



Standing in front of the Mitzvah Cards are Lauren Saslov (l) and Dani Kraut.

A mitzvah marathon in remembrance

By Gabrielle Edrich
 First person

Earlier this month, I and a few other Stoneman Douglas graduates, had a meeting at Chabad at UCF. As we knew that the first anniversary of the Stoneman Douglas shooting was coming up and that Feb. 14 would be a difficult day for many, we wanted to create an event that would not only spread positivity and growth, but that would also bring the community together. Within minutes, we thought of a great idea: Let's give students

the opportunity to do mitzvot—good deeds.

We came up with several meaningful mitzvot that people could perform, and let the students choose which good deeds they would like to do. This is how The "Stoneman Douglas Mitzvah Marathon" came about.

On Feb. 14, Chabad set up a tent in front of the Student Union, the heart of the UCF campus. The tent featured stacks of "Mitzvah Cards" in memory of the 17 victims. Each "Mitzvah Card" listed nine different mitzvot that anyone could perform such as lighting Shabbat

candles, gifting flowers to a friend, or donating food items to our university's food pantry. Each time someone checked off a mitzvah that they committed to perform, a "Mitzvah Card" was pinned to a string around the tent so that people could see how many good deeds were being done. When I came by the tent after my class, I was so excited to see more than 50 cards on the string. At Chabad's Shabbat dinner that Friday eve, the "Mitzvah Cards" were displayed on the wall, and all I could do was smile at the amount of love and support that the UCF community had offered in commemoration of this tragic event.

\$10m raised for new Holocaust museum in Orlando

On Monday, Feb. 25, the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center publicly launched its campaign to raise funds for a new museum in Downtown Orlando, announcing it has already garnered \$10 million in gifts. Local benefactors who have made significant contribu-

tions include the Ginsburg Family Foundation with \$4 million, hotelier Harris Rosen with \$1 million, longtime Central Florida philanthropists Jim and Alexis Pugh with \$1 million and community leaders Jim and Valeria Shapiro with \$1 million.

The announcement of the capital campaign follows the Center's presentation Monday, Feb. 18, to the Orange County Tourist Development Tax Application Review Committee (ARC), seeking an additional \$10 million in tourist development tax dollars.

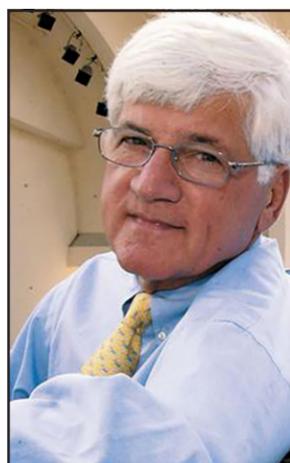
"Located in the nation's number one tourist destination with a record-setting 72 million annual visitors, a museum of this caliber will provide a world-class venue that ensures the Holocaust is understood and forever remembered," said Harris Rosen, whose hotels have hosted the group's annual Dinner of Tribute since 1991.

The dream for a new museum came closer to reality just a year ago, when Mayor Buddy Dyer and the City of Orlando offered to lease the site of the former Chamber of Commerce Building and



Alan Ginsburg

adjacent Senator Beth Johnson Park to the Holocaust Center for \$1 per year. Plans are for the Holocaust Center to move from its current Maitland location in 2023. The Center will be renamed the Holocaust Museum for Hope & Humanity. Early donations form a sizable amount of the \$35 million needed to fund renovations and expansion of the old Chamber building, create new permanent exhibits and add \$5 million to its endowment for ongoing programs.



Jim Pugh

The new museum is expected to draw 150,000 visitors annually and contribute millions in economic impact to Central Florida.

Spearheading the fund-raising effort, as he did for the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, is longtime Holocaust Center board member, Jim Pugh. "I am wholeheartedly committed to ensuring future generations have an understanding of the Holocaust," said Pugh. "I ex-

Museum on page 14A

We have lift off!

By Christine DeSouza

At exactly 8:45 p.m. EST a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifted off the Florida coast at Cape Canaveral carrying the SpaceIL Lunar Lander, named "Beresheet." The night launch was easily seen from Altamonte Springs as it rose into the atmosphere. In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu watched the lift off with his wife, Sarah, South African philanthropist Morris Kahn and a host of others at the Yehud Command Center.

At 9:25 p.m. EST, Beresheet separated from the Falcon 9 rocket, deployed its landing legs and headed for the moon under its own power. It will take the spacecraft seven weeks to reach the moon. Landing date is set for April 11. For related story, see page 16A.



The SpaceX 9 lifting off as seen on TV Channel 9.

Meet the Jewish DACA UCF student



Ben Sales

Josh Boloña, pictured sitting in his campus library, is the president of the Student Government Association at the University of Central Florida.

By Ben Sales

ORLANDO (JTA)—He's not just a student at the University of Central Florida, he is the student president.

Growing up, Josh Boloña was just like a lot of kids in South Florida: He was a Latino immigrant, from Ecuador, in an area with a lot of Latino immigrants. He was a Jewish kid in an area with many Jews. He was a soccer player in a place where plenty of kids played soccer.

Then he tried to get his driver's permit.

Boloña had an inkling a year earlier that his immigration status was complicated. Before he turned 15, his parents explained the issue: He was an undocumented immigrant.

"A week before my birthday, I asked my parents to get it and they again said I can't," he said about the permit. "So then they started explaining more in depth my status and saying what I can and can't do. Then, the following year, we were thinking I would have

to leave the country because I didn't have any means to apply for college because I was undocumented."

Shortly before, though, President Barack Obama instituted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, a policy that allowed undocumented immigrants who had come as children, like Boloña, to stay in the United States. DACA recipients can get drivers' licenses, attend school and work.

So Boloña was able not only to go to college, but rise to the top. He is now the student government president at the University of Central Florida, the biggest undergraduate program in the country, with more than 50,000 students. The Student Government Association there manages a budget of nearly \$19 million.

"I've always had a passion for servant-leadership and problem solving," he said. "I figured that in SGA, that's really what you do: You lead a group of fellow classmates—not with authority, but more with vision, which was nice. And ultimately you get to solve issues for students."

Sitting at the UCF library, Boloña looks and sounds like any student. The campus is buzzing with students at 9 p.m. on a balmy night in February. Many are wearing the school colors, black and gold, while displaying their pride in the Knights' elite football team. The library is crowded and not that quiet—that is to say, like a normal college library.

Boloña's social media feeds feature plenty of photos of him looking official at

DACA on page 14A



Talking with Hal Linden about JNF, 'The Samuel Project' and life

By Christine DeSouza

Actor Hal Linden (of 'Barney Miller' fame) has never been to Orlando, but he has been all up and down the east coast of Florida as the national spokesman for the Jewish National Fund, a position he has held since 1997. He came into the world with a father who was a Zionist before World War I. He remembers always putting nickels and dimes into the JNF Blue Box as a kid, but didn't really grasp his father's passion at that time.

He also stars in the film "The Samuel Project," which opens today in Regal theaters in Central Florida. Linden spoke with Heritage about the film and his role as JNF spokesman.

"The Samuel Project" has a three-dimensional storyline. It's the story of a 17-year-old boy who hopes to win a scholarship to an art school by creating an animated video about his grandfather's past surviving the Holocaust. Reluctant at first, the grandfather, Samuel (played by Linden), agrees to tell his story when his grandson, Eli (Ryan Ochoa), proposes to work for free in his dry-cleaning shop.

"It is a common reaction," Linden said of Holocaust survivors not talking about their past. "It's difficult to talk about it. Lives are contextual. The now is determined by the then.

We are always effected by 'then,' whether we like it or not."

Linden will tell you that "The Samuel Project" isn't really a Holocaust movie. "It started as a Holocaust film, but we have enough of those and it is not the point of the picture. It really is a relationship movie. Art is the vessel for the family to come together," he said.

A seasoned actor and musician—he won three Emmys for his lead role in the 1970's television hit "Barney Miller," a Tony award for his Broadway performance in "The Rothschilds," and toured with big bands during the 1950s—Linden had the opportunity to work with director Marc Fusco on the script, more than any project he has been with, he said. "We realized the story isn't about Samuel, as it started out. It's the story of Eli. He is the star and central character to the project." From Linden's perspective, "The Samuel Project" is about Eli creating an animated short story, which just so happens to be about his grandfather surviving the Holocaust.

Linden's parents were immigrants from Europe in the early 1900s. His father came from Lithuania as a teen, his mother's family came from Belarus when she was an infant. Linden grew up in the Bronx where he had many Italian and Irish friends. At that time, he said he had no need for

another country. Until after WWII.

"What turned the corner for me was the way the British acted after the war. They closed off access to Palestine and didn't let the displaced persons into Israel. They shipped them to Cyprus."

In the film Samuel describes himself as a "DP"—displaced person. He had been a child who survived the Holocaust through the loving kindness of a young woman who found him, but he lost his entire family. He explains to Eli what a DP is.

As the storyline in the film progresses, viewers see how disconnected this three generation (grandfather, father and son) family is and how through Eli's art project the family comes together, as each sees what's important in life.

As the film progressed, I kept hoping to see a glimpse of this art project, how Eli interpreted through animation his grandfather's story. It isn't until the end that we see the completed project.

I mentioned this to Linden who told me that he didn't see the "completed art project" either until he saw it in the completed movie.

"When you are acting, you only see the parts that you are working on," he explained. So, he saw it as I saw it, and he was impressed.

"You have to remember though," he shared, "in the

movie, this is the art project of a 17-year-old, not a professional artist. The director showed great restraint to remember that aspect and kept it in the perspective of the young boy."

Linden is right, the final animated project is a bit juvenile. However "The Samuel Project" video still captured my heart.

Back to Linden's role with JNF. He leads tours for those 50+ every year to Israel (not as much climbing, he said)—the next one is in November. As for his passion for Israel, he asked his wife, Francis (who is not Jewish), what she wanted for their 50th wedding anniversary. "She said, 'I want our grandchildren to see your passion,'" he said.

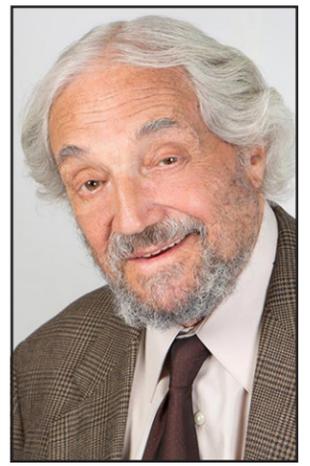
Through JNF, Linden's family of 19—their kids, their grandkids and one mother-in-law—traveled throughout Israel for 10 days.

"We'd spend one day doing fun stuff, then a day doing something serious like reading history in Yad Vashem."

He continued, "It's interesting, my 11-year-old grandson read the 'Who is a Jew' in Yad Vashem. He read that Jews have brown eyes. He has brown eyes and he was taken by that. He came home and said he wanted to be bar mitzvahed, and since then two others have been bar and bat mitzvahed."

Also while in Israel, his family dedicated a reservoir to his parents through JNF.

Oh! One more thing. Hal Linden will be in Central Florida at The Villages on March 12, starring with Barbara Eden in the play "Love Letters," the late A.R. Gurney's most famous Broadway production. Show times are 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Sharon Performing Arts Center, 1051 Main Street, The Vil-



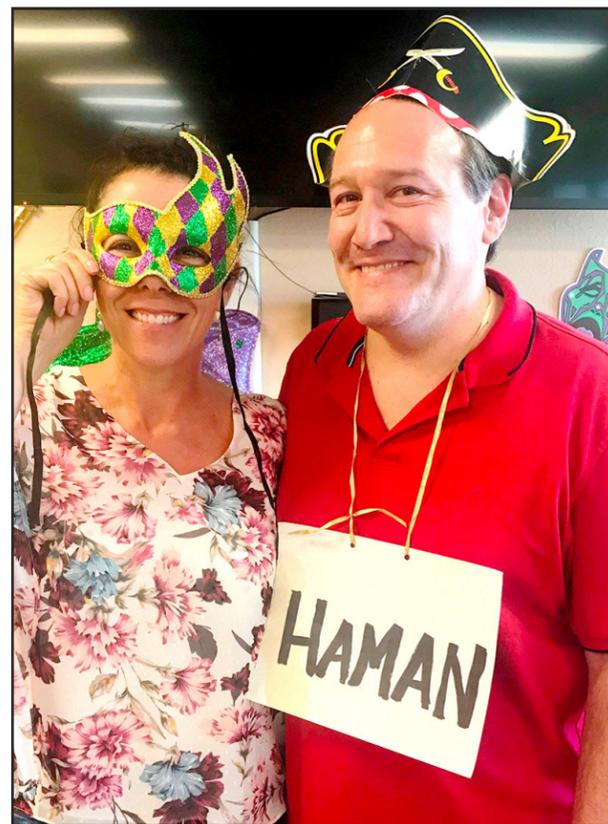
Hal Linden as Samuel in "The Samuel Project."

ages. Tickets for the show or the Meet and Greet can be purchased at <https://thesharon.com/events>.

For "The Samuel Project" show times, visit www.regmovies.com/theatres.

For information about the Linden trips to Israel, visit www.jnf.org.

It's time for Purim with the Jewish Pavilion!



Pictured from Purim 2018 are volunteers extraordinaire Michele and Wayne Bilsky at Cascade Heights in Longwood.

Everyone in the community is welcome to attend the Jewish Pavilion Purim parties. For more information, please call 407-678-9363.

Here is the Purim schedule by program director

Judy Appleton

March 8 @ noon Allegro Senior Living

March 8 @ 3 pm Mayflower (Upstairs, Country Kitchen)

March 8 @ 4:15 pm Westminster Winter Park

March 12 @ 3 pm Palmetto Landing (formerly Brookdale Tuskawilla)

March 14 @ 10:30 am Encore at Avalon Park

Julie Levitt

March 8 @ 12 noon Grand Villa (no entertainment... just play and sing songs)

March 10 @ 1:15 pm Brookdale Lake Orienta (entertainment TBD)

March 19 @ 3:30 Life Care (Penny entertaining)

March 21 @ 10 am Savannah Court (JAO Kindergartners performing)

Penny Goldstein D'Agostino

Monday, March 18th Merrill Gardens at Solivita @ 11 am

Windsor Celebration @ 2 pm

Walter Goldstein Susan Bernstein

March 1 @ 1:30 pm Brookdale- Susan

March 8 @ 3 pm Village on the Green- Gary

March 15 @ 1:30 pm Wayman Place- Susan

March 15 @ 3 pm Siena/Oakmonte Village- Randi/Susan

March 18 @ 3:30 pm Serenades by Sonota- Susan/Nancy Price

March 19 @ 11 am Longwood HealthCare- Susan/Melanie/ Lila

March 19 @ 3:30 pm Opis Island Lake- Susan

March 22 @ 4 pm Cascades Heights-Stephen

March 22 @ 4 pm Atria-Judy Suberman

March 22 @ 4 pm Cordova/Oakmonte Village- Susan

March 22 @ 5 pm Valencia/Oakmonte Village- Susan

A gathering of ladies (two nights!) for mitzvos

Join with other Jewish women from Orlando for a special Ladies Night Out on Monday, March 4, 7:15 p.m. Enjoy refreshments and fine wines, guest speaker Sigy Laredo in Montreal, explore your Jewish identity as you hear about the message from Queen Esther and the Purim story and how they resonate with Jewish women today. Also prepare Mishloach Manot

for the residents of assisted-living facilities visited by the Jewish Pavilion.

This event, hosted by Gesher South Orlando and Mkvva USA, will be held at the Orlando Torah Center, 8613 Banyan Blvd., Orlando.

For ladies for whom Hebrew is a more comfortable language, the Ladies Night Out will also be held in Hebrew on Tuesday, March 5

in a home in the Dr. Phillips area. Please email Elisheva at elishevaRennert@gmail.com for the location address. This even is hosted by the Orlando Torah Academy, Orlando Torah Center and MikvaUSA.

Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$18 in advance.

For more information, visit <https://gesherladiesnight.eventbrite.com>.

Give a little **TENDERNESS**[®]
and SAVE 75%* on Omaha Steaks[®]

The Family Gourmet Feast

- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 2 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 (3 oz.) Kielbasa Sausages
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 (3 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet

55586DSG | \$199.99* separately

Combo Price \$49.99

-30- GOURMET ITEMS!

ORDER NOW & SAVE 75%

Plus get 4 more Burgers **FREE**

1-855-269-9107 ask for 55586DSG | www.OmahaSteaks.com/good78

*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2 Family Gourmet Feast packages. Your 4 free burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes the Family Gourmet Feast (55586). Standard S&H will be added per address. Flat rate shipping and reward cards and codes cannot be used with this offer. Not valid with other offers. Expires 2/28/19. All purchases acknowledge acceptance of Omaha Steaks, Inc. Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Visit omahasteaks.com/terms-of-use/OSI and omahasteaks.com/info/privacy-policy or call 1-800-228-9872 for a copy. ©2018 OCG | Omaha Steaks, Inc. 118M1531

Sovereignty Movement stands up to anti-Israel activists

By Israel Kasnett

(JNS)—When anti-Israel organization “Combatants for Peace” announced recently that it would protest Israel’s alleged annexation of Area C—the Israeli-controlled part of Judea and Samaria—the Sovereignty Movement, an offshoot of Women in Green and headed by Yehudit Katsover and Nadia Matar, immediately responded to the provocation.

They mobilized a large group of people to attend a lecture by veteran journalist and Knesset candidate Caroline Glick, of the New Right Party, at the Oz veGaon nature reserve in Judea, outside of Gush Etzion, to “prevent the continuing Arab takeover of Area C.”

Katsover and Matar told JNS, “If we had sovereignty in Judea and Samaria, these types of incidents would not happen.”

Glick said it was shocking

that, “after four-and-a-half years of Zionist education and tourism work done at Oz veGaon,” there are still groups working to expel Jews from their own land.

Shortly after the announcement by the Sovereignty Movement, the Israel Defense Forces declared the entire area a closed military zone in order to prevent the anti-Israel activists from entering.

Oz veGaon is a nature preserve in the heart of Judea, established in the summer of 2014 by Women in Green in reaction to the murder by Arab terrorists of three teenage boys: Gilad Shaer, 16; Eyal Yifrach, 19; and Naftali Fraenkel, 16.

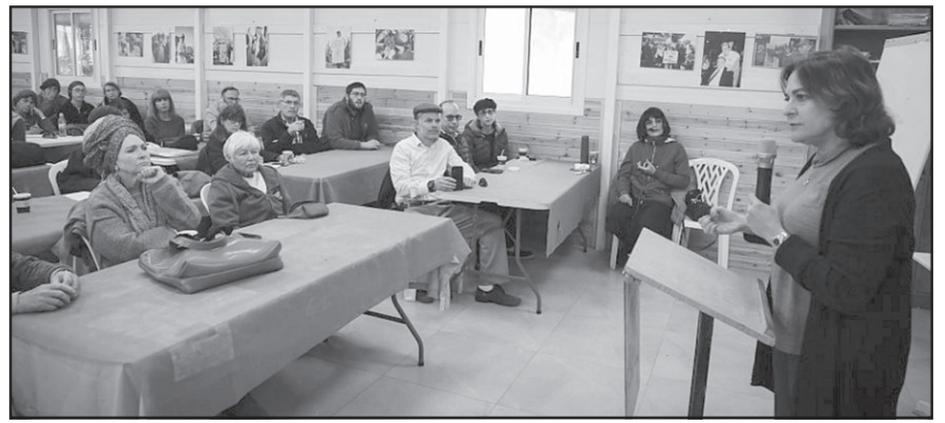
Combatants for Peace falsely claimed that a new access road was opened to Oz VeGaon on the lands of the nearby Palestinian village of Beit Ummar. Organizers called on activists to “plant trees on the access road together with the village

residents, with the objective of perpetuating the ownership of the village residents over the lands and the right to cultivate them.”

The anti-Israel organization called on the activists to express “nonviolent opposition to the daily, creeping annexation of Area C.”

In a message sent to followers, the Sovereignty Movement wrote: “The new access road to the outpost’ as defined by the provocateurs who plan to come on Friday, is not a road, is not new and is not on the land of Beit Omar village. This is an escape route on state lands... that we were forced to open after Arabs ... threw a Molotov cocktail at the preserve... It is this path that has so enraged the Arabs and the Jews of the Combatants for Peace.”

Katsover and Matar explained that “the land of Oz veGaon is approximately 300 dunams [about 74 acres]. It is state land zoned for the



Gershon Elinson/Flash90

Journalist and New Right party candidate Caroline Glick, speaks at the Oz VeGaon reserve in Gush Etzion, on February 8, 2019.

construction of vacation cottages. The zoning permit was temporarily delayed in order to undergo small changes because of the security fence that was supposed to be placed there.”

Katsover and Matar emphasized that when Israel extends its sovereignty over Judea and Samaria, “such things will not

happen. It will be clear this is Israeli land.”

But they also emphasized that there needs to be someone who will actually implement this sovereignty—not only in Judea and Samaria, but also in the Galilee and the Negev. “As long as there is no sovereignty in Judea and Samaria, it gives the Arabs and

the Bedouins in the Galil and the Negev the idea that they will also be able to take over Judea and Samaria,” they said.

Oz veGaon has withstood yet another attempt by anti-Israel provocateurs to deny its right to the land on which it is situated.

As Katsover and Matar concluded: “This was a victory.”

Jewish Historical Society mourns the passing of Al Vorspan

The St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society is mourning the Feb. 16, 2019, death of Al Vorspan, a giant in the movement for Social Justice among Reform Jews. He was 95. Vorspan was arrested here in St. Augustine, Florida along with 16 rabbis making for the largest mass arrest of rabbis in U.S. history. Although not a rabbi himself, Vorspan’s credentials were considerable. He was a founder of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and served as the longtime director of the Union for Reform Judaism’s Commission on Social Action. Ultimately, Vorspan rose to become Senior Vice-President of the Union of Reform Judaism.

Early in the second week of June 1964, while the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was being filibustered in the U.S. Senate, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called, through his friend Rabbi Israel Dresner, for assistance in St. Augustine, asking “to get as many rabbis down here as possible!”

Sixteen rabbis and Albert Vorspan answered the call and were ultimately arrested for “disturbing the peace” while praying with African-Americans at the Monson Hotel on Avenida Menendez along St. Augustine’s bayfront on June 18, 1964.

From their cell in the St. Johns County Jail, they wrote a letter explaining their actions, declaring “We came as Jews who remember the millions of faceless people who stood quietly, watching the smoke rise from Hitler’s crematoria. We came because we know that, second only to silence, the greatest danger to man is loss of faith in man’s capacity to act.”

Rabbi David Saperstein, RAC’s director emeritus, in a statement issued after Vorspan’s death, called him “one of the g’dolei hador, or ‘great ones’ of Jewish social justice work.”

“A true icon, Vorspan shaped much of social justice work of the Reform Jewish

Movement, ensuring it lives at the very heart of Reform Judaism,” said Saperstein, who is currently a senior adviser to the Union for Reform Judaism. “Beginning in 1953, he helped inspire the creation of congregational social action committees across North America, encouraging Reform Jewish synagogues to partner with their local communities in pursuit of tikkun olam, ‘repairing the world.’”

Saperstein said Vorspan play “a pivotal role” in founding the Religious Action Center.

“A mentor, friend, and inspiration to all who knew him, Al Vorspan was, to many, the personification of Reform Judaism’s social justice efforts,” said Saperstein.

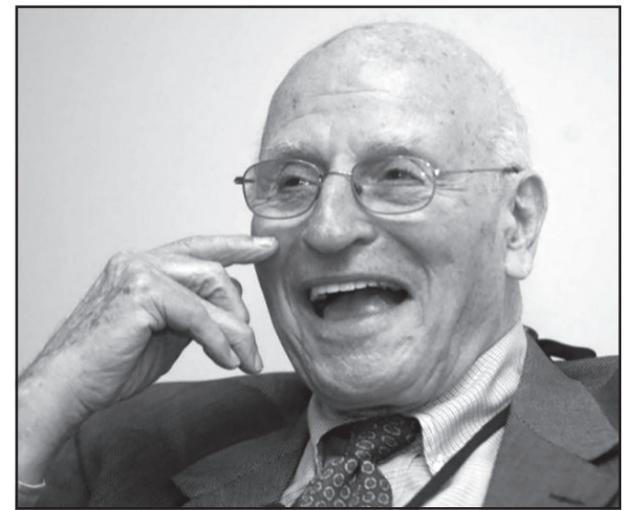
URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs described Vorspan as “one of the towering giants of Jewish social justice.”

“Al blazed a trail of courage and conscience that so many of us have walked,” Jacobs said

in a tweet. “Not since the biblical prophets Amos, Hosea, and Micah walked the earth have we been led by such an inspiring justice leader. Our Reform Movement and our world are bereft, for he cannot be replaced.”

The St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society is currently gathering funds to mark the site of the arrest with a plaque commemorating the actions of Al Vorspan and the sixteen Rabbis. The plaque is scheduled to be dedicated on June 18, the 55th anniversary of the arrest.

Vorspan was the author of many books, well-known to Jewish students who came of age in the turbulent 1960s. Among his best known works are “Justice and Judaism, Searching the Prophets for Values”; “Tough Choices: Jewish Perspectives on Social Justice”; and “Jewish Dimensions of Social Justice: Tough Moral Choices for our Times,” which provides Jewish perspectives and moral



Al Vorspan

policy analysis on issues ranging from abortion to capital punishment and from the Mideast peace process to religious freedom in Israel and the United States.

Albert Vorspan Vorspan was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on February 12, 1924. He fought in the US Navy during World

War Two. His memory inspires many in the St. Augustine to move from the complacency of the past with regard to Civil Rights to action in defense of the integrity of all human beings.

He and his wife, Shirley, were married for 72 years until her death on Aug. 27, 2018.

Louis Farrakhan accuses ‘wicked Jews’ of many things at Nation of Islam’s Saviours’ Day conference

By Marcy Oster

(JTA)—Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan blamed “the wicked Jews” for the crisis over anti-Semitism and the Women’s March.

“The most beautiful sight that I could lay eyes on [was] when I saw, the day after Trump was elected, women from all over the world were standing in solidarity, and a black woman is the initiator of it,” said Farrakhan, referring to Tamika Mallory, a leader of the Women’s March who has lionized Farrakhan and refused to condemn his pervasive anti-Semitism.

“The wicked Jews want to use me to break up the women’s movement,” Farrakhan continued on Sunday during his address at the Nation of Islam’s Saviours’ Day conference in Chicago. “It ain’t about Farrakhan,

it’s about women all over the world (who) have the power to change the world.”

He also praised Mallory’s co-organizers Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian American who has been highly critical of Israel, and Carmen Perez, who reportedly made anti-Semitic comments at Women’s March planning meetings.

Celebrities, activists and community leaders, Jewish and non-Jewish, have distanced themselves from the march and called on the national organizers to step down over claims that they have not done enough to disavow anti-Semitism.

During his four-hour keynote address, Farrakhan returned to anti-Semitic tropes and bashed Israel, saying Jews don’t let blacks use the term “holocaust” to describe the slave trade and he criticized Jews for believing that “the suffering

of six million Jews is worth 7 billion human beings.” He explained that Moses taught the Jews “tricknology,” that the Jewish scholars came up with the Talmud, and that “Talmudic Jews” are culprits who see themselves as gods.

As reported by the Jewish News Service, he claimed that sharecropping and the enslavement of blacks are justified by the Talmud, and that the Jews have exploited the American people through predatory lending practices because the Talmud permits Jews to cheat non-Jews. In addition, Farrakhan said that the Federal Reserve is a “family of rich Jewish people,” and that things such as pedophilia, sexual perversion, rape culture, casting couches, gay marriage, abortion, sex trafficking, prostitution, anal sex and certain sexual practices that he said are common in Hollywood can all be traced

to the Satanic influence of the Talmudic Jews.

He added: “The Talmud [and its] influence on the Supreme Court in the laws of this land must ultimately be challenged.”

There were several thou-

sand people in attendance at the speech, which also was livestreamed.

Farrakhan was preceded by a known Holocaust denier Michael A. Hoffman II, who suggested that ancient Jewish texts are equivalent to

teachings “from the church of Satan,” according to the ADL.

The Saviours’ Day is a Nation of Islam event that commemorates the birth of Wallace Fard Muhammad, the founder of the Nation of Islam.



HEALTHY EYES



WEAR SUNGLASSES

Every day that you’re outside, you’re exposed to dangerous, but invisible, ultraviolet (UV) sunlight. Left unprotected, prolonged exposure to UV radiation can seriously damage the eye, leading to cataracts, skin cancer around the eyelid and other eye disorders. Protecting your eyes is important to maintaining eye health now and in the future.

Shield your eyes (and your family’s eyes) from harmful UV rays. Wear sunglasses with maximum UV protection.

For more information, visit www.thevisioncouncil.org/consumers/sunglasses. A public service message from The Vision Council.

 THE VISION COUNCIL

Why the 'almost' Israeli prime minister never made it

By Jonathan S. Tobin

(JNS)—Last week former Israeli foreign minister Tzipi Livni announced that she was dropping out of politics. Livni came as close to being prime minister as you can get without actually having the job more than once. But only a decade after leading her party to a first-place finish in the 2009 Knesset election, she is finally giving up.

Insiders put her down as a difficult political partner. That's the generally accepted answer to the question of why, after being part of so many coalitions, she was left standing when the music stopped in the game of political musical chairs this year. Yet with a résumé that included a stint in the Mossad and service as a competent minister in charge of various departments, hers was an impressive career.

But the explanation for her rise and fall ought to be of particular interest to American observers. If Livni's political career fizzled, it's because those Israelis who stake their claim to leadership on the basis of support from liberal Americans and an ability to negotiate with Palestinians are always doomed to failure.

Livni was subjected to a lot of abuse for being an inveterate party switcher. She began in the Likud, her family's political home. Her parents were both members of the Etzel (Irgun Zvai Leumi) and her father, Eitan Livni, served three terms in the Knesset for the Likud. He insisted that the symbol of the Irgun (a map of Israel that included the West Bank and Jordan) be engraved on his gravestone.

But his daughter ultimately rejected his belief in Greater Israel and dedicated her career to trying to create a Palestinian state alongside Israel. While she ran for the Knesset for Likud, Kadima, Hatnua and the Zionist Union before finally giving up on another try under the Hatnua banner, instead of being a pure opportunist, she was always looking for a political home that could accommodate her beliefs.

She seemed to be on an unstoppable path to the prime minister's office when she followed then Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert out of the Likud, along with some leaders from the Labor Party into a new centrist party called Kadima. Its goal was to separate the Jewish state from the Palestinians. Their platform centered on the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, an experi-

It was during this period that Livni became America's favorite Israeli, as magazines like Newsweek and Forbes acclaimed her as one of the world's most important women. Livni was the toast of American Jewry, which, for the most part, infinitely preferred what they considered to be her moderation and belief in a two-state solution to Netanyahu's views. Even more to the point, the Obama administration

Party, which was renamed the Zionist Union. Four more years in the opposition ended with Labor leader Avi Gabbay gracelessly dumping Livni without prior warning in a speech while she sat next to him. When polls showed that she would fail to make the Knesset if she ran on her own, Livni gave up and withdrew from politics.

That's quite a fall after reaching so high. But while some commentators focused on how disliked she was by the leaders of the centrist and left-wing parties that she tried in vain to unite this year, the verdict on Livni's career is more of a commentary on the two-state solution than about her personality. Instead of carping about her particular qualities, those assessing her time on the stage need to see her as one more victim of a peace process that destroyed political careers in Israel and also led to greater violence.

Like her or not, Livni sincerely believed Israel's future depended on creating a Palestinian state. If, despite her efforts and those of Obama and his predecessors, it didn't happen, it wasn't because of her flaws or even bad luck. Had the Palestinians been able to accept the peace she offered, she would be in Netanyahu's office preparing for re-election. Instead, her descent into obscurity isn't so much the fault of bad political skills, but of a Palestinian political culture built on hatred that destroys every Israeli who thinks it doesn't matter.

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

"...Livni became America's favorite Israeli, as magazines like Newsweek and Forbes acclaimed her as one of the world's most important women."

ment that ultimately most Israelis judged a failure because it wound up putting Gaza in the hands of Hamas.

When Sharon was felled by a stroke in January 2006, Olmert led Kadima to victory in an election held just two months later. But his incompetent leadership during the Second Lebanon War and corruption charges that eventually sent Olmert to jail marred his prime ministership. As foreign minister, Livni split her time between efforts to force Olmert to resign and a failed attempt to hand almost all of the West Bank, as well as part of Jerusalem, to the Palestinians as part of a two-state deal backed by the George W. Bush administration.

The Palestinians gave the same negative answer to that offer that they gave to previous attempts to make peace. But she was undaunted when, due to an unexpectedly strong showing by the parties to Likud's right, Kadima, with Livni at its head, won the most seats in the 2009 election. But Livni was unable to form a government since the majority of those elected wanted no part of a prime minister whose goal was to keep offering the Palestinians what they'd already rejected.

spent much of 2009 and 2010 ginning up fights with Netanyahu and plotting to either depose him in favor of Livni (as Atlantic editor and Obama whisperer Jeffrey Goldberg reported at the time) or bring her into his cabinet.

The latter actually occurred after Netanyahu's election victory in 2013, when Livni joined his government and was given responsibility for negotiating with the Palestinians. But her failure in that role was primarily due to the Palestinians again refusing to negotiate in good faith, despite the efforts of the United States to skew the talks in their favor.

What followed for her was another political turnabout as Livni joined forces with the Labor

A window of opportunity in Egypt

By Itzhak Levanon

(JNS)—After eight years, the Foreign Ministry's director general decided to keep Israeli embassy staff in Egypt over the weekend instead of returning them home. This was a welcome decision; the staff's permanent presence in Cairo allows it to develop and maintain continuous diplomatic work, as expected of any embassy.

The attack on the embassy by an enraged mob in late 2011 and the staff's consequent hasty withdrawal left Israel without a building for its embassy, with a very minimal team in place, and diplomats who return home to Israel every weekend. As a result, Israel's diplomatic mission in Egypt has taken a hit. This unacceptable reality has persisted, as stated, for eight years. And although the Foreign Ministry's decision is a step in the right direction, the embassy will still only function on a semi-normal basis.

Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Gilad, an authority on Egyptian affairs, says it isn't viable to lean the countries' relations on one leg (security-intelligence), and that two legs are needed to ensure stability. The current Egyptian regime, headed by President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, doesn't hide its good relations with Israel and is fostering a positive atmosphere. This provides a window of opportunity to imple-

ment full-fledged, proper diplomatic relations. The Egyptian parliament's decision to extend El-Sisi's term in office for many more years opens the window even further, allowing the country time to stabilize its relationship on more than just the one leg.

To restore diplomatic relations to pre-2011 normalcy, Israel must quickly find a new building for its embassy and staff, including a consular services department working to encourage mutual tourism and promote Israeli interests in Egypt—precisely as the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv operates. The staff has to be the same size as before, to pursue and strengthen the countries' diplomatic ties.

In the stormy Middle East, close relations between Israel and Egypt are vitally important.

The Foreign Ministry, to be sure, always has to contend with complex challenges across the globe, but Israel's relations with Egypt need to be prioritized.

We must not miss this window of opportunity or squander the current regional climate to re-establish the Israeli presence in Cairo, as it was before 2011. The Israeli-Egypt peace accord includes agreement on fully operational embassies. With El-Sisi firmly in power for a long time to come, we must move forward with determination to bring this to fruition.

Itzhak Levanon is the former Israeli ambassador to Egypt.

Jordanian-Palestinian collaboration against the 'deal'

By Yoni Ben Menachem

(The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs via JNS)—According to senior figures in the Fatah movement, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan have begun cooperation in anticipation of the announcement of the new U.S. peace plan known as the "deal of the century."

This new collaboration is based on understandings reached between Jordan's King Abdullah and Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas in August 2017 after the crisis of the metal detectors that were set up at the gates to the Temple Mount.

King Abdullah, for his part, made a special visit to the Muqata in Ramallah and agreed with Abbas on setting up a joint committee for strategic coordination on the Mount.

The first step was already taken a few days ago and is connected to the Mount. At the behest of King Abdullah, the Jordanian government

The expanded council's first meeting, which was held in the Old City of Jerusalem, saw the participation of senior representatives of the Jordanian Wakf Ministry, who discussed ways to strengthen control of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Who are the P.A.-connected figures who were added to the new council?

The most senior representative is Adnan al-Husseini, who serves officially as the P.A.'s minister for Jerusalem affairs.

Also added to the council were former P.A. Health Minister Dr. Hani al-Abedin and former P.A. Economy Minister Mazen Sonkrut.

Other new members include Khatam Abdel Kader, a senior Fatah figure in Jerusalem and Abbas's adviser for Jerusalem affairs; Dr. Imad Faik Abu Kishk, dean of Al-Quds University and an associate of Jibril Rajoub; and Dr. Mahdi Abdel Hadi, a senior Fatah figure and head of the Passia Institute.

The new Jordanian-Palestinian move is

"Jordan has special status on the mount, and the 1994 peace treaty with Israel makes it the custodian of the Jerusalem holy places."

approved the expansion of the Council of the Islamic Wakf and the Holy Places in Jerusalem from 11 to 18 members.

For the first time, the council, which was manned by pro-Jordanian figures, will include senior figures connected to the Palestinian Authority and Fatah, a move that Jordan has avoided since 1994. Senior elements in Fatah call Jordan's agreement to the measure a "historic change" aimed at enabling joint control of the mount.

Jordan has special status on the mount, and the 1994 peace treaty with Israel makes it the custodian of the Jerusalem holy places.

According to senior Fatah sources, the Jordanians and the Palestinians fear that Trump's Mideast peace plan seeks to transfer responsibility for the Holy Basin in eastern Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount, to joint Arab administration and to give Saudi Arabia a special status at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

To scuttle the move, the first step was taken on Feb. 14: the above-mentioned expansion of the Council of the Islamic Wakf and the Holy Places in Jerusalem. It will now include both Jordanian and Palestinian representatives, thereby establishing facts on the ground and signaling to the United States and Israel that Jordan will not relinquish its special status in Jerusalem and will cooperate with the P.A. in administering the Temple Mount.

Who are the Palestinian figures in the Wakf?

a clear violation of the Oslo Accords, which prohibit P.A. governmental activity in eastern Jerusalem.

Israel can counteract this move, but so far no measures have been taken.

At the end of the month, Trump administration senior adviser Jared Kushner and special envoy Jason Greenblatt are slated to visit several Arab states to promote the economic aspects of the plan, which will be announced after the Israeli elections.

Abbas has already launched contacts to scuttle the new American plan. He rejected the invitation to the Warsaw Summit and went to Saudi Arabia to enlist King Salman's opposition to the "deal of the century" and demand adherence to the 2002 Arab peace initiative.

The Jordanian-Palestinian collaboration on the Temple Mount issue, alongside the establishment by Jordan and the P.A. of the joint Islamic council to administer the Jerusalem holy places, is a move that spells danger for Israel and compromises its sovereignty in Jerusalem. Israel should act against it immediately, before the U.S. administration publicizes its new plan.

Yoni Ben Menachem, a veteran Arab affairs and diplomatic commentator for Israel Radio and Television, is a senior Middle East analyst for the Jerusalem Center. He served as Director General and Chief Editor of the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

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

☆ ☆ ☆ CENTRAL FLORIDA'S INDEPENDENT JEWISH VOICE ☆ ☆ ☆

ISSN 0199-0721 Winner of 46 Press Awards

HERITAGE
FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

HERITAGE Florida Jewish News (ISSN 0199-0721) is published weekly for \$37.95 per year to Florida addresses (\$46.95 for the rest of the U.S.) by HERITAGE Central Florida Jewish News, Inc., 207 O'Brien Road, Suite 101, Fern Park, FL 32730. Periodicals postage paid at Fern Park and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes and other correspondence to: HERITAGE, P.O. Box 300742, Fern Park, FL 32730.

MAILING ADDRESS PHONE NUMBER
P.O. Box 300742 (407) 834-8787
Fern Park, FL 32730 FAX (407) 831-0507
email: news@orlandoheritage.com

Editor/Publisher
Jeffrey Gaeser

Editor Emeritus Associate Editor News Editor
Gene Starn Kim Fischer Christine DeSouza

Society Editor Office Manager
Gloria Yousha Paulette Alfonso

Account Executives
Kim Fischer • Marci Gaeser

Contributing Columnists
Jim Shipley • Mel Pearlman
David Bornstein • Ed Ziegler

Production Department
David Lehman • Gil Dombrosky
Joyce Gore

The Kushner compromise?

By Stephen M. Flatow

(JNS)—The precise details of the forthcoming Trump administration Mideast peace plan are not yet known, but the basic principle was declared by senior adviser and presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner at last week's Warsaw conference.

"Both sides will have to make compromises," he said.

Kushner's statement follows numerous similar statements by American officials, including the president himself. In his Feb. 9, 2017 interview with Israel Hayom, U.S. President Donald Trump said: "I think that both sides will have to make significant compromises in order for achieving a peace deal to be possible."

That was followed by a report in The Jerusalem Post on Feb. 20, 2018, quoting Kushner and the administration's other top Mideast envoy, Jason Greenblatt, saying that "both sides are going to love some of [the plan] and hate some of it."

And then-U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said in a Feb. 22, 2017 speech in Chicago: "The plan won't be loved by either side. And it won't be hated by either side."

Let's take a closer look at what the both-sides-have-to-compromise approach means, both in principle and in practice.

In principle, the idea that Israel should have to make additional "compromises" is outrageously unfair. Since the day the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993, all Israel has done is make "compromises" to appease the Palestinian Authority:

- Israel allowed the creation of an almost-sovereign P.A. regime in 40 percent of Judea-Samaria.

- Israel expelled all Jews from Gaza (and four Jewish communities from Samaria), leading to the establishment of a de facto Hamas state in Gaza.

- Every Israeli government has refrained from authorizing the creation of even a

single new Jewish community in Judea-Samaria (except for a still-planned town to house Jewish refugees from other communities).

- Prime Minister Netanyahu froze all Jewish construction in Judea-Samaria for ten months, and has repeatedly limited Jewish construction in the territories during other periods.

- Israel has refrained from actively challenging the P.A.'s wanton violations of the accords, such as the P.A.'s refusal to disarm, outlaw and extradite terrorists.

In exchange for all these compromises, what has Israel received? Twenty-five years of suicide bombings, rockets and flaming kites. Twenty-five years of firebombing, stonings and lynchings. Twenty-five years of anti-Semitic incitement. An entire generation of young Palestinian Arabs raised to hate and kill Jews. Thus, the Trump-Kushner-Greenblatt demand that Israel should now make additional "compromises" is absurdly unfair.

Now let's consider what more "Israeli compromises" will mean in practical terms.

Right now, the P.A. has total control over the cities in Judea-Samaria that contain 98 percent of the Arab population. Tulkarm is the third largest of those cities; Qalqilya is the fifth largest.

I'm singling those two out because if you look at the map, you see they are located on the far western edge of P.A. territory. They are a little more than nine miles from the Mediterranean Sea. In other words, there are just nine miles of Israel between Tulkarm and the Mediterranean Sea.

Obviously, the P.A. is never going to agree to those cities becoming part of Israel. Tulkarm and Qalqilya will be under Palestinian rule forever. The only question is whether that will be under the current P.A. regime, or in a full-fledged "State of Palestine."

We don't know exactly what "Israeli compromises" the

Trump plan will demand. But they obviously will involve moving closer to a Palestinian state. Because there's nothing else left on which Israel could "compromise." And there's nothing else the P.A. would ever consider. Certainly, Trump and Kushner are not going to put forward a plan if there is zero chance the Palestinians will even consider it.

All of which means that according to simple logic, "Israeli compromises" must involve Israel moving closer to the creation of "Palestine," which will include Tulkarm and Qalqilya, and which therefore would reduce Israel to nine miles wide at its mid-section. That's not even as wide as Washington, D.C., or the Bronx.

A country that size could be cut in two by an enemy army in a matter of minutes. Planes landing at Ben-Gurion Airport would be within range of a terrorist with a shoulder-fired rocket, standing inside the border of the new Palestinian state. And

Israeli mothers strolling with baby carriages in Jerusalem could be targeted by Arab snipers—as they were before June 1967.

Which is why American Jewish and Zionist organizations should not be sitting quietly on their hands, "waiting to see" what exactly the Trump Mideast peace plan will say. All one needs is a little logic and common sense to understand that whatever the details, the essence of Trump's plan will pose a great danger to Israel. We need to speak out now—to stop the plan from being put forward at all—because once it is unveiled, there will be a steamroller of pressure that could be impossible to stop.

Stephen M. Flatow, an attorney in New Jersey, is the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered in an Iranian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist attack in 1995. His book, "A Father's Story: My Fight for Justice Against Iranian Terror," has just been published.

Palestinian 'pay-for-slay' policy will go on, despite Israel's new law

By Ruthie Blum

(JNS) The Israeli security cabinet decided on Sunday to put into effect a law passed in July to deduct half a billion shekels (approximately \$138.2 million) from the annual tax revenues it transfers to the Palestinian Authority each year. The purpose of the legislation—like its precursor, the Taylor Force Act, which was approved by the U.S. Congress in May—is to coerce the P.A. to cease rewarding terrorists with hefty "pay-for-slay" stipends.

Initially, Israeli security officials opposed cutting the funds on the grounds that doing so could endanger security cooperation between Jerusalem and Ramallah, and lead to an escalation of terrorist attacks. But after 19-year-old Ori Ansbacher was

raped and murdered earlier this month by a Palestinian wannabe "martyr for Allah," public pressure on the government to crack down on the P.A. caused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to say that he would begin implementing the law to withhold funds as soon as he received the green light from the security cabinet. Which he finally did.

The P.A. was quick to issue an incensed response.

"The Palestinian Authority views the approval of the decision to deduct funds as a robbery of the Palestinian people's money and as a unilateral violation of the agreements signed between the two sides, such as the Paris agreement," P.A. chairman Mahmoud Abbas's spokesman Abu Rudaina said in a statement. "This decision will have

dangerous consequences on all levels."

Rudaina was referring to the 1994 Protocol on Economic Relations, part of the Oslo Accords, a peace treaty that the Palestinians have used since then as an excuse to wage war.

Inverting reality by accusing Israel of violating agreements is par for the Palestinian course, so the P.A.'s current outrage at being told to stop remunerating Jew-killers was to be expected. It is ironic, however, that Abbas himself not only acknowledges paying terrorists for their service, but boasts about it.

In fact, when Israel passed the bill in July to withhold P.A. funds, Abbas announced: "Even if we have only a penny left, we will give it to the martyrs, the prisoners and their families. We view the prison-

ers and the martyrs as planets and stars in the skies of the Palestinian struggle, and they have priority in everything."

According to a report on Monday by Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), which first revealed the exorbitant sums that the P.A. spends annually on terrorist prisoners, released prisoners and families of dead terrorists, Abbas reiterated this message in October, declaring: "I say this to everyone—the salaries of our Martyrs, prisoners, and wounded are a red line. They [Israel] try by all means, and exert pressure by all means, and they continue to exert: 'It cannot be that you will pay.' And they'll even deduct our money that's in their hands. They'll deduct from it the amount that we pay to the Martyrs. We have said that this is a red line and we will

not allow [it]. From 1965 until now, this matter is sacred to us. The Martyrs and their families are sacred, [and so are] the wounded and the prisoners. We must pay all of them. If one penny remains in our hands it is for them and not for the living."

As if this weren't proof enough that the P.A. leader and his henchmen consider death of both Israelis and the terrorists who murder them more valuable than the lives of his people, Abbas conveyed an official message last week, through his civil affairs minister, that if Israel "deducts even one penny" from the tax revenues, he will refuse to receive any money at all.

Though this might sound like a peculiar, even childish, form of cutting off his nose to spite his face, it is actually a calculated move with two aims.

The first is to show the Palestinians that he is just as tough as his rival terrorist counterparts in Hamas when it comes to annihilating the Jewish state. The second is to arouse international condemnation of Israel for the financial plight of the Palestinian populace. Sadly, he is likely to have greater success with the latter than the former.

Even more distressing is the fact that, with or without the funds to keep P.A. civil society afloat, the terrorists will continue to be in clover. It is a no-win situation both for Israel and any Palestinian who would prefer to earn a living than die in order to do so.

Ruthie Blum is an Israel-based journalist and author of "To Hell in a Handbasket: Carter, Obama, and the Arab Spring."

Anti-Semitism draped in 'yellow vests'

By Meyer Habib

(JNS)—These are dark days for France... days that are giving rise to questions about the future of its Jews.

For months, we have witnessed the "yellow vests" popular protests. The demonstrations, which began because of justified claims against the government, are becoming more radical from day-to-day, and sadly, along with the calls against the establishment and for social justice, we are hearing shouts we never thought we would hear in the streets of Paris in 2019. Some of the "yellow vests" protests are based on myths and stories that wouldn't shame The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

And not a week goes by in which French President Emmanuel Macron's former work with the Rothschild Bank isn't mentioned, hinting at links between wealth, power and the Jews.

According to a recent poll, almost half of the yellow vest activists believe in an international Zionist conspiracy. I am calling on the movement to take a look at itself and clean house.

The abduction and murder of the late Ilan Halimi, the attacks in Toulouse and at the Hyper Cacher supermarket, the murder of Sarah Halimi, who was thrown out of the window of her Paris apartment, and Mireille Knoll, who was burned to death in her home: we are becoming used to shouts, attacks and violence. They have become routine.

Universities are seeing more and more anti-Semitic threats and graffiti. On the Internet, we are witnessing a tsunami of hatred. Just as an example, I receive dozens of death threats on a daily basis. I file complaints with the police, as is my civil duty, but without results. Is it

reasonable for a member of parliament to need security just because he's a Jew?

The numbers are astonishing. Figures indicate a 74 percent rise in anti-Semitic incidents in 2018 after a 26 percent rise in 2017.

Seventy-five years after the Holocaust, not much has changed. The only thing that is different is the existence of Israel—a true defense for all Jews in the Diaspora and a life-insurance policy.

As a member of the French parliament and a Jew, I am worried mainly for France itself. Too many are unwilling to call a spade a spade when they talk about anti-Zionism. It doesn't matter if it's the left or the extreme right—hatred of Israel has become a calling card for those who hate Jews. The hypocrisy reaches new heights when we hear far-left parties defending the recent anti-Semitic incidents. These are the same parties that

advocate boycotts of Israel and laud terrorists in street demonstrations.

All this is happening as France boycotts the Warsaw summit, which is effectively a meeting about countering Iran.

Where is the logic? How

can we roll out the red carpet for a regime that espouses hatred of Jews and hatred of Israel, while at the same time condemning anti-Semitism at home? Our leaders are right to worry about the rise in anti-Semitism, but paradoxically, they are trying

at all costs to normalize our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a jihadist regime that unceasingly calls to "wipe Israel off the map" and seeks to perpetrate a second Holocaust.

Meyer Habib is a French parliamentarian.



What's Happening

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES AT
MARCH 1
6:07 p.m.
MARCH 8
6:11 p.m.

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

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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.
 "The Samuel Project"—Opening at Regal Pointe Orlando 20, Regal Oviedo Mall 22 and Regal Pavilion 14. See theater listings for times at <https://thesamuelprojectmovie.com/home>.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Torah Portion—Vayakhel: Exodus 35:1-38:20; Haftarah, Kings II 11:17-12:17.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

COS Seniors—Special meeting, 2 p.m. at Congregation Ohev Shalom. Complimentary nosh. Admission \$5 for COS Seniors; \$8 nonmembers. Entertainment by Peter Charles.
 Kinneret Council on Aging—8 Over 80 Dinner in Delaney Dining Room. Info: 407-425-4537, ext. 211.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

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, MARCH 5

Rohr Jewish Learning Institute—Six-session course on "Crime and Consequences," at Nate's Shul, 1701 Markham Woods Rd, Longwood, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. 407-636-5994.
 Chabad of Altamonte Springs, at 414 Spring Valley Lane, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m., 407-280-0535
 Chabad Center of Jewish Life, at 7347 W. Sand Lake Rd, Orlando, 7 p.m.—8:30 p.m., 407-354-3660.
 Visit www.myjli.com for registration and information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Rohr Jewish Learning Institute—Six-session course on "Crime and Consequences," at Nate's Shul, 1701 Markham Woods Rd, Longwood, 11 a.m., 407-636-5994.

"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*.

What are you missing out on?... Subscribe today!

YES! I want to be informed. Start my subscription at once.

Please: enter extend my subscription for:

- 1 year at \$37.95 52 issues
- 2 years at \$69.95 104 issues
- 1 year out-of-state at \$46.95 or 2 years out-of-state at \$87.95

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

  # _____

expiration date _____

Fill out coupon and mail, with check or credit card information to:

HERITAGE Florida Jewish News
 P.O. Box 300742
 Fern Park, FL 32730

(407) 834-8787

If different from above, fill in your:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Chabad of Orlando, 708 Lake Howell Road, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m., 407-644-2500.
 Visit www.myjli.com for registration and information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

AIPAC Pre-policy meeting—For those attending the AIPAC Conference and plan to lobby. 7 p.m. at the Roth Family JCC..

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Ahavas Yisrael—Kabbalat, 30 minutes before sundown.

Congregation Beth Sholom March schedule

Celebrate Shabbat on Friday, March 8 with the synagogue that feels like family. Our Shabbat evening service led by Rabbi and Cantor Karen Allen starts at 7pm. Socialize with our members and enjoy refreshments at the Oneg Shabbat following the service.

The Rabbi's Roundtable Discussion Group on Thursday, March 14 at 11 a.m. with Rabbi and Cantor Karen Allen of Congregation Beth Sholom, will be held inside the library at the Sumter County Administration and Library Building (with the golden dome) at 7375 Powell Rd. (near Pinellas Plaza and

466A), Wildwood. The Rabbi's Roundtable series explores the current Torah Portion and how it affects our daily lives. The roundtable provides a unique opportunity to talk with the rabbi as she leads an informal and interactive discussion focusing on topics of contemporary Jewish interest.

Shabbat Morning Service on Saturday, March 23 at 10 a.m. is led by Rabbi and Cantor Karen Allen. Socialize with our members and enjoy refreshments at the Kiddush following the service.

Celebrate Passover with Congregation Beth Sholom.

The public is invited to attend our second night Seder, led by Rabbi and Cantor Karen Allen, on Saturday, April 20th. A traditional Kosher Seder dinner will be served. The reservation form is available on our website: <http://bethsholomflorida.org> For more information call Burt Kraft at 352-513-3517.

The synagogue is located at 315 North 13th St. in Leesburg, with the entrance on Center Street. More information is available on the synagogue website: <http://bethsholomflorida.org/> or by calling the synagogue at 352-326-3692.

Quote of the Week

"There is only one case in the world of a refugee problem that has lasted over 70 years so far. And there is only one case in the world where the sons and grandsons of a refugee automatically are recognized as a refugee, even if he is a Jordanian citizen."

—Uri Akavia, a researcher at *Kohelet Policy Forum*

"City Sounds" by Yoni Glatt

Difficulty Level: Easy
 koshercrosswords@gmail.com

Across

1. They can get chapped
5. Part of a staircase
9. He was known as Barry once
14. Athletic footwear brand
15. Power for Trump
16. Boss of a 46-Down
17. Australia city celebrating the birth of comic legend Brooks?
19. There are two this year
20. Yeast is often used for it
21. It involves multiplication
23. End in ____
24. Some spam senders
26. Take it to a higher court
28. American city featuring an update on Noah's work?
31. "Real American hero" toy
33. Words after "who" or "where"
34. Their alignment might be seen as a sign
36. Mississippi foursome?
40. CD, e.g.
42. Neshama city?
44. Something studied for
45. First line, often
47. Bit of Torah
49. Top of the minors
50. Biden's 2008 counterpart
52. Middle East city that sounds more like a port named after a Megillah woman?
54. Not meat or dairy
57. Israeli site (ironically) used by Rashida Tlaib
58. Where LeBron took his talents, once
59. Controversial Ilhan
62. Something to take at a dinner?
66. "What was ____ wanted?"
68. Great Britain city phonetically named after a locale in Bereishit?
70. Comes down in flakes
71. "Big ____" (comic strip character)
72. Currency used by many nations
73. Barbera's animation partner
74. Like some gray hair
75. ____ Torah (Bible talk)

Down

1. Passover animal
2. 2011 Best New Artist Grammy winner Bon
3. Heap
4. "Cool", in Israel
5. "Law & Order" div.
6. Conditions
7. The most popular volcano in crosswords
8. 27-Down was one
9. South American tuber
10. Hungarian city named after an irritating idol figure?
11. Diminish
12. She sang "My Favorite Things"
13. Adams of photography fame
18. Air spray targets
22. Leon Uris novel, with "The"
25. B'way booth in Times Square
27. His work often contained his name?
28. Zilch
29. Give forth, as light
30. Like many a rabbi
31. Possible response to a

- dad joke
32. "This ____" (hit drama)
35. Jewish frat
37. Use a grill, perhaps
38. He liked lentil soup
39. Runs, hits or errors, for short
41. South African city named after Stan Lee?
43. Garage job
46. Dallas player, for short
48. Dish on a skewer
51. DiCaprio, to fans
53. Gave out
54. Band known for its lengthy jams
55. Insurance giant
56. Synthetic shirt fabric
57. Make like Rowling
60. Fix up
61. "____ at the Races" (Marx Brothers film)
63. String surrounding some Jewish communities
64. Site of the Taj Mahal
65. Odin's son
67. Can. neighbor
69. Ryerson of "Groundhog Day"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
17				18				19					
20					21			22		23			
			24		25			26		27			
28	29	30				31	32						
33				34		35		36		37	38	39	
40			41		42			43		44			
45				46		47			48		49		
				50		51			52		53		
54	55	56					57						
58					59	60	61		62		63	64	65
66				67		68			69				
70						71				72			
73							74					75	

See answers on page 14A.

JNF shares in the inclusion of those with special needs in Israel



Roz Fuchs and Thad Seymour, Jr., holding their Tree of Life awards

By Christine DeSouza

If you thought that the Jewish National Fund only planted trees, you are way behind the times. JNF was founded in 1901 to buy and develop land for Jewish settlements well before Israel became a nation in 1948. By 2007 it owned 13 percent of the total land in Israel and the nonprofit has planted over 240 million trees.

Now JNF is invested in many other ways to support the land and the people of Israel through water solutions, research and development, education and most recently, becoming a key partner in making Israel more inclusive for adults and children with disabilities.

Every year, the JNF Orlando chapter chooses two community members to receive the Tree of Life Award. This year, Rabbi Aaron Rubinger eloquently introduced honoree Roz Fuchs, who is truly dedicated to the Central Florida Jewish community. Following her acceptance speech, Tree of Life Award Gala co-chairman Joshua Brown began his introduction of honoree Thad Seymour, Jr. by saying that when it comes to

giving a speech “Don’t ever follow Rabbi Rubinger or Roz Fuchs.” The room burst into laughter. Seymour, who is vice president for Partnerships and chief innovation officer at UCF, didn’t skip a beat as he took the mic. “I want to thank JNF for giving me the last half hour to talk,” he joked.

The keynote speaker at the JNF Tree of Life Award Gala this year was Major General Doron Almog, founder of ALEH-Negev, a rehabilitative center in the Negev that will be home to over 200 adults with disabilities and serve 12,000 children with disabilities—the special needs kids.

In his talk, Almog shared that one important “law” woven into the hearts of IDF soldiers is to never leave anyone behind. He knows this well. While in the IDF, he commanded the first force to land in Entebbe airport to rescue 106 Israeli hostages right out from under the Ugandan armed forces’ noses. “I was the first soldier to land, and the last to leave,” he stated.

Of the 106 hostages held, 102 were rescued alive. Three died in the mission and one died later in the hospital.

Only one Israeli commander was killed—Lt. Col. Yonatan Netanyahu. They all returned to Israel.

Almog shared with the gala attendees, which filled Congregation Ohev Shalom’s sanctuary, that he lost his brother at age 22 during the Yom Kippur War. Later he learned that his brother had been thrown from his burning tank, yet lived seven days alone by the tank. He had been left behind and when he was found, he was already dead.

This burned in Almog’s soul. He learned that not only should you not leave any soldier behind, never leave the weakest behind. He was referring to someone very close to him—his son. In 1984 his child was born with brain damage. At 8 months of age he was diagnosed with autism/retardation (the doctor’s words).

“How do you continue when your child won’t be successful?” Almog asked. But this child, who has never said Abba or Ema taught Almog about values—love, never to discriminate but to break down the stigma and shame.

“They are blood from our blood. An integral part of our people,” Almog said in his soft, strong voice.

Almost as if his son was speaking to him, Almog shared his son’s thoughts: “I’m a hostage every single day of my life. You saved 106 from being hostages for one week.”

He continued, “They are the mirror of ourselves. So, we are for the disabled and must establish the best standard of living for them. We will never forget our disabled.”

The evening’s honorees, Fuchs and Seymour, are people of action, and just like them, Almog’s words became actions. In 2003, Almog founded ALEH-Negev. He does not take a paycheck. Half of the money for the facility comes from the government, the other half from donations, of which JNF has contributed \$23 million. In addition to a full staff of professionals, there are more than 200 volunteers at ALEH-Negev who help care for more than 750 children with disabilities and medical conditions. They receive medical, educational and rehabilitative care in ALEH’s four residential facilities, lo-



Marc Smith, JNF Orlando Board of Directors, moderates a conversation with Major General Doron Almog.

cated on 25 acres in southern Israel. ALEH also provides rehabilitation for soldiers and more than 45,000 outpatient treatments yearly.

Almog encouraged the au-

dience to send their children and grandchildren to volunteer at Aleh-Negev when they come to Israel. “It will make them better people,” he said. “This is not just about raising

dollars. It is about creating a better society.”

To learn more about ALEH-Negev, visit <http://aleh.org> To learn more about JNF, visit www.jnf.org.



MARK LANG & ASSOCIATES

IRONMAN | ADVOCATE | LANGLAW.NET | Offices: Winter Park



DeGusipe
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

Jewish Graveside Package:

- Service of Funeral Director and Staff
- Sacred Burial Shroud
- Filing all Necessary Paperwork
- \$200.00 to Chevra Kaddish Society donation for washing
- Traditional Jewish Flat Top Pine Casket
- Staff Supervision of Service at Graveside
- Transportation to Cemetery

\$4595.00



Call us to receive your free Final Wishes Organizer!

407-695-CARE (2273)

[www. DeGusipeFuneralHome.com](http://www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com)

Maitland	Sanford	West Orange
9001 N. Orlando Avenue Maitland, FL 32751	905 Laurel Avenue Sanford, FL 32771	1400 Matthew Paris Blvd Ocoee, FL 34761

THE WELLESLEY PENTHOUSE | COLLEGE PARK
3 BR | 2.5 BA | 2,399 SF

3 LOTS ON ANZLE DRIVE | WINTER PARK
PRICED INDIVIDUALLY OR IN COMBINATION, TOTALING 17,545 SF

KELLY PRICE & COMPANY

243 West Park Avenue
Winter Park, Florida 32789
www.KellyPriceandCompany.com

LOU SUOWITZ, GKC
REALTOR

DIRECT: 407.415.0338
OFFICE: 407.645.4321

Connecting with others as a Jewish Pavilion volunteer

By Lisa Levine

As I-4 traffic became aggravatingly slow on a recent late Friday afternoon, Michelle Bilsky arrived at Cascade Heights Senior Living in Longwood a little breathless from her rush to make it on time from her job downtown at the Lutheran Towers senior complex to the 4 p.m. Jewish Pavilion Shabbat service. She and her husband, Wayne, who live nearby, leave their jobs early one Friday a month and meet at Cascade Heights to lead the service, which is offered weekly with different leaders.

"Good Shabbos, everyone! Nice to see you all again," she said as she began the service with "Shalom Aleichem," the traditional song to welcome the ministering angels of Shabbat before the formal Friday night prayers. The residents in attendance, some with family members in tow, joined in with gusto.

Bilsky has been leading at Cascade Heights (formerly Brookdale Island Lake and also Chambrel) for about 4

years, at first intermittently, then monthly for the last 2 years, with Wayne joining her for at least the last year. But her association with the Jewish Pavilion began long ago and has evolved in many ways.

A native New Yorker, Bilsky moved to Orlando in 1987 as a transfer student at the University of Central Florida. She moved to South Florida for a job in 2000 but returned and settled in the Markham Woods area of Longwood in 2005, with her oldest daughter about to become a bat mitzvah. They joined Temple Israel, which was then located near their home, and their search for a mitzvah project led them to connect with the Jewish Pavilion. Bilsky began driving her daughter around to deliver challah for the Pavilion and continued with her second daughter's mitzvah project.

Bilsky's search for a part-time job while the family was getting settled also connected her with the Jewish Pavilion, as she worked for a short time in the office as a bookkeeper

and clerical staff member in the early days when the organization was led by Arlene Van de Rijn and housed in the Altamonte Springs offices of co-founder Julian Meitin.

As the Cascade Heights service continued, Bilsky invited a resident to lead an English prayer for the congregation and another to lead a prayer for Israel. One resident read a poetic homily, "I Will Never Be Lost," by Abraham Joshua Heschel. After weekly Jewish Pavilion volunteer Shirley Schoenberger led her customary "Bim Bom" to close the service, Bilsky walked among the tables and chatted with everyone as baked goods were passed around.

"They really are like family," Bilsky said of her friends at Cascade Heights. "My grandmother passed away, and my aunt, over the last couple of years, and the residents are just so wonderful. They're so supportive." For her, the monthly Shabbat programs are a fulfilling way to unwind after a sometimes stressful week. "Just everything goes away," she explained. "I get as much, if not more, out of it than they do."

She and her husband sometimes bring their grandson, Caleb, with them, beginning when he was just a baby. The residents have seen him grow into a toddler of 4 and will continue to see him as he grows up. Their four children, ages 20 to 26, have been joining in to help at holiday and other programs for years as well.

Recently, Bilsky began



Michelle Bilsky serves her homemade challah to Jenny, a resident of The Commons at the Lutheran Towers downtown.

leading the monthly Shabbat programs at Lutheran Towers, where she has worked as director of human resources since February 2018. At that time, Jewish Pavilion program director Walter Goldstein led them. "I would go and listen to Walter sing. He's wonderful and so uplifting," said Bilsky. "When he got sick [late last summer], I just kind of slipped in there and said, 'OK, let's just keep going.'"

A handful of Jewish residents gathered there for a Shabbat lunch of pastrami and latkes on a recent Friday, with Bilsky bringing freshly baked challah from her home, a feathery-light recipe learned

from her grandmother that she makes each week and that the residents very much look forward to. Sandy, who lives in the independent living building with her husband, Dick, appreciates the opportunity to share a Shabbat meal with other Jews. "It's so nice because I don't have family here," she said.

As at the Cascades Heights program, Bilsky began the short service with "Shalom Aleichem," singing with her eyes locked with those of a nursing home resident named Jenny. Bilsky has strongly bonded with the 103-year-old Jenny, who grins broadly and nods her

head in time as she joins in the ancient song, her eyes alight. Jenny has not been well recently and her hearing has been affected. "When she can hear and she's comfortable, she tells us stories about how she grew up," said Bilsky. They share a connection of heritage, as Bilsky's paternal great-grandparents emigrated to the U.S. from Romania at around the same time as Jenny did.

It's such connections that Bilsky has made through the Jewish Pavilion that have meant the most to her. "It's just the people that you meet," she said. "That's really been a blessing for me."

Kraft prostitute scandal is another PR headache

By Josefina Dolsten

(JTA)—With the announcement last month that it had picked Robert Kraft as its 2019 laureate, the Genesis Prize seemed poised for a calmer year.

Last year the foundation that awards the "Jewish Nobel," as it's called, picked actress and director Natalie Portman as an example of someone who provides "inspiration to the next generation of Jews through their outstanding professional achievement along with their commitment to Jewish values and the Jewish people."

The selection backfired, however, when Portman refused to attend the prize ceremony in Israel because of her objections to the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu would have handed out the prize, which is given jointly by the Prime Minister's Office, The Genesis Prize Foundation and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Portman was able to keep the honor, but the \$1 million in prize money, which recipients are expected to donate to causes of their choice, was distributed instead by the foundation to women's empowerment programs of their choosing.

Meanwhile, the year before, the prize ceremony was canceled after the 2017 winner, artist Sir Anish Kapoor, said it would be "inappropriate to hold a festive ceremony" in Jerusalem with the civil war in Syria raging so close by.

For this year's selection, Kraft seemed like a safer

choice when the foundation announced its choice last month.

The New England Patriots owner, who with a net worth of \$6.6 billion is the 79th richest American, according to Forbes, is a generous giver to Jewish causes. The 77-year-old businessman is close with Netanyahu, having attended the prime minister's 2015 speech to a joint session of Congress about his opposition to a nuclear deal with Iran. Kraft is close, too, with President Donald Trump, who in turn has forged a strong working relationship with Netanyahu.

Kraft had previously launched the Israeli Football League and the Passport to Israel program, which provides subsidies for students in the Boston area to travel to Israel. He and his late wife, Myra, would often take Patriots players to Israel in the offseason.

The Genesis Prize Foundation said at the time that Kraft was given the award for having "spoken out publicly and donated generously to organizations combating prejudices, including anti-Semitism and the de-legitimization of the State of Israel," and that he would be giving the money to initiatives fighting anti-Semitism, prejudice and attempts to delegitimize Israel.

But things again didn't go as the foundation wished. On Friday came news that Kraft is being charged with soliciting a prostitute in Florida, one of about 100 men charged in a human trafficking investigation in Martin County. The charges concern visits by Kraft to the Orchids of Asia Day Spa in the city of

Jupiter, near where he keeps a home. Jupiter Police Chief Daniel Kerr told WPTV that there is video evidence of all the men who are being charged.

A spokesperson for Kraft denied the allegations.

"We categorically deny that Mr. Kraft engaged in any illegal activity. Because it is a judicial matter, we will not be commenting further," the representative said in a statement issued to media outlets.

It was not immediately clear what would happen to this year's award or the prize ceremony, which is scheduled for June. The investigation involves a number of massage parlors in Florida that, according to law enforcement, were used for prostitution and human trafficking. Although Kerr said there is video evidence of Kraft patronizing a massage parlor on two occasions, the legal machinery could grind on for months.

As of Friday afternoon, a photograph of Kraft and congratulations to him and the New England Patriots on their sixth Super Bowl win earlier this month was still the main image on the Genesis Prize Foundation home page.

The Genesis Prize Foundation did not return requests for comment by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The Genesis Prize was founded in 2013 by a team that included three Russian-Jewish businessmen—Mikhail Fridman, Petr Aven and German Khan. Past recipients include former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, violinist Yitzhak Perlman and actor Michael Douglas.

Elegant Printing

Custom Printing
Digital & Offset Printing
Direct Mail Services
Envelopes

Invitations & Announcements
Brochures & Booklets
Forms & Letterheads
Business Cards

407-767-7110

205 North Street • Longwood, FL 32750
www.elegantprinting.net
Bring in this ad and receive 18% Discount

Portable Oxygen For The Way You Want to Live

JUST 2.8 LBS.

FREE INFO KIT!

Includes Everything You Need to Regain Your Freedom

At just 2.8* lbs, the Inogen One G4 is the ultralight portable oxygen concentrator you have been waiting for. The Inogen One G4 is approximately half the size of the Inogen One G3.

Meets FAA Requirements for Travel

inogen

DESIGNED & ASSEMBLED IN THE USA

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

REQUEST YOUR FREE INFO KIT TODAY!
CALL TODAY! 1-855-401-5781

*With a single battery. © 2019 Inogen, Inc. All rights reserved.



Scene Around

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

Tunnel Anyone?...

When I was a kid growing up in Brooklyn, New York, if a gate (or a wall) was around a school playground, locked on weekends and too high to climb over, we dug under... not quite a tunnel but enough to get through.

(Just saying)

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation ...

"A Jewish Telegraph Agency article highlighting data recently released by the FBI noted that hate crimes against Jews in America rose by more than a third in 2017 and accounted for 58 percent of all religion-based hate crimes.

The FBI report covered jurisdictions in 49 states and the District of Columbia. The data showed that overall, hate crimes increased by 17 percent in 2017, with a total of 7,175 hate crimes reported, up from 6,121 in 2016. It noted that some of the increase over the previous year may be attributed to the fact that there was a 6 percent increase in police departments reporting their hate crimes data to the FBI.

The number of hate crimes based on religion is the second highest ever, behind only 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. The report noted a 23 percent increase in religion-based hate crime in 2017 to 1,564, representing about 20 percent of all hate crimes.

There was a total of 938 hate crimes committed against Jews in 2017, up from 684 in 2016.

In addition, some 58 percent of all hate crimes in 2017 were based on race, including 28 percent against African-Americans. There was also a 5 percent rise in crimes directed against LGBT individuals.

More than 4,000 crimes in 2017 were against people, including threats, intimidation, assault and murder. More than 3,000 were crimes against property, such as vandalism, robbery, and arson."

(I am heartsick to learn this.)

Remembering Jewish history...

On Feb. 11, 1986, NATAN SHARANSKY arrived in Israel. The former Soviet Refusnik, Israeli politician, author and human rights activist was arrested in 1977 and convicted of treason and spying for the United States. He was sentenced to thirteen years imprisonment in a Siberian forced labor camp.



Natan Sharansky

A campaign for his release waged by his wife, AVITAL, and intense diplomatic efforts and public outcries were unsuccessful until 1986, when Sharansky was released as part of an East-West prisoner exchange. Sharansky became the first political prisoner ever released by Mikhail Gorbachev.

A reminder...

On Sunday, March 3, the COS Seniors will hold their next special meeting in the Congregation Ohev Shalom Synagogue, 613 Concourse Parkway South, Maitland, beginning at 2 p.m.

There will be a complimentary nosh for all who attend.

Admission is \$5, COS Seniors; \$8, nonmembers. Everyone is welcome.

Following the nosh, there will be a special entertainment program featuring PETER CHARLES.

Peter is a talented singer, guitarist and one-man band. He plays the "good" music... none of that Rap (spelled with a silent C), and also does vocal impressions. He's not to be missed!

A Jewish Pavilion Mensch...

Kudos to BARRY RUBENSTEIN, also known as Uncle Barry. As a Jewish Pavilion volunteer, Barry visits several elder care communities. He is especially friendly with BILL FRIGIN at Brookdale Lake Orienta. When Barry goes to Brookdale for their monthly Shabbat service, he visits Bill's room and takes his dog, Sphinxee, for a walk. Recently, Barry received a thank you note in the mail from his favorite canine.

"To Uncle Barry
I appreciate letting me take you for a walk."
Love, Sphinxee
(Dogs are soooo smart...and funny!)

A Shout-Out...

Speaking of dogs, my dog CHLOE has a fabulous doctor, Dr. CHANTAL JONES, of the McAbee Veterinary Hospital in Winter Park.

Dr. Jones is loving, caring and on the ball when it comes to diagnosing and treating the precious animals in her care.

She's so good in fact, I WANT HER TO BE MY DOCTOR!
(Woof!)

Another reminder...

The Roth Family JCC, Maitland, is holding a "Party of 8" dinner experience for young adults on Saturday, March 2, from 7:30-11 p.m.

It's a way to meet other young adults with The Tribe's Party of 8, and experience some of Orlando's best restaurants. You will be matched with 7 other young adults (or 3 other couples). Just send your details on your dinner reservation. Then show up! (Att: Robby: Can I be considered a "young adult"?)

One for the road...

My cousin Moishe owned one of the biggest and fastest-growing businesses in Miami, a furniture store. I convinced him that he needed to take a trip to Italy to check out the merchandise himself and because he was still single, he could check out all the hot Italian women, and maybe get lucky. As Moishe was checking into a hotel, he struck up an acquaintance with a beautiful young lady. She only spoke Italian and he only spoke English, so neither understood a word the other spoke. He took out a pencil and a notebook and drew a picture of a taxi. She smiled, nodded her head and they went for a ride in the park. Later, he drew a picture of a table in a restaurant with a question mark and she nodded, so they went to dinner. After dinner he sketched two dancers and she was delighted. They went to several nightclubs, drank champagne, danced and had a glorious evening. It had gotten quite late when she motioned for the pencil and drew a picture of a four-poster bed. Moishe was dumbfounded, and to this day remarks to me that he's never been able to understand how she knew he was in the furniture business.

(He must have been clueless.)



Dr. Chantal Jones

HERITAGE FLORIDA JEWISH NEWS

can be purchased at the following locations:

ORANGE COUNTY

JCC, 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland • JCC South, 11184 South Apopka-Vineland Rd., Orlando • Kinneret, 515 South Delaney Ave., Orlando • SOJC, 11200 S. Apopka Vineland Rd., Orlando • Brown's New York Deli, 156 Lake Ave., Maitland • Most Publix Supermarkets • All Winn Dixie Supermarkets

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Heritage News, 207 O'Brien Rd., Fern Park • Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 451 E. Altamonte Dr. Suite 2317, Altamonte Springs & 1260 Oviedo Marketplace Blvd., Oviedo • Bagel King, 1472 Semoran Blvd., Casselberry • Kosher Kats, 744 W. S.R. 434, Longwood • Central Florida Hillel, 4250 Alafaya Trail, Ste. 212-363, Oviedo Most Publix Supermarkets • All Winn Dixie Supermarkets

VOLUSIA COUNTY

Federation of Volusia/Flagler, 470 Andalusia Ave., Ormond Beach • Most Publix Supermarkets • All Winn Dixie Supermarkets • Barnes & Noble, 1900 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach • Perrys Ocean Edge Resort, 2209 South Atlantic Ave. Daytona Beach • Debary City Hall • Debary Library • Vienna Coffee House, 275 Charles Richard Beall Bl • Starbucks, 2575 Enterprise Rd • Orange City City Hall • Orange City Library • Dunkin Donuts, 1296 S Woodland • Stetson University Carlton Union • Deland Chamber of Commerce • Sterling House, 1210 Stone St • Temple Israel, 1001 E New York Ave • Beth Shalom, 1310 Maximillan St • Deltona City Hall • Deltona Library • Temple Shalom, 1785 Elkam Dr. • Temple Israel, 1001 E New York Ave, Deland • College Arms Apt, 101 Amelia Ave, Deland • Boston Gourmet Coffee House, 109 E. New York Ave, Deland • Stetson University Carlton Union, 421 N Woodland Ave, Deland • Family Bookstore, 1301 N Woodland Ave, Deland • Deland Chamber of Commerce, 336 Woodland Ave, Deland • Deland City Hall, 120 S Florida Ave, Deland • Beth Shalom, 206 S. Sprng Garden Ave, Deland • Orange City Library, 148 Albertus Way, Orange City • Boston Gourmet Coffee House, 1105 Saxon Blvd, Deltona • Deltona Library, 2150 Eustace Ave, Deltona • Temple Shalom, 1785 Elkam Dr., Deltona • Deltona Community Center, 980 Lakeshore Dr, Deltona • Debary City Hall, 16 Colomba Rd, Debary • Debary Library, 200 Florence K. Little, Debary

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Cindy M. Rothfield, P.A., 822 W. Bryan St., Kissimmee • Most Publix Supermarkets • Verandah Place Realty, 504 Celebration Ave., Celebration • All Winn Dixie Supermarkets • St. Cloud City Hall, 1300 9th St, St. Cloud • St. Cloud Library, 810 13th St, St. Cloud • Southern Oaks, 3865 Old Canoe Creek Rd, St. Cloud • Plantation Bay, 4641 Old Canoe Creek Rd, St. Cloud • Osceola Chamber of Commerce, 1425 Hwy 192, St. Cloud • Valencia College, 1800 Denn John Ln, Kissimmee • Kissimmee City Hall, 101 Church St, Kissimmee • Kissimmee Library, 211 E. Dakin, Kissimmee • Robinson's Coffee Shop, 114 Broadway, Kissimmee • Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Sq, Kissimmee • Barnies, 3236 John Young Pwy, Kissimmee • Reily's Gourmet Coffee, 3831 Vine St, Kissimmee • Shalom Aleichem, 3501 Oak Pointe Blvd, Kissimmee • Books-A-Million, 2605 W. Osceola Pwy (522), Kissimmee • Lower East Side Deli, 8548 Palm Parkway, Lake Buena

Sudoku (see page 14A for solution)

SUDOKU

The support you need to find quality
SENIOR LIVING SOLUTIONS

A Place for Mom has helped over one million families find senior living solutions that meet their unique needs.

There's no cost to you!

CALL (855) 439-6734

! We're paid by our partner communities



6					4	5	
	7		3		4		1
				5		7	6
					8	4	
7							3
	9	2					
9	6			4			
2			1		9		8
	3	4					7

© StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



Maitland Chamber donates to Jewish Pavilion

Congratulation to Kevin Stewart, chairman of the Maitland Chamber Health Expo on his successful event. A portion of the proceeds were generously donated to the Jewish Pavilion for their support of seniors in elder-care communities.

Pictured are board members of the Maitland Chamber of Commerce presenting a check for \$950 to Nancy Ludin, CEO of the Jewish Pavilion

Shown here (l-r): Micheleen Raines, Patti Gutter, Mary Penn, Nancy Ludin, Kevin Stewart, Brian Weber and Scott Hall.

'Berrie' exciting! A story based on Israel's launching a spacecraft to the moon

By Noa Amouyal

(JNS)—What do you get when you toss in a bit of "Toy Story," "The Little Engine That Could" and "The Magic School Bus" book series? An optimistic (and very blue) "Berrie," a spacecraft with her eyes set on reaching the moon.

But "Berrie" has the odds stacked against her. As far as spacecrafts go, she's pretty small and can't pack the energy punch necessary to launch her into orbit. But she has come up with many innovative ways to compensate for it—strategic collaborations, solar panels, tracking devices and compact jet fuel tanks to get her where she needs to go.

So, like the startup nation that made her, she's underdog.

"Berrie," short for "Beresheet," is a fictional likeness of SpaceIL's 180-kilogram spacecraft that launched to the moon on Feb. 20. Her story of defying the odds is told in "The Little Spacecraft," a picture book written by StellarNova co-founder and COO Dr. Mom, aka Yael Schuster.

"People who have read it have fallen in love with the story in an emotional and educational way. They see 'Berrie' and learn what we're trying to teach them about the spacecraft," Schuster told JNS.

Considering the plethora of

knowledge that can be found through space exploration, the StellarNova team hopes the SpaceIL launch and their work can help spark interest for budding scientists across the country.

"It's not just aerospace, but it's mechanical engineering, botany, chemistry... it touches on every part of science. I think riding on the coattails of this big launch is an opportunity to get kids excited about space again," said Schuster.

That enthusiasm was evident recently on a Sunday evening in Tel Aviv, when young kids eagerly gathered to hear the story read out loud to them. With "Berrie's" vibrant blues and purples emblazoned on the children's cheeks thanks to a face painter, they oohed and ahed at 'Berrie's' preparations for her journey that is literally out of this world.

The message of dreaming big resonated with the children whose ages ranged from approximately 2 to 7 years old—the perfect age when children are not so beholden to societal expectations and are easily impressionable.

"We believe in showing kids that they should follow their dreams and science can be exciting. We were looking for a way to reach children and this is the age, research shows, that can really make an impact," Kfir Damari, SpaceIL's co-founder said of their partnership with StellarNova and the genesis (pun intended) of "Berrie's" story.

As a mother of three boys, Schuster is dedicated to teaching her kids that science is exciting and open to everyone. She, along with her partner Margot Stern (who has two children of her own), launched StellarNova with the idea of having children in Israel and beyond fall in love with the wonders of science's infinite universe.

For Schuster, Magic School Bus protagonist Ms. Frizzle is a personal inspiration. "I definitely have a crush on Ms. Frizzle!" Schuster gushed. "I have earrings like Ms. Frizzle. Her enthusiasm, which made so many kids fall in love with her and science, is something I'd like to share. I know she's a fictional character, but to me, she's real."

A for-profit company, they have several product lines targeted to children from grades three through 12. Their lesson plans, for example, which are aligned with common-core curriculum standards, have been adopted by 12 schools in Montgomery County—an economically and racially diverse suburb outside of Washington, D.C.

'An allegory for the country' The all-women-led startup is a rarity in the high-tech world both in Tel Aviv and Silicon Valley, where, according to Bloomberg News, a dismal 10 percent of women have snagged leadership positions

in an industry that is notorious for being an all-boys club. Why such a gender disparity? "I think a lot of it comes down to some fundamental attitudes and biases that we have about who should be doing what jobs," Schuster says, which is why she believes the StellarNova message of science for all is critical for the next generation.

"This is a global problem," Stern lamented. "There are many women professional groups—we are a part of a number of them—and now you're seeing this movement where women are starting to speak up and go after these leadership positions. It's great that people are finally waking up. Because when you have a balanced team with women at the table, let alone multiple women, it makes a big impact."

And StellarNova has made its own impact since 2016, when it won the Diamond Award in MassChallenge's annual startup competition and scored NIS 300,000 in zero equity prizes.



Israeli children at the book launch for "The Little Spacecraft," a picture book written by StellarNova co-founder and COO Yael Schuster.

in an industry that is notorious for being an all-boys club.

Why such a gender disparity?

"I think a lot of it comes down to some fundamental attitudes and biases that we have about who should be doing what jobs," Schuster says, which is why she believes the StellarNova message of science for all is critical for the next generation.

"This is a global problem," Stern lamented. "There are many women professional groups—we are a part of a number of them—and now you're seeing this movement where women are starting to speak up and go after these leadership positions. It's great that people are finally waking up. Because when you have a balanced team with women at the table, let alone multiple women, it makes a big impact."

And StellarNova has made its own impact since 2016, when it won the Diamond Award in MassChallenge's annual startup competition and scored NIS 300,000 in zero equity prizes.

The company was selected over hundreds of others in MassChallenge's highly selective annual competition that looks for startups striving to make a big splash in their respective fields.

"Our primary focus is looking for startups that will have a serious impact, but it's up to the startup to define what that impact will be," said Josh Gottesman, MassChallenge's Senior Product Manager in Jerusalem.

As such, StellarNova's goal of empowering children of all ages and backgrounds to reach for the stars was a natural fit for the MassChallenge vision.

"Their mission is something we totally align with—bringing more women into innovation, tech and entrepreneurship, and creating positive role models for young girls and boys. The goal of the company is clear and powerful. In the long-term, who knows? Maybe they could very well be producing Saturday-morning cartoons at a TV near you," Gottesman mused.

While there are no plans for her to be a cartoon yet, "Berrie's" innovative resourcefulness will be tested as SpaceIL's spacecraft reads itself for its launch to the moon from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Feb. 20. Should the landing go as planned, Israel will join the elite club of only three countries—the United States, Russia and China—that have made it to the moon and back.

But in many ways, "Berrie's" story is not just about Israel's journey into space, but is an allegory for the country itself: Despite its size, it has managed to accomplish feats far beyond what anyone could have imagined.

"I'm Jewish and made aliyah by myself," said Stern. "The miracles that have happened in this incredible place in such a short amount of time are incredible. I continued to be awed that this is my home every day. If my small company can in any way even remotely be connected to those things, then that is very gratifying."

Disney's 'Andi Mack' is seriously groundbreaking

By Linda Buchwald

If you and your tweens still aren't watching the Disney Channel show "Andi Mack," you must start ASAP. It deals with so many kinds of identities, including Jewish, in a way not usually seen on TV aimed at the pre-teen set.

"Andi Mack" — the first Disney Channel show to focus on an Asian-American family—has broken new ground for the channel time and again. The premise is that Andi (played by Peyton Elizabeth Lee) discovers that Bex (Lilian Bowden), the woman she thought was her sister, is really her mother, and the people she thought were her parents are her grandparents.

Though the show doesn't talk about premarital sex outright, the fact that it has a character who was a teen mom already gave this series game-changer status.

In its three seasons, "Andi Mack" has dealt with everything from sexuality to gun safety to anxiety. A recent episode, "One in a Minyan" (even the episode titles are smart!), achieved another



Joshua Rush (l) playing Cyrus Goodman, and Jonah Beck as Asher Angel in a scene from "Andi Mack."

major milestone, and it happened at a shiva, no less.

Cyrus Goodman (Joshua Rush) is the first openly gay main character in a Disney Channel series (yes, another first!). The series had previously—and sensitively—handled his coming out to his best friends, first Buffy (Sofia Wylie), then Andi (at his bar mitzvah—sensing a theme here?).

In both instances, Cyrus spoke about having a crush on their friend Jonah Beck

(Asher Angel), but he didn't actually use the word "gay." At his grandmother's shiva, however, he regretted never telling her, so he decided it was time to come out to Jonah. At the buffet table, he was explaining all the food items—kugel, lox and so on—then simply said, "That's gefilte fish. Skip that. And I'm gay."

That's the first time a character on a Disney Channel ever said the words.

This article originally appeared on Kveller.

Dental Insurance



Call for dental coverage today to help save money on big dental bills.

This is not just a discount plan. This is real dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company that helps pay for over 350 procedures – cleanings, fillings, crowns, even dentures.

- No annual maximum, no deductible
- See any dentist you want – including your own
- Preventive care starts immediately
- Over 50? Coverage as low as \$1 per day

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit

1-855-841-8696

dental50plus.com/heritage

Ask about Network Savings!

Over 470,000 Provider Locations Nationwide



*Individual Plan. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Network providers subject to change. Coverage not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN) Rider kinds B438/B439 6197

AW19-1031

Jordanians give substantial control to Palestinians

(JNS)—Jordan has expanded a council that administers Muslim institutions on the Temple Mount, giving Palestinians 40 percent of the seats for the first time in a body previously reserved for trusted individuals close to the monarchy of Jordanian King Abdullah Hussein.

According to a report by Haaretz on Monday, the Jordanian government enlarged the Waqf religious trust to include Palestinians, who will now have a significantly larger say on the sight of two Jewish Holy Temples: the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa mosque.

The seven Palestinians appointed to the council will increase the body from 11 to 18 seats, and includes religious and political leaders from Arab neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem.

The new members include the Palestinian Authority's illegal governor in Jerusalem Adnan al-Husayni; P.A. official Khatem Abdel Kader; controversial Mufti

of Jerusalem Muhammad Hussein; President of Al-Quds University in eastern Jerusalem Imad Abu Kishek; and Sheikh Ekrima Sabri, a religious leader with ties to the ruling Turkish regime.

The expanded group met on Feb. 14 on the Temple Mount near Sha'ar Ha-Rachamim ("the Gate of Mercy"), which was sealed off in 2003 by Israeli security officials due to illegal construction by the Waqf and management by individuals tied to Hamas that allegedly led to the destruction of rare and priceless antiquities from the time of the Temples. They subsequently entered the restricted area and prayed, without any injunction from Israeli authorities, except for calling Waqf head Sheikh Azzam al-Khatib al-Tamimi in for questioning.

The interrogation was subsequently canceled due to pressure from Jordan, according to Haaretz.

On Monday, the Waqf

called on Muslims to converge on the building adjacent to Sha'ar Ha-Rachamim for a mass-protest prayer rally. Several Arab men proceeded to kick down the gate and illegally infiltrate the building, upon which Israeli police rushed the building and arrested five people in the resulting clashes.

In response, Israel closed the Temple Mount on Monday afternoon, a move that resulted in a letter from the Jordanian foreign ministry chastising Israel, and demanding the reopening of the gate and the removal of all Israeli security personnel.

Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas accused "Israeli occupation authorities" of "temporal and spatial division of the mosque," and said he was "warning it against its continued repressive and arbitrary policies, which will only lead to repercussions and fuel the feelings of the Palestinian people."

OBITUARIES

MARVIN MANDELL

Submitted by the family

Marvin Mandell, 92, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday, Feb. 15, 2019. He lived a great and healthy life that was filled with lots of love and laughter from his family and friends. He never stopped joking.

Marvin was born Aug. 10, 1928. He entered the military when he was 18 years old, served for two years as a private first class with Company F 110th Infantry Regiment during WWII, and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. During his years in the Army, he received the WWII Victory Medal, the American Service Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with two Bronze Stars and the Good Conduct Medal.

After returning from the war, he moved to Florida and attended the University of Miami and earned both bachelors and masters degrees in English. He met his wife, Pat, on a blind date and they were married for almost 66 years at the time of her passing in 2015.

Marvin was a teacher, guidance counselor and principal until 1968 before moving his family to Orlando so he could join the family business (Greater Construction) as a builder. In 1975, at the age of 50, he decided to go to law school and after passing the bar, practiced law until he retired.

During his lifetime, he participated in many sports, including basketball, high diving, jai alai, snow skiing, racquetball and craps (to him it was a sport), but his greatest passion was golf (he had 8 holes-in-one), even taking a lesson two months before he passed so he could maintain his single digit handicap. His golfing buddies nicknamed him "Marvelous."

Marvin is survived by his three daughters, Robin Ferr-

ara (Dominick), Lisa Mandell and Melanie Schreiber (Ron); as well as four grandchildren—Brooke Rosenberg (Todd), Brian Himot (Tricia), Ryan Schreiber (Shadai) and Mallory Schreiber; five great-grandchildren—William, Noah, Rex, Ellis and Theo; brother, James Mandell, MD (Valerie MD); and many nieces and nephews who adored him. He was preceded in death by his wife, Pat; brother, Lester; and sister, Gloria.

All who knew him say, "Hats off to you Marvelous. We were blessed to call you father, Gramps, husband, brother, uncle and friend."

Graveside services and internment were held at Temple Israel Cemetery with Rabbi Arnold Siegel of Jewish Family Services officiating.

In memory of Marvin Mandel, the family requests contributions to Vitas Hospice (vitas.com) or a charity of your choice.

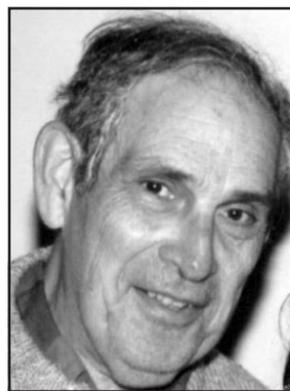
Arrangements entrusted to Beth Shalom Memorial Chapel, 640 Lee Road, Orlando FL 32810. 407-599-1180 www.bethshalommemorial-chapel.com.

BERNARD SOMMERS

By Mara Beth Sommers

We are mourning the passing on Jan. 25, 2019, of a beloved husband, father and zayde. Born Bernard D. Schnipper on May 9, 1928, he was predeceased by his wife of over 60 years, Arlene Sommers, on April 4, 2017.

My dad was an amazing person. He was brilliant, kind, loving and giving. He had three degrees. He wanted to be an engineer but his parents wanted him to be an accountant, so he got an accounting degree. When I was a toddler, he went back to NYU and got an engineering degree. After he sold a business, when I was in college, he went to the University of Florida law school. As a law-



Bernard Sommers

yer, he was more concerned about helping people than billing them, and he did a lot of pro bono work. He gave generously and was involved in the community. He was instrumental in the building of Kinneret, low rent apartment housing for seniors in downtown Orlando, by the Jewish Community in 1968.

He was clever and creative. He could fix almost anything (usually with duct tape), and always was tinkering with things on the workbench that he kept in the garage.

He was talented. He could hear a song, sit down at the piano and play it by ear. He was an avid bridge player up until the day he left us. He loved a good joke, and he had some great ones. When I was at the Mayflower taking care of his final business, so many people stopped me and told me how much they loved him and my mom. They talked about his jokes, his songs, his cute names for them, and his love of the Florida Gators. He gave great bear hugs and always gave a high five to the children he encountered.

He stood by my mom and supported her in her career and other endeavors. When she was unable to go places and do things due to her back injury, he stayed by her side. He raised two successful children. He will be missed immensely and remembered lovingly.

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; 407-479-8377.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When President Lincoln fought for the Jews

By Steven J. Kessler

PHILADELPHIA (JTA)—During Black History Month, we recognize the historical importance of President Abraham Lincoln as the foremost figure in the battle to abolish slavery. But even as Lincoln, whose 210th birthday we mark on Feb. 12, is widely known for his role fighting for equality, he may still be underappreciated. In fact, as a moral compass and a role model for liberty, his influence extends far beyond the specific events for which he is most well-known.

In Lincoln's time, like today, the issue of equality was relevant to many minority groups. While Jews had been living in America for centuries by the time of Lincoln's presidency, anti-Semitism was widespread, even among the abolitionists.

While the Civil War raged in late 1862, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant wanted to stop the trade of Southern cotton. A number of Jews were involved in the cotton trade, including some in black market activity, and on Dec. 17, Grant issued a

shocking order calling for the expulsion of all Jews from a wide swath of the South.

Fortunately the order had little impact because of faulty army communications—and to President Lincoln. When Lincoln heard that Grant was attempting to banish Jews, he quickly reversed the order.

"To condemn a class is, to say the least, to wrong the good with the bad," Lincoln said. "I do not like to hear a class or nationality condemned on account of a few sinners."

To Lincoln, prejudice was abhorrent, and expelling one minority while fighting for the rights of another was unthinkable. It's noteworthy that Grant, who made the order banishing Jews from the area he commanded, regretted his actions later in life. In fact, when he served as president, Grant actively worked to promote Jewish interests in the United States and abroad, bringing Jews into the federal government at an unprecedented rate. Grant later indicated that he had issued the order without fully thinking it through, but

his pro-Jewish actions later in life can perhaps be attributed in part to the moral leadership Lincoln displayed in rejecting the order.

On a deeper level, Lincoln can also be seen as the man who truly deserves credit for upholding the idea that "all men are created equal." While Thomas Jefferson first expressed the sentiment in the Declaration of Independence in 1776, for some 90 years the principle was selectively applied at best. But Lincoln didn't just speak this value, he practiced it.

In the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858, Lincoln emphasized how applying exceptions to the phrase "all men are created equal" is a logical fallacy.

"If one man says it does not mean a Negro, why not another say it does not mean some other man? If that declaration is not the truth, let us get the Statute book in which we find it and tear it out!" he said.

The notion of limiting equality was, to Lincoln, a clear rejection of the phrase's keyword: "all."

The message of equality that Lincoln fought for was instrumental in abolishing slavery. But it was also a major factor in shaping America into a country that held freedom as a value worth fighting for.

And over the following decades, generations of Americans absorbed the values that Lincoln championed and Grant came to appreciate: That oppression against minorities was intolerable, regardless of the minority.

The fight to defeat the Axis powers in World War II is often called "The Good War" because of the atrocities committed by the Nazis and the widespread understanding that the war was a battle for justice. While it's true that the America of the 1940s was far from reaching true equality, the underlying values Lincoln stood for were embedded in the hearts of American soldiers.

Take the story of Leon Bass, an African-American native of Philadelphia, who served in a segregated unit during World War II. He was conflicted about being asked to risk his life for a country where he

only held second-class status. But when Bass liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp with the American troops, he felt compassion for the prisoners he encountered.

"I began to realize," Bass later said, "that human suffering is not relegated just to me and mine. Human suffering touches everybody."

Meeting victims of Nazism transformed Leon Bass from a man who was understandably conflicted about his situation to a leader who advocated for social justice for all oppressed people. After the war, Bass spent decades lecturing to audiences about his experiences in the war and the importance of defeating tyranny and hatred.

When the Horwitz-Wasserer Holocaust Memorial Plaza—a new public plaza devoted to Holocaust remembrance—opened in Philadelphia several months ago, Bass' story was included on its Six Pillars, which contrast themes of the Holocaust with American constitutional protections and values.

Just one foot away from the pillar devoted to Leon

Bass and "Liberation" stands another pillar, which is inscribed with the Declaration of Independence's powerful statement that "all men are created equal." In the 1850s and 1860s, President Lincoln served as a bridge between the Declaration and Americans who fought the Nazis in the 1940s. In the 19th century, Lincoln underscored the 18th-century Declaration's call for equality, giving 20th-century American soldiers the passion to fight to liberate the oppressed.

While many Holocaust survivors may not have heard of President Lincoln when the war ended in 1945, there is no doubt that they benefited from the great strides he took in the cause for liberty.

Lincoln may already have his place on Mount Rushmore, but we should also be sure to include him in the pantheon of global leaders who persisted in the cause of freedom. Because if we embrace the spirit of Lincoln, we can hold out hope that government of the people, by the people, for all people, will not perish from the earth.

New report highlights how UN gives singular treatment to Palestinian refugees

By Israel Kasnett

(JNS)—Uri Akavia, a researcher at Kohelet Policy Forum, recently published a new paper titled "Is UNRWA's hereditary refugee status for Palestinians unique?" In it, of course, he details the origins of the issue since 1948, the year Israel was established, and its ensuing state of affairs.

"People have finally realized that UNRWA [U.N. Relief and Works Agency], is a very large and important organization that is perpetuating a problem that should not have even existed after 70 years," he told JNS.

When U.S. President Donald Trump announced last year that he would pull \$300 million in funding for UNRWA, which is in charge

of resolving the Palestinian refugee problem, Jerusalem's Mayor Nir Barkat realized that he now had an opportunity to kick UNRWA out of Shuafat, a Palestinian neighborhood in Jerusalem the body considers to be a refugee camp.

"The U.S. decision has created a rare opportunity to replace UNRWA's services with the services of the Jerusalem Municipality," he said. "We are putting an end to the lie of the 'Palestinian refugee problem' and the attempts at creating a false sovereignty within a sovereignty."

For Akavia, Barkat and those who have followed the situation closely, UNRWA, tasked with resolving the Palestinian refugee problem, has only perpetuated and not solved the refugee problem. They argue, and many Israelis

agree, that it has utterly failed in its mission.

According to Dore Gold, president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, "UNRWA has so many problems," he told JNS. "The fact is that so many of the worst Hamas terrorists were educated in UNRWA schools, and UNRWA was used as a place where Hamas could store its weaponry in violation of all kinds of U.N. resolutions that prohibit conversion of refugee camps to military facilities."

However, Gold pointed to what he thinks is UNRWA's worst sin: The "conversion of the Palestinian refugee problem to a challenge locked into perpetuity."

In other words, he said, "if you look at other refugee situations—Europe after World War II—all those refugees

have been settled. Whereas, in the case of the Palestinian refugees who are taken care of by UNRWA, the numbers have only increased from about half a million in 1948 to what UNRWA claims is over 5 million today. That represents a total failure of UNRWA as a refugee organization."

Other refugees around the world have been repatriated. Of the millions displaced after World War II, not one is a refugee today. The 15 million Hindus and Muslims forced to move when India and Pakistan split, are no longer refugees. Bosnian and Kosovar Muslims kicked out of Serbia are no longer refugees. Not a single one of the 850,000 Jewish refugees from Arab lands is today a refugee.

So why are Palestinian refugees treated differently than other refugees?

Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas has answered this question himself. He has referred to Palestinian refugees everywhere as "guests" waiting to return to their homes and has refused to allow Palestinians to be repatriated in their host countries so as not to give up their "right of return."

And P.A. spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina has said, "The issue of the Palestinian refugees and their right of return is one of the issues in a permanent arrangement, and no one can make changes to it..."

The Palestinian leadership themselves, together with other Arab states as well as UNRWA, refuse to allow any repatriation of Palestinian refugees outside of Israel. The responsibility for a "just and lasting solution" for the Palestinian refugees, as per UN resolution 194, has been laid squarely on Israel's shoulders, while ignoring the responsibility of the Arab states that refuse to absorb the Palestinian refugees al-

ready residing within their borders.

According to many well-documented statements by Palestinian and Arab leaders themselves, the Palestinian refugees have been used as pawns and a weapon in the fight against Israel.

In addition, the automatic majority against Israel at the UN has ensured that UNRWA retains the sole responsibility for Palestinian refugees and that the body helps perpetuate the problem.

In his report, Akavia explains that there are two separate U.N. agencies in charge of aiding refugees: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNRWA. UNHCR is responsible for all refugees except the Palestinians, who fall within UNRWA's exclusive jurisdiction.

"A political actor aimed at perpetuating the problem"

Akavia compared UNRWA's methods of classification with that of UNHCR to demonstrate how the former's methods perpetuate the problem. "There is only one case in the world of a refugee problem that has lasted over 70 years so far. And there is only one case in the world where the sons and grandsons of a refugee automatically are recognized as a refugee, even if he is a Jordanian citizen," he said.

However, Akavia explained that there are indeed cases in which the UNHCR recognizes the children of refugees, but only when the children are dependent on their parents and need support. This is called "derivative refugee status" and, according to Akavia, "is a fair thing to do."

What UNHCR doesn't do, Akavia emphasized, is allow for other family members to acquire this derivative refugee status. "So if a representative of UNRWA tells you they aren't the only ones recognizing

children of refugees, he is telling the truth," said Akavia. "But he is also misleading you because UNHCR recognizes only those who really are in need, that have a humanitarian problem and they don't recognize them after the age of 18. UNRWA, meanwhile, recognizes them automatically for second generation, third generation and so forth."

Akavia pointed out other key differences in his report between the two organizations and the clear bias towards Palestinian refugees. "UNHCR does not define as refugees people who acquired new citizenship. The Refugee Convention of 1951 has a cessation clause, which clearly says that a person ceases to be a refugee if he acquires a new citizenship. UNRWA acts differently: More than 2 million 'Palestine refugees' hold Jordanian citizenship."

According to Akavia, as per the rules applied by UNHCR, most of the Palestinians are not refugees. "UNRWA's claim that their policy is identical to UNHCR's is a lie and shows that they are not a neutral humanitarian organization, but rather a political actor aimed at perpetuating the Palestinian refugee problem."

So is UNRWA's hereditary refugee status for Palestinians unique?

The answer is "yes," replied Akavia. He believes that today the atmosphere has changed, and people are more aware of the issue. "We really have an opportunity to change something," he said.

"The fact is that refugee organizations are supposed to reduce the scale of refugee problems, and in the case of UNRWA, they have only increased," said Gold. "As long as UNRWA is making the refugee problem worse, some fundamental thinking has to be done about the future of that organization."

Dear Sam,
The pressure you're putting me under is too much.

I QUIT!

Sincerely,

Your Heart

Don't let your heart quit on you. If you are living with high blood pressure, just knowing and doing the minimum isn't enough. Uncontrolled high blood pressure could lead to stroke, heart attack or death.

Get yours to a healthy range before it's too late. Find out how at heart.org/BloodPressure



Check. Change. Control.™



Weekly roundup of world briefs

Thousands protest anti-Semitism in marches across France

By Josefin Dolsten

(JTA)—Thousands participated Tuesday in demonstrations against anti-Semitism across France.

Protesters took to the streets in some 70 marches only hours after nearly 100 gravestones at a Jewish cemetery in the eastern French village of Quatzenheim were discovered vandalized with swastikas. Some protesters held posters saying “That’s Enough.”

“Whoever did this is not worthy of the French republic and will be punished,” President Emmanuel Macron said at a visit to the vandalized cemetery on Tuesday.

The marches follow a wave of anti-Semitic incidents in Paris, spurring 14 political parties to urge a protest rally in response. Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said last week that anti-Jewish acts rose by 74 percent in 2018 over the previous year.

Last Monday, a tree planted in memory of Ilan Halimi, a young Jewish man tortured to death in 2006, was cut down, and earlier this month anti-Semitic epithets were painted around the city, including on a local bagel shop.

France is home to some 550,000 Jews, the largest Jewish community in Europe.

KFC set to relaunch in Israel

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The American fast food chain KFC is recruiting staff ahead of a planned reopening in Israel, the business daily Globes reported.

The company announced six months ago that it would relaunch in Israel for the fourth time.

Kentucky Fried Chicken opened and closed in Israel in the 1980s and the ‘90s, and then remained open between 2003 and 2012.

In KFC’s last incarnation in Israel, franchise owner Udi Shamai’s eight locations went kosher after the company allowed him to switch the milk powder in the crispy coating to soy and to use kosher-killed chickens instead of those provided by the company.

“The moment we switched to kosher, sales began to plunge and it was no longer economically viable. The product was less good, whereas things had gone fine with un-kosher chickens,” Shamai told Globes.

KFC has 45,000 outlets in over 135 countries. It has six outlets in three West Bank Palestinian cities.

Man shot by air rifle outside Paris-area synagogue

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA)—French police arrested two teenagers in a suburb of Paris on suspicion that they wounded a person while firing an air rifle at a synagogue on Shabbat.

The two teenagers, who were being investigated as suspects in an anti-Semitic hate crime for the incident, lightly wounded a passerby near the synagogue of Sarcelles on Friday by shooting a lead projectile into his calf, the AFP news agency reported Tuesday.

The two alleged shooters are ages 15 and 16, the Le Parisien newspaper reported.

They had staked out the synagogue from a balcony overlooking the building on Friday night, as worshippers began to gather there.

Moïse Kahloun, the president of the Jewish community of Sarcelles, said he does not believe the attack was anti-Semitic. “This is not an anti-Semitic attack, just kids who shot at random.”

Pro-BDS Tlaib uses Israeli web-development platform for campaign website

(JNS)—Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), a supporter of the anti-Israel BDS movement, just so happens to have used the Israeli web-development platform Wix to create her campaign website.

“I personally support the BDS movement,” said Tlaib in December, following the lead of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.).

Democratic Majority for Israel applauded Tlaib for utilizing a product from a country she seeks to boycott.

“We congratulate Congresswoman Tlaib for her decision to use the best products she can find, instead of discriminating against Israel in way that increases hostility, thereby making peace between Israelis and Palestinians more difficult to achieve,” said the group’s president, Mark Mellman. “We need to foster economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians instead of encouraging boycotts. We hope Congresswoman Tlaib’s use of Israeli products indicates she has changed her mind on boycotting Israel.”

Tlaib’s office nor Vanguard Public Affairs, which designed the website, immediately responded to a request for comment.

Kinneret reaches best water levels in two years and rising

(JNS)—Despite dour summer predictions by Israeli weather experts that Israel would suffer a sixth year of insufficient rainfall and an ecological disaster at the Sea of Galilee, officials are now announcing that the water level in the Kinneret would rise above the lower red line for the first time in two years, easing restrictions on pumping from Israel’s largest natural freshwater source.

A particularly rainy winter has raised the level of the Kinneret by nearly 4.9 feet—a relief given that it dropped by 4.1 feet during the summer of 2018, leaving the critical water source just 7.5 inches from the black line, below which the Kinneret would become impotable.

Water Authority officials reported that the waterline is expected to rise above the lower red line by the beginning of March, and noted that this year’s heavy snowfall on the Hermon is also expected to raise the water level by dozens of centimeters.

The Kinneret waterline decreases between 0.5 centimeters and 1 centimeter daily during the summer due to water evaporation.

Former Iraqi prime minister: ‘Zionist Jews brought us ISIS, terrorism, sectarianism’

(MEMRI)—Former Prime

Minister of Iraq Nouri Al-Maliki said in a meeting with educators that aired on Afaq TV (Iraq) on Feb. 12, 2019 that Iraqi society is under “a dangerous attack” in the form of moral depravity that is taking place in the universities and elsewhere. He said that this is a result of a plot by the Zionist Jews.

He further said that they brought ISIS, terrorism and sectarianism to Iraq in an attempt to bring down Iraqi society.

Following are excerpts:

Nouri Al-Maliki: “Let me tell you in all honesty: Our Iraqi society is under a dangerous attack. We hear certain information about cases of moral depravity at the universities and elsewhere. Instead of becoming schools for the leaders of the future, they have become agents of destruction. This is all the result of plots... The Zionist Jews head those who plot to bring Iraqi society down.

[...] “They are exerting efforts to thwart everything we have achieved in Iraq. When they saw that we had escaped from the bottleneck, they brought us ISIS, the terrorists and the sectarians.”

Egyptian researcher: ‘We should erect statue of Hitler’

(MEMRI)—Egyptian researcher Mohamed Gad El-Zoghby was asked in a Feb. 9 interview on Safa TV (Saudi Arabia/Egypt) who was worse: Adolf Hitler or Imam Khomeini? He answered: “Objectively speaking, Hitler wins. But as far as we’re concerned, we should erect a statue of Hitler for what he did to the Jews.”

El-Zoghby accused Imam Khomeini of collaborating with the Jews and praised Hitler for supporting the Arab cause in Palestine.

A researcher and a poet, he has a master’s degree in Shari’a and law from Ain Shams University. Interviewer: Who was worse, ideologically and in practice, Hitler or Khomeini?

Mohamed Gad El-Zoghby: Objectively, or just as far as we are concerned? Objectively speaking, Hitler wins. But as far as we’re concerned, we should erect a statue of Hitler for what he did to the Jews. Khomeini allied himself with the Jews, whereas Hitler was their enemy and fought them. In addition, Hitler met with the Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin Al-Husseini, and he completely supported the Arab cause in Palestine. We must never forget this.

\$55 million to be invested in Jewish Quarter of Old City of Jerusalem

(Israel Hayom)—The Company for the Reconstruction and Development of the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem has several projects underway at a total cost of 200 million shekels (\$55 million).

The initiative seeks to improve public spaces in the Jewish Quarter and adapt them to the needs of residents, as well as tourists. The project entails making infrastructure accessible; outdoor improvements such as shaded areas and recreational areas; the installation of uniform outdoor furniture

and advanced lighting; and laying out clearly marked tourist routes, including explanatory signs at important points and signs leading to the Western Wall.

The first stage of the project was carried out at Resnick Square on Hayehudim Street, a main tourist route that runs parallel to the Byzantine-era Cardo, where the Burnt House, the home of a wealthy Jerusalemite from the Second Temple period, has been refurbished. The new site was scheduled to be inaugurated on Sunday in a special ceremony led by Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion and Heritage Minister Ze’ev Elkin.

Under the auspices of the project, the Company for the Reconstruction and Development of the Jewish Quarter has also started renovating the Tiferet Yisrael Synagogue, which was destroyed in 1948. Work is expected to take a few years, and the completed building will reach a height of 25 meters (82 feet).

Another issue the company is addressing are the staircases that lead from the Jewish Quarter to the Western Wall plaza, which are not accessible to the disabled. The company has launched a project to build an elevator and tunnels that will lead directly to the plaza. The elevator and passageway encompass a total of 2,000 square meters (21,500 square feet), with the project to be completed at an estimated cost of 57 million shekels (\$16 million). The elevator is expected to be operational by January 2022.

In addition, the company plans to renovate the exterior of the Wohl Archaeological Museum, one of the largest and most important sites in the Jewish Quarter. The museum includes the remnants of homes that belonged to the city’s aristocracy from the time of King Herod to the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E.

Company CEO Herzl Ben Ari said, “I hope that everyone who comes to the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem will feel that we have fulfilled a dream for them and that every guest and tourist who arrives from all over the world will sense the uniqueness and the eternal values of the capital of Israel.”

CNN and NBC agree to air ad for Oscar-nominated documentary about NY Nazi rally

By Marcy Oster

(JTA)—CNN and MSNBC have each agreed to broadcast an ad that Fox News rejected in its original form for a documentary about a Nazi rally held in New York in 1939.

The filmmakers of “A Night at the Garden,” which has been nominated for an Oscar in the category of documentary short, confirmed to The Washington Post on Friday that the 30-second ad spot would air during “The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer” on CNN and “The Rachel Maddow Show” on MSNBC on Monday.

The documentary contains footage of the Nazi rally.

“We decided to dig deep and pay for television ads we weren’t planning to buy because we wanted to make

the point that Fox News is out of the mainstream,” the movie’s director, Marshall Curry, told The Post, adding that he believed the network’s rejection of the ad was politically motivated.

NBCUniversal said the company had initially rejected the ad for MSNBC because an NBCUniversal standards group deemed the content too provocative, so the filmmakers added context with a title card that explains the footage is part of an Oscar-nominated film, the Post reported.

Fox declined to run the original ad because it was “full of disgraceful Nazi imagery regardless of the film’s message and did not meet our guidelines,” ad sales president Marianne Gambelli had said in a statement. It is not known if Fox would have agreed to run the ad as reworked for MSNBC.

The rally’s 80th anniversary was on Feb. 20.

Israeli director’s film takes top prize at Berlin International Film Festival

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA)—A film by an Israeli director won the top prize at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Nadav Lapid’s “Synonyms” on Saturday was awarded the Golden Bear Award.

The film, about identity, is the semi-autobiographical story of a young Israeli man who moves to Paris and tries to become thoroughly French.

The festival’s jury was headed by French actress Juliette Binoche. The film competed against 15 other entries for the top award.

Lapid is the director of “The Kindergarten Teacher,” which recently was remade in English in the United States.

Israel’s President Reuven Rivlin on Sunday congratulated Lapid on his success.

“One doesn’t have to agree with every point or every position expressed in the film to recognize the importance of daring, smart and beautiful Israeli cinema gaining international recognition. It has always been and always will be a great source of pride. Mazal Tov, Nadav!” he said in a statement.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg returns to Supreme Court for 1st time since cancer operation

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA)—Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has returned to her place of work for the first time since cancer surgery in December.

Ginsburg, 85, on Friday attended a private conference at the Supreme Court in Washington D.C., CNBC reported.

Following the surgery in December to remove cancer from her lungs, Ginsburg was declared cancer-free. She has had two other bouts of cancer.

Abbas won’t accept Palestinian tax revenues collected by Israel

By Josefin Dolsten

(JTA)—Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said he would not accept tax that Israel collected on its behalf.

The move announced Tuesday came after Israel said Sunday it would not distribute part of the revenues, amounting to more than \$138 million, because the Palestinian

Authority pays terrorists’ families, The Times of Israel reported.

Under the current agreement, the Jewish state collects taxes from the West Bank and Gaza on behalf of the financially struggling Palestinian Authority.

“We refuse to receive all of the tax funds. We don’t want them. Leave them over with them,” Abbas told a delegation of U.S. Congress members and representatives from the liberal Mideast policy group J Street in Ramallah.

“I tell you honestly that if we only had 20 or 30 million shekels, which is what is paid [monthly] to families of martyrs, we will give them to the families of martyrs. I mean if the [Palestinian] Authority doesn’t have anything other than that [amount], I will pay it to the families of martyrs and prisoners and wounded persons. This needs to be understood,” he said, according to The Times of Israel.

The Palestinian Authority’s policy of paying terrorists who kill Israelis or their families has been decried by Israel and the United States.

Reports about Jewish cemetery’s desecration in Poland are false

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA)—Reports in Poland and beyond about the desecration of a Jewish cemetery near Wroclaw are incorrect, Polish officials and Jewish community representatives said.

Marek Magierowski, the Polish ambassador to Israel, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the deputy mayor of Swidnica told him that reports about the destruction of 15 headstones in that suburb of Wroclaw were made up.

The municipality has not replied to JTA’s requests for information.

On Tuesday, JTA reported about the incident based on reports by the news sites Publisizer and Wmeritum. The reports said 15 headstones had been smashed and others had graffiti painted on them.

Earlier this week, Poland pulled out of a diplomatic conference over remarks by Israel’s acting foreign minister, Israel Katz, who said Poles get anti-Semitism with their mother’s milk. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki called the statement racist. Poland’s pulling out of the conference led to its cancellation.

Alleged attacker of French philosopher Alain Finkielkraut arrested

By Marcy Oster

(JTA)—Paris police arrested a man for shouting anti-Semitic epithets at French philosopher and writer Alain Finkielkraut.

The incident on Saturday was captured on camera, with Yellow Vest protesters yelling “Dirty Jew,” “you’re a hater, you’re going to die, you’re going to hell,” “Dirty Zionist,” “France is ours” and “return to Tel Aviv.” Police intervened to protect Finkielkraut, 69.

The man was taken into custody on Tuesday night. Police said he is a salesman from the eastern Alsace region, France 24 reported. He is under investigation for “public insult based on origin, ethnicity, nationality, race or religion.”

A Mexican Jewish babka is taking over Chicago

By Emily Paster

Sufganiyot bursting with dulce de leche and pumpkin cream. Savory babkas swirled with roasted poblano peppers and crema. Mexican-inspired Jewish pastries from a new, online-only bakery are bringing exciting new flavors to Chicago's Jewish food scene and Chicagoans of all backgrounds are already addicted.

Founded by two Mexico City natives, Masa Madre offers a limited selection of made-to-order treats, many of which draw on co-founder Tamar Fasja Unikel's Jewish heritage. Among Masa Madre's offerings are several flavors of babka, challahs and a rotating selection of seasonal treats that change with the Mexican, American and Jewish calendars—from Pan de Muerto for the Mexican Day of the Dead to Thanksgiving pecan pies to rugelach and Hanukkah sufganiyot.

"Mexicans, Americans, and Jewish people are all very excited because there is something that they can relate to, but still try something new," Unikel says.

Indeed, although the business is only a few months old, Masa Madre has attracted lots of attention and loyal customers with its unique flavor combinations and personal, artisanal approach to baking.

"We do everything [to] order," Unikel says. "We make every order by hand. It's a different experience. You get a special treat that was packaged just for you."

Not only do Unikel and her partner, Elena Vázquez Felgueres, make everything by hand, they put their hearts and their heritage into each of their unique creations. Both women have day jobs—Felgueres teaches yoga and Unikel teaches kids' cooking classes as well as maintains a food blog called Ssugarpill—but they get up early and stay up late to bake for their customers.

The longtime friends met at university in Mexico City when both were studying fashion design, but Elena soon switched gears to attend culinary school and then cooked in restaurants in Spain and Mexico. Unikel worked in fashion for a time but eventually moved to Chicago where her husband was pursuing a doctorate in biblical studies.

When Elena ended up in Chicago a few years later, the two friends were determined to find a way to work together. They launched a business selling sourdough bread and babka, which Unikel had learned to bake when living in Israel. The sourdough soon fell by the wayside and the friends honed in on a highly curated menu of pastries anchored by the babka. Why babka?

"My grandmother is a baker and she is Ashkenazi, and I really felt like it was part of my heritage," Unikel says. Babka "is something that people here didn't really have. I had tried it in New York and Boston and I loved it and I couldn't really find it in Chicago."

Not only is Masa Madre's rich, not-too-sweet babka arguably the best in Chicago, like all of Masa Madre's other offerings it reflects Unikel and Felgueres's Mexican roots. Unikel grew up in Mexico City's thriving Jewish community with both Ashkenazi and Sephardic ancestry.

"My grandparents came from Syria on my dad's side and Poland on my mom's side," Unikel says. "They've been in Mexico for over a hundred years, so of course there's a lot of mix in the food culture."

From the beginning, Unikel and Felgueres knew they wanted Masa Madre's treats to mix Mexican and Jewish cuisine.

"We're both Mexican; we're not both Jewish," Unikel says. "Elena has shown me the recipes that she grew up with and I [showed her] mine. When I tell her about a holiday or a Jewish thing I want to do, she is quick to understand it."

Felgueres' professional training and extensive work experience in the pastry field has helped as well.

"She has a lot more experience in baking than I do," Unikel says about her partner. "And she brings a lot of the Mexican flavors."

Mixing Mexican flavors into traditional Jewish dishes, at least on the savory side, has been happening in Mexico for centuries. But not in dessert.

"This isn't something that is happening in Mexico that much," Unikel notes. Among Masa Madre's diverse clientele,



This babka is among the limited selection of made-to-order treats from Masa Madre, an online bakery based in Chicago.

Jewish Latinos, in particular, "have been very excited to see the mix of the two [cuisines]." Even Unikel was surprised to learn how many Jews from Latin America, or with Latin American roots, are in Chicago.

The bakers also were influenced by their shared Chicago neighborhood, Pilsen. Unikel calls it "amazing."

"It's mostly Mexican. The interesting thing is that it was started as a Polish neighborhood," Unikel says. "So I feel like what we are doing is a mix of those two: an Eastern European and a Mexican thing."

In return, the neighborhood has embraced Masa Madre.

"So far, [the residents of Pilsen] have been very receptive," Unikel says gratefully.

Unikel is keeping mum on what unique treats Masa Madre will offer for spring holidays.

"We think about [holiday items] about a week in advance," Unikel says with a laugh. "We are going one step at a time."

There is one secret that Unikel is willing to share: She and her husband are expecting their first child in June. But she plans to keep baking.

"I don't know what is going to be happening with the business then," Unikel says. "But I am happy I will be able to keep working from home."

Chicago-area babka lovers are counting on it.

This article originally appeared on The Nosh.

Emily Paster writes the widely admired blog West of the Loop, which is primarily about food but with forays into parenting and family life. She is the co-founder of the Chicago Food Swap and is a national leader in the growing food swap movement (community get-togethers where handmade foods are bartered and exchanged). She is the author of the book "Food Swap" [Storey 2016]. She has appeared numerous times on food and cooking segments for the major TV network affiliates in Chicago.

Ginger and Turmeric Chicken Soup Recipe



By Emanuelle Lee

Along with the start of a new year comes long, cold, tiring days and withdrawal symptoms from holiday excess. We can all use a little refresh when it's time to step back into reality, and this soup is all I ever want to eat on a winter's day or night.

The ginger and turmeric add a nice spicy kick to it, keeping up the energy levels and helping the immune system ward off anything that might be going around. The lemon takes classic chicken soup to another level with a burst of freshness. And perhaps the best part of this soup is that it's made with a remaining chicken carcass, so you can take bones from a chicken you have cooked and upcycle them into an entirely new dish. You can also roast a whole chicken and remove meat to add back into the soup later or make into chicken salad. Please note that roasting time will be longer for raw chicken.

Make a big batch of this stuff for yourself, family and friends to keep you all going through the week.

Ingredients:

- 1 chicken carcass
- 3 chicken giblets
- 3 large white onions, quarters
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1/4 inch piece fresh ginger

1/2 inch piece fresh turmeric (can substitute with 1/4 teaspoon dried turmeric)

Juice of 1 lemon (keep the lemon after squeezing)

3 bay leaves

1 spring onion, finely chopped (for serving)

noodles of your choice

chili flakes (optional)

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Place the carcass and giblets on a roasting dish and roast for 20 minutes, or until they start to brown.

2. Transfer them to a large pot with any of the residual liquid.

Add the remaining ingredients, along with the squeezed lemon. Cover all of the ingredients with cold water and bring to a boil.

3. Once boiling, cover and reduce the heat to low and leave to cook for 5-6 hours. Season with a pinch of salt if needed. Drain the soup through a colander, catching the broth in another pot.

4. To serve, add another squeeze of lemon juice, some of the carrots (if you prefer your carrots more firm, you can cook some freshly chopped ones in the soup 10 minutes before serving), a handful of noodles, and a sprinkle of spring onion and chili flakes. Serves 4-6.

This article originally appeared on The Nosh.

Savannah Court and Cove

**Excellence in Assisted Living,
Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation**

A Senior Living Community where Hospitality is a Way of Life.

- Assisted Living - Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Care
- Variety of Apartment Suite Selections, some with Lake Views
- Weekly Happy Hour hosted by the Jewish Pavilion
- Monthly Shabbat Service
- Monthly Bagels and Lox luncheon
- Special Celebrations and Meals during High Holy Holidays

**Call us today, stop by for a visit, join us for lunch, or
all of the above. You are always welcome!**

Savannah Court & Cove
ASSISTED LIVING AND SKILLED NURSING
1301 W. Maitland Blvd. • Maitland, FL 32751
Located directly across the street from Congregation Ohev Shalom
407-645-3990
www.SavannahCourtMaitland.com



**1301 W. Maitland Blvd.
Maitland, FL 32751
407-645-3990**

www.SavannahCourtMaitland.com

Assisted Living Facility License No. 8447
Skilled Nursing Facility License No. 1635096



Will Israel be the fourth country to land on the moon?



SpaceIL co-founders, from left, Kfir Damari, Yonatan Winetraub and Yariv Bash insert a time capsule into their spacecraft.

By Ben Sales

(JTA)—He's spent eight years trying to land a spacecraft on the moon, but when Yonatan Winetraub stood on the launchpad this month at Florida's Cape Canaveral, he was still in shock.

"I stood right next to the rocket, and it's pretty big," Winetraub said in a phone interview Wednesday. "In the video, you don't see how big the rocket is and how powerful it is. But when you stand up close it's pretty powerful."

If Winetraub sounds like a kid marveling at the thought of space travel, that's because he kind of is. He and two friends, all in their 30s, are on

the verge of doing something extraordinary: They intend to make Israel the fourth country to land a spacecraft on the moon. Only the United States, the Soviet Union and China have done it.

Winetraub and his partners, Kfir Damari and Yariv Bash, aren't doing it with billions of dollars from a superpower government. In 2011 they co-founded SpaceIL, an Israeli nonprofit that has a budget of \$100 million—a pittance in the space biz. If their mission is successful, it would be the first time any private spacecraft landed on the moon, at lower cost and with a smaller craft than previous landings.

"Kfir, Yariv and myself sat in a bar in a suburb of Tel Aviv and thought, 'Why not get to the moon?'" Winetraub said at a news conference Wednesday. "I always thought we're going to get to the moon, but now it's actually happening, and it's quite incredible."

SpaceIL's squat, circular, three-legged craft is roughly the size of a compact car: 5 feet tall, 6 1/2 feet in diameter and weighing about 1,300 pounds, most of which is fuel. At 8:45 p.m. Eastern time Thursday, barring bad weather or unforeseen problems, the craft will launch into space from Florida hitched to one of Elon Musk's SpaceX rockets. Winetraub

called it the "Uber of space travel."

More like UberPool, the car pool option: Whereas Apollo 11's 1969 trip to the moon took three days, SpaceIL's will take about two months. That's because it's riding shotgun on another rocket and cannot propel itself directly to the moon. Instead it has to use orbiting to align itself, only meeting up with the moon at the beginning of April.

About four minutes after launch, the SpaceIL craft, named Beresheet—Hebrew for "Genesis"—will separate from the rocket. It will send a first communication to SpaceIL's ground control in the central Israeli town of Yehud and go into orbit around the Earth. Over the course of about a month-and-a-half it will hurtle through space at a maximum speed of more than 22,000 miles per hour. Its thrusters will push the craft in progressively wider and wider orbits around the Earth, and closer to the moon's orbit.

Then it will enter one of the riskiest steps of the mission.

Once it gets near the moon, the craft must suddenly slow down enough to be pulled into orbit around the moon. If it goes too fast, it will pass right by, speeding directly into space. Then, after about a week of traveling around the moon, the craft will slow down again, dropping toward its landing spot on the Sea of Serenity. About 16 feet up, it will cut the engine entirely and free-fall to the moon's surface, making a soft landing.

SpaceIL's founders are confident that the mission will be successful. But Winetraub acknowledged that it's fraught.

"There are many things that can go wrong and only one thing that can go right," he said. "You really can't test everything. The atmosphere is different on the moon, the gravity is different on the moon, so you have to have some simulations, some edu-

cated guesses about how it's going to work."

There were early hiccups. At the news conference, Winetraub wanted to show an inspiring video about the history of moon landings. Except the sound wouldn't work. Then the screen went blue.

"Can we have the sound?" Winetraub asked, chuckling. "The sound is more difficult than getting to the moon. We'll give it one more try."

To even reach this point was an unlikely journey for SpaceIL, whose story is a quintessential Israeli startup tale. It was founded to compete in Google's Lunar XPrize, a contest to see who could build the first private spacecraft to reach the moon. The co-founders submitted their application right at the deadline, Dec. 31, 2010, and went through a few failed experiments before building the right craft.

The first model was the size of a Coke bottle. When that didn't work, the team made the craft the size of a dishwasher. Now they're up to a car.

"It is rocket science," Winetraub said, explaining the difficulty. "If it doesn't work the first time, that's OK, but the second time around you expect it to work, so that was hard. We did it again and the design you now see on the launchpad is the third or fourth iteration."

The XPrize shut down without a winner last year, but along the way SpaceIL received enough funding to keep going. It's working in partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries, and its donors include the U.S. billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, South African-Israeli billionaire Morris Kahn and Canadian-Israeli real estate mogul Sylvan Adams.

The mission has also become a kind of cause celebre. Buzz Aldrin, who knows something about getting to

the moon, tweeted his best wishes Wednesday. His Apollo 11 mission landed on the lunar surface nearly 50 years ago.

The spacecraft will raise an Israeli flag once it reaches the moon. It will carry a time capsule with the entire Bible printed in microscopic text on a coin, along with hundreds of other documents compressed onto small discs: dictionaries, encyclopedias, and Jewish and Israeli texts like the Israeli national anthem and the traditional Jewish prayer for travelers.

The mission also will include scientific research. In partnership with NASA and The Weizmann Institute, an Israeli university, the craft will test the moon's magnetic field in addition to taking photos and video. After two days the craft will be shut off and the mission will be complete.

But SpaceIL doesn't think its work will end there. The organization also hopes to inspire Israeli kids to go into science and engineering by showing them that space exploration is achievable. Its educational programs have already reached a million children, whom SpaceIL engages by asking them to help solve certain problems the craft might face, like how to stabilize with fuel sloshing around inside. The craft's time capsule also will include drawings from Israeli kids.

And SpaceIL is hoping to engage the Israeli public in the mission. There is even a Spotify playlist of Israeli songs appropriate for the launch featuring "Space Shuttles" by the Israeli singer Berry Sakharof.

"It's the first Israeli spacecraft, but hopefully not the last," Damari, another co-founder, said at the news conference.

When kids ask him if the craft will return, he says, "We tell them no, it stays there with the time capsule and all sorts of interesting things inside. It's your job to reach the moon and bring it back."

"Hal Linden is a revelation"

—Jay D. Homnick, American Spectator



WINNER

Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature
Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival
2018

WINNER
HONORABLE MENTION
PALM BEACH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
2019

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SAN DIEGO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
2018

2018 HEARTLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Official Selection

OFFICIAL SELECTION
HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
2018

OFFICIAL SELECTION
TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
2018

OFFICIAL SELECTION
MILWAUKEE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
2018

"Inspirational!"

—John Della, Aced Magazine



Hal Linden Ryan Ochoa

THE SAMUEL PROJECT

A Marc Fusco Film

"A movie for all generations"

—Carolyn McKenzie, Global Toronto

IN THEATERS

In Select Cities

Regal Pointe Orlando 20

Regal Oviedo Mall 22

Regal Pavillion 14 (Port Orange)

TheSamuelProjectMovie.com

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOR LIFE!



CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

1-877-486-2333

Promo Number: 285
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST.

LIMITED TIME OFFER

15%

Off Entire LeafFilter Purchase

0%

Financing*

PLUS ADDITIONAL SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

Exclusive Offer — Redeem by Phone Today

Promo Number: 285



MADE IN THE USA | LIFETIME WARRANTY | BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

*Contact us for additional details

CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H