

Portman won't go pick up prize due to beef with Bibi



Emma McIntyre/Getty Images
Natalie Portman at the Jan. 20 Women's March in LA

(JTA) — Natalie Portman said she wouldn't attend a prize ceremony in Israel because of her feelings about its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and "atrocities" committed on his watch, but emphasized that she would not shun Israel itself.

The Jerusalem-born director and actor, posting comments on Instagram, explained her decision not to accept in person the \$2 million Genesis Prize, which calls itself the "Jewish Nobel," after a day of speculation in the media that she was turning down the prize because she was joining the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel, known as BDS. The prize foundation had the day before announced Portman's decision not to attend the ceremony.

"I chose not to attend because I did not want to appear as endorsing Benjamin Netanyahu, who was

to be giving a speech at the ceremony," said Portman, who in 2011 won a best actress Oscar for *Black Swan*.

"By the same token, I am not part of the BDS movement and do not endorse it," Portman said.

"Like many Israelis and Jews around the world, I can be critical of the leadership in Israel without wanting to boycott the entire nation," she said. "I treasure my Israeli friends and family, Israeli food, books, art, cinema, and dance. Israel was created exactly 70 years ago as a haven for refugees from the Holocaust. But the mistreatment of those suffering from today's atrocities is simply not in line with my Jewish values. Because I care about Israel, I must stand up against violence, corruption, inequality, and abuse of power."

PORTMAN continued on PAGE 11

As Syrian situation heats up, will Iran again target Israel?

By ISRAEL KASNETT
Jewish News Syndicate

Israel's covert war with Iran became overt when, in a clear escalation, Iran sent an armed drone into Israeli territory in February.

Then Israel wiped out most of Syria's air defenses after an Israel Air Force fighter jet was shot down. And now, after Israel reportedly struck the T-4 base in Syria and killed several Iranian personnel, Iran is threatening to retaliate.

The issue is when, where and how.

According to David Makovsky, director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Insti-

tute for Near East Policy, "There is no question that there is more uncertainty of a possible war between Israel and Iran or its proxies then there has been in the past," he told JNS.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported Tuesday night, April 17, that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after conferring with President Donald Trump, ordered the strike on the anti-aircraft battery to prevent Iranian forces from using it against Israeli warplanes carrying out operations in Syria. The newspaper cited unnamed U.S. intelligence officials and others briefed on the matter.

TARGET continued on PAGE 15



Photo courtesy of CASA

A portion of the new library at the CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse) shelter in south Pinellas County.

JWI chapter donates library for children at abuse shelter

Members of the Clearwater Chapter of Jewish Women International (JWI), recently donated a new children's library at CASA, (Community Action Stops Abuse), south Pinellas County's domestic abuse shelter.

The library at CASA is the 68th to open as part of the JWI National Library Initiative and the third one to open in Florida. The other two in the state are in Naples and Miami.

The national goal is to establish 100 children's libraries in domestic violence shelters across the country in conjunction with JWI's mission to end domestic and sexual violence against women and girls.

The library initiative puts the children front and center by providing a sanctuary where each child can find the comfort that only a good book and a safe place can provide.

"Kids escaping volatile and danger-

ous homes are at high risk of falling behind grade level at school," said CASA's CEO Lariana Forsythe. "That is why JWI's children's library at CASA's emergency shelter is so important. It will provide key learning resources to the 50-60 kids staying at our shelter each night. Integrated with our other programs for children and their guardians, it will be a critical resource helping families break the generational cycle of violence."

The money to completely furnish the CASA library and stock the shelves was raised primarily by the members of the JWI Clearwater Chapter.

"It was truly a dream come true. As a National Board of Trustees member, I had heard about the libraries and when CASA announced their new facility, I asked the Clearwater Chapter to sponsor a library there. The members

LIBRARY continued on PAGE 7



University of Central Florida is one of six Florida colleges that has a Scubi Jew club, started at Eckerd College by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of Hillels of the Florida Suncoast.

Scubi Jew appeal blooms – even in the Arizona desert

By BOB FRYER
Jewish Press

When Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, founder of the Scubi Jew scuba diving program at Eckerd College, got a call from the Hillel program director at the University of Arizona, asking about starting a Scubi Jew chapter there, Rosenthal's reaction was, "Dude, you live in the desert."

The program director, who had read about the scuba diving program in a magazine highlighting college Hillel organizations across the nation, was not put off by Rabbi Rosenthal's reaction and said there was strong interest in starting a chapter there. He also pointed out that the University of Arizona is closer to the Sea of Cortez than Eckerd College is to the Florida Keys. Soon, a chapter was formed and the Arizona students wound up on spring break diving trip to Key Largo to help clean up waters after Hurricane Irma ravaged the area.

SCUBI continued on PAGE 11



University of Arizona students on their first Scubi Jew dive trip to Key Largo during spring break 2018.

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Birthright co-founder Michael Steinhardt shows anti-Israel protesters exactly how he feels outside a gala dinner in New York City celebrating 18 years of the program.

Birthright Israel founder flips off protesters outside gala

Michael Steinhardt, the co-founder and major supporter of Birthright Israel – a program that has brought more than 600,000 Jewish young adults from around the world to Israel for free 10-day trips – gave the middle finger to a group of anti-Israel, anti-Birthright activists outside a gala Birthright celebration on April 15.

When Steinhardt arrived at the dinner in New York celebrating Birthright's 18th anniversary, more than 150 protesters verbally accosted him, including members of the Palestine Solidarity Alliance, Democratic Socialists of America and Students for Justice in Palestine. His responding gesture was captured on film and going viral around the Jewish world.

The protest was led by "Return the Birthright," a campaign calling on young Jews to boycott Birthright and support Palestinian claims to the land. Participants wrapped themselves in tallit and read out the names of Palestinian villages that existed prior to Israel's independence, as well as the names of 32 Gaza Palestinians who were killed in riots on the Gaza border in the last three weeks, most of whom have been identified as operatives for Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Sheldon and Miriam Adelson, who recently announced that they were contributing an additional \$70 million to Birthright, were presented with the "Guardians of the Jewish Future" award at the event.

40 UN ambassadors visit Israel as nation celebrates 70th anniversary

JERUSALEM – Forty ambassadors to the United Nations visited Israel as the nation celebrated its 70th Independence Day. Israel's ambassador to the U.N., Danny Danon, led the five-day visit. No ambassadors from Arab countries participated.

The visitors included ambassadors from Serbia, Jamaica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, Liberia, Ukraine, Uganda, Slovenia, Malta, Mozambique and Ethiopia. Not all of the countries represented vote with Israel in the U.N. Security Council.

Fifteen of the ambassadors first joined Danon in Poland last week for the March of the Living, which was held on Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day. It was the first time that U.N. ambassadors had joined in the March of the Living.

The visit is the largest to come to Israel so far. There were nine participants in 2016 and 14 in 2017.

French mayor denied entrance to Israel

JERUSALEM — Patrice Leclerc, the mayor of Gennevilliers, a suburb of Paris, and his wife, were barred from entering Israel from Jordan via the Allenby Bridge border crossing due to his support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel and for a Palestinian state.

Ordered by Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, the denial was widely reported in French newspapers.

Leclerc said in a post on Facebook that he had been detained at the border for six hours and questioned six times before his entry was denied. He called the situation whereby Israel can refuse supporters of a Palestinian state entry into Israel "intolerable."

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Separated by the Holocaust, old friends find each other 76 years later

By GABRIELLE BIRKNER
JTA news service

LOS ANGELES – When Alice (Gerstel) Weit last saw Simon Gronowski, she was 13 and he was 10 and, by Alice’s recollection, “the most adorable boy ever.”

When they reunited this week, 76 years later, “I opened the door and there he was, a frail, little old man,” she said.

At the threshold of Alice’s apartment here, the old friends embraced, and they wept.

“They weren’t talking; they were speaking with their eyes,” said Simon’s grandson Romain De Mys, 24, who witnessed the April 10 reunion.

Two days later, Alice and Simon were guests of honor during the Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah, program at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

Until recently, Alice had long believed that Simon – the little brother of her childhood best friend, Ita – had perished with his family at Auschwitz. It wasn’t until last summer, after a family member’s internet search turned up Simon’s memoir, that she learned he had survived the war.

“I broke down and cried like a little baby,” Alice said.

A few weeks later, she found out that Simon was still alive and working as a lawyer in Brussels.

Simon was just as emotional when he received an email from one of Alice’s sons saying that his mother was looking to reconnect.

“I replied right away that I want to see her,” Simon said.

It’s no wonder, given their families’ unique connection. For 10 harrowing days in October 1941, as Alice, her mother and two siblings waited to be smuggled out of Nazi-occupied Belgium, they hid above the Gronowskis’ leather goods store. The Brussels shop was frequented by Nazi officers, and the Gronowskis risked their own lives to shelter the Gerstels.

When Alice and her family left that day, “I said goodbye, but I believed I’d see them again,” Simon told JTA. “At this moment, I didn’t know Auschwitz.”

The Gerstels managed to escape Europe, traveling through France and Morocco before boarding a ship bound for Cuba. They ultimately resettled in the United States, where Alice married, had two children and worked as a real estate agent.

The Gestapo arrested Simon and his family in February 1943. They were sent to the Mechelen transit camp, then put on a train bound for Auschwitz. En route, the train was breached by the Belgian resistance, and some passengers were able to flee. With his mother’s help, 11-year-old Simon jumped from the train and escaped through the woods. His mother, Chana, and sister Ita, who was on a subsequent convoy, would die at Auschwitz.

Young Simon was aided by a Belgian police officer, and he spent the remainder of the war sheltered in the homes of Catholic families. Simon’s father, Léon, also survived the war in hiding, but died shortly thereafter, when Simon was only 13.

Years on, Simon put himself through law school, married (now divorced) and had two children. An amateur jazz pianist, Simon was invited in 2014 to play alongside filmmaker Woody Allen at New York’s Carlyle Hotel, where Allen performs regularly



Photo by Bart Bartholomew/Simon Wiesenthal Center
(L-R) Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, stands with Simon Gronowski and Alice Weit, who had a reunion 76 years after being separated by the Holocaust. Gronowski and Weit were honored at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, April 12, 2018.

with his band.

But for decades after the war, Simon did not talk about what he had endured. In 2002 he published a memoir *The Child of the 20th Convoy*, and began speaking in schools about what happened to his family during the Holocaust. When he stood before the crowd Thursday, April 19, at the Museum of Tolerance, he said he ultimately decided to share his story “on behalf of victims of all barbarities,” including those who died in the 20th century genocides in Armenia and Rwanda. He also decried the pernicious forces of hate and Holocaust denial and called democracy “a struggle of everyday.”

At Thursday’s event, Alice praised Simon’s mother, whom she credits with saving her family.

“Your mom was the personification of the saying, ‘If you save one life, you save all humanity,’” she said.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which runs the Museum of Tolerance, told JTA that Holocaust memory is at a critical moment, as “a generation of perpetrators, victims, liberators and bystanders are all leaving the stage of history.”

“The question is how will we be remembering the Shoah [Holocaust] after the eyewitnesses are gone?” said Cooper, citing Holocaust denial abroad, the rise of far-right candidates in the United States and a new study showing that many U.S. millennials lack a basic knowledge about the Holocaust.

The study found that 22 percent of respondents between the ages of 18 and 34 had not heard of the Holocaust or weren’t sure if they had heard of it. The same survey, spearheaded by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, also revealed that 41 percent of respondents of all ages could not identify the concentration camp Auschwitz.

Against this backdrop, Cooper said Alice and Simon’s reunion “is a sign of hope, but also a challenge, a reminder to step up.”

In advance of Simon’s arrival this week, Alice spent days preparing “a Yiddishe meal” of chopped liver, gefilte fish, matzah ball soup and brisket for her friend.

The reunion gave Simon an opportunity to connect with the closest thing he has to his lost family, said Dann Netter, one of Alice’s sons.

“For us,” Netter said, “it provides the opportunity to say thank you.”

JCC to start summer fitness program for kids 12 - 17

The Bryan Glazer Family JCC will launch its first wellness-focused program for ages 12-17, this summer.

The free program will kick off on June 5 and run every other week from 1-3 p.m. at the Glazer JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa.

Programs will be led by the JCC’s fitness team and will uti-

lize the indoor track, gymnasium, fitness center and Mezrah Family Aquatic Center.

Members and non-members alike are invited to join in to play games, talk about wellness/nutrition, take part in friendly competition or just simply enjoy the pool and hang out.

Workout attire is required for

this program and participants should bring swim gear and a water bottle.

Although there is no charge for this program, registration is required. Parents can register their child at the welcome desk of the Glazer JCC or by contacting Shari Leiterman at shari.leiterman@jewishtampa.com.



Soshannah Nolan lights a candle during a Yom HaShoah ceremony at the Norman Jewish Library.



Sam Reiber, the child of Holocaust survivors, lights a candle in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Yom HaShoah commemorated at recent event

USF and University of Tampa students and descendants of Holocaust survivors lit six candles in memory of the 6 million Jews who lost their lives in the Holocaust during a recent ceremony commemorating Yom HaShoah at the Norman Jewish Library. Those lighting candles included Chaya Rivkin, Yoel Vazquez, Sam Reiber, Soshanna Nolan and Matisyahu Johnson

A seventh candle was lit by Rabbi Lazer Rivkin, also a child of Holocaust survivors, in honor of Israel’s 70th anniversary.

The event included a brief talk by Reiber, an attorney and mem-

ber of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, who is a child of Holocaust survivors. He described the path of survival his family took from Europe to Minnesota and eventually to Florida, replete with anecdotes of growing up with a pride of being Jewish – even though there were very few, if any, Jews nearby.

Zev Schломann organized the event as part of a new monthly Rosh Chodesh celebration, “A Festive Meal on the New Moon.” The Norman Jewish Library is located at 13207 N 52nd St., Temple Terrace, inside Young Israel of Tampa.

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Freedom To Serve

By **RABBI JASON ROSENBERG**
Congregation Beth Am, Tampa

We are currently in the period of the counting of the Omer, the 49-day span between the holidays of Passover and Shavuot. Among other things, counting the Omer is meant to connect these two festivals. And, that's important because while, on the surface, these two holidays are about very different ideas, on a fundamental level they're actually talking about the same thing. They're trying to get us to think about what it really means to be free.

Passover, of course, is the holiday which directly celebrates our freedom. It marks our liberation from slavery in Egypt, and the throwing off of the shackles of Pharaoh's servitude. Shavuot, on the other hand, commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. It remembers our willing acceptance of service to God. And it's that journey, from slavery to service, which is at the heart of the connection between these ancient festivals.

It's important to realize that, in Hebrew, there is one word (*eved*) which means "slave" as well as "servant." At Passover, we lament "*Avadim hayinu l'Pharaoh* — we were slaves to Pharaoh," but soon after that, we rejoice by declaring "*v'achshav kervanu haMakom la'avodoto* — now, we have been brought to service to God." Again, it's the same word. We were *avadim* (servants/slaves) to Pharaoh; now, we're *avadim* to God. A cynic could almost read it as saying that there was really no difference in our situation; all that changed was whom we were serving. But, that's obviously not what's going on here. Instead, our tradition is trying to teach us that the opposite of slavery isn't really freedom. At least, not as we often understand that word.

What does it mean to be free? In our modern culture, freedom is very often associated with leisure — think about how we use the phrase "free time." When we talk about "financial freedom," that often refers to having the means to enjoy "the finer things in life," which always includes luxurious vacations, fine dining, and the like. Judaism, on the other hand, takes a different view of freedom. While there's nothing wrong with enjoying material goodness, that's never been understood as the point of freedom.

RABBINICALLY SPEAKING

Our tradition is trying to teach us that we were freed for a higher purpose — we were freed in order to serve God and, hopefully, to serve the world.

It's in the story from the very beginning. When God (speaking through Moses) demands that Pharaoh release us, it's not "Let My people go," but rather, "Let My people go *so that they may serve Me.*" The Torah is making it clear that God was freeing us for a specific reason — so that we could serve. Because, ultimately, slavery isn't about having to work, or about having to work hard. Slavery is found in having to work for that which doesn't matter. Slavery is having to work towards ends in which we don't believe. Liberation is found not in relaxation, but in serving a higher purpose, and working for a higher good.

This lesson is probably even more relevant today than it ever has been in our People's history. That's because we enjoy a level of freedom which is unprecedented. We live in America which guarantees our personal religious freedom in so many ways. But, we also live in an age and a society which even affords us the opportunity of freedom *from* religion. Just a century or two ago, it was pretty much inconceivable that a person would walk away from their religion, or from their religious community. But now, it's not the least bit uncommon to do so. If I want to live a life of unconstrained freedom, without any of the obligations placed on me by Judaism, nothing can or will stop me. If I want to use my freedom to do nothing other than enhance my daily personal enjoyment, then I can. Radical, unconstrained freedom is more available than it ever has been.

Our question, then, is whether that's what we want. Whether we think that, ultimately, a life without obligation, a life in service of nothing, is worthwhile. Or, if we believe that subjugating our own desires, and placing ourselves in the service of something (or some One) higher, is a better way to go.

Ultimately, our lives will be judged by how we chose to use them. When we choose to seek a purpose in life, we are choosing to use our lives, and our freedom, in the holiest way possible. Through Moses, God demanded, "Let My people go so that they may serve Me." It's now up to us to decide whether to answer that call.

Rabbinically Speaking is published as a public service by the Jewish Press in cooperation with the Tampa Rabbinical Association which assigns the column on a rotating basis.



Congregations

Cong. Kol Ami

Picnic: Join congregants for food, drinks, fun and games on the grounds of the synagogue on Sunday, May 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an end-of-the-year picnic. The free event is sponsored by Brotherhood, Sisterhood and Kol Yeladim Religious School. There will be lots of outdoor activities for the kids: a bounce house, obstacle course, and slip and slide to name a few. Food will include hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie dogs and veggie burgers with ice pops and watermelon for dessert. For more information, contact the Kol Ami office at (813) 962-6338.

Shabbat dinner: A congregational Shabbat dinner will be held on Friday, May 11. The Shabbat service at 6:30 p.m. will be led by Kol Yeladim Religious School students with **Cantor Beth Schlossberg and Rabbi Howard Siegel**, followed by the dinner to honor all the students. Cost is \$18 for adults (ages 13 and older), \$11 for kids (ages 4-12) and free for ages 3 and under. RSVP by May 4 to the Kol Ami office.

B'nai Mitzvah class grads: The seventh grade B'nai Mitzvah class graduation Shabbat services will be Saturday, May 12, at 9:30 a.m. This will be followed by a kiddush luncheon open to the community to congratulate the B'nai Mitzvah students. For more information, contact the Kol Ami office.

Brotherhood: Come and greet the Brotherhood board and members as they review the past year on Sunday April 29 from 10 a.m. to noon. Hear about where the Brotherhood is headed in the 2018-19 fiscal year and share ideas and thoughts about future programming. Refreshments will be served.

L'Chaim: A class, "Sharing Life's Lessons," is offered on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. Topics, readings and a different leader are chosen for each weekly session.

Talmud: A Talmud study class with Rabbi Siegel is offered on Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Jewish law confronts everything from capital punishment to how to make rain. This is open to everyone from beginners through experts. Texts are provided.

Jewish ethics: Rabbi Siegel leads a course in Jewish ethics on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. This course will use Pirke Avot: Ethics of Our Ancestors as a

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times



April 27	•	7:44 pm
May 4	•	7:48 pm
May 11	•	7:52 pm
May 18	•	7:56 pm

springboard to discussion and debate on issues of the day in the light of Jewish moral/ethical demands.

Knitting time: The Sisterhood Needle Workers hold weekly knitting sessions on Tuesdays from 1:30 - 3 p.m. in the boardroom. The knitters make fabric quilt wall hangings and knitting and crocheting squares to make quilts. These are then donated to a group that provides housing for local teens aging out of foster care, as well as other charities. For more information, call the Kol Ami office.

Chabad Chai of South Tampa

Journey to Chabad: Chabad Chai will present a talk by **Mary Ellen Hogan** on Monday, April 30 on her journey from Christianity to temple, to synagogue to shul. Hogan has practiced law for more than 30 years, earning the highest possible ratings for legal ability and ethics. She is a passionate supporter of Israel, serving as president of the Jewish National Fund's Northern Florida region. She is also a longtime member of Chabad Chai of South Tampa. Dessert will be served following the talks.



Mary Ellen Hogan

Lag B'Omer: Join in a Lag B'Omer Festival on Fire celebration on Thursday, May 3 from 6 - 8 p.m. featuring a barbecue, bongos and a bonfire at the future home of the Chabad center, 808 N. Armenia Ave., Tampa
To RSVP visit ChabadChaiCenter.com/Lag.

• CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE

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Congregation SCHAARAI ZEDEK — 3303 W. Swann Ave., Tampa 33609 • Rabbi Richard J. Birnholz, Rabbi Nathan Farb • Cantor Deborah Cannizzaro • Services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Torah study, 9 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 876-2377 • Website: www.zedek.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Conservative

Congregation KOL AMI — 3919 Moran Road, Tampa 33618 • Rabbi Howard Siegel • Cantor Beth Schlossberg • Services: Friday 6:30 p.m. (Family Service first Friday of the month); Saturday 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, 9:15 a.m.; Monday-Thursday, 7:30 p.m. • Torah study every Saturday, 9:25 a.m. • Telephone: 962-6338 • website: www.kolami.org • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Congregation MEKOR SHALOM — 14005A N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, 33618 • Hazzan Jodi Sered-Lever, Spiritual Leader • Services: Friday 6:30 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Telephone: (813) 963-1818 • Website: www.mekorshalom.org • Unaffiliated

Congregation RODEPH SHOLOM — 2713 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 33629 • Rabbi Josh Hershman • Cantor Andres Kornworcel • Services: Friday, 6 p.m.; Saturday service, 9:30 a.m.; Mon. — Fri. 7:15 a.m., Sunday, 9:15 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 837-1911 • Website: www.rsholom.org • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Orthodox

BAIS (TEMPLE) DAVID CHABAD — 2001 W. Swann Ave., Tampa 33606 • Rabbi Lazer Rivkin • Shabbat Services and meal: Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 9:45 a.m., 7:30 p.m. • Telephone: (813) 966-8770 • Website: www.chabadofcentralflorida.com • Email: Drivkin52@gmail.com

CHABAD LUBAVITCH of TAMPA BAY — 14908 Pennington Road, Tampa 33624 • Rabbi Yossie Dubrowski, executive director • Telephone: (813) 963-2317 • Website: www.chabadoftampabay.com

CHABAD of BRANDON / JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER — 1578 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico, 33596 • Rabbi Mendel Rubashkin • Services: Saturday, 10 a.m. • Call for location, Telephone: (813) 571-8100 • Website: chabadbrandon.org.

CHABAD CHAI of SOUTH TAMPA — 2511 W. Swann Ave. #201, Tampa, FL 33606 • Rabbi Mendy Dubrowski • Services: 1st and 3rd Saturday of month, 10 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 922-1723 • Website: www.ChabadSouthTampa.com

BAIS MENACHEM CHABAD — 1319 North B. St., Tampa, 33606 • Rabbi Levi Rivkin • Shabbat dinner, 8 p.m. • Shacharit service: Mon. & Thurs., 8:15 a.m., Weinberg Village. Mincha service: Mon.—Thurs., 7 p.m., • Telephone: (813) 375-9799, (813) 504-4432 • Website: www.bmchabad.com

Congregation BAIS TEFILLAH — 14908 Pennington Road, Tampa, 33624 • Rabbi Yossie Dubrowski • Shabbat Services: Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. • Sunday Shachrit, 9 a.m. • Telephone: (813) 963-2317 • Website: www.chabadoftampabay.com

YOUNG ISRAEL of TAMPA — 13207 N. 52nd St., Tampa, 33617 • Rabbi Uriel Rivkin • Services: Monday - Friday 7 a.m., Friday, 7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. • Sunday, 9:00 a.m. • Evening services every night at sunset • (813) 832-3018 • Website: www.youngisraeloftampa.org

MERKOS CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF CENTRAL FLORIDA — 613 S. Melville Ave. Tampa, 33606 • Director: Rabbi

Lazer Rivkin • Telephone: (813) 966-8770 • Website: www.ChabadOfCentralFlorida.com

Campus

CHABAD HOUSE JEWISH STUDENT CENTER at USF — 13287 Arbor Point Circle unit 102, Tampa, 33617, Mailing address: USF Marshall CTR. Box 310, Tampa, 33620. • Rabbi Levi Rivkin • Shabbat Services and meal: Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. • Housing Available • Telephone: (813) 504-4432 • Website: www.chabadhouseusf.org • Email: bmchabad@gmail.com

CHABAD JEWISH STUDENT CENTER at UT — 401 W. Kennedy Blvd. Box P., Tampa 33606 • Rabbi Levi Rivkin • Telephone: (813) 504-4432 • Website: www.chabadut.org

HILLELS OF THE FLORIDA SUNCOAST — 13101 Sycamore Drive, Tampa, 33620 • Rabbi Ed Rosenthal • Shabbat Services: (during academic year) Friday 6:30 p.m. • Telephone: (813) 899-2788 • Website: www.suncoasthillels.org.

USF CHABAD on CAMPUS — 4506 Sweetwater Lake Drive, Tampa, 33620 • Rabbi Pinny Backman • Website: www.USFChabad.com • Telephone: (813) 978-8723

Jewish Renewal

Congregation OR AHAVAH — Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt, spiritual leader • Monthly gathering — see website for more information • Telephone: 813-968-7850; email: D.shenefelt@att.net. • Website: www.Orahavah.org • Affiliated with Aleph.

CITRUS COUNTY

Conservative

Congregation BETH SHOLOM — 102 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills • Mailing address: Beverly Hills Jewish Center, P. O. Box 640024, Beverly Hills, FL 34464-0024 • Shabbat services: Friday, 6 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Telephone (352) 746-6258 • Website: www.bethsholomcitrus.org

PASCO COUNTY

Orthodox

CHABAD JEWISH CENTRE at WIREGRASS — 2124 Ashley Oaks Circle, Wesley Chapel, 33544 • Rabbi Mendy Yarmush • Services: Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

• Telephone: (813) 642-3244 • Website: www.ChabadatWiregrass.com.

Unaffiliated

Congregation BETH CHAVARIM — Shabbat services: third Friday at a member's home. Telephone: (813) 957-1269 • Email familyfriendlytemple@yahoo.com

NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

Reform

Temple AHAVAT SHALOM — 1575 Curlew Rd., Palm Harbor, 34683 • Rabbi Gary Klein • Cantorial soloist, Allison Rosoff • Services: First Friday: 6:00 p.m., All other Fridays: 7:30 p.m., call for Saturday service time • Telephone: (727) 785-8811 • Website: www.ahavatshalom.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Congregation B'NAI EMMUNAH — 57 Read St., Tarpon Springs, 34689 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1312, Tarpon Springs, 34688 • Rabbi Lynn Goldstein • Services: Friday: 7:30 p.m. • Torah study Saturday, 10:30 a.m. • Telephone: (727) 938-9000 • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

POLK COUNTY

Reform

Temple BETH SHALOM — 1029 Bradbury Road, • P.O.B. 313 Winter Haven, 33882-0313 • Rabbi Garson Herzfeld • Shabbat evening services: (usually 2nd and 4th Shabbat of the month at 7:30 p.m.) Torah study-Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. • Telephone: (863) 292-0722. • Website: www.templebethshalompolk.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Conservative

Temple EMANUEL — 600 Lake Hollingsworth Drive, Lakeland, 33803 • Rabbi David Goldstein • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. Telephone: (863) 682-8616. • Website: TempleEmanuelLakeland.com. • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Orthodox

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER — 2270 Griffin Road, Lakeland, 33810 • Rabbi Moshe Lazaros • Shabbat Services: Saturday 10 a.m. • Telephone: (863) 937-5565 • Website: www.chabadlakeland.org.

Bat Mitzvah

Lea Visher

Lea Visher, daughter of Michael and Sharon Visher of Tampa, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 28 at Congregation Kol Ami in Tampa.



A seventh-grade honors student at the Hillel Academy of Tampa, Lea is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. Active in sports, Lea is a competitive swimmer on the Carrollwood Village Swim Team and a member of the volleyball team at Hillel. She is also a student council member at Hillel and a Kadima board member. One of Lea's hobbies is cooking.

Mike and Sharon Visher will host a celebration at Congregation Kol Ami on Saturday, April 29.

Special guests will include grandmother Anna Visher of Tampa and grandparents Linda and Bob Markowitz of Ellicott City, MD.

Engagement

Halvorsen/Gagne



Rebecca Agnes Halvorsen, daughter of Roberta and Donald Halvorsen of Yorktown, VA and Samuel Jeremiah Gagne, son of Betsy and Steve Gagne of Odessa, announce their engagement.

The future bride is a graduate of The College of William & Mary and Eastern Virginia Medical School. She is currently a first-year Family Medicine resident at Columbia New York Presbyterian Hospital.

The perspective bridegroom spent his childhood in Tampa and is a graduate of Brandeis University and Eastern Virginia Medical School. He is currently a first-year Social Pediatric resident at Albert Einstein College of Medicine Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

A May 2019 wedding is planned at the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx, with a honeymoon in Belgium.

The couple will reside in Riverdale, NY.

Talk: Sholem Aleichem and 'Fiddling with Tradition'

Historian Jeff Lipkes will discuss the transformations undergone by the Tevye stories of the great Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem when the tales crossed the Atlantic, and what these changes reveal about American descendants of Eastern European Jews.

The talk will focus on how these Jews perceived their own past, their relations with gentiles, and especially intermarriage. The program will feature a showing of Maurice Schwartz's 1939 film *Tevye* (Yiddish with English subtitles).

The event will be held Sunday, May 20, from 2-4:45 p.m., at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., Tampa.



Jeff Lipkes

In the discussion there will be a comparison of the 1939 film to both the 1964 Broadway production and to Norman Jewison's 1971 film adaptation, as well as to the original Sholem Aleichem stories. Included in the discussion will be a consideration of the "bible" of the creators of *Fiddler on the Roof*, Mark Zborowski and Elizabeth Herzog's classic account of the shtetl, *Life Is With People*.

In advance, attendees should watch on youtube the following musical numbers and excerpts from *Fiddler*: "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," "Matchmaker," "Fyedka and Chava," "Perchik," and "Sabbath Prayer." The original Tevye stories also are available in three English translations for those interested.

Lipkes, who holds a Ph.D from Princeton, has taught modern European history at USF, Eckerd College, and Florida Southern College.

Lipkes is the organizer of Humanistic Jews of Tampa Bay.

Open casting call for JCC-produced 'seniors' musical

The Tampa JCCs is auditioning cast members for fall performances of *Senior Moments*, an ageless musical comedy.

All those interested in acting in the show will be asked to read scenes from the production, learn a short melody and a quick eight-count dance. No experience is needed.

The JCC is looking to cast 20 parts for the show. Participation is a volunteer experience.

Auditions will be held on Monday May 14 and Tuesday, May 15 from 5-8 p.m. on both days at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC. To register for an audi-

tion time, visit www.jewishtampa.com/audition.

Rehearsals will be flexible and will run during the summer.

The play is a poignant and hilarious view on aging in its many facets. Growing old has many new realities and challenges and can be both humorous and difficult, and the play aims to capture that through a series of vignettes.

There will be two performances on Oct. 7 at the Glazer Family JCC.

For more information, contact Brandy Gold at brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com.

Congregations

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

Rethinking: A Jewish Learning Institute course on rethinking everything we know about the universe gets under way on April 24 and will continue for six weeks every Tuesday. For course information and to register, go to Chabad-ChaiCenter.com/Whatis.

Chabad of Tampa Bay

Lag B'Omer: The Chabad will hold a Lag B'Omer barbecue at the home of Rabbi Yossi and Sulha Dubrowski on Thursday, May 3 at 6 p.m. Enjoy an evening of food, a moonwalk, music and family fun. To RSVP and for directions to the house, call (813) 963-2317.

Cong. Schaarai Zedek

Confirmation: A service and reception to honor the 2018 confirmation class will be held Sunday, May 20 at 10 a.m. The confirmands are: Logan Danielle Black, Ellie Lynn Blumenthal, Hannah Cohen, Adam Lanson Feeney, Sabrina Feldman, Maya Isabelle Fisher, Jake Forman, Sarah Frank, Samuel D. Glickman, Noah Steven Halpern, Sofia Harwood, Benjamin Samuel Hochberg, Ella Mendelowitz, Bryan Matthew Miller, Ross Adam Miller, Mya Grace Rosenblatt, Lauren Anne Ross, Claire Meredith Shames, Lainey Shapiro, Parker Bennett Shaw, Eden Chaya Stark and Rachel Sarah Steinfeld.

Retirement celebration: The congregation will honor retiring Rabbi Richard Birnholz and his wife, Donna April 27-29 with a weekend full of free family activities. The celebration begins on Friday night with a Todah Rabah Shabbat. It will include a wine and cheese reception at 6:30 p.m. and Shabbat service with guest speaker Rabbi Harry Danziger at 7:30 p.m. In 1986, Rabbi Danziger installed Rabbi Birnholz as the fourth senior rabbi at Congregation Schaarai Zedek. On Saturday evening, entertainer Jason Hewlett will present "A Rabbi Walks into a Temple ... Stand-Up Comedy for a Stand-Out Guy." The event begins at 7 p.m. with a pre-performance

champagne and small bites reception, followed at 8 p.m. by Hewlett's one-man show featuring comedy, music and impressions, appropriate for all ages. Cake and coffee will be served after the performance. There is no charge for this event, but an RSVP is required. On Sunday at 11:30 a.m., there will be a "Holy Smokes" family barbecue bash with the Birnholzes. For more information, contact the temple at (813) 876-2377 or office@zedek.org.

Tot Shabbat: Enjoy an interactive Shabbat experience for families with young children on Friday, May 4 at 5:30 p.m., followed by a complimentary Shabbat dinner. Learn Shabbat rituals and prayers. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome. RSVP by Thursday, May 17 to www.zedek.org/RSVP or email office@zedek.org.

Movie night: The movie, *Wonder*, starring Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson and Jacob Tremblay, will be shown at the temple on Saturday, May 5 at 5:30 p.m. The film tells the story of August (Auggie) Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters the fifth grade, attending a mainstream school for the first time in his life. It is a movie that deals with issues and values that are important lessons for all ages. Families are encouraged to attend. Before the movie there will be pizza and after the movie, Rabbi Birnholz will lead a discussion on the movie's themes. There is no charge, but RSVPs are requested. Babysitting will not be provided. RSVP at www.Zedek.org/rsvp or call the temple or email office@zedek.org.

Campers' Shabbat: Come to Schaarai Zedek for an "Off to Camp" Family Shabbat service on Friday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. During the service, campers will be called to the bima for a special send-off blessing and a gift from the temple. A free camp-style dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. RSVP for the dinner by calling the temple at (813) 876-2377 or emailing office@zedek.org.

Sisterhood mah jongg

and dinner: Join with the Sisterhood for an evening of mah jongg and Chinese food on Monday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. All levels of play are welcome. To RSVP, call the temple.

Annual meeting: The congregation will hold its annual meeting, with Shabbat dinner and officer installation service on Friday, June 1. The dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., and the cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children up to age 9. The annual meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. when a president-elect, trustees and endowment committee members are selected and the 2018 President's Cup recipient is named. At 7:30 p.m. there will be a Shabbat service and officer installation. RSVP for the dinner by May 25 by calling the temple or going to www.zedek.org/RSVP.

Café CSZ: Have a bagel and a cup of coffee at Café CSZ on Sunday, April 29 from 9-11 a.m. when religious school is meeting.

Cong. Beth Am

Spring party: Beth Am's Annual Spring Event will be on Saturday, May 5 from 7 - 10 p.m. Come laugh and enjoy the "Beth Am Follies, 20 Chai," written by Vikki Silverman and Mike Brunhild, and performed members of the congregation. The major fundraiser of the year, the event will include appetizers, cocktails, drawings and a silent auction. During the party, Bob Friedman will be recognized as Beth Am's T.A.G. - Torah (study), Avodah (service), G'meelut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness) - Award honoree. Tickets are \$36 per person. For more information contact Victoria at (813) 968-8511 or Admin@BethAmTampa.org or Barry Kaufmann at BKMann@juno.com or (813) 997-7707.

Talmud study: An ongoing group is now deeply into Tractate Sanhedrin, where they are learning the ins and outs of the ancient Jewish legal system. It is fascinating stuff, and drop-ins and "just want to try it out's" are always welcome. The next sessions are on Thursdays, May 3 and 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the synagogue. For more information contact Admin@BethAmTampa.org.

Israeli dancing: Lessons

in Israeli dancing are offered every Tuesday at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Irma Polster at Ipolster@TampaBay.rr.com or call the temple office.

Cong. Rodeph Shalom

Adult education: Rabbi Josh Hearshen will teach Torah study on Thursdays at 11 a.m. and Talmud study on Thursdays at noon. At 7 p.m. on Thursdays he teaches a class titled "Embracing Judaism."

Cong. Beth Israel Sun City Center

Rummage sale: The congregation will hold a rummage sale on Tuesday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the synagogue. For information on donating, contact Barbara Nova at Barbaranova03@gmail.com.

Sisterhood lunch: The Sisterhood will close out the program year with its annual spring closing brunch and installation of officers on Tuesday, May 1 at 11 a.m.

Cong Beth Shalom Brandon

Crafts Fair: All are welcome to come to a crafts fair at the synagogue on Sunday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature many vendors selling goods, especially for wives, daughters, and mothers for Mother's Day on May 13.

Cong. Bais Menachem Chabad

Torah class: Join a weekly Torah class on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Tampa. The class explores contemporary issues through a Torah perspective.

For more information, contact Rabbi Levi Rivkin at (813) 504-4432 or email bmchabad@gmail.com.

Practical kabbalah: Enrich the soul and mind with a touch of kabbalah. Learn practical spirituality for everyday life. Classes are held on Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7 p.m.

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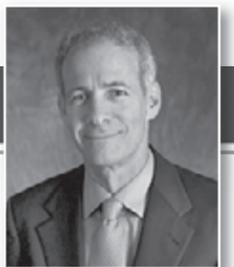
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Harry Potter's J.K. Rowling is giving a master class in identifying anti-Semitism and it's magical

By RON KAMPEAS
JTA news service

There's an unsettling debate underway in Britain about whether the right or the left is more anti-Semitic, and videos of Jewish members of Parliament reading out some of the anti-Semitic invective they've suffered have gone viral.

J.K. Rowling, the non-Jewish author of the Harry Potter series, decided to weigh in, defining anti-Semitism for her 14.4 million Twitter followers.

She posted a screen grab of a non-Jew gentile explaining what Judaism is – “Judaism is a religion not a race” – and gently explained why this is hardly relevant to defining anti-Jewish bias.

“Most UK Jews in my timeline are currently having to field this kind of crap, so perhaps some of us non-Jews should start shouldering the burden,” she said. “Anti-Semites think this is a clever argument, so tell us, do: were atheist Jews exempted from wearing the yellow star? #anti-semitism.”

Most UK Jews in my timeline are currently having to field this kind of crap, so perhaps some of us non-Jews should

Rowling's head-smacking was almost audible as she sorted through responses to that tweet, including one that said arguing against anti-Semitism was “culturally insensitive” to Muslims.

“When you only understand bigotry in terms of ‘pick a team’ and get a mind-boggling response,”

she said.

She also reacted with impatience – attaching a GIF of an exasperated Hugh Laurie – when someone argued that Arabs can't be anti-Semitic because they are Semites. “The ‘Arabs are semitic too’ hot takes have arrived,” she said.

“Split hairs. Debate etymology,” she said in a tweet attached to a definition of anti-Semitism as “hostility to or prejudice against Jews.” “Gloss over the abuse of your fellow citizens by attacking the actions of another country's government. Would your response to any other form of racism or bigotry be to squirm, deflect or justify?”

Rowling got in so deep, she forgot for a moment that her followers mainly want to chat about, well, Harry Potter. “How wonderful that you're experiencing it for the first time!” one said to another who posted that he had just started reading the series. “Enjoy!!”

Rowling quoted the reply, and said: “For a second there I thought @jessiebacho was telling me it was wonderful that I was experiencing anti-semitism for the first time... then I realised she was responding to somebody who just finished reading Harry Potter for the first time #Read-CarefullyBeforeCursing.”



Photo courtesy of Getty Images
J.K. Rowling speaking in New York City in 2015.

Cantor Schlossberg to join Hillel Academy as director of Jewish Life and Curriculum

Hillel Academy has appointed Cantor Beth Schlossberg, who has served for the past 5 years as cantor at Congregation Kol Ami in Tampa, as director of Jewish Life and Curriculum at the academy.

Schlossberg's “vast skills, experience and background are exactly what we need and will ensure our ongoing trajectory forward as a premiere Jewish day school, constantly improving and looking to take Hillel Academy to the next level,” said board President Stanford Solomon.

Head of School Allison Oakes said Schlossberg's “passion for Jewish education and her creativity will even further develop the Jewish identity and leadership skills of our students.”

Schlossberg comes to Hillel Academy after most recently serving as co-director for the religious school at Congregation Kol Ami, where she built a comprehensive and creative elementary and middle school Hebrew and Judaics Curriculum.

“I wish her the very best and a hearty mazel tov,” said Mitchell Weiss, executive director at Kol Ami. He noted that Schlossberg will remain at Kol Ami until her contract ends on June 30 and will begin at Hillel Academy on July 1.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Schlossberg earned a bachelor of music specializing in voice performance and spent several years singing professionally. She has taught piano and voice, has directed the Hebrew School and pre-school

Cantor Beth Schlossberg

music programs at Har Zion Temple in Narberth, PA, and has offered holiday and diversity programming for other private religious institutions, both Jewish and non Jewish.

In 2003, realizing that the Cantorate was a perfect fit to combine her love of Judaism, education, and music, Schlossberg enrolled in the Jewish Theological Seminary and began her studies at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School.

After being invested, Schlossberg spent four years with Beth El Synagogue in Omaha, NE. Following that engagement, she and her husband Michael, moved to Tampa to join Congregation Kol Ami in 2013.

COMMUNITY THEATER OPEN CASTING CALL

MONDAY, MAY 14TH 5:00 – 8:00PM | TUESDAY, MAY 15TH 5:00 – 8:00 PM



SENIOR MOMENTS



“Senior Moments” is a poignant and hilarious view of aging in all its many facets. Growing older is filled with new realities and challenges that can be humorous at times, but difficult at others. An “ageless” musical comedy being produced by the Tampa JCCs, “Senior Moments” explores maturing in a series of vignettes.

Auditions will consist of reading scenes (provided) from the production, learning a short melody and a quick eight count dance. Absolutely no experience needed. Rehearsals will be flexible and will be held throughout the summer of 2018. Two performances will be held on October 7th at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC.

Actors will be awarded with many accolades; however, participation is a volunteer experience! For more information, contact Brandy Gold at 813.769.4725 or brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com.

To register for an audition time please go to www.BryanGlazerFamilyJCC.com/Audition.



522 North Howard Avenue | Tampa, FL 33606

Francine Wolf presents ‘Meshuga’ improv at Fringe Festival

Francine Wolf and ZaZu Productions, LLC, will present a solo performance improv show titled *This Show is Meshuga* at the second annual Tampa International Fringe Festival at the HCC campus rehearsal hall in Ybor City from May 3-12.

Each show is an improvised solo performance adventure, with audience interaction.



Francine Wolf

Every show is a unique mish-mash stuffed with quirky characters that take hasty shape before your eyes with a sprinkling of *Yiddishkeit*. Anything could happen, but something happening is guaranteed.

Wolf, a resident of Largo, has been a professional actor, singer, improviser and SAG-AFTRA member, appearing on stage, film and TV for more than 27 years. She just wrapped up a two-month run of *Sex Please, We're Sixty*, at the Just for Laughs Dinner Theatre. Before retiring to return to acting full time, she worked for several Jewish organizations, including the Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, Menorah Manor and Jewish Federations of Ohio.

Wolf will perform *This Show is Meshuga* on Thursday, May 3 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 5 at 9:15 p.m.; Sunday, May 6 at 4:45 p.m.; Wednesday, May 9 at 9:45 p.m.; Thursday, May 10 at 8:45 p.m. and Saturday, May 12 at 4:45 p.m. The length of each show will vary, but run up to 45 minutes long.

The Hillsborough Community College Ybor City Campus Theatre building is at 1411 E. 11th Ave., Tampa.

Tickets are \$8, with a Thrifty Thursday ticket price of \$7. For ticket information, go to www.tampafringe.org. The ticket

JWI helps remember moms “who are most in need of love”

For victims of domestic violence, Mother’s Day can be especially tough, so the local Jewish Women International (JWI) chapter is once again ensuring that moms in local domestic abuse shelters receive a bouquet of flowers and a Mother’s Day card.

It is all part of the JWI Flower Project, begun in 1999, to show women who are in domestic abuse shelters that they are remembered and loved. In addition to the cards and flowers, the women receive financial literacy information to help rebuild their lives and create safe homes for their children.

In the Tampa Bay area, the Clearwater Chapter of JWI is working with The Haven in Clearwater, The Spring in Tampa and CASA in St. Petersburg. Nationwide, 200 shelters are involved in the project.

The Flower Project gives women in the shelters “a chance to spend a moment away from the daily worries of housing, safety, employment and their health

and well-being, by lifting their spirits and letting them know that people they have never met before are thinking about them,” said Vivian Bass, chair of the JWI board.

With a minimum \$25 contribution, JWI will send a Mother’s Day, or, if appropriate, a Father’s Day card to an honoree of the funder’s choosing.

The donations go to support the shelters through the Flower Project as well as a National Library Initiative, which establishes children’s libraries in homeless and domestic abuse shelters. Funds also help support JWI advocacy and educational initiatives to empower women and girls to break the cycle of domestic and sexual abuse.

To make a donation and for more information about the program, visit www.jwi.org/flowerproject or call 1-800-343-2823. Locally, contact Evvy Bernstein at ozexpress54@gmail.com.



Members of the JWI Clearwater Chapter along with national JWI Board Chair Vivian Bass and leaders from CASA at the library dedication. Deena Silver, (second from left front) local JWI library chair and a JWI national trustee, is holding a painting done by children living at CASA with empowering quotes from their favorite authors.

LIBRARY

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

enthusiastically agreed,” said Deena Silver, who also serves as the local library chair.

“Most of the libraries have been built by corporate sponsors so we are very proud that the women of the local chapter had various fundraising projects during the past two and a half years to raise most of the necessary \$25,000,” Silver said. The fundraising events included a theater party, vendor boutiques, bingo nights, and a fashion show. The remaining balance was raised through personal gifts from members and donations from charitable foundations and families, she said.

Vivian Bass, chair of the JWI board of trustees, came from Washington, D.C. to participate in the dedication ceremony with CASA executives, local dignitaries and local JWI members. A luncheon reception followed the dedication and was hosted by Bass.

St. Petersburg’s Chief of Police Anthony Holloway also participated in the April 9 ceremony and stressed the importance of CASA

and projects like the JWI libraries to help break the cycle of family violence.

Founded in 1977, CASA operates the area’s 24-hour hotline and emergency shelter; non-residential programs, such as support groups, economic empowerment and legal advocacy; Child Protection Investigative Team support; community and corporate training; and the CASA Peacemakers anti-bullying and healthy relationship school curriculum.

JWI is a Steering Committee member of NO MORE and the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women and convenes the Interfaith Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Clergy Task Force to End Domestic Abuse in the Jewish Community, and is a member of the Gun Violence Table. JWI’s advocacy efforts focus on the passage of legislation that supports women and girls, ensures their economic security, and protects their right to live free of violence.

For more information on the local JWI, contact Silver at dsilvervol@gmail.com.

Madoff victims to receive \$504m in second payout

(JTA) – The Madoff Victim Fund began distributing \$504 million in funds to victims of Bernard Madoff’s Ponzi scheme.

The funds, whose distribution began on a week ago, will be sent to more than 21,000 Madoff victims around the world, according to a statement by the Justice Department.

The distribution is the second in a series of payments that will eventually return more than \$4 billion to Madoff victims.

“We cannot undo the damage that Bernie Madoff has done, but today’s distribution will provide significant relief to many of the victims of one of the worst frauds of all time,” Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in the statement.

Madoff, a Jewish New Yorker,

used his position as the chairman of his investment securities company to swindle billions of dollars from tens of thousands of investors from the early 1970s until his arrest in 2008.

The uncovering of the Ponzi scheme revealed the tens of billions of dollars in fake profit that victims believed they had earned through Madoff. Many prominent Jewish nonprofits also suffered big losses, with Yeshiva University taking a \$140 million hit, Hadasah \$90 million and Elie Wiesel’s foundation losing \$15 million.

In 2009, Madoff pleaded guilty to 11 federal felonies and is serving a 150-year sentence in a federal prison in North Carolina. He was also ordered to forfeit nearly \$171 billion.



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Public invited to talk on 'Holocaust by Bullets'

The community is invited to a talk on Sunday, May 20, at the Florida Holocaust Museum on researching names of victims of what is known as the "Holocaust by Bullets" – the mass shootings of more than 2 million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust.

The guest speaker will be Urszula Szczepinska, the curator of education and director of research for the museum, located in downtown St. Petersburg. Her appearance is jointly sponsored by the museum and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay. Members of both organizations as well as anyone interested in Jewish Genealogy and Holocaust research may attend the program at no charge.



Urszula Szczepinska

Szczepinska will present online resources that have the most updated information based on the latest historical research. She will also demonstrate how to use archival databases to look for information about individuals who perished in the Holocaust by Bullets. Retrieving identities of individual victims is one of the most significant memorial projects for the post-Holocaust generations.

Szczepinska received the 2011 "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the Florida Association of Museums for her contributions to Yad Vashem's Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project. Prior to joining the museum 13 years ago, she worked at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and at the State Museum at Majdanek in Lublin, Poland. She is responsible for the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project at the Florida Holocaust Museum in cooperation with Yad Vashem and has collected and submitted more than 700 pages of testimony from local survivors.

Szczepinska is the author of a 155-page study guide for the traveling exhibition on the Holocaust by Bullets by the French organization Yahad-In Unum, which works to locate execution sites and mass graves. She has taught the subject to various audiences, including honors classes at USF Tampa.

Registration for the event begins at the museum at 1:30 p.m. and the program will begin on the third floor at 2 p.m. Following the talk, an optional self-guided tour of the museum will be offered at no charge to members of either sponsoring organizations. Non-members may tour at a reduced charge of \$9.

For more information about this program, call Szczepinska at (727) 820-0100, ext. 241; for more information about the Florida Holocaust Museum, visit www.thefhm.org. The museum is located at 55 5th St. S., St. Petersburg.

For more information on the Genealogical Society, call Bruce Hadburg at (727) 796-7981 or go to www.facebook.com/JGSTB

For those planning to include a tour of the museum, advanced registration is requested by calling Sally Israel at (727) 343-1652.



Lucie Neustein, Self Portrait. This painting was featured in the Austrian Art Magazine in March 1935.

Photos courtesy of Florida Holocaust Museum permanent collection, gift of Colin Jenkins, son of Marietta Neustein.

Florida Holocaust Museum receives large artifact donation

A new exhibition, *A European Escape: The Journey of the Neustein Family*, is now on display at the Florida Holocaust Museum.

These items, now part of the museum's permanent collection, were recently donated and are available to view on the third floor of the museum.

After a visit to the museum last year, Colin Jenkins contacted the museum's exhibitions staff to ask if they would have any interest in accepting his grandfather's Austrian passport as a donation. When museum staff members met to accept the donation, he brought a treasure-trove of other objects related to his family.

Jenkins donated a total of 118 items, including identification papers belonging to his grandparents, Lucie and Leopold Neustein, letters, a marriage certificate, original photographs from before and after the war and original artwork created by his grandmother Lucie.

"On a recent visit to my mother's home in Scotland, I came across a considerable variety of material relating to my family's experience during the Holocaust. I am donating this collection to the Florida Holocaust Museum both to honor their memory and to share a written and visual record of their lives before, during, and after WWII. I hope this will be of interest and value to those who view it," said Jenkins, who recently moved to this area from the United Kingdom.

"One of the best things about working for the Florida Holocaust Museum is meeting survivors and children of survivors and hearing their stories. Even better is being honored with the responsibility of retelling their stories when being entrusted with their original materials – family treasures, really – that help recount individuals' experiences," said Erin Blankenship, the museum's curator of exhibitions and collections.

Jenkins' grandparents, Lucie and Leopold Neustein, were originally from Lvov, Poland, but moved to Vienna in the 1920s. The couple had two children, Erik and Marietta. Leopold was a doctor of law but worked with his father-in-law in their timber export business. Lucie was an accomplished artist, trained at Vienna's Academy of Art.

After Anschluss in 1938 and the institution of anti-Jewish laws, it became apparent to the family that they had to leave their home.

Erik was sent to England first. But, at age 17 he was considered an adult and was sent to an internment camp in Canada, due to initial fears that German Jewish refugees could be spies. The British also set up internment camps in Australia.

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Snapshot of some of the items Jenkins donated to the Florida Holocaust Museum, including identification papers belonging to his grandparents Lucie and Leopold Neustein, letters, a marriage certificate, original photographs from before and after the war and original artwork created by his grandmother Lucie.

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE

Marietta followed on the Kindertransport and was sent to a boarding school in Scotland.

Lucie and Leopold fled Vienna for Agen, a small city in the south of France where they apparently lived as gentiles. Marietta worked as an artist in order to earn money. The couple remained in France even after liberation while Erik and Marietta, by then adults, stayed in Great Britain.

Central to the mission of the museum is the program to collect, preserve and make available to the public the historical record

and artistic and interpretation of the Holocaust and other genocides. The museum collects and maintains the material that supports its efforts in the areas of research, exhibition, education and commemoration.

The focus of the museum's collections are policies, events and experiences associated with the Holocaust.

For donation inquiries, contact Blankenship at eblankenship@thefhm.org.

The Florida Holocaust Museum is located at 55 Fifth St. S., St. Petersburg.



The JLT class of 2017-2018 graduated during a special ceremony at this year's Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival. (L-R): Yoni Haim, Jeff Katzman, Aaron Slavin, Jessica Schneider, Lance Misztal, Luy Teitelroit, Brian Waksman, David Goldschein, Cory Kleinman, Lauryn Solomon, Loren Pincus, Abby Altman, Nathan Black and Jacklyn Steinberg. Not pictured: Michael Schwartz.

Jewish Leadership Training Institute invites 13 years of alumni to first reunion on May 23

Graduates of the Jewish Leadership Training Institute (JLTI) are invited to an evening of reconnecting and networking during the program's first reunion on Wednesday, May 23.

Since 2007, JLTI, a joint program of the Tampa JCCs and Federation and the Jewish Federation of Pinellas and Pasco Counties, has invited emerging young leaders from the Tampa Bay area to participate in an innovative, 11-session, leadership development experience. Graduates have held leadership positions on boards and committees of local Jewish organizations and agencies on both sides of the Bay and have also made lifelong friendships and connections to other young professionals.

"With more than 200 alumni in our Jewish Leadership Training Institute network, many of whom have been actively involved in leadership roles in the Jewish community, we look forward to creating opportunities for meaningful connection," said Lisa Robbins, director of Young Adult Engagement for the

Tampa JCCs & Federation.

The reunion will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. at a private residence. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served. The reunion is sponsored by Aaron and Cherie Silberman.

There is no cost to attend this event. RSVP for catering purposes and to receive address details to www.jewishtampa.com/impact.

The JLTI program is open to young Jewish adults, ages 25-40 with a passion for making a difference and who want to take a leadership role in making the Jewish community stronger. The 2018-2019 JLTI class will meet every other Monday evening from October through March. The cost to participate is \$99, which includes course materials and dinner during each session.

For more information and to apply for the program, contact Robbins at lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4723. Space is limited to 25 people.



Menorah Manor Moments






Warren and Rebecca's Love Story

Warren Simmons, a resident at the Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence, and Rebecca Simmons, a resident at the Samson Nursing Center, have a unique love story: They became engaged five minutes after they met.

It happened in 1948, when they were both 27 years old. Rebecca was visiting from Israel and staying with mutual friends of Warren's in the Bronx, who suggested that the two of them meet.

When Warren arrived to pick up Rebecca for their date, they walked out onto the street together.

"I looked at her," Warren said. "I said to her, I'd like to marry you."

To Warren's delight, Rebecca asked if he would like to marry her "yesterday or today."

"I said, if I could marry you today I would!" Warren recalled.

The rest is history. The couple got a marriage license and married 10 days later in City Hall.

"We still laugh about it to this day," Warren said. "Who gets engaged five minutes after they meet?"

For the next few years, they lived in New Jersey in a basement apartment. They later moved to New Orleans, where Rebecca's sister lived, and started a family. They have a daughter, Anita, and a son,

Ronny.

"We have had a wonderful life," Warren said. "We were always happy. You couldn't be happier."

Warren, who worked at an oil company, said that he and Rebecca came up with an arrangement early in their relationship to keep them from arguing.

"Whenever there was an argument, one of us would go outside for a while. When we came back, we couldn't remember what we were even fighting about," Warren said.

The couple traveled to many places together throughout their marriage, including New Zealand and Morocco. Rebecca, who especially loves traveling and speaks English, Hebrew, French and Arabic, would sometimes take trips on her own—visiting more than 120 countries.

"She loved it," Warren said. "She made friends with everybody she met."

Almost a decade ago, Rebecca and Warren moved to St. Petersburg to retire. In July 2017, they made the decision to move to Menorah Manor together.

It is the best of both worlds; Warren lives at the Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence, and Rebecca lives at the Samson Nursing Center next door.

Because of their close dis-



Rebecca Simmons as a young woman



Rebecca and Warren pose for a photo with their son, Ronny.

tance, Warren and Rebecca are able to visit each other every day.

"Whenever we want to see each other, we see each other," Warren said.

At the Samson Nursing Center, Rebecca likes to work out in the rehabilitation gym and attend musical performances. At the Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence, Warren enjoys attending discussion groups and going on lunch outings.

The couple also enjoys a variety of activities and holiday celebrations together, including weekly Shabbat dinners.

This September, Rebecca and Warren will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.

"We want to be together and help one another," Warren said. "I would do anything in the world for her."



Warren and Rebecca enjoy an event at the Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residence together.

www.menorahmanor.org (727) 345-2775

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How a Jewish civil rights group became a villain on the far left

By **BEN SALES**
JTA news service

When Starbucks announced that it would close its U.S. stores for one day to conduct anti-bias training for employees, seeking the expertise of the Anti-Defamation League seemed unsurprising.

It's the most prominent group in the country fighting anti-Semitism, and it also opposes bigotry of all kinds. Its website says it has conducted anti-bias training in schools, workplaces and elsewhere for 60 million people.

But when far-left activists look at the ADL, they don't see a civil-rights group. They say the ADL supports domestic institutions perpetuating racism (like the police) while defending what the activists call Israeli oppression of the Palestinians abroad.

"They have a track record of being selective in the way in which they approach civil rights," said Rebecca Vilkomerson, executive director of Jewish Voice for Peace, which supports boycotting Israel. "They tend to defend Israel and its actions. There seems to be a double standard they impart on Muslims and in particular Palestinians."

The ADL declined to comment for this article, but the positions it has taken in recent years make it an unlikely target of some left-wing organizations. The group has

been an outspoken Jewish voice against right-wing racism and bigotry. It has released reports and statements on far-right extremist activity and filed an amicus brief against the Trump administration's travel ban. It has convened mayors to fight hate and opened a center in Silicon Valley to combat cyberhate.

Its CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, who came to the ADL in 2015 after a stint at the Obama White House, has not been shy about criticizing President Donald Trump for statements targeting Muslims or praising far-right demonstrators. This week, Greenblatt urged scrutiny of his pick for secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, for his anti-Muslim activities.

Next month, the ADL will take part in the Starbucks training, which comes in response to the outcry over the arrest of two black men at a Philadelphia branch of the coffee giant who were waiting to start a meeting. Along with the ADL, the training will also be led by the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund, the liberal think tank Demos and the Equal Justice Initiative, a civil rights group.

Target of anti-Israel groups

But along with its work on bias, the ADL engages in pro-Israel activism that has pit it against groups that share its domestic agenda. In 2016, the ADL called out the

Movement for Black Lives after it published a platform accusing Israel of apartheid and genocide. It has sparred with Linda Sarsour, the Palestinian-American liberal activist and an organizer of the Women's March, over her anti-Zionism. It welcomed the adoption by Congress of the Taylor Force Act, which conditions certain American aid to the Palestinian Authority on ending the Palestinian Liberation Organization's practice of paying families of jailed and deceased terrorists.

And as opposition to Israel has become increasingly common in leftist activist circles, the ADL's talking points supporting Israel have made it a target. IfNotNow, a grassroots group opposing Israel's occupation, has staged sit-ins in the lobby of the ADL's office building. Last month, after the ADL criticized Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and his backers, IfNotNow accused it of downplaying the threat of white supremacy.

The left-wing attacks on the ADL gained a wider audience when Women's March co-organizer Tamika Mallory, who recently came under fire for supporting Farrakhan, a virulent anti-Semite, denounced Starbucks for cooperating with the Jewish group.

"So you are aware, Starbucks was on a decent track until they en-

listed the Anti-Defamation League to build their anti-bias training," Mallory tweeted Tuesday, April 17. "The ADL is CONSTANTLY attacking black and brown people."

Vilkomerson said she was most concerned about the ADL giving awards to police departments, as well as accusations that the ADL spied on Muslim civil society groups in the 1990s. In 1999, the ADL settled a class-action suit over the spying.

Police training programs under fire

Anti-Israel activists have also taken issue with an ADL program that brings delegations from American police departments for counterterrorism training with Israeli security forces. Jewish Voice for Peace has dubbed the program a "deadly exchange" that encourages police violence against minorities.

On July 16, Durham, NC, became the first city in the country to bar its officers from participating in such programs, adopting a resolution pushed by JVP and pro-Palestinian groups.

"The police exchanges are a manifestation of the ways the ADL identifies itself as a civil rights organization but often acts as an Israel advocacy organization," Vilkomerson said. "They're absolutely prioritizing Israeli lives, often at the expense of Palestinian lives."

The ADL says its programs are about tapping Israel's counterterrorism expertise and giving U.S. law enforcement tools to deal with extremist threats facing all groups and houses of worship. Former Durham Police Chief Jose Lopez said none of his training in Israel involved "militarization," but dealt with "leadership, it was learning about terrorism and then learning about how to interact with people who are involved in mass casualty situations and how to manage mass casualty situations."

Other left-wing activists have pushed back on the criticism of the ADL. Neera Tanden, who heads the liberal think tank the Center for American Progress, tweeted that Mallory's criticism was "outrageous."

Rabbi Jill Jacobs, executive director of the liberal rabbis' group T'ruah, said the ADL does valuable work in drawing connections between anti-Semitism and other forms of hate. While she disagrees with elements of the ADL's policies



Photo courtesy of the ADL
ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt speaking at the organization's 2016 Never is Enough conference.



Photo by Robin Marchant/Getty Images for Hulu
Tamika Mallory, national co-chair of the Women's March, speaking in New York last year. She is critical of Starbucks' decision to have ADL involved in their employee anti-bias training.

on Israel, Jacobs said to implicate the groups work in Israel for the long legacy of racism among American police departments is unfair.

"They have a good reputation of doing these anti-bias trainings," Jacobs said. "The ADL has always understood that fighting anti-Semitism is inherently tied to fighting racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia."

Some activists have gotten caught in the verbal crossfire.

Sophie Ellman-Golan, a spokeswoman for the Women's March, who is Jewish, agreed that the ADL is out of place in the Starbucks training. But she has also pushed back against those who pointed to the group's presence as evidence for anti-semitic conspiracy theories.

"No, @ADL_National isn't the right Jewish org to address racism, discrimination, anti-Blackness at Starbucks," Ellman-Golan tweeted. "Also no, this isn't evidence of Jews trying to control Black folks. That's an antisemitic white supremacist conspiracy theory."

"Finally, white Jews: This isn't about us."

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SCUBI

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While Rosenthal chuckled over the exchange with the Arizona program director, he is actually very proud and, he added, “a little amazed” by how the Scubi Jew program has grown and its prospects for future growth.

In 2000, when he was based at Emory University in Atlanta, he took a small group of Jewish students from Emory on a trip to Crystal River to learn about endangered manatees and then they took another trip to the Bahamas to learn about declining sharp populations. It was with those students that the term Scubi Jew was born, though after Rosenthal left Emory the program there ended.

Rabbi Rosenthal became head of Hillels of the Florida Suncoast, which has Hillel programs at college campuses in Pinellas, Hillsborough and Polk counties. In 2009 at Eckerd College, located on the St. Petersburg waterfront, he started a formal Scubi Jew program as a dive club for students, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

Since then, other Scubi Jew chapters have started at the University of South Florida, University of Tampa, University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami, plus the newest chapter in Arizona. Rosenthal said he has other inquiries about starting chapters at Emory and Baruch College in New York City.

To meet the demands, Hillels of the Florida Suncoast recently hired Shayna Cohen, a master scuba diver trainer, as the new Scubi Jew program coordinator. In addition to her responsibilities to strengthen Scubi Jew at the Suncoast campuses and with other Hillels who create Scubi Jew chapters, she will work with members of the local Jewish community who are passionate about the marine environment. Prior to joining Hillel, she worked as dive guide and conservation coordinator at Rainbow Reef Dive Center in Key Largo.

“People always say the name Scubi Jew is so cute, but it is a serious project,” Rabbi Rosenthal explained. “The threat to the oceans is probably the greatest environmental threat to the planet as a whole and we want to raise awareness. ... If we do not change, all species in the ocean will collapse by 2048, from pollution, overfishing, scientists tell us.”

To reflect those concerns and in hopes of going beyond the venture’s dive club origins and building a broader community-based Jewish Marine Environmental Organization, the overall program has been renamed, *Tikkun HaYam*, which means repair the sea.

“In my 30 years in the rabbinate, this is the most spiritual project I have ever done,” Rabbi Rosenthal said.

There is a Jewish element to the dives, he said, noting that a recent spring break dive trip to Key Largo included underwater meditation based on the *Shema*. For the non-Jewish members of the club, “they just know that they are learning something new to make themselves better citizens of the world,” he said.

Among the environmental undertakings of his Scubi Jew divers is coral reef restoration in the Florida Keys, where 95 percent of the coral had died in the last 30 years. “Coral is the canary in the mine,” Rabbi Rosenthal said.

Local Scubi Jew divers often dive in the murky, low-visibility



Shayna Cohen, the new program coordinator for the Tikkun HaYam/Scubi Jew program.

waters of Tampa Bay to clean up debris such as mono-filament fishing lines, old tires, plastic and other trash. For those dives, any guests who want to join them are welcome at no charge. When the divers go on reef repair trips to the Keys, or on other projects, there is a cost for participants, due to distance traveled and accommodations.

Scubi Jew divers have not only worked in Tampa Bay and on the coral reefs in the Keys, but also have gone on shark awareness dives in the Bahamas and participated in a “Diveheart” program where they buddy up with disabled divers. There are also manatee awareness trips to Crystal River, scuba certification courses, fish population and identification surveys, lectures and “Water Torah” learning events.

The offerings have also expanded to certification courses for middle and high school students and this summer will mark the fourth time that Scubi Jew birthright trips to Israel will take place.

Another project in the works is to make and sell mezuzah from recycled plastic debris recovered from the waters.

To accomplish some of their work Hillels of the Florida Suncoast is the only Hillel which owns its own boat, *Ally’s Way*, which allows access to waters for the student’s projects. The boat is named after Allison Willen, an Eckerd College Scubi Jew student who died during a study abroad trip in New Zealand in 2015. Her parents donated funds for the boat.

The expansion of the Tikkun HaYam/Scubi Jew program follows a generous grant from the Maurice A. & Thelma P. Rothman Family Foundation to train Hillel professionals in Florida.

For more information about the program, go to www.repairthesea.org.

PORTMAN

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

She did not explain what she was referring to by “atrocities.”

Israel has drawn sharp criticism in recent months for confrontations with Palestinian protesters on its Gaza border. Israeli troops have killed more than 30 Palestinians and wounded hundreds. Israel says the protesters are not peaceful and have tossed rocks and explosive devices at troops.

Netanyahu last month also drew sharp rebukes for reversing his decision to work with the United Nations to resettle some 38,000 African asylum seekers in the country, and reverting to an earlier plan to summarily deport them to Uganda or another African nation. Among the critics were Jewish groups and figures who rarely criticize Israeli government policies.

In the wake of Portman’s decision, the Genesis Prize Foundation said it would cancel the prize presentation ceremony scheduled for June and would distribute the \$2 million to women’s rights groups, but not those of Portman’s choosing. Winners of the prize, which “honors individuals who serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Jews through their outstanding professional achievement along with their commitment to Jewish values and the Jewish people,” conventionally donate the prize money to charitable causes of their choosing.

The Genesis Prize Foundation said it was “very saddened” that the Israeli-American actress would not take part in the ceremony. And in canceling the ceremony, it issued a statement that its organizers “fear that Ms. Portman’s decision will cause our philanthropic initiative to be politicized, something we have worked hard for the past five years to avoid.”

The Genesis Prize was established by Mikhail Fridman and other wealthy Russian-Jewish businessmen and operates in a partnership with Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

In November, the Genesis Prize announced that Portman would receive its 2018 award. She joins artist Anish Kapoor, violinist Itzhak Perlman, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and actor-director Michael Douglas as winners of the \$1 million prize.

In December, Portman’s prize money was doubled to \$2 million by a donation by Israeli philanthropist Morris Kahn. But after announcing her refusal to attend the ceremony, Kahn released a statement saying Portman would no longer get to choose where her \$2 million prize will be donated. The Genesis Foundation will distribute the money to women’s rights groups as she wished, but not allow her to choose the recipients.

“I cannot support the decision of canceling an appearance due to ‘recent events in Israel,’” Kahn said, referring to the original statement put out on Portman’s behalf. That statement did not mention Netanyahu, saying only that “[r]ecent events in Israel have been extremely distressing to her and she does not feel comfortable participating in any public events in Israel.”

Portman’s decision also brought a strong rebuke from Israel’s culture minister Miri Regev who asserted she had “fallen like a ripe fruit into the hands of the BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement supporters.” Her comment came before Portman said she did not endorse BDS.

One member of the Knesset, Oren Hazzan, went further, sug-

gesting that Portman’s citizenship should be revoked.

Portman said in her Instagram post she would soon announce charities she would support in Israel.

“This experience has inspired me to support a number of charities in Israel,” she said. “I will be announcing them soon, and I hope others will join me in supporting the great work they are doing.”

Portman has previously joined efforts to support Israel. She directed and starred in the 2015 *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, a Hebrew-language film adaptation of the Amos Oz book of the same name that chronicles the author’s life surrounding Israel’s founding.

In 2015, following the re-election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Portman said she was “very, very upset and disappointed.”

“I find his racist comments horrific,” she told *The Hollywood Reporter*. “However, I don’t – what I want to make sure is, I don’t want to use my platform [the wrong way]. I feel like there’s some people who become prominent, and then it’s out in the foreign press. You know, shit on Israel. I do not. I don’t want to do that.”



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The anti-Semitism controversy surrounding NFL prospect Josh Rosen

By GABE FRIEDMAN
JTA news service

For most of last year, many predicted that UCLA quarterback Josh Rosen would be the first player chosen in the 2018 National Football League draft.



The sturdy 6-foot-4 signal-caller has racked up an impressive array of passing statistics since his freshman year in 2015, and analysts have praised the right-hander's throwing mechanics, accuracy and poise in the pocket.

The Cleveland Browns, the beleaguered franchise that holds the No. 1 pick this year, badly need a quarterback. The Jewish kid from Manhattan Beach, CA, who had a bar mitzvah and is just now barely old enough to legally drink alcohol, was set to make Jewish sports history at the April 26 draft. But over the past few months, Rosen's stock has dropped among analysts and as of press time it was yet to be seen how those predictions played out.

The reason for the potential slide? Apparently it has nothing to do with Rosen's physical health or ability to sling a football, but rather involves who he is and what he has said off the field.

And for at least one prominent sports TV personality, the conver-

sation about Rosen has dipped into anti-Semitism.

Some background: He's a talker

Rosen has not just made headlines with his grid skills. He has criticized the college football system, arguing that the high level of play required by the sport and schoolwork don't mesh. In the same vein, he sarcastically blasted UCLA for signing a \$280 million apparel deal with Under Armour while college athletes are unpaid. He once wore a hat on the golf course that read "F*** Trump." He snuck a hot tub into his dorm room.

This tendency to speak his mind — what the scouts call "intangibles" — put him at odds with UCLA coach Jim Mora throughout Rosen's tenure with the Bruins. Mora said Rosen reminded him of Johnny Manziel, a former college star whose once promising NFL career was derailed by unorthodox behavior, substance abuse issues and multiple arrests.

Rosen has also been open about his ambitions for a post-NFL career, something that scouts and others in the industry have taken to mean that he isn't focused enough on football. The Sporting News reported that some believed Rosen was only interested in football to "make money and support the lifestyle he wants."

Analysts seem to care he's Jewish.

So analysts were left wondering how teams would evaluate Rosen

and some chose to dig into other factors that might offer clues, such as his identity and background.

"According to my source, he'd rather be in New York [on the Giants]. He's Jewish, there's a stronger Jewish community, he'd rather be in the New York market than the Cleveland market, blah blah blah, we don't know," ESPN's Stephen A. Smith said on a radio show.

Rosen has hinted at this kind of Jewish preference before. He was born and raised in a tony area of Southern California, the son of Charles Rosen, an orthopedic surgeon who was once on President Barack Obama's shortlist to become surgeon general, and Liz Lippincott, a journalist and the great-granddaughter of the founder of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

In 2016, he told *Sports Illustrated* that Los Angeles' large Jewish community was a factor that brought him to UCLA, even though he had wanted to attend Stanford, which rejected him. "In retrospect, being Jewish is a big reason why I should have considered UCLA," he said. "Just because of how Jewish Hollywood is, and they really want someone to look up to because they just don't have professional athletes."

Another ESPN radio show, hosted by sports writers Jorge Sedano and LZ Granderson and former NFL player Keyshawn Johnson, picked up where Smith left off. But their analysis brought up Rosen's

wealthy parents, and it became a little strange.

"First thing you say: doctor, Manhattan Beach ... the first thing you think, at least I think: pretty affluent neighborhood, little bit of money," Johnson said. "They could be broke as a bag of glass, I don't know, but certainly doesn't seem that way."

"When you talk about his religion, I believe Josh is Jewish, [OK]?" he continued. "New York — big Jewish community ... much like L.A. You factor that into the equation."

Granderson posited that Rosen might even play better if he were drafted by New York or a team in a city with a big Jewish population, and Johnson agreed.

"If he is an observing Jewish individual who is embraced by the local community, that will certainly raise his ball," Granderson said.

Is this anti-Semitism?

The development in this story that seems to have hit Rosen's draft hopes the hardest came earlier this month, when Mora questioned whether he is "fit" for the NFL. After praising his skill and intelligence on the field, the veteran coach told *Sports Illustrated's* Peter King that Rosen lacks a "blue-collar, gritty attitude."

"He needs to be challenged intellectually, so he doesn't get bored. He's a millennial," Mora said.

For Tony Kornheiser — the sports writer and TV personality

who stars on ESPN's "Pardon the Interruption" — this was the last straw.

"This is classic anti-Semitism. Absolutely classic anti-Semitism. 'We don't want this guy, this guy's too smart,'" Kornheiser said in a rant on his podcast. "There's no such thing as too smart ... [T]his is anti-Semitism in its most blatant form. It's like, 'we don't want this guy.'"

Kornheiser, who is Jewish, and his co-hosts also likened the NFL's fear of Rosen to its past prejudice against black quarterbacks, who on the flip side have been labeled as not smart enough to succeed at the demanding position.

Of course, Rosen's fellow quarterbacks in the draft pool, such as Baker Mayfield, Josh Allen and Sam Darnold, are also all millennials. It's also worth noting that Mayfield, the Heisman Trophy winner from the University of Oklahoma, was arrested last year for being publicly intoxicated. But his personality hasn't made as many headlines as Rosen's leading up to the draft.

Former NFL quarterback Sage Rosenfels, who also is Jewish, saw Mora's comments in a different light.

"When Jim Mora said Josh Rosen is really smart and needs to be challenged every day or he'll get bored, that improved his draft stock in my book," he wrote. "Give me a player who wants to be challenged and doesn't get overwhelmed with basic XOs. I like this kid more and more."

Obituaries

MARTIN LEONARD SEIDEN, 79, of **Apollo Beach**, died April 14. Born in Bronx, NY, he had been a collegiate football player at Bridgeport University in Connecticut, and he served in the United States Army where he was an intelligence officer while stationed in Turkey. He moved to Florida 38 years ago. He was a manager for Eckerd Drug Company for 20 years. He was an officer of the local Coast Guard Auxiliary. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Rochelle; daughter and son-in-law, Patie and Adrian Schreiber; son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Beth Seiden; brother and sister-in-law Jeffrey and Laine Seiden; and four grandchildren. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

JOYCE RABINOWITZ, 81, of **Tampa**, died April 2. She was born in Philadelphia, and moved to Tampa last year from Atlantic City, NJ, where she had resided for nearly 35 years. She worked at Kidrageous Children's Clothing Boutique for many years. Survivors include her son Craig Rabinowitz; daughter and son-in-law Cindy and Allen Keller; three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. The family suggests memorials be made to the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

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Organizations

Young Adults

Kickball anyone?: The Tampa JCCs is forming a kickball team. Beginning in early June, the JCC plans to join the Tampa Bay Club Sports League. The team will play seven regular season games on Tuesdays plus participate in one playoff week. The cost is \$70 per person. The games will be at Gadsden Park in South Tampa. This is a #Gather event. All those interested should contact Lisa Robbins by Monday, May 7.

Printmaking: Create unique imagery with printmaking techniques using soft linoleum tiles as a stamp on paper on Monday May 7 from 6-9 p.m. This includes a social hour and the class, which will be held at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC in the visual arts center. The cost, including materials, is \$15 for members and guests. Bring snacks and wine to share during the social hour. For more information, visit: <https://www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather> or <https://www.jcccohnecampus.com/programs/young-adults>. This is a #Gather event.

#Gather offers a mix of social and interactive activities designed to help young adults connect. It is open to young adults of all faiths and backgrounds. For more information or to RSVP for any #Gather events, visit: www.bryanglazerfamilyjcc.com/gather or contact Lisa Robbins at lisa.robbins@jewishtampa.com or (813) 769-4723.

Jewish War Veterans

Volunteers needed: The Jewish War Veterans Post 373 is seeking members who would like to help ill and disabled veterans. For details regarding the Post and the latest post activities, visit www.jwvtampa.org Contact **Commander Jack Rudowsky** at (813) 598-8061 or email rochelletrs@gmail.com.

Active Adults

All programs listed are either at the Maureen & Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Campus, 13009 Community Campus Drive, or at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC at 522 N. Howard Ave.

To RSVP or for more information on programs at either center, contact **Pnina Levermore** at (813) 291-2253 or pnina.levermore@JewishTampa.com. All registrations should be completed before events begin.

Dolphin boat adventure: The JCCs are sponsoring a boat ride on Tuesday, May 8 to view dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico. For those desiring transportation, the group will leave from both JCCs at 11:30 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. For those who go on their own, check in at Hubbard's Marina, 170 Johns Pass Boardwalk, Madeira Beach, at 12:30 p.m. The boat ride will take an hour and a half and following the trip folks can browse the shops and select from a variety of restaurants for a "Dutch" late lunch. The cost is \$22 whether or not you use the group transportation. See contact information above to RSVP.

Mah jongg: Folks can play at both JCCs. At the Cohn campus, there is free open play sessions every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

At the Glazer JCC, drop-in sessions are offered on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. This is free for all members. Novices and experienced players are welcome.

JetSetters: The Phyllis Borell JetSetters social group for adults of all ages meets at both JCCs for an hour-long program followed by lunch. The JetSetters group meets on the Cohn campus on the fourth Thursday of the month from 11 a.m. to noon. On Thursday, May 24 there will be a "Ciao from Italy" program. The lunch is free for members, though a donation of \$5 is suggested.

At the Glazer JCC, JetSetters meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to noon. The lunch is free for members, but donations are welcome. On May 9 there will be a presentation by Opera Tampa singers.

News talk: This discussion group, meeting at both JCCs, is led by **Pat Renfro** and explores "hot button" issues of the day. Upcoming News Talk sessions at the Glazer JCC are Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. The May 1 topic is the importance of education for a strong democracy. The May 8 topic is educational trends and the role of parents. The May 15 topic is on public and private schools and if there is a need for public schools.

The group at the Cohn campus, meets the second and fourth Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The topic on May 11 will be on the roles religious groups play in establishing U.S. rules and goals.

Biblical literature: This course, which meets at the Cohn campus every other Wednesday from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., provides an opportunity to see the Bible not from a religious perspective but as a piece of remarkable writing. The next class in on April 25. This is a discussion course with participation open to people of all faiths and backgrounds. Bring your own Bible so participants can compare different translations. Cost is \$3 for members and \$4 for guests

Canasta: Meet in the senior lounge at the Cohn campus every Friday from 3-4:30 p.m. for friendly games of canasta.

Movie matinee: Enjoy a classic movie and popcorn on the first Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon on the Cohn campus. There is no charge to attend. The May 2 film will be one of a top-ranked film from the National Classic Jewish Film Guide.

Yiddish nostalgia: Join **Ruth Weston** and other Yiddish enthusiasts on Thursday, May 24 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Cohn campus to share favorite expressions and reminisce. This program is free.

Crochet lessons: Learn crochet with instructor **Judy Balber** every Monday on the Cohn campus from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Bring yarn, crochet hooks and any pattern you want. Cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members with prorating options available.

The other four questions: **Rabbi Jason Rosenberg** of Congregation Beth Am will lead classes to explain the background and significance of the holidays. The next class, on Shavuot and Sukkot, is Wednesday, May 16 at noon at the Cohn campus.

Men's Club: This group will meet on Tuesdays, May 8 and 22 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the Glazer JCC for men to gather in relaxed and friendly surroundings. Potential activities include poker, billiards, ping-pong, sporting events, fishing or camping, community volunteering or discussions.

Parkinson's mixer: Come to the J Café Patio at the Glazer

JCC on Wednesday, May 16 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for a free informational session on all of the Parkinson's resources the Tampa JCCs have to offer.

Bridge: Those who want to learn how to play bridge or improve their game can take bridge classes at the Glazer JCC on Fridays through May 18. This is for players at any level and sessions are from 1-2:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 for members; \$60 for non-members.

There is also open play bridge on Mondays, May 7-28 at the Glazer JCC from 10:30 a.m. to noon. This is free for members and \$10 for non-members.

Job-Links

Monday Morning Links: Free sessions of Monday Morning Links are offered at the Jack Roth Center for Career Development at TampaBay-Job-Links, 4100 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 206, Tampa from 9:30 - 11 a.m.

- April 30: "12 Keys to a Productive Career Transition."
- May 7: "Ways to Stay Relevant in an Ever-changing Job Market."
- May 14: "How to Ace a Phone, Skype or Online Interview."

Monday Morning Links is supported by the Vinik Family Foundation.

Job-search aids: There are Success workshops on select Thursdays to aid with job-search skills. On May 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., the topic is "Preparing for Your Interview." On May 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon the topic is "Getting Organized and Staying on Track During Your Job Search." On May 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the topic is "Is Your Brand Helping You Land a Job?" The workshops are free for TampaBay Job-Links full program participants and \$15 for guests. Reservations required for all programs. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email RSVP@TBJL.org.

Switching gears: A series of four evening workshops, each from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. are offered, targeting those in career transition. These sessions cover the nuts and bolts of career transition. People can enroll for the full series or come for any individual session. The sessions are on Tuesdays, May 15, 22 and 29 and June 5. Reservations are required. Cost is \$15 per workshop or \$50 for all four. To RSVP, call (813) 344-0200, email RSVP@TBJL.org.

Support groups

Alzheimer's caregiver: Menorah Manor offers a support group meeting in the Samson Nursing Center at Menorah Manor, 255 59th St. N., St. Petersburg, on the first Thursday of the month from 3:30-5 p.m.

For more information, call **Gwen Kaldenberg** at (727) 302-3750.

Pro-Israel stalwart Ben Cardin aims fire at Trump and Netanyahu in J Street talk

By **RON KAMPEAS**
JTA News Service

WASHINGTON — Sen. Ben Cardin, a pro-Israel stalwart in the Democratic Party, lashed out at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a J Street conference, breaking with a party tradition of avoiding confrontations with Israel's leaders.



Sen. Ben Cardin speaking at the J Street conference in Washington, D.C.

Cardin, D-MD, in his speech Monday, April 16, stood by his bill that would criminalize some forms of boycotting Israel, which the liberal Jewish Middle East policy group opposes on free speech grounds. He also extolled the closeness of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

The most rapturous cheers on Monday were reserved for Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who was — as has been his custom — sharply critical of Netanyahu.

But Cardin's remarks about the Israeli premier were more unexpected. Cardin noted that he had opposed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal — a key policy win for J Street and its allies — but nonetheless decried Netanyahu for using Congress as a platform to speak out against it.

"When the prime minister accepted an invitation to address the joint session of Congress creating a partisan division in our own country, we speak out against that decision," said Cardin. Democrats saw Netanyahu's March 3, 2015 speech, coordinated solely with Republicans, as an unseemly attack on then-President Barack Obama and Democrats.

Cardin also likened Netanyahu's plan to deport African asylum seekers to President Donald Trump's policies severely restricting refugees arriving from some Muslim majority countries. He also noted Trump's failure to unequivocally condemn white supremacists during the demonstrations in Charlottesville, VA. In each case, he said his objections arose from "a responsibility to speak out against the policies of Israel or the United States that are not consistent with our Jewish and democratic values."

"We speak out!" he said in a call and response that earned applause.

Cardin said he was still open to modifying his bill targeting the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel, but defended it as a necessary means of countering pressure on companies to boycott

Israel. He also defended the bill's inclusion of boycotts targeting Israeli settlements. That policy is very unpopular at J Street, which opposes BDS overall, but does not oppose settlement boycotts.

Sanders in his speech especially decried Israel's actions recently on the Gaza Strip border, where 30 Palestinian protesters were killed and hundreds were wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers.

"Though the overwhelming majority of these protesters were nonviolent, we know that some of them were not, and when Israeli soldiers are in danger we can all agree that they have a right to defend themselves," Sanders said. "I don't think that any objective person can disagree that Israel has massively overreacted to these demonstrations."

Sanders and Cardin are both Jewish, and so is Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, who called for more openness among Democrats to different expressions of being pro-Israel. He said his views on Israel, emphasizing a two-state outcome, should be considered centrist, but "In Congress I am at the left edge and that cannot hold."

Husam Zomlot, the Palestine Liberation Organization envoy to Washington, received a warm welcome. He noted that of the three parties to efforts to renew Israeli-Palestinian talks, only the Palestinian negotiators still were committed to two states, while the Trump and Netanyahu governments had retreated from endorsing that outcome. He especially decried Trump for his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"Jerusalem is the key to peace," Zomlot said. The recognition "did not do justice to the history of Jerusalem."

Addressing that history, Zomlot said that Christians, Jews and Muslims have lived in the city for "millennia" — unusual for Palestinian officials, who often refrain from noting Jewish connections to the city. A Palestinian capital in the city alongside a Jewish one, Zomlot said, "will not only recognize the Jewish connection to Jerusalem but will celebrate the Jewish connection to Jerusalem."

Zomlot earned loud applause, which was noticed by Merav Michaeli, the Zionist Union Knesset member who spoke after him and Schatz. She chided the audience for being more enthusiastic in cheering Palestinians than Israelis.

"Frankly it hurt me when I did not hear you applauding the last speaker," she said, referring to Schatz "when he said he believes in the state of Israel and its right to exist."

That earned her a round of applause.

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Syracuse U permanently expels frat over racist, anti-Semitic video

(JTA) — Syracuse University has permanently expelled a campus fraternity after a video surfaced of members using racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic and ableist slurs.

In the video, discovered by the *Daily Orange*, Syracuse's student newspaper, a member of Theta Tau, a national engineering fraternity, gets on his knees and repeats an oath with slurs against blacks, Hispanics and Jews, among others. The expulsion comes after the school's administration suspended the fraternity, whose members attend the engineering school, after confirming the video's authenticity.

University Chancellor Kent Syverud made the announcement in a video posted to the university's public website.

Syverud said that individual students identified in the video could face suspension or expulsion. At least 38 individuals were interviewed by the university's Department of Public Safety about the video in the days after it was authenticated with dozens more expected to be interviewed in the coming days, he said.

He added that by the end of the weekend the campus police would "begin recommending charges" and making referrals to the office responsible for the student disciplinary processes. The process includes hearings for the students, and they can appeal the outcomes.

The Syracuse chapter of Theta Tau on Friday apologized for the actions captured on video and said its members believe racism "has no place on a university campus."

"It was a satirical sketch of an uneducated, racist, homophobic, misogynist, sexist, ableist and intolerant person," the fraternity said in a statement. "The young man playing the part of this character nor the young man being roasted do not hold any of the horrible views espoused as a part of that sketch."

"I solemnly swear to always have hatred in my heart for n****s, sp*cs and most importantly the f***in' k*kes," a member repeats, phrase by phrase, using slurs for black, Hispanic and Jewish people, respectively in the video that was posted on the student newspaper's website. Soon after he yells, "You f***in' k*kes, get in the f***in' showers," a reference to gas chambers during the Holocaust, as other members laugh and applaud.

The video also shows members simulating sexual acts and mocking gay people. Another video features more anti-gay language, as well as a slur against people with disabilities.

"We know this issue extends beyond one fraternity and one video," Syverud said, adding that the university has "begun a top-to-bottom review of our entire Greek system."



Liam Neeson as Oskar Schindler in "Schindler's List." He played the German factory owner with "warts and all."

Schindler's List' at 25: How Steven Spielberg's deeply Jewish story spoke to the masses

By MICHAEL BERENBAUM
JTA news service

LOS ANGELES — 1993 was a dramatic year in the memorialization of the Holocaust.

In April, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum opened its doors; 45 million visitors later it is a fixture adjacent to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., not only telling the story of the Holocaust but demonstrating the ongoing significance of this Jewish event — this European event — to the American people, to Western civilization and to the world.

In November of that year, Steven Spielberg, widely recognized as the most influential director of this generation, released his monumental work *Schindler's List* to international acclaim. Forsaking many of the tools of his profession, including the beautifying effect of color, Spielberg created a masterpiece. Nominated for 12 Academy Awards, it won seven, including best picture, best director, best adapted screenplay and best original score. The overture to *Schindler's List*, written by John Williams, is routinely played whenever Holocaust events are held. Its haunting tones evoke not only the motion picture but the event itself.

Expected to lose money, *Schindler's List* was probably greenlighted by Universal Studios because Spielberg was Spielberg, a director's director. He personally vowed not to make money on the film, saying his task was sacred, not entrepreneurial. Yet despite its length of over three hours, which made two screenings an evening difficult, it grossed \$321 million in its initial release, more than 14 times its original cost. Spielberg donated his entire share to charity.

The story of Oscar Schindler was cherished by its survivors but little known even by experts. For years Leopold Page would tell his story to people who walked into his Beverly Hills luggage store hoping that one of his prominent customers would bring it to the screen. Australian writer Thomas Keneally walked in one day. The result was his 1982 historical novel *Schindler's Ark*. For decades two New Jersey developers, Murray Pantirer and

Abraham Zuckerman, named a Schindler Drive or Schindler Road in each of their New Jersey developments, honoring the man who saved their lives. Only later — much later — did residents of their developments understand who was being honored and themselves feel honored by their address.

Schindler, a Sudeten German, was an unlikely Holocaust hero. A philandering Nazi war profiteer, he used Jewish money, Jewish talent and Jewish slave labor to build his metalworks business and his fortune. His transformation was gradual. He saw too much evil and then used the same cunning, and daring, to save his endangered Jews. He moved them from Krakow to Czechoslovakia along with his factory, and they survived the war. More than 1,200 Jews were rescued due to his interventions.

Spielberg resisted the temptation to valorize Schindler, who was portrayed brilliantly by Liam Neeson, warts and all. Spielberg couldn't quite end the film, perhaps because he didn't want to, so he gave filmgoers four endings: Schindler's final speech wishing he had done more; the Jewish workers walking away into an uncertain future; a segment in color featuring real-life survivors visiting Schindler's grave; and a closing title card reading simply, "There are fewer than 4,000 Jews left alive in Poland today. There are more than 6,000 descendants of the Schindler Jews."

The film is widely recognized as one of the finest ever made and gained such a moral stature that it was aired by NBC without commercial interruptions. Ford's sponsorship of the broadcast was perhaps an act of atonement or posthumous justice: Company founder Henry Ford, publisher of the anti-Semitic *Dearborn Independent* and the American disseminator of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, was honored personally by Hitler.

Schindler's List had a monumental unintended consequence. Survivors kept coming up to Spielberg and saying "have I got

a story to tell you," and the filmmaker listened with ever-growing fascination. As a man who could move millions with his work and was at the forefront of technological innovation, Spielberg vowed to record the testimonies of 50,000 survivors and preserve them for posterity. Naturally he chose video.

The result was what was then called the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which took the testimony of 52,000 Holocaust survivors in 57 countries and 32 languages, compiling the largest collection of oral history of any historical event.

At first Spielberg envisioned disseminating the collection in its entirety to five major research centers. In the years since, the collection has not only been disseminated in its entirety, but community after community has made use of the testimonies of local survivors to create films and educational material.

Examples abound: In my own work with the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, the testimonies of Chicago-area survivors were turned into a dozen films. Macedonia has used Macedonian testimonies, Mexico City Mexican testimonies. It is the gift that keeps on giving as scholars have made use of it for their research. Even great document scholars, such as Christopher Browning, learned the historical importance of oral history. Related films have been made on death marches and Sonderkommandos, the prisoners who worked in the vicinity of the death camps, areas where documents are few and memories deep.

Now housed at the University of Southern California, the renamed Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education is pioneering a video dialogue with survivors using voice recognition software. It allows a genuine conversation with holographic images of survivors, drawing on their actual testimonies. It is taking testimony from other genocides, Cambodia and Rwanda and Bosnia, as sadly the list grows. And institutions throughout the world are creating educational programs from this work.

Spielberg himself grew more comfortable and more profound in his Jewish identity and his ability to embrace that identity without being narrowly parochial or limiting the audiences for his films. His name is synonymous with excellence — film excellence and moral excellence. And his stature poses a challenge to filmmakers of all generations to engage their own tradition and speak through that experience to the world.

(Michael Berenbaum, director of the Sigi Ziering Institute: Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust at American Jewish University, was president of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation from 1997 to 2000.)

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Murder of Hamas engineer in Malaysia blamed on Israel's Mossad

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The family of a Palestinian electrical engineer and Hamas member who was killed over the weekend at close range in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, accused Israel of being behind the murder.

As is its custom, Israel neither confirmed nor denied involvement in the murder.

Fadi al-Batash, who was born in Gaza, was an expert on rocket and drone accuracy. Batash, 35, was killed early on Saturday, April 21 in a drive-by motorcycle shooting as he walked to early morning prayers.

"We accuse the Mossad of being behind the assassination," his family said in a statement.

The Hamas terror group claimed Batash as a

"loyal" member and a "scientist of Palestine's youth scholars." The group said he had made "important contributions."

Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman suggested in a public radio interview that the killing was a "settling of scores among terrorist organizations, among terrorists, among various factions."

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi announced that suspicions are being investigated that "foreign agents" were involved in the hit.

The engineer's body was set to be taken to Gaza to be buried through Egypt, though Israel called on Egypt to not let the body in. Egypt reportedly delayed the entrance by one to two days.

TARGET

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

The air-defense system had been installed recently at the T-4 air base, which has been reported to be the site for deployment of Iranian drones, such as the one Israel shot down in February. Israeli military officials announced that the drone was loaded with explosives and on an attack mission.

Israel would prefer to see the international community take a larger role in preventing Iran from becoming even further established in Syria, but this is unlikely since, as he explained, “the American strategy in Syria is largely focused on ISIS.”

Makovsky acknowledged that “all this is not great comfort for Israel, which would like to see America launch its own military strikes.” Since this is unlikely at the moment, it is assumed that the United States would back Israel politically if it decides to take further military action against Iran in Syria.

“It doesn’t seem to me that the president, given his public statements, has an interest in expanding America’s role in Syria,” he added.

Behnam Ben Taleblu, a senior Iran analyst at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told JNS that “the main strategy now for Israel is managing escalation dynamics in Israel’s favor. This is because Iran will seek to test Israel again. The armed drone was a qualitatively different threat for Israel – it represents a threat against the entire population and not just a message to Israel’s political or military establishment.”

Like Makovsky, Ben Taleblu also does not see an expanded U.S. role in Syria, and at present, U.S. foreign policy there is still muddled. “Right now,” he said, “there is an unknown ‘unknown’ in terms of American analysts who are trying to define U.S. defense strategy in Syria. First is the anti-ISIS campaign. The second is more normative, and that is upholding the non-use of chemical weapons. And the third is military commanders rhetorically blaming Iran for what is taking place in Syria.”

Netanyahu: ‘Aggression against aggression’

In anticipation of Iran’s intentions to retaliate, Israeli security and defense planners are making every effort to demonstrate to Iran that Israel has superiority, and that it is not worth the consequences for Iran to try and strike Israel.

As such, Israel announced that it canceled plans to send its warplanes to a joint military exercise with the United States in Alaska amid concerns of the Iranian buildup.

At the same time, Israeli leaders have made it clear to Iran that they will not tolerate its threats.



Photo by GPO

“Our policy can be summed up in three words: aggression against aggression,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week.

However, Iranian officials have responded to Israel’s actions and rhetoric.

“Israeli aggression against the Syrians and the region’s Muslims remains ongoing,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said earlier this week, adding that Tehran would respond “sooner or later.”

Similarly, Hezbollah’s Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem told the pan-Arab satellite TV station Al-Mayadeen that Iran would retaliate against Israel. “We have to expect something from Iran,” he said. “Hezbollah and Iran will not allow Israel to limit their movement in Syria.”

Assaf Orion, a senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, told JNS “what we see in Syria now is an accumulation of several issues. One is the latest phase in the civil war, which means the regime feels quite emboldened to wrap up the last places of resistance. There is action up north between Turkey and the Kurds. Farther south, Russia has concentrated on Damascus and its suburbs.

“This conjunction,” he continued, “means Syria feels confident to use chemical weapons. The regime has regenerated capabilities and the resolve to use it. The chemical attack was part of the regime’s usual style to finish off last pockets of resistance.”

In 2013, Syria joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, “but it is evident that the two northernmost sites that were hit by the coalition forces were post-2013 sites,” said Orion. “So actually, the Assad regime moved their assets around, kept some of its capabilities, hid them and then, assisted by Russia, used smoke and mirrors to deny their existence. The coalition strike was meant to tell Syria that the international community knows it used chemical weapons. But it all points to a failure of this mechanism to ascertain what is going on and to expose violations.”

There are voices calling for the ouster – or even the assassination – of Syrian President

Bashar Assad. What Assad must realize, said Orion, is that the crimes of tyrants like Adolph Eichmann, Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milošević eventually caught up with them.

“Parallel to the chemical-weapons issue, there is the Iran-Israel axis,” continued Orion. “Iran is established militarily in Syria. Now, Iran seems to feel it is time to reap its investment into actual gains and dig in to Syria. Iran is Hezbollah on steroids.”

What Iran will do now is not immediately apparent, according to Orion, though he says he is certain that “the Israeli military has made preparations to thwart or counter any attempt by Iran” to further attack Israel.

The question that remains, stresses Ben Taleblu, is: “Will Iran actually look to test Israel again, or will it try to save face?”

Information from the JTA news service was also used in this report.

Auction house offers antique Jewish Bible stolen by Göering

JERUSALEM (JTA) – An antique Bible, or Tanach, that was stolen from the library of a wealthy French Jewish doctor by Nazi leader Hermann Göering, will be sold at public auction.

Göering, who stole many valuable items of Judaica, was interested in Jewish treasures. According to its bookplate, the book was stolen from the home library of a Jewish doctor by the name of J.N. Pellieux of Beaugency, France sometime after the Nazi conquest of France in 1945.

According to a second bookplate, glued opposite the front page, the book was “taken from Göering’s private collection in Berghof in the Berchtesgaden region.” A stamp of the French Division of the Red Cross, whose soldiers captured the compound on May 4, 1945, appears on the bookplate.

The Kedem Auction House in Jerusalem said in a statement that the Bible was printed by Menasseh Ben Israel in Amsterdam in the 17th century, “one of a few bibles printed by a Jew at the time.”

In 2005, the stolen book was bequeathed as a gift to a Mr. Rosenfeld of London by a chaplain of the French division that stormed Göering’s house at the end of the war, according to *Kedem*.

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Treasures from a centennial exhibit on Leonard Bernstein

By PENNY SCHWARTZ
JTA news service

From his birthplace in Boston to New York, Berlin, South Africa, China and Israel, Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), the larger-than-life conductor, pianist, composer, educator and bon vivant, is being celebrated in a two-year bonanza of concerts, stage productions and programs marking the centennial of his birth.

The American-born son of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants, Bernstein's influence spanned the musical world, from classical music to Broadway.

Thousands of events are featured as a part of #Bernsteinat100, including *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music*, an exhibit that recently opened at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Last week, the Library of Congress got in on the act, making available online for the first time free access to more than 3,700 items including letters, photographs, audio recordings and other material from its vast Leonard Bernstein Collec-

tion. The release nearly tripled the library's digital offerings.

Curious fans can cue up *West Side Story*, *On the Town* or the "Chichester Psalms," and peruse volumes of scrapbooks in the Library's collection that were meticulously compiled by Helen Coates, his piano teacher and later, his career-long secretary.

"Bernstein arguably was the most prominent music figure in America in the second half of the 20th century," according to Mark Horowitz, the collection's curator, who has been immersed in the details of the maestro's life for a quarter century. He described Bernstein as a "polymath, a Renaissance man who wanted to do it all," from music to education to social activism.

Born on Aug. 28, 1918 in Lawrence, MA, to Jennie and Samuel Bernstein, the young musician famously catapulted onto the world stage in November, 1943, when he filled in on short notice as conductor for the New York Philharmonic for an ailing Bruno Walter, in a concert broadcast on national television.

In 1958 with his appointment as music director of the New York Philharmonic, Bernstein became the first American-born and educated conductor – and the first American Jewish conductor – to lead a major American orchestra.

With an estimated 400,000 items, the Bernstein Collection is one of the largest and most varied in the Library's music division, Horowitz told JTA. The archives fill 1,723 boxes that measure 710 linear feet.

Here are some treasures from the Library of Congress collection:

1. Bernstein grew up in Boston in a deeply religious family and was influenced by the music he heard at synagogue.

At Congregation Mishkan Tefila, his family's synagogue, the young Bernstein came under the influence of Solomon Braslavsky, a Viennese composer who became the synagogue's music director and led its choir. On Oct. 10, 1946, Bernstein wrote to Braslavsky, shortly after Yom Kippur: "I have come to realize what a debt I really owe to you ... for the marvelous music at Mishkan Tefila services. They surpass any that I have ever heard."

Bernstein had a strained relationship with his father, a successful business owner, whose life was guided by Talmudic learning. While he described his father as authoritarian, he admired his depth of knowledge of Jewish texts and thought.

2. Bernstein was smitten by Israel and became a devoted and influential supporter of the Israel Philharmonic.

In November 1948, during Israel's War of Independence, amidst fighting between the Israeli and Arab armies, Bernstein made his second conducting tour of Israel. He wrote a nine-page letter to his mother, Jennie, that glows with colorful, playful illustrations by Yossi Stern, a Hungarian refugee who became known as the "painter of Jerusalem."

"You can see his passion for the young state of Israel, its land, the people and the culture," according to Ivy Weingram, curator of the exhibit at the NMAJH, where visitors can see one page of the original letter, on loan from the Library of Congress.

Over his career, Bernstein conducted the Israel Philharmonic in 25 different seasons, in Israel, Europe and the U.S.

3. Following the Six-Day War, Bernstein performed a concert in Israel.

The July 1967 concert, with violinist Isaac Stern and the Israel Philharmonic, included Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem; Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto; and the final movement of Mahler's Second Symphony, known as the "Resurrection Symphony."



Photo courtesy of Library of Congress, Music Division

Leonard Bernstein at the opening of "West Side Story" at the National Theater in Washington, D.C., Aug. 12, 1957.

In his speech at the performance, handwritten on stationery from Jerusalem's Shemesh Oriental Restaurant, Bernstein recalled his exhilaration conducting the Mahler symphony 19 years earlier, during Israel's War of Independence. He marveled at the recent unification of Jerusalem, a city he envisioned would inspire peace.

"Is it too much to hope that this growing together of people in peace may radiate out to this general region ... and eventually ... the world," he wrote. "Why not? This is Jerusalem," with the name of the city written in Hebrew.

4. Bernstein was gay. His wife Felicia seemed okay with that.

In 1946, Bernstein married Felicia Cohn Montealegre, a Chilean actress who performed the role of narrator in Bernstein's Symphony No. 3, the "Kaddish Symphony." They had three children, Jamie, Alexander and Nina.

Bernstein didn't hide his homosexuality and attraction to men from his wife. Early in their marriage, Felicia wrote a stirring and remarkably broad-minded letter, undated, that revealed the deep love and bond between the couple.

"You are a homosexual and may never change – you don't admit to the possibility of a double life, but if your peace of mind, your health ... depends on a certain sexual pattern, what can you do?" she wrote. "I am willing to accept you as you are, without being a martyr. I happen to love you very much ..."

5. "West Side Story" was originally about Jews and Catholics.

In the 1950s, Bernstein and choreographer Jerome Robbins took inspiration from William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, adapting it to the ethnic and racial tensions of the 20th century. An annotated copy of *Romeo and Juliet* in the Library of Congress collection is on view at the NMAJH exhibit and includes notes by Bernstein and Robbins. It was originally conceived as "East Side Story," about conflicts between Jews and Catholics. Audition notes for *West Side Story*, which opened on Broadway in 1957, include Bernstein's comments about a young Warren Beatty, who sought the role of Riff ("Good voice, can't open jaw – charming as hell – clean cut".)

* * *

The Library of Congress is hosting a series of programs from May 12-19 including performances and film screenings. On Saturday, May 19, rarely seen materials from the collection will be on display. More details on the Bernstein events are on the Library's website, www.loc.gov.



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