lauder school. These children's lives are forever changed.

What Lauder has achieved in Central and Eastern Europe should be applied now in the United States, where the continuity of the largest community outside of Israel is in danger.

Communities such as the United Kingdom, Australia and France have achieved

great strides in recent years toward this goal. The great majority of their children receive a formal Jewish education; there is no reason why this should not be attainable in the U.S.

Every Diaspora Jew is the carrier of dual identities—the national one and the Jewish one—trying to juggle and reconcile and build a symbiosis. Trying to strike the balance between enlightenment and tradition has not been easy.

Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker, in his latest book "Enlightenment Now," argued that the Enlightenment improved humanity by

replacing "dogma, tradition and authority with reason, debate and institutions of truth-seeking." Yoram Hazony of The Herzl Institute, in a response to Pinker, said that if the response of the Jews to the Enlightenment had been absolute, then the Zionist movement—which drew its passion and strength from the vast sources of Jewish tradition and history—would never have been born and we wouldn't have had a Jewish state today.

We as a people are out of balance. The world is out of balance. The climate is out of balance, and geopolitics

are increasingly shrill and simplistic, polarizing friends and family members. Let us try to regain some balance and perspective for the sake of our future, of our children—before it is too late.

Pinchas Goldschmidt has been the chief rabbi of Moscow since 1993, serving at the Moscow Choral Synagogue and since 2011 as president of the Conference of European Rabbis.

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.

Scholar

From page 10A

"defend the actions of average countrymen" in a nation where collaborators worked with the Nazis to murder at least 75 percent of Dutch Jewry—the highest death rate in Nazi-occupied Western Europe.

Gans also was left drained

and downtrodden following a dispute with Chris van der Heijden, a historian whose father served in the SS. Focusing on a handful of Jewish supporters of the Dutch Nazi party in the 1930s, van der Heijden "heaped anti-Semitic stereotypes" in a 2008 book, Gans told Vrij Nederland. In

that book, Gans said, "The Jews allowed themselves to be murdered, collaborated and are now perpetrators" of similar crimes in Israel.

These polemics not only depressed Gans, Diamand said, but "made her enemies."

As these and other issues continued to take their toll

on Gans, a left-wing activist in the 1970s whose participation in violent protests acquainted her with the inside of a police car, she began drawing inward.

Things became so bad in the spring that she was hospitalized voluntarily for a month at a psychiatric treatment facility.

As an outpatient, she tried to participate in group therapy but felt too estranged from the other patients to discuss her issues in the group.

"I told her, 'who cares, just use this group therapy tool to get better,' but it was beyond her ability," Diamand said.

Despite its broader context,

Gans' suicide is "ultimately a personal tragedy," Diamand insisted. Her focus on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, he said, was "a factor, not the factor" in her decision to end her life.

"A whole set of elements led her to her painful and wrong decision," he said.

Wohl

From page 11A

contradicts tenets within Islamic law."

"Laura is on the cutting edge of stopping the Sharia invasion that's happening in the United States, the Islamification of neighborhoods," Wohl said on a recent podcast, referring to Islamic religious law. "They want Sharia courts. This is what they're calling for, this is their vision, is to establish a caliphate in the West."

Wohl said he agrees with Trump "on 90 percent or 95 percent of his positions"—first and foremost immigration. He said that "illegal immigration has just devastated communities" in Southern California, something Wohl said he realized when most of his second-grade class could not speak "a lick of English." He said that hindered his education.

"A wall would change a lot about a lot of border states as

far as public safety," he said. "What's coming across our southern border is in many cases, not in all cases, but in many cases tremendous crime."

"When Trump came down the escalator and said 'We're going to build a great, great wall and we're going to make Mexico pay for that wall,' he had my vote," Wohl said, referring to Trump's campaign launch.

One of the issues on which Wohl disagrees with Trump

relates to Israel. Wohl would like to see the president, who has been friendly to the Israeli government's agenda, take an even harder line against the Palestinian Authority, which administers the Palestinian areas of the West Bank.

"I would like to see the Palestinian Authority defunded completely by the United States and treated like ISIS or any other terrorist organization because that's what they are," he said.

Wohl's political opinions are no less pointed on Twitter, where he focuses his commentary on praising the president and opposing his opponents. Wohl said proudly that Trump has retweeted him three times and replied to one of his tweets, which he said is "a recognition that you're doing something right."

Other tweeters have enjoyed mocking Wohl for a curious trope he repeats: a contention that he hears

"coffee shop hipster liberals" praising the president. He has said so six separate times.

I wanted to ask Wohl about this surreptitiously pro-Trump hipster cafe. I also wanted to ask him more about his Judaism, as well as his future plans. But he hung up on me after I asked him a follow-up question about his claim that Puerto Rico is socialist.

"You've got a terrible attitude," he said before ending the call.

Weingarten

From page 12A

of the democracy in Israel," she said. "There's been a longstanding relationship between our unions and Israel because of the fight for democracy, and that relationship has continued during my tenure as president of the AFT. It is part of our long-term worldview of the importance of democracy."

Supporting Israel is also a personal cause for Weingarten. She grew up in an involved Jewish home and attended Camp Ramah in New England. She is a member of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in New York City and is newly married to its senior rabbi, Sharon Kleinbaum. And she is the latest Jewish

AFT president, following predecessors like Sandra Feldman and Albert Shanker.

"I am a Ramahnik," she said. "I grew up as a progressive Zionist. I grew up believing that Israel was an inclusive, democratic Jewish state that you needed to fight for, but inclusive and democratic was as important as Jewish. And just like the work that we do in America can make things more inclusive, more focused on justice, more focused on opportunity, that's the work that I try to do in terms of Israel."

Some local unions, like other progressive organizations, support BDS in expressing their values on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A handful of unions in the United States have joined major unions abroad in endorsing BDS. In the past school year, a local branch of AFT, the Graduate Employees' Organization of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, backed a divestment campaign on campus.

"We are saddened and disappointed in the hostility that AFT leaders such as Randi Weingarten have expressed to the internationally-respected and non-violent tactic of BDS," a June statement by the local union read. "Such leaders are out of touch and out of step with the rank and file of our union."

Weingarten said she is worried about calls for BDS

from American progressives. But she does not believe broad progressive support for Israel has become untenable. She feels that just as American progressives oppose the agenda of the Trump administration, they need to oppose the policies of Israel's government while still engaging with the country.

"The occupation and the influence of the settlers and lack of recognition for steps toward the two-state solution has corroded a lot of faith that a lot of progressives have around the world in the democracy of Israel," she said. "We need to actually support the progressives in Israel. I think Bibi Netanyahu wins if people support the extremes and if people despair."



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THE VISION COUNCIL

Ben Kingsley carried a photo of Elie Wiesel with him while filming 'Operation Finale'

By Naomi Pfefferman

LOS ANGELES (JTA)—Ask Ben Kingsley about why he was keen to portray Nazi criminal Adolf Eichmann in the new film "Operation Finale" and he describes the traumatic childhood incident in which he first learned about the Holocaust.

The 74-year-old British actor was then in grammar school and at home alone when he turned on a documentary about the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

"I remember my heart stopped beating for a while," Kingsley, who is not Jewish but believes he may have some Jewish relatives on his mother's side, said in a telephone interview. "I nearly passed out. And I have been indelibly connected to the Holocaust ever since."

His connection was even more enhanced when he asked his grandmother about the atrocities, and she said that "Hitler was right" to have killed Jews.

"I went into deep shock and was unable to counter her," Kingsley said. "But something must have clicked in my innermost soul that said 'Grandmother, I will make you eat your words. I will pay

you back for that. You have not distorted or poisoned my mind."

Kingsley went on to portray the Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal in the HBO film "Murderers Among Us"; the Jewish accountant Itzhak Stern in "Schindler's List"; and Anne Frank's father in a 2001 ABC miniseries. He also won an Academy Award for his turn as the titular Indian independence leader in 1982's "Gandhi."

During research for his Shoah-themed films, Kingsley became close friends with Holocaust survivor, activist and author Elie Wiesel. Not long before Wiesel's death in 2016, the actor vowed to him that "the next time I walk onto a film set that is appropriate to your story, I will dedicate my performance to you."

So when Kingsley was offered the Eichmann role in "Operation Finale" after Wiesel's death—a film that debuted Aug. 29 and focuses on the Holocaust architect's capture—the actor jumped at the chance. Just as he famously carried a picture of Anne Frank during the filming of "Schindler's List," he carried a photo of Wiesel during the filming of "Operation Finale."

"[E]very day as promised,

I looked at a picture of Elie that I carried in my pocket and said 'I'm doing this for you,'" Kingsley said.

"Operation Finale" tells the story of Peter Malkin and other Mossad agents who covertly hunted and captured Eichmann hiding in Argentina and brought him to Israel for trial in 1961, where he was ultimately executed. The heart of the story is the cat-and-mouse game between Malkin (played by Oscar Isaac) and Eichmann, both of whom were master manipulators, according to the film's director, Chris Weitz ("About a Boy" and "A Better Life").

"Each one is trying to convince the other of something," Weitz said in a telephone interview. "Malkin wanted to convince Eichmann to sign a paper indicating that he was willing to go to trial in Jerusalem. And Eichmann is trying out various defenses that he will eventually use in Israeli court. So in that regard there is the subterfuge of the escaped war criminal and also the subterfuge of the spy as he's trying to turn a source."

As for Eichmann, Weitz said, "I think the evidence shows a very chameleon-like figure who is constantly trying to serve his own ends and ambitions."

Kingsley unabashedly sees his character as evil

"What other adjective can you use?" he asked. "Not only did he commit these crimes as an architect of the Final Solution, he went to his grave proud of what he had done—utterly unrepentant."

Yet Kingsley said he chose not to portray Eichmann as "a B-movie, cartoony, comic strip villain."

"That would have done a terrible disservice to the victims and the survivors I know and love," he said. "It's important for us to accept, to stomach and to swallow that the Nazis were men and women—'normal' people. Twisted people, but they didn't come from Mars."

Weitz, 48, had his own personal connection to the material. His father, the fashion designer John Weitz, escaped Nazi Germany in 1933 at the age of 10. Nine years later he arrived in the United States and later became a spy for the OSS, the precursor of the CIA. He interrogated Nazi war criminals and helped liberate Bergen-Belsen, "which forever changed him," his son said.

The filmmaker grew up with his father's war stories and ultimately helped the patriarch write multiple books about Nazi war criminals.



Valeria Florini/Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures
Ben Kingsley stars as Adolf Eichmann in "Operation Finale."

As research for the film, both Weitz and Kingsley relied in part on the expertise of former Mossad agent Avner Abraham, who has curated a now-touring exhibition about Eichmann. Weitz eschewed photographing the famed glass booth in which Eichmann spent his trial—a part of the exhibition—because he feared that might be "blasphemous."

The director also said he had "endless trepidations" about depicting images

of the Holocaust, and so chose to do so through the lens of the Mossad agents' memories.

"The agents' memoirs indicate that they all found it deeply unsettling to be so near the person who had taken part in the murder of their families," Weitz said. "Some of them were disappointed that all this evil could have the face of this rather unprepossessing man, which felt terribly out of scale to all the damage that had been done."

Here's how JTA covered the real-life story of 'Operation Finale' and Eichmann's capture

By Ben Sales

(JTA)—When undercover Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in 1960, JTA's reporters were just as surprised as everyone else.

An article dated May 23 of that year described an abrupt announcement of the operation by Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to the Israeli Knesset. JTA described his mood as "hushed, almost incredulous." Ben-Gurion's announcement did not include the place and time of the capture, which had taken place 12 days earlier in Argentina, nor how it happened.

"For a moment, there was silence in the chamber," the article said. "Then there was a burst of wild applause. Mr. Ben-Gurion's promise that Eichmann will be tried under the law providing for trials of Nazis and Nazi collaborators was not lost on the House."

The events of that story—how the Mossad found and apprehended the architect of the Holocaust in Buenos Aires—will be retold in the film "Operation Finale," which premiered on Aug. 29.

But judging from JTA's relentless coverage of Eichmann's imprisonment, trial and execution, the aftermath of the capture was also a captivating drama. From the moment of the capture to his hanging two years later, JTA, then as now a news service syndicating its content to dozens of Jewish media outlets and subscribers, published more than 600 articles related to the ordeal.

On June 3, 1960, there was a brief article, gleaned from reports in the Argentine press, with some details of the Mossad operation. Agents who had been tracking Eichmann waited until he was walking home after his usual bus ride.

"A car moved quickly to the curb and Israel [sic] secret agents jumped out and seized him," JTA reported, quoting the Argentine reports. "His family became alarmed by his absence and checked hospitals and morgues. Realizing that he must have been abducted, the family fled into hiding, without knowing that six hours after the seizure, Eichmann was on an Israeli plane headed for Tel Aviv."

The reports recalled that Eichmann had been living under an assumed name in Latin America for eight years.

Until the Mossad operation was revealed, the world had no inkling that Eichmann was living as a fugitive in Argentina. Seven months earlier, JTA had reported that he was suspected to be hiding out in Kuwait. And only a few days before Ben-Gurion's announcement, a JTA story detailed preparations for Eichmann's trial in Frankfurt—should he ever be located.

But once he was captured, JTA reported assiduously about his hearings and imprisonment, and how they were playing in Israel and around the world. Stories covered debates over the date and place of the trial; how it would relate to Israeli elections; protests by haredi Orthodox Israelis that Eichmann was

transferred on Shabbat; and how the U.S. press at large was covering the story.

A series of articles focused on an Argentine-Israeli diplomatic crisis due to the unauthorized, secret Israeli operation on Argentine soil. Argentina wanted Israel to return the Nazi, and declared Israel's ambassador persona-non-grata. Israel refused and was backed by the United Nations Security Council.

A day after Eichmann's capture, JTA reported that he had identified himself in an initial hearing and, in German, pleaded not guilty to 15 counts, including crimes against humanity and crimes against the Jewish people. Even so, JTA reported that "[m]any Jews who were survivors of Nazi extermination camps have telephoned police headquarters volunteering their services as executioners of Eichmann in the event he is convicted and sentenced to death."

The trial itself opened nearly a year later, in April 1961. In the meantime, a film on Eichmann's capture called "Operation Eichmann" was screened in New York. Also, the Israeli government approved a \$20,000 payment (\$169,000 in 2018) to Eichmann's German defense lawyer, Robert Servatius.

Two months before the trial, Servatius debuted Eichmann's infamous defense that he was "only obeying orders" when, as a lieutenant colonel in the SS, he designed the systematic murder of 6 million Jews. Eichmann did not deny the facts of the Holocaust, the

lawyer said, but believed he was only a "small cog in the machine."

During the trial, Eichmann sat in a bulletproof, glass-enclosed case. The lead prosecutor was Israel's attorney general, Gideon Hauser.

"There was only one man," Hausner declared, "in the satanic structure of Nazism who was almost entirely concerned with the Jews and whose business was their destruction. This was Adolf Eichmann, who for years saw his destiny and calling—to which he was devoted with enthusiasm and endless zeal—the extermination of the Jews."

At the start of the trial, according to JTA, Eichmann had a "pose of arrogant boredom." But by the trial's third week, "He had clearly lost weight. There was an inch gap between his neck and his shirt collar. The suit which had fitted so well two weeks ago was sagging. His face was wan."

Like many JTA dispatches of the day, the article carried no byline.

JTA reported on the defense team's contention that he was not in charge of the machinery of the Holocaust. But under cross-examination, according to the news agency, he admitted that he knew the term "Final Solution" meant mass extermination and proceeded with the plan—though he evaded other questions, including about his part in ordering poison gas for the concentration camps.

Eichmann later told the court that the Holocaust was the "gravest crime in human history." He also said the Nazis



Central Press/Getty Images
Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann on trial in Jerusalem, 1961.

planned to kill all 11 million Jews in Europe.

The trial concluded in August 1961, four months after its start. JTA reported that Eichmann said he received "fair and decent" treatment in his trial. In the months following, he wrote at least three volumes of memoirs, and that November his guards asked to be relieved of their assignment because "they could no longer stand the sight of the defendant."

In December 1961, one day before he was found guilty and four days before being sentenced to death by hanging, Eichmann made a public statement.

"I carry my share of responsibility," he said. "What was done cannot be undone. It was done as the result of mass hysteria, artificially stoked up and then used by individuals for their own ends."

One month later, in January 1962, JTA reported that Israeli Prison Commissioner

Arye Nir ordered Eichmann's prison uniform changed from red to gray in order to improve his mood and keep him from suffering a nervous breakdown.

In March, Israel's Supreme Court declined an appeal of Eichmann's sentence. His May 31 request for clemency was declined, as was a request from philosopher Martin Buber not to execute Eichmann.

JTA reported that before Eichmann's execution, two former Nazis tried to smuggle him a razor blade so he could kill himself. In one instance, they hid the blade under a stamp on a postcard. In another they embedded it in a box of matches. Israeli agents found the blades both times.

Eichmann was hanged on June 1, shortly after midnight. According to a pastor's wife who visited Eichmann with her husband before the execution, the doomed man "showed no sign of confession or repentance."