

# JCN

jewish community news

Distributed as a  
Community Service by the  
Jewish Federation of the Desert

Kislev/Tevet 5778  
December 2017

[www.jfedps.org](http://www.jfedps.org)

# HAPPY

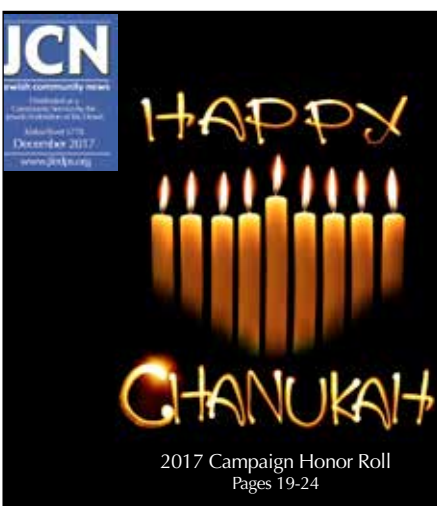


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2017 Campaign Honor Roll  
Pages 19-24



# The GA and the Hurricanes



CELIA NORIAN & ALLAN LEHMANN  
BOARD CO-CHAIRS

As Board Co-Chair of our Federation, together with my Co-Chair Allan Lehmann, CEO Bruce Landgarten, Women's Philanthropy Director Margaux Dinerman, Campaign Co-Chair Stephanie Ross and WP Campaign Chair Margie Kulp, we attended the General Assembly of the Jewish Federation of North America in Los Angeles in mid-November.

Standing on the shoulders of those who came before us, Federation volunteers and professionals from across the United States and overseas gathered to "Venture Further" (the theme of this year's GA) into the future of Jewish education, philanthropy and Jewish life. We listened to innovators and leaders, exchanged ideas, and shared our thoughts and concerns with each other.

We heard from two well-respected figures in their fields – Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, the first elected Jewish mayor of that city, who talked about his mixed heritage and the importance of "building windows" to share with the world the great things that Federation does, and Rabbi David Wolpe, who spoke about the importance of education – "if we don't learn, we don't know; if we don't know our history, how can we teach our children and carry on our heritage."

There were plenaries and sessions that dealt with the aging

populations, millennials and the changing climate of philanthropy, the Diaspora– Israel relationship and how to find the balance of Federation's mission and some of the controversial political issues of today.

We attended a briefing by the JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) about the work they are doing around the world to help Jews who are in need or in danger. Some elderly Jews in the FSU (former Soviet Union) receive only their meager pensions which are as low as two dollars per day with no safety net from the government. Hundreds would suffer without our assistance with food, medicine, winter relief, socialization and home care.

JAFI (Jewish Agency for Israel) related their work to ensure we remain one people – providing services and programs to help us stay connected. Israel Shlichim (emissaries) are sent to communities and universities to strengthen bonds to Israel. Youth Futures programs help children-at-risk by providing a stable, consistent adult mentor for them.

Having attended many GAs over the years I have been part of our Federation's leadership, I can tell you that JFNA General Assemblies usually focus on Jewish education in this country and Jewish rescue work done overseas. However, as a result of the recent devastating hurricanes, there was a shift this year and we focused on the JFNA efforts here in the United States.

We heard from a Rabbi, a volunteer and a victim from Houston and how they were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Beth Yeshurun Congregation has 350 members who lost their homes. Michelle Hirsch of National Young Leadership organized an Amazon

wish list of items needed and it was filled within 12 hours and driven to Houston from Dallas. Naomi shared her story of personal loss – her home was devastated and her family is still living in temporary housing. Hurricane Harvey devastated Houston's Jewish community. Nearly three-quarters of the city's Jewish population live in areas that were hardest hit. 2,000 families were affected. Two of the largest synagogues, one day school, the JCC and the Jewish senior home have been damaged.

JFNA has been there from the onset and has established the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund to help meet the urgent needs. It is estimated that it will take \$30 million to meet the short and longer term needs. We, the Jewish Federations of North America, were, are and will be there.

As a participant in this Assembly, I was inspired and re-energized in Federation. Year in, year out you have heard us talk about how "we are there when needed," but these words resonated in a different way this year, because the crises were here 'at home' ... in Texas and Florida. And our efforts extended to the victims of the hurricanes in Puerto Rico and other Caribbean Islands and the earthquakes in Mexico. I am re-energized because these tangible reminders give weight to our familiar words, that "we are concerned about Jews around the world and at home." This is what Federation is all about – caring for each other.

Your dollars in support of our annual campaign do so much every day. We truly are making a difference in the lives of Jews locally, in America, in Israel and around the world. We are able to do so because you support us through your contributions. The 2018 campaign is underway. If not now, when?

## 2017-2018 JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# What Have We Accomplished?

From the CEO



**BRUCE LANDGARTEN**  
Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

Every once in a while I get a question that I find interesting and, in a way, very affirming. The question: What have we accomplished this year? Not a bad question, and one for which we have some good answers. What makes this question interesting is that it reflects a completely different

understanding of the role Federations traditionally have played.

Jewish Federations historically have collected money from Jews who care about community and then allocated or apportioned those funds out to partners doing the work on the ground in the community, often through unrestricted support because that was the best way to get the work done. Sounds good, but nowhere is there any notion of the Federation being responsible for specific accomplishments or change.

Times have changed, both in terms of needs and how people give today. What have we done to make a

critical difference in the way we continue to drive change, to fill gaps and enable impact and outcomes that were not there before?

The good news: this reflects the value proposition of the Federation that we have been creating and affirming in the past few years. It means that people are buying into this understanding and framework of the "new" Federation. We need to deliver on this ... and we are.

We need to continue to highlight those areas where there are gaps and in which we are seeking to promote change and positive growth, reporting out to the community on the specific ways we are doing this and outcomes we are enabling.

At the same time, we need to

reinforce how we continue to provide core support and ongoing funding to critical needs in our community, from Meals on Wheels to Desert Hot Springs Senior services to Jewish education to caring for the vulnerable overseas...plus, the numbers we are serving are growing.

What we need to do more of and better is to *connect the dots* and present a vision for what a vibrant Jewish community can look like in the Desert and how what we are doing helps get us there. We need to share more of the vision and that drive and inspire us through more challenging times and .... *connect the dots*.

## Security

In light of recent anti-Semitic events (e.g. Charlottesville) and the all too frequent mass shootings throughout the US, we want you to be aware of Federation's pro-active efforts in these troubling times.

We have been ambitious

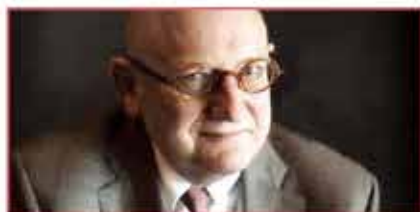
about security as we continue our partnership with Secure Community Network, as well as with local law enforcement. We are much more focused on security than ever before and we have made your safety and security, and that of all our synagogues and institutions, a top priority.

- We launched an Active Shooter workshop for our neighboring non-profit agencies, and will continue to host them in the future.
- We received a grant from Department of Homeland Security to assess our building and made improvements.
- We are exploring, with our local

law enforcement, a community-wide early warning system.

- We know that our local university (UCR) campus is facing new challenges. We are working closely with Hillel and our UCR campus partners to support our Jewish students and ensure their safety.

## MAJOR GIFTS DINNER • TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018 TAMARISK COUNTRY CLUB



### Keynote Speaker: IRA FORMAN • "The Rise of Global Anti-Semitism"

Ira Forman is the former U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism at the U.S. State Department from 2013-2017. He has captivated audiences with his deep understanding of the nature of worldwide anti-Semitism and his championing of a coherent strategy to confront this growing evil.

Minimum contribution to the Jewish Federation of the Desert  
2018 annual campaign: \$10,000 per couple;  
\$3,600 per couple for out-of-town Major Gift contributors.

For more information please call 760-324-4737



CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS  
Nancy Ditlove    Lori Fritz    Stephanie Ross



# Israel Builds Massive Fence to Protect Aircraft in Southern Airport

By: Aryeh Savir, World Israel News

Israel's Ministry of Defense has constructed a new 30-meter high (98 ft.) barrier along parts of its border with Jordan, introducing a unique solution developed for the protection of the new Ilan and Asaf Ramon Airport, situated just north of Eilat.

Placed on dozens of tall pillars, the fence was designed to protect aircraft against a range of threats, including ballistic projectiles, during take-off or landing at the airport. A 4.5 kilometer long fence and technological means are also included in its development.

The construction of the innovative barrier is part of Israel's building of the eastern fence along the Israel-Jordan border between Eilat and the sands of Samar, at a cost of some NIS 300 million. Some 30 kilometers, or two thirds, of the barrier have so far been deployed.

The new fence is being modeled after the security barriers along Israel's borders with Egypt and Syria, with adjustments for the specific terrain in the desert area. The undertaking includes the



development of road systems, observation towers, operations centers and other advanced technological measures.

"We are constantly working to strengthen the security components on all borders, in the face of existing and future challenges," stated Minister of Defense Avigdor Liberman. He said the unique protective measures at the airport are "further proof of the creativity and ability of the defense establishment, and this is the foundation of the IDF's strength."

One of the complexities of the project is that the construction of the fence requires the evacuation of 13 kilometers of old minefields, which will be completed in the coming months.

With the environment in mind, hydrological solutions have been developed to enable the establishment of the Nahal Ha'Arvah route, which includes resilient waterway barriers, ecological passages for animals, as well as corrosion prevention solutions.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the  
Jewish Federation of the Desert  
VOL. 44, No. 5

### EDITORIAL

**Bruce Landgarten,**  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Miriam H. Bent,** Editor  
**Bailey Communications,**  
Layout & Design

### JCN STATEMENT

The Jewish Community News seeks to provide news and feature material of special interest to its readership, and to create a heightened sense of Jewish identity through the dissemination of information about people, events and issues at home and abroad. The JCN seeks to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions in the Jewish community.

The JCN is published monthly, ten months a year by the Jewish Federation of the Desert, 69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, 760-324-4737, fax 760-324-3154.

### ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

**Miriam H. Bent,** Editor  
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**BARRY MANILOW'S**  
**A GIFT OF LOVE IV**  
Benefit Concerts

**Jewish Family Service of the Desert**  
is proud to be one of the recipients of  
**Barry Manilow's A Gift of Love IV**  
Benefit Concerts to be held  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 - 8 PM**  
McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts



JFS has a few Platinum & Gold Packages remaining:

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First row seating, pre-show cocktail reception & picture with Barry in the Theatre's Backstage Holiday Court.
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# Israel Hosts 7 Air Forces in Largest Drill in its History

By Aryeh Savir, World Israel News

The Israeli Air Force (IAF) is hosting air forces from seven nations, in the largest air drill in the Jewish state's history. Some 100 aircraft and several hundred pilots and support crews from the United States, Greece, Poland, France, Germany, India and Italy will arrive in Israel for Blue Flag. Officers and attaches from nearly 40 countries are also attending as observers.

Established in 2013, Blue Flag is a biennial, two-week drill aimed at improving the type of planning, targeting and coordinated command and control required by coalitions operating together. The goal of the exercise, conducted out of Uvda Airbase in the south, is to simulate extreme combat



scenarios and to fly in coalition as realistically as possible.

Israel's Blue Flag does not pit forces against one another; rather, it stresses cooperation over competition. Among the seven participants, India, France and Germany are attending Blue Flag for the first time.

"The 'Blue-Flag' exercise is a significant quantum leap in our ability to hold an exercise and provide our multi-national

participants with a quality training experience as performed in Israel," said Lt. Col. Nadav, Commander of the 133rd Squadron ("Knights of the Twin Tail"), which operates "Baz" (F-15) fighter jets and is leading the exercise.

"This is a significant milestone in our relationship with the international air forces, some of which are arriving in Israel to train for the first time. This exercise will allow us to continue cooperating with these forces in the future as well," he added.

"The IAF has two main goals in the exercise: the first is to improve the operational readiness of all air forces involved via a quality mutual training experience, while creating a fertile ground for mutual learning. The second is to show the world that the IAF is an advanced, strong and leading force and improve Israel's international status as a result. We see each participant as an ambassador," Lt. Col. Guy, Head of the Training Branch in the IAF Air Division, explained.

## Chanukah Celebrations In The Desert Listings on Page 12

Save the Date: Monday, March 19, 2018

### 2018 MEN'S FEDERATION DAY

Hosted by Tamarisk Country Club



Tamarisk Country Club is hosting a fundraiser for the Jewish Federation of the Desert on March 19, 2018.

The event is open to all male golfers and tennis players in the Coachella Valley who would like to contribute and participate in the event.

There will be morning and afternoon golf shotguns and tennis. All players are invited to attend the luncheon either before or after play. Watch for more information coming.



 **TAMARISK**  
COUNTRY CLUB

 **Jewish Federation**  
OF THE DESERT



## Har-El 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Circle Retreat

Sunday, February 11, 2018

9:30 AM Check-in, refreshments & silent auction

10:00 AM Program

Followed by Seated Luncheon

Villa Portofino Club House, Palm Desert

Hosted by Marylynn & Andy Gladstein

### Presenter: Francie Schwartz

Educator & writer who specializes in adult Jewish learning, she served as Adult Learning Coordinator for the Union for Reform Judaism.



### Sexual Harassment in the Bible: Nothing New Under the Sun

COUVERT: \$36 • SPONSOR: \$60

Respond today. Deadline: February 6. Mail your check to:

Har-El, P.O. Box 564, Palm Desert, CA 92261.

Queries: Call 760-779-1691 or email: harelurj@gmail.com.

In keeping with the theme of the rights and responsibilities of women, please bring small containers of toiletries for Shelter From the Storm.

#### Committee:

Lainie Weil, Chair

Sheila Bailin, Sylvia Duban, Doris Forray, Rachel Gubman, Fran Handler, Sandra Harris, JoAnn Heiman, Joan Moyer, Roberta Nyman, Fran Reizner, Judy Wallis, Lynda Weisbard & Lynda Zions.

Fran Kaufman, President.





# Israel Has World's Highest Percentage of Teenage EMTs

*Sixty percent of the volunteer staff of Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency-response network, are teenagers.*

By Abigail Klein Leichman ISRAEL 21C

When the dispatcher alerted them about a two-week-old baby who'd stopped breathing, 16-year-old Ori Cohen and his Magen David Adom crewmates were right nearby with their ambulance. Working quickly under the guidance of the crew's senior emergency medical technician, Cohen and his fellow volunteers restored the infant's breathing and whisked her off to the hospital. The doctors said she'll be fine.

Cohen is one of 11,000 Israeli teenagers working voluntary shifts on MDA ambulances throughout Israel – making up a remarkable 60 percent of the volunteer staff.

"We have the biggest youth corps by percentage in the world, as far as I know," says Eli Yaffe, MDA deputy director for general training and culture. He adds that in some other countries, youth volunteers are only allowed to do tasks such as patient transport rather than responding to emergencies as youth volunteers do



*Magen David Adom youth volunteers in Israel.*

The 50-year-old national emergency response network always accepted teen volunteers but it started a formal youth program in 1993 for 15- to 18-year-olds as an option for fulfilling the Education Ministry's mandatory 60 hours of volunteering for high-school students.

"We offer a 60-hour training course, so if they just pass the course they've completed the requirement. It's optional to volunteer beyond that," says Yaffe. About 3,000 teenagers each year do opt to interview for spots on ambulance crews – more, in fact, than there are spots available. "MDA is an

organization where you can really help people, and that's very exciting," Cohen tells ISRAEL21c.

Tzippy Winter, 18, averages three shifts a month during the school year, more during vacations. "It gives you expertise in handling basic medical emergencies and you really learn the importance of helping other people. Even sitting in the back of the ambulance with an old person or with someone about to give birth makes you feel you're doing something amazing," she tells ISRAEL21c.

Dina Abu Toameh of Jerusalem, a 17-year-old Muslim, says the calls she finds most gratifying are those where her Arabic translation abilities are critical. "In our shifts we can have both Arabs and Jews, but sometimes I'm the only one in the crew who knows Arabic," she says. "One time we had an old lady in an Arab neighborhood with a stomach ache and the other three on the crew were Jewish. It was me who helped her communicate with our shift manager."

Abu Toameh is majoring in medicine in high school and hopes to become a paramedic. She took the MDA youth volunteer course in Hebrew although it is also offered in Arabic. She says her family is very proud of her. "Since I started volunteering it was the first time my mother wasn't angry when I came home late," she says with a laugh.

## Difficult cases

While the majority of emergency calls don't involve trauma, youth volunteers are trained to handle serious scenarios. Those who have volunteered for at least a year are eligible to take on more responsibility such as supervising younger



*MDA youth volunteer Ori Cohen*



*MDA youth volunteer Dina Abu Toameh*

volunteers. About 35 percent of youth volunteers also continue to volunteer after serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

During the summer of 2017, approximately 700 MDA youth volunteers chose to take a course for dealing with mass-casualty disasters. About 230 youth volunteers took a first-aid trainers' course so they can teach peers.

"Sometimes you see hard things like suicides or terror attacks," says Cohen, "but you are always surrounded by people who love you and if you have a hard case they're talking to you constantly to make sure you're alright."

Follow-up questionnaires have revealed that not only do young MDA volunteers feel supported after a severe incident, but they actually feel badly if the incident occurred on someone else's shift, Yaffe adds.

## Youth volunteers from abroad

Not only Israeli youth are clamoring to volunteer with MDA. Over the past 25 years, 6,500 teens have come to Israel for six weeks of training and volunteering with MDA squads across the country. "We run 10 courses a year, working with Jewish youth movements in 20 countries," says Uriel Goldberg, 25, coordinator of MDA's Yochai Porat Overseas Program. The courses are also offered to foreign teens in Israel on gap-year programs and to 18- to 29-year-olds who come independently.

In 2016, a total of 427 overseas MDA youth volunteers came from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States.

"As well as the practical skills, these volunteers learn leadership, teamwork and self-confidence. Quite a few make aliyah, as I did after the program," says Goldberg. "I came as a shy 18-year-old and it changed me completely."

**HAPPY HANUKKAH!**

**Lights, Latkes and Hanukkah Fun!**

Sunday, December 17th, 2017

6:00pm Candle Lighting with Cantor Propis  
Followed by a Traditional Hanukkah Buffet Dinner  
(You're welcome to bring your own Menorahs and Candles and Join in)  
\$44.00++ Adults | \$15.95++ Children 11 and under

Come and celebrate the Festival of Lights with friends and family at Mission Hills Country Club! We will be enjoying a Traditional Holiday Dinner. World Renowned Tenor & Cantor, David Propis, will lead us in Traditional Holiday song and games. Distinguished Scholar, Rabbi Moshe Cohen will lead us in a lively discussion over our special dessert.

RSVP to the Member Services Desk at 760-324-9400

\*Pre-packaged Kosher Dinners are available by special request only.



# FEAST OF JEWISH LEARNING 3

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018 ■ 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

**At Palm Valley School**

**35525 Da Vall (between Dinah Shore & Gerald Ford), Rancho Mirage**

A morning dedicated to promoting inspiration & a thought provoking exchange through Jewish learning



**Dr. Michael Alexander**



**Rabbi Andrew Bentley**



**Rabbi Yonason Denebeim**



**Rabbi Malka Drucker**



**Rabbi-in-Training Jules King**



**Rabbi Yankel Kreiman**



**Rabbi David Lazar**



**Rabbi Richard Zionts**

Each instructor will present two sessions. Please make your choices and we will do our best to accommodate you.

## FIRST SESSION

- A Rabbi Bentley: Disorganized Religion.
- B Rabbi Denebeim: The Bounty of Our Holy Land: Kabbalah and Seven Fruits of Israel
- C Rabbi Drucker: The Gift of Forgiveness
- D Rabbi-in-Training King: Survival, Music and The Holocaust.
- E Rabbi Kreiman: The 7 Species of Israel - A Kabbalistic Approach
- F Rabbi Lazar: To Rest in Peace: Burial & Cremation in the Jewish Tradition
- G Rabbi Zionts: The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Search for a Homeland: Birobidzhan and Why It Failed.

## SECOND SESSION

- H Rabbi Bentley: How to Find Common Ground in a Divided World.
- I Rabbi Denebeim: Splitting the Red Sea: Fact or Fiction?
- D Rabbi Drucker: Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust.
- K Rabbi-in-Training King: Survival, Music and The Holocaust.
- L Rabbi Kreiman: The 7 Species of Israel - A Kabbalistic Approach
- M Rabbi Lazar: When Folk Art and Sacred Text Meet: Scenes from the Book of Esther.
- N Rabbi Zionts: The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Search for a Homeland: Israel and Why It Succeeded.

Welcome: Ken Hailpern

Closing presentation: Dr. Michael Alexander, Maimonides Chair, University of California Riverside: "Learning on the College Campus."

**Fee: \$12 pre-paid ■ \$18 for same day walk-ins.**

**Register online: [www/jfedps.org](http://www/jfedps.org) or call in: 760-324-4737**

**Registration includes a light nosh/beverages.**

FEAST OF JEWISH LEARNING is a collaboration of Jewish Federation of the Desert and our Temples





# Court Demands Answers on Failure to Protect Women of the Wall

*Police, Western Wall Rabbi and Western Wall Heritage Foundation have 30 days to explain why they don't remove violent protesters*

*By Tamar Pileggi, The Times of Israel*

On November 13, 2017, Israel's High Court of Justice gave police and Western Wall officials 30 days to explain why they are failing to protect female worshipers from harassment at the Jewish holy site in Jerusalem.

The move came in response to a petition filed by the Women of the Wall group that claimed the Israel Police, Western Wall rabbi and Western Wall Heritage Foundation routinely fail to protect female worshipers from "disruptive



*Women of the Wall pray with a Torah scroll at their monthly prayer session, October 20, 2017*

elements." The officials must explain why they do not provide security for women praying at the



*Orthodox Jewish men blow whistles as they try to disturb the monthly prayer service of the Women of the Wall at the Western Wall*

Western Wall plaza and why they do not "take every necessary step" against those attempting to disrupt their prayers.

The group, which holds monthly services at the Western Wall that feature women reading from Torah scrolls, have long complained of harassment and discrimination by the Orthodox bodies governing the site.

"I hope that the message being delivered to the state is that it needs to remove all disturbing elements from Women of the Wall prayers and ensure Women of the Wall's constitutional right of ritual at the Western Wall as early as Rosh Hodesh Kislev, this coming Sunday, and Women of the Wall can pray peacefully," said Riki Shapira Rosenberg, lawyer for Women of the Wall.

The court order came months after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet voted to freeze the implementation of a permanent pluralistic prayer section at the Western Wall, which was approved by government ministers in January 2016. That decision by the cabinet was met with widespread dismay from liberal groups and Diaspora Jews.

*Women's Philanthropy*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S CARD DAY**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017**

**10 am - 4 pm**

**The Springs Country Club, Rancho Mirage**

*Join us for a fabulous Ladies' Day Out!*

Whatever your game (Bridge, Canasta, Mah Jongg, Rummykub & more), come out for a day of fun!

**\$65 • Includes lunch**

Bring your own foursome, along with your mahj sets or cards.



New to the Desert? Haven't established your own special foursome? Call and tell us what you play and we will do our best to put together a game for you.

*Proceeds help to support our Jewish Federation's Special Tzedakah Fund.*

We would love to have you join us for this wonderful day of fun, friendship ... and a mitzvah too!

Tables must be reserved.  
Call Linn Menne at  
760-324-4737 or email  
Linn.menne@jfedps.org



**THERE STILL MAY BE TIME TO RSVP IF YOU CALL NOW!**

**Women's Philanthropy's 2017  
EDUCATION DAY PROGRAM  
with**

**AMOS GUIORA**

*"Tolerating Extremism"*

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

**10:00 AM to Noon**

**UC Riverside Palm Desert Campus Auditorium**

**Couvert: \$25, due with reservation.**

**Continental breakfast served.**

**RSVP to Linn Menne /Jewish Federation:**

**760-324-4737 Seating is limited.**





# Frankfurt District Court Rules in Favor of Kuwait Airways' Anti-Israeli Discrimination

The Lawfare Project

On November 16<sup>th</sup> the Frankfurt District Court ruled in favor of Kuwait Airways in a lawsuit against the airline. The case was brought by an Israeli passenger, represented by The Lawfare Project's German counsel, Nathan Gelbart, who bought a ticket from Frankfurt to Bangkok last summer but, on attempting to board his flight, was barred from doing so because of his nationality.

Kuwait bans all its citizens and companies from doing any business with the Jewish State or its citizens. Kuwait Airways enforces this policy strictly, banning Israelis from its flights. It has faced similar actions in Switzerland and the United States, where legal pressure led to the airline cancelling its popular NYC-London flights, and all its inter-European flights, rather than compromise its racist policy.

The Mayor and City Treasurer of Frankfurt, Uwe Becker, has expressed his disapproval of the ruling in the following statement:

"To my mind, an airline that practices discrimination and anti-Semitism by refusing to fly Israeli passengers should not be allowed to takeoff or land in Frankfurt, or at any other airport in Germany. This Kuwaiti law, that is deeply anti-Semitic and that forbids the transport of Israelis cannot be legal grounds for the violation of international standards."

The Judge's explanation for the decision has not yet been made public. Counsel for the Israeli passenger who brought the case have said that correspondence from the judge make it seem likely that Kuwait Airways was able to get away with their systematic, institutional racism towards Israelis because it offered to purchase a flight for the Israeli on a different



airline.

Brooke Goldstein, the Executive Director of The Lawfare Project, which provided counsel to the litigant, commented: "If a restaurant refused to provide service to someone because they were black, we would rightly be outraged and appalled. We wouldn't stop being appalled if, upon kicking him out, the restaurant offered him a voucher for the restaurant next door. That is the legal reasoning the judge seems to have used in this case."

Goldstein continued, "This is a clear-cut case of bigoted, anti-Semitic discrimination. To see a Jewish person banned from exercising his freedoms in Germany in 2017 is chilling enough. To see that discrimination whitewashed and legitimized by a German judge is grotesque. By any measure, this verdict is ludicrous and we will be appealing."

Nathan Gelbart, the Lawfare Project's German counsel, said: "I am deeply shocked that a German Court has so obviously allowed a totalitarian regime's discriminatory legislation to overrule both German National Law and Germany's democratic values. The statement by the court that my client was supposed to accept transportation on other airlines is nothing more than capitulating to anti-Semitic discrimination by Kuwait Airways. This is a shameful verdict for

democracy and for Germany in general. It must be corrected."

Outside of the courts, Kuwait Airways has come under political pressure to cease its discriminatory commercial practice. Last month, the German Federal Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Alexander Dobrindt, ordered a Federal Transport Ministry investigation into whether the airline's current policy of refusing service to Israeli nationals violates existing air traffic laws. The investigation is ongoing, and is independent of the lawsuit

and this troubling decision.

Volker Beck, a former Bundestag member of the Green Party, made clear the choice facing Kuwait Airways. "Stop the discrimination or stop doing business in Germany," he said in comments to the Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper.

Mayor and Treasurer of Frankfurt, Uwe Becker, has added to the pressure against Kuwait Airways in Germany. That pressure is expected to increase as a result of the litigant signaling his intention to appeal the judge's decision.

## Federation Men's Division Provides Thanksgiving Dinners for Angel View Residents



Through the efforts of the Jewish Federation's Men's Division, monies were raised to give \$1000 to Angel View to provide Thanksgiving dinners for their residents. Presenting the check

to Angel View Executive Director Patti Park were [left] Arnie Gilman, Men's Division Chair and [right] Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation CEO. Present at Angel View for the presentation were members of the Men's Division and their spouses.



# Rivlin Tells US Jews He's Pained Western Wall Now 'A Symbol of Division'

*Amid rift with Diaspora, president assures Jewish Federations summit Israel 'will always be the home of every Jew,' regardless of denomination*

President Reuven Rivlin lamented the Western Wall's transformation into "a symbol of division and disagreement" between Israel and the Diaspora, and expressed hope that understandings would soon be reached on egalitarian prayer at the holy site.

Addressing the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America in Los Angeles, Rivlin said, "It causes such pain that the symbol of unity, the Wall of our Tears and Joy, has become a symbol of division and disagreement."

"I hope that in the future we can return to the table together, and reach an understanding on this important issue."

He added that it was important to "respect Israel's democratic process, the decision-making process. Whether we like it or not,



*President Reuven Rivlin speaks during a conference of the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America in Los Angeles, on November 14, 2017*

in the only Jewish democratic state, 'religion and state' is a political issue — maybe the most explosive one."

The government earlier this year suspended an agreement that would have upgraded the egalitarian prayer platform adjacent to the main plaza at the holy site, and set it up as a permanent prayer site. The decision led to widespread anger in the Jewish world, and faith leaders have warned of a growing rift between Israel and the Diaspora over Israel's treatment of the non-ultra-Orthodox streams of Judaism.



*The platform for egalitarian prayer at the Western Wall*

Rivlin said Israel "was, and will always be, the home of every Jew: Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, secular, traditional, Ashkenazi, Sephardi. Jews. We are all one people, and Israel is dear to all of us."

"The Jews of the Diaspora, especially in North America, are full partners," he said. "You are true stakeholders in this wonder called Israel. You stand beside us at times of crisis and joy. You dream with us. You challenge us. You help keep us strong." That support, he said, "cannot be taken for granted."

Rivlin said Jews should stand together "against anti-Semitism in

all its forms, from the vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, to terror attacks against our brothers and sisters around the world, from BDS on campuses, to attacking Israel's legitimacy in the United Nations. There is no room for hesitation, we must continue the fight against it as one united front."

He also spoke of a need to preserve Jewish identity "and to pass it from one generation to the next," as well as an imperative of safeguarding Israel — facing the Iranian threat to Israel and the region and ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"The lives of Palestinians and Israelis, Arabs and Jews, are bound together," he said. "We live side by side, and with each other. We share the same land, the same holy places, the same water and the same sky. There will be no peace, until we all understand that we are not doomed to live together, it is our destiny to live together"

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## Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly



*Jewish Federation of the Desert delegation (l-r): Board Co-chairs Celia Norian and Alan Lehmann, Campaign Co-Chair Stephanie Ross, Women's Philanthropy Director Margaux Dinerman and CEO Bruce Landgarten. (Missing: Margie Kulp).*



*Left: Alison Goldstein Lebovitz moderates a millennial roundtable with Rachel Sumekh, Jason Leivenberg, and Jackie Rotman.*

*Right: CEO Bruce Landgarten with David Saginaw, JFNA Managing Director, Development.*



# IDF Deploys Iron Dome, Raises Alert Amid Gaza Threat

**Deployment of missile defenses comes 2 weeks after IDF destroyed an Islamic Jihad attack tunnel, leading to death of at least 12 of the group's operatives**

By Judah Ari Gross, The Times of Israel

A number of Iron Dome missile defense batteries were deployed in central Israel amid heightened tensions with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad since the army demolished the terrorist group's border-crossing attack tunnel last month.

On October 30th the Israel Defense Forces blew up the tunnel, which originated in the Gazan city of Khan Younis and crossed into Israeli territory near Kibbutz Kissufim in the northwestern Negev. According to the army, the tunnel had been under surveillance the entire time that it was inside Israeli territory and did not pose a threat to civilians. The army said later that killing the terrorists was not the primary objective of the tunnel demolition. The bodies of five terrorists who were working on the tunnel inside Israeli territory were recovered by the IDF, the army said.

The IDF confirmed the anti-missile systems were installed in "central Israel," but would not elaborate on their exact location, citing army policy.

The Iron Dome system, which is designed to shoot down short-range rockets and, in some cases, mortars, was deployed to counter the threats made by Islamic Jihad, which has vowed to avenge its members killed in the tunnel blast and its aftermath. Israeli officials have tried to dissuade the terror group, warning of a harsh retaliation by the IDF.

Maj. Gen. Yoav Mordechai, who runs the Defense Ministry's chief liaison office with the Palestinians, publicly warned Islamic Jihad in a video posted to YouTube. He addressed by name the terror group's leader, Ramadan Salah, and his deputy, Ziad Nakhleh, who run the Gaza-based group from Damascus, and said they would be "held responsible" should Islamic Jihad attack Israel.

In the video, Mordechai said that Israel is "aware of the plot that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad is planning



**Deployed Iron Dome missile defense system**

against Israel," and warned that "any attack by the Islamic Jihad will be met with a powerful and determined Israeli response, not only against the Jihad, but also against Hamas." Islamic Jihad responded to Mordechai's video, saying the Israeli threats against its leaders constituted "an act of war," and vowing to continue in its plans to carry out a revenge attack against Israel.

The "threats to target the movement's leadership is a declaration of war, which we will confront," Islamic Jihad said, according to a statement carried by its media affiliate Palestine Today News Agency.

The group said it would not back down on its "right" to retaliate against Israel for the tunnel explosion, which led to the deaths of 12 of its members, including two commanders, as well as two members of Hamas's military wing.

"We reaffirm our right to respond to any aggression, including our right to respond to the crime of aggression on the resistance tunnel," its statement said.

According to Palestinian media, Hamas encouraged Islamic Jihad to abstain from retaliating both in order to prevent further escalation with Israel and to prevent the reconciliation talks it has been conducting with the Palestinian Authority from falling apart.

In his YouTube message, Mordechai referred to those reconciliation efforts, saying Islamic Jihad was "playing with fire" and potentially threatening the talks, as well as the safety of Gaza Strip residents.

Early in November, a senior officer in the IDF's Southern Command warned that the military suspected the terror group may retaliate for the tunnel demolition with attacks on soldiers serving near the border, rocket fire at southern Israeli communities or terror attacks in the West Bank.

"The Islamic Jihad will have a hard time holding back," said the unnamed senior official.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu added his own warning addressed to those contemplating an attack. "These days, there are still those who toy with trying renewed attacks on Israel. We will take a very strong hand against anyone who tries to attack us or attacks us from any theater. I say this to every entity, rogue faction, organization — everyone. In any case, we see Hamas as responsible for every attack that emanates from, or is planned against us in, the Gaza Strip."

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# Chanukah Celebrations In The Desert

## First Candle: Tuesday, December 12th 2017

### Friday, December 8

**5:00 pm Har-El Pre-Chanukah Latke reception** following New Member Shabbat services. \$15. Pre-paid reservations required. Call 760-779-1691 or email harelurj@gmail.com.

### Sunday, December 10

**10:30 am -12:30 pm** Chabad of Rancho Mirage CKids' **Chocolate Gelt Factory**.

### Sunday, December 10

**4:00 pm** Bikur Cholim and Jewish Federation's **Chanukah Dinner** for Desert Hot Springs residents. Call 760-325-8076 to RSVP.

### Tuesday, December 12

**4:00 pm** Temple Sinai Religious School **Hanukkah Celebration at Westfield Mall**.

### Tuesday, December 12 & 19

**5-7 pm** Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Weekly BBQs** will include celebrating Chanukah with lighting the menorah, latkes, donuts and live music. Reservations not required but helpful: 760-770-7785.

### Thursday, December 14

**7:00 pm** Chabad of Palm Springs **Candle Lighting/Music at Palm Springs Street Fair**. At the "Ask the Rabbi" booth at Palm Canyon Drive and Tahquitz Canyon.

### Friday, December 15

**5:30 pm** Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Lights and Latkes** Community Shabbat Dinner. BY RSVP ONLY on website [www.chabadm.com](http://www.chabadm.com).

### Saturday, December 16

Chabad of Palm Desert **Chanukah Candle Lighting Ceremony** at the Living Desert **Wild Lights Event**. After Shabbat. Call 760-413-4425 for exact time.

### Saturday, December 16

Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Chanukah Bowl** (bowling) after Shabbat. Havdallah, then menorah lighting followed by exclusive bowl night with Israeli/Jewish music. Get tickets in advance and save. [info@chabadm.com](mailto:info@chabadm.com).

### Sunday, December 17

**5:00 pm** Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Chanukah Under the Stars** at The River in Rancho Mirage. Includes live musical entertainment, Giant Chanukah Gelt Drop, hot cocoa, latkes and other Chanukah treats.

### Sunday, December 17

**6:00 pm** Temple Har Shalom of Idyllwild Second Annual **"Latkes and Vodka" Chanukah Party**. Everyone invited to attend. For details, and address please contact 951-468-0004 or email [templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com](mailto:templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com).

### Sunday, December 17

**6:30 pm "Lights, Latkes & Hanukkah Fun"** at Mission Hills Country Club. Candle lighting with Cantor David Propis/Discussion over dessert with Rabbi Moshe Cohen. \$44 adults/\$15.95 children under 11. RSVP to Mission Hills Member Services, 760-324-9400. See ad page 4.

### Sunday, December 17

**7:00 pm** Beth Shalom "Latkes and Bobkas" Chanukah Party. Menorah lighting, Latke bar, dessert buffet and gift auction. \$12.50 per person. Reservation deadline: December 12. Information: 760-200-3636.

### Monday, December 18

**5:00 pm** Bikur Cholim's annual **Grand Chanukah Party at Boomers**. For information call: 760-325-8076.

### Tuesday, December 19

**6:00 pm** Temple Isaiah Annual Meeting and Hanukkah Party.





# Shabbat Schedule December 2017

Check the websites or call the synagogues for a full schedule of services.

**BETH SHALOM** (Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)  
Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader  
79-733 Country Club Drive, Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203  
www.congregationbethshalom.net  
760-200-3636  
8 pm Friday/9:30 am Saturday Shabbat Services. Sit down Kiddush after Shabbat morning services. Weekday minyan: call 760-200-3636 for information.

**CENTRO CULTURAL HEBREO DE MEXICALI** (Conservative)  
Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico  
Contact: Ron Cohen  
www.judiosdemexicali.com  
760-960-3392 US  
(686) 216-7152 Mexico

**CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES**  
Rabbi Yonason Denebeim  
425 Ortega, Palm Springs, CA 92264  
www.chabadpalmsprings.com  
760-325-0774  
Shabbat services Friday/Saturday; daily morning and evening minyan.

**CHABAD OF PALM DESERT**  
Rabbi Mendy Friedman  
Services in private home.

Call 760-651-2424 for information.  
www.chabadpd.com  
760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

**CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE**  
Rabbi Shimon Posner  
72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270  
www.chabadrm.com  
760-770-7785  
Shabbat services Friday: check website for service times. Saturday 10 am; children's program/service 11:15 am. Daily morning and evening minyan. M-F 7:00 am; Sundays 8:00 am/check website for mincha/maariv times.

**CONGREGATION HAR-EL** (Member, Union for Reform Judaism)  
Rabbi Richard Zions & Rabbi Ken Emert. www.harelurj.org / harelurj@gmail.com  
760-779-1691.  
New mailing address: P.O. Box 564, Palm Desert, CA 92261.  
First Friday: Music Shabbat. For information about Shabbat services contact Har-El by email or phone.

**CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT** (Reform)  
Rabbi Kenneth Milhander,  
1320 W. Williams Ave.,  
Banning, CA 92220.

Contact 951-769-3678/769-7514  
Shabbat Service 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday/  
Havdallah 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday evening.

**DESERT HOT SPRINGS**  
Friday evening Service once a month, at Mission Lakes Country Club with Rabbi Faith Tessler.  
December service: Friday, December 15, at 7:00 pm.

**DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE**  
Rabbi in Training Jules King.  
Meet at Unitarian Church, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage.  
760-449-0111. New mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270.  
www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com. Musical Shabbat service with DOS choir on first Friday of each month at 7:00 pm, followed by wine/light nosh oneg.

**SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES**  
Rabbi Hillel Cohn  
Services held at Sun City Del Webb, Palm Desert/Sunset View Clubhouse/Speakers Hall, First and third Friday evenings at 7:15 pm.

**TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild**  
Rabbi Malka Drucker.  
(951) 468-0004. Email: templeharshalomidyllwild@gmail.com. See Chanukah Celebrations of page 12 for December's event.

**TEMPLE ISAIAH**  
Rabbi David J. Lazar.  
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. www.templeisaiahps.com.  
Shabbat evening: 6:30 pm; morning services 10:00 am  
December 1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> "Renewing Friendships" Shabbat followed by "Rav Oneg."

**TEMPLE SINAI** (Reform)  
Rabbi Andrew Bentley  
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260.  
www.templeisaiapd.org  
760-568-9699.  
Friday evening services 7:30 pm, plus Family Services at 5:30 pm on the first Friday. Friday, December 15: 6:00 pm dinner followed by Zimra Service at 7:30 pm. Saturdays: 8:45 am Torah study; 10 am Shabbat services.

**BIKUR CHOLIM**  
A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities (Community Outreach)  
www.BikurCholimPS.com  
Rabbi Yankel Kreiman - 760-325-8076, and  
Rabbi Mendy Kreiman - 760-567-6726.

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For information about Services, Programs & Galen Har-El Courses call 760-779-1691 or email to harelurj@gmail.com. Registration required.

## Chanukah Events listed on page 12

### Sundays

#### Chabad Rancho Mirage Children's Programs

**C Teen** Global Teen network offering social, educational & humanitarian programming.

**C Teen Jr.** For 7-8 graders.

Educational and social programming.

**C Kids** ages 4-11. Meets Sundays 10:30-noon. Trips. Art. Cooking. Teaching life skills.

Call 760-272-1923 or email

Chaya@chabadrm.com for

information about the groups and meeting dates.

### Mondays

**6:30 pm** Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Men's Talmud class**, given by Rabbi Benny Lew at Chabad of Rancho Mirage. RSVP 760-636-2897 or Rabbibenny@chabadrm.com.

### Tuesdays

**5-7 pm** Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Weekly BBQ**. Affordable, fun and kosher. Reservations not required but helpful: 760-770-7785. BBQs on December 12 and 19 will include celebrating Chanukah with lighting the menorah, latkes, donuts and live music.

### Wednesdays

**7:30 pm** Rabbi Yankel Kreiman offers a new Parsha class. Call 760-325-8076 for details.

Chabad of Rancho Mirage Women's Rosh Chodesh Society. New course: **"Pause & Affect."** Monthly class. Reservations essential. Call 760-272-1923.

### Sunday, December 3, 10

**9:30 am** Temple Sinai Brotherhood Bag Bar.

### Sunday, December 3

**10:00 am** Women of Sinai **Brunch with Speaker**.

### Sunday, December 3 17

**10-11:15 am** **Coffee and Conversation with Rabbi Sally Olins**, 'the Coffee House Rabbi,' Hyatt Hotel, Palm Springs.

### Sunday, December 3

**1:00-3:00 pm** **MegaChallah Bake**.

### Sunday, December 3

**4:00 pm** Temple Isaiah **Jews Do the Blues Too**.

### Monday, December 4, 11, 18, 25

**7:00-8:00 pm** Chabad of Palm Springs Yeshiva Night: **'A Cornucopia of Torah Study.'** Choose a topic that interests you. No charge. RSVP preferred. 760-325-0774.

### Tuesday, December 5

**7:00 pm** Temple Isaiah **Book Study** with Rabbi Lazar: Abraham Joshua Heschel's "The Sabbath." Information: call 760-35-2281.

### Wednesday, December 6

**10 am – Noon** Jewish Federation **Women's Philanthropy Education Day:** "Tolerating Extremism" with Professor Amos Guiora. UC Riverside/Palm Desert Campus. \$25.

### Wednesday, December 6

**5:00 pm** Jewish National Fund's 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Love of Israel Dinner**. Westin Mission Hills, Rancho Mirage.

### Wednesday, December 6, 13, 20, 27

**9:00 am** Temple Sinai Introduction to Judaism.

### Wednesday, December 6, 13, 20, 27

**Noon** Temple Sinai 613 **Mitzvot**.

### Wednesday, December 6

**1:00 pm** Temple Sinai **Bereavement Group**.

### Wednesday, December 6, 13, 20, 27

**2:00 pm** Temple Sinai Adult **B'nai Mitzvah class**.

### Wednesday, December 6 & 13

**3:30-5:00 pm** Har-El Galen Trimester Course **"Civil Rights, Landmark Supreme Court Cases & American Jewry"** led by Steve Moyer, J.D.

### Wednesday, December 6, 13

**4:00 pm** Temple Sinai **Mah Jongg**

### Wednesday, December 6, 13, 20, 27

**6:00 pm** Temple Sinai **Introduction to Judaism**.

### Thursday, December 7

**3:00-5:00 pm** Temple Isaiah **Dementia Friendly Café**. A program for anyone living with memory loss, their family, friends and caregivers. Held first Thursday of each month. No charge. Open to community. RSVP appreciated: 760-325-2281.

### Friday, December 8

**5:45 pm** Chabad of Palm Springs "Shabbat in Japan" **Community Shabbat Dinner**, featuring Japanese cuisine. \$25. RSVP essential, online at [www.ChabadPS.com](http://www.ChabadPS.com).

### Monday, December 11

**10:30 am** Har-El Galen Trimester **Book Club**. Book: "All the Rivers" by Dorit Rabinyan. Information call 760-779-1691 or email [harelurj@gmail.com](mailto:harelurj@gmail.com).

### Wednesday, December 13, 20, 27

**3:00-4:15 pm** Temple Isaiah **ExploraTorah** with Rabbi David Lazar.

### Wednesday, December 13, 20, 27

**6:00 pm** Temple Isaiah **2B A Jew** course (Basic Judaism/Conversion) with Rabbi David Lazar.

### Wednesday, December 13

**8:00 pm** Jewish Family Service is recipient of Barry Manilow's "Gift of Love" **Benefit Concert**. See ad page 4.

### Thursday, December 14

**5:00 pm** Temple Sinai Brotherhood **Dinner and Movie:** "Gentlemen's Agreement." Call 760-568-9699 for reservations.

### Thursday, December 14

**6:30 pm** Temple Isaiah's **Twice Blessed LGBTQ**. Israeli Film **"Golden Boys"** shown at the Camelot Theatres. Members \$10; Non-members \$15. Call 760-325-2281.

### Monday, December 18

**10 am-4 pm** Women's Philanthropy **3rd Annual Women's Card Day**. See ad page 8.

### Monday, December 25

**4:00 pm** Temple Sinai Brotherhood **Chinese Dinner and Movie "The Frisco Kid"**. Call 760-568-9699 for information and reservations.

*Email (preferred) Miriam Bent at [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net) or call 760-323-0255 to have your events included in the community calendar.*



# Tribute Card Donations

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## Honorarium Tributes - In Appreciation For:

- **Jim and Sheri Borax**, Thank you from Dave and Brandy Mahan.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grossman**, Best wishes for a long and happy life, from Judy Torodor.
- **Cecille and Albert Silverman**, Best wishes for your 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, from Cora and Ted Ginsberg.
- **Leslie and Howard Schneider**, Thank you from Brandy Mahan.

## Refuah Shleimah - Get Well Wishes To:

- **Jackie Rudman**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, and Edith and Arnold Familian.

## Memoriam Tributes - Condolences Sent To:

- **Mrs. Steve Feldman**, In loving memory of your beloved husband, Steve, from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove.
- **Loreen Jacobson**, So sorry for your loss, from Barbara Platt.
- **Carol Parsow**, In loving memory of your father, from Ellen and Philip Glass.



## Special Events to Calendar for January & February

Our Community Calendar lists events of the current month plus the first week of the following month. However, with our busy lives, we felt you would appreciate learning about and being able to calendar special programs coming in the weeks beyond.

**Sunday, January 21**  
**9:30 am-1:00 pm** Jewish Federation  
**Feast of Jewish Learning.**  
See ad page 7.

**Sunday, January 21**  
**11-12:30 pm** PJ's Library and Jewish Federation  
**Ice Cream Social.**  
See ad page 17.

**Tuesday, January 30** Jewish Federation of the Desert  
**Major Gifts Dinner.** See ad page 3.

**Friday-Sunday, February 2-4**  
Beth Shalom Scholar-in-Residence  
Weekend with **Ben Zion (Benzy) Kogen**, Regional Vice-President,

United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism. Information: 760-200-3636.

**Sunday, February 11**  
**9:30 am** Har-El Woman's Circle  
**Retreat** Presenter: Franie Schwartz, "Sexual Harassment In the Bible; Nothing New Under the Sun."  
See ad page 5.

**Sunday, February 11** Women of Sinai's  
**Luncheon and Fashion Show.**

**Wednesday, February 21** Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy  
**Lion of Judah Luncheon.**

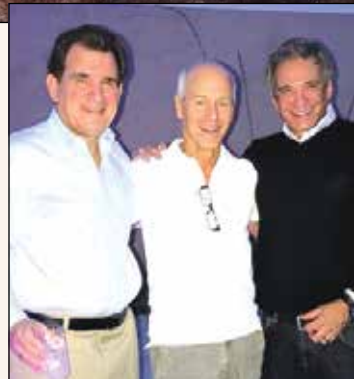
**Sunday, February 25** Temple Sinai  
**Purim Carnival**



For a meaningful way to extend condolences, send wishes for recovery from illness or congratulations / thanks for a special occasion, there is no better way than to purchase a Tzedakah card. Proceeds from the sale of the tribute cards benefit the TZEDAKAH FUND, which enables our Jewish Federation to respond to the emergency needs of Jews in our community. Call 760-324-4737 to order your cards, or go online to [jpfedps.org](http://jpfedps.org). Thank you.

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## JFNA Israel Mission LGBT Shabbat Reunion



Above: On November 3, 2017, Bob Greenbaum opened his home for the Jewish Federation of the Desert's, Shabbat evening dinner reunion for the participants from the 2017 JFNA/LGBT Israel Mission. Joining the participants were Bruce Landgarten, Federation CEO, and Rabbi Ken Emert, who led Shabbat prayers.

Left: (Left to right) Rabbi Ken Emert, host Bob Greenbaum and Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten.

# Eight Advances Transforming the Lives of Diabetics Worldwide

*From an oral insulin capsule to a noninvasive glucose monitor, Israeli entrepreneurs and researchers are making life easier for diabetics.*

*By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c*

While there is not yet a cure for diabetes, many Israeli researchers and companies offer improved approaches for avoiding, managing and treating the condition. Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when the pancreas cannot make insulin – the hormone that regulates blood sugar — or when the body cannot make good use of the insulin it makes.

As of 2015, approximately 415 million adults in the world have diabetes and that number is expected to rise to 642 million by 2040. At least 90 percent of cases are type 2 diabetes, characterized by insulin resistance and/or deficiency. In addition, more than 542,000 children in the world live with type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune condition where the body attacks its own insulin-making cells.

Diabetes is the leading cause of heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, non-traumatic lower-limb amputations and new cases of blindness among adults. Those with diabetes have twice the normal risk of death; in 2014, diabetes was listed as the seventh leading cause of death in the United States.

Here are some significant diabetes developments reported in Israel in recent years.

## **Oramed Pharmaceuticals**

Oramed Pharmaceuticals hopes to revolutionize the treatment of type 1 and type 2 diabetes through its proprietary oral insulin capsule developed through research at Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center. Currently, insulin must be injected.

The company has completed multiple Phase II clinical trials under an Investigational New Drug application with the US Food and Drug Administration. Oramed CEO Nadav Kidron participated in the

2017 Disruptive Growth Company Showcase NYC Conference in September in New York City.

## **DarioHealth**

Dario makes a personalized, pocket-sized, all-in-one glucose meter coupled with a real-time mobile app to track, monitor and manage diabetes from a smartphone.

Last month, this Caesarea-based digital health company received the CE Mark for its Lightning-enabled Dario Blood Glucose Monitoring System, which will enable European consumers to use the metering device on the latest Apple devices. The regulatory process is now starting in the US, Canada and Australia. The company's new B2B2C platform, Dario Engage, helps healthcare providers in all aspects of user engagement for diabetic patients, including enrollment, coaching and ongoing communication.

## **Betalin Therapeutics**

Betalin is developing an implantable engineered micro-pancreas (EMP) using a natural micro-scaffold and all the cellular components present in a natural pancreas. These cells reconstruct the body's internal insulin-producing capability in accordance with the blood-sugar levels. Type 1 and severe type 2 diabetes patients implanted with the micro-pancreas would no longer need to monitor their blood-sugar levels.

In preclinical studies in a mouse model of diabetes, approximately 70% of the mice in which the Betalin EMP was implanted did not need further insulin injections even for the longest period tested of 90 days after implantation.

This early-stage company, spun out of the Hebrew

University of Jerusalem, won in the pharmaceuticals category at the Biomed Startup of the Year competition held by the Israel Innovation Authority at MIXii Biomed 2017 in Tel Aviv last May.

## **GlucoTrack**

*GlucoTrack users test glucose levels with an ear clip attached to a handheld control unit.*

Integrity Applications of Ashdod put more than a decade into developing GlucoTrack, a revolutionary noninvasive system for self-monitoring glucose levels, available so far in several European countries, South Korea and Israel.

The GlucoTrack sensor clips onto your earlobe. A patented combination of ultrasonic, electromagnetic and thermal technologies works with a proprietary algorithm to measure physiological parameters correlated with glucose level. Results are displayed within about a minute on a USB-connected handheld control unit, which also stores and compares previous readings. The number is announced verbally, facilitating use by elderly and vision-impaired people with type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes.

## **Cnoga Medical's Prick Free Glucometer**



*Cnoga Medical's noninvasive glucometer.* Another Israeli company, Cnoga Medical, offers a prick-free glucometer that uses a camera to observe changing color shades of

the user's finger to give accurate results comparable to those of a fingerprick, following a short "training" period in which the device learns to correlate the user's optical skin-tone characteristics with camera readings. The COG device is certified in Israel, Europe, New Zealand, Turkey, India, Philippines, Thailand, Brazil and China. A new clinical study is starting in Sao Paolo.

## **Insulog**

Many diabetics manually log their insulin injections to avoid over- or under-dosing. Insulog is a small device that snaps onto all major brands of disposable insulin pens to display the user's most recent data. Insulog's smartphone app uses Bluetooth technology to store injection history, including number of units administered, and blood-glucose level. Users can share this history with their physician.

The company was founded in 2014 in Ramat Gan by Menash Michael, who has type 1 diabetes. He is developing the device for delivery in 2018 following a successful Indiegogo campaign earlier this year. It needs only Class 1 FDA approval with no required clinical trials. "We will market Insulog first in Israel and then on an ecommerce platform," he tells ISRAEL21c.

## **DreaMed Diabetes**

Based in Petah Tikva, DreaMed has two products: Advisor decision-support technology to optimize and fine-tune patient-specific insulin treatment plans (FDA and CE approval pending); and Glucositter, the first artificial pancreas system to receive the CE Mark for sales in Europe. When integrated with an insulin pump, Glucositter provides round-the-clock monitoring of glucose levels and precise, real-time adjustment of insulin levels.

*Continued on next page*



### DayTwo

DayTwo, based on groundbreaking research at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science, aims to help people avoid developing diabetes by predicting individualized blood-glucose response to thousands of different foods and meals based on

gut microbiome analysis and other personal parameters.

This year, DayTwo and the Weizmann Institute scientists collaborated with Johnson & Johnson's Janssen Research & Development Company to evaluate DayTwo's platform for the effective interception of gestational diabetes,

type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome-associated disorders. This resulted in a Series A investment of \$12 million led by J&J.

DayTwo currently is running trials with the Mayo Clinic and other institutions, while the product is fully commercial in Israel and US. International Chief Commercial

Officer Amir Golan tells ISRAEL21c that the UK and Canada are the next potential markets. Meanwhile, the company is working with professional athletes to control blood-sugar levels and is partnering with two diabetes medical centers in Israel as well as dieticians in Israel and the US.

## Indonesian Museum Removes Nazi-themed Exhibit After International Outrage

By AFP

An Indonesian museum that allowed visitors to take selfies with a life-size wax sculpture of Hitler against a backdrop of the gates into Auschwitz concentration camp has removed the exhibit following international outrage, the manager said November 11th.

De Arca Statue Art Museum in the Javanese city of Jogjakarta drew swift condemnation from rights groups after details of the controversial display were published in foreign media. The exhibit features a sure-footed Hitler standing in front of a huge photo of the gates of Auschwitz, the largest Nazi concentration camp where more than 1.1 million people were killed.

The museum's operations manager, Jamie Misbah, said the wax sculpture was removed after the building was alerted to criticism from the prominent



*This photograph taken on November 10, 2017 shows an Indonesian family preparing to take a photograph with a life-size wax sculpture of Adolf Hitler at a museum in Jogjakarta*

Jewish human rights organization, Simon Wiesenthal Center. "We don't want to attract outrage," Misbah told AFP. "Our purpose

to display the Hitler figure in the museum is to educate."

The Hitler sculpture is one of about 80 figures, including world leaders and celebrities, at the wax and visual effects center. The Nazi-themed exhibit was a popular attraction for visitors to take selfies, and photos circulating on social media show customers — including children — posing with Hitler and in some cases using the Nazi salute. Misbah said he thought it was "normal" for visitors to take photos in front of displays, but said the museum respected the exhibit had upset people from

around the world.

Historians have blamed poor schooling for the lack of awareness and sensitivity about the Holocaust in Indonesia, which is home to the world's biggest Muslim population and a small number of Jews.

In January 2017, a controversial Nazi-themed cafe in the western Javanese city of Bandung closed. The venue, which featured swastika-bearing walls and photos of Hitler, sparked global uproar when reports about the unusual venue surfaced several years ago.



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# Israeli, Arab, European Firemen Share Cross-Border Drill

*Firefighting and search-and-rescue teams from Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Authority, Italy, France and Spain had a joint disaster exercise in Israel.*

By Abigail Klein Leichman Israel 21c

As forest fires and other major catastrophes engulf many parts of the world with greater frequency, the European Commission and the Israeli government organized an international exercise in Israel this week for firefighters from Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Italy, France and Spain.

The Middle East Forest Fires drill on October 24 and 25 had more than 400 participants from the various countries — including 250 firefighters, pilots, ground crews and logistics personnel — learning to improve skills and share knowledge in large-scale cooperative firefighting management, evacuation of residents, humanitarian assistance and preservation of nature.

“In recent years, we have witnessed large-scale disasters



**Firefighters participating in a joint Middle East Forest Fires drill in Israel**

take the lives of tens of thousands of victims, such as earthquakes, floods, fires and incidents involving hazardous materials. These are disasters that countries cannot always deal with on their own, and for which they need assistance,” said Israeli Fire Commissioner Lt. Gen. Dedi Simhi.

The exercise scenario — a large forest fire that spread across borders — included the controlled setting of small fires in two Negev forests, one northeast of Beersheva and the other southeast of Kiryat Gat.

The Israeli contingent included representatives of the Foreign and



**A firefighting plane from Italy participating in the joint forest fire drill**

Public Security ministries, the Israel Police, the Firefighting and Rescue Authority, Magen David Adom, the Home Front Command, the National Security Agency and Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael-Jewish National Fund.

Months of planning sessions preceded the Middle East Forest Fires drill. There were lots of logistics to coordinate as firefighting planes from Jordan, France, Italy and Spain also were sent to Israel for the simulation.

While Israeli firefighters have worked with counterparts from the Palestinian Authority and several Mediterranean countries in the past, it was the first time all of these countries came together for a joint exercise. The content of the sessions had to be translated into several languages though English was the dominant language.

Separately, at an army base in southern Israel, search-and-rescue teams from the Israel Defense

Forces, Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Spain practiced how to respond cooperatively to a simulated massive earthquake that trapped “victims” underneath the rubble of a collapsed building constructed for the exercise by soldiers on the base.

The joint exercise ended with a ceremony for all participants before they departed back to their home countries. At the ceremony, Simhi said that since its inception in 1948, the state of Israel has been guided by the Talmudic axiom “One who saves a single life is as if he has saved the entire world.” ... “We sent rescue forces from the Home Front Command to assist during earthquakes in Turkey, Nepal, Haiti, and most recently, Mexico. Our aerial firefighting unit provided assistance last year to Cyprus, and this year to Montenegro and Macedonia,” Simhi said.

“And we too, needed assistance in two recent events. Last November, during an unprecedented number of fires, we requested and received assistance from our Palestinian and Egyptian neighbors, from Cyprus and from many other countries. And such was the case during the Mount Carmel fire in 2010. “Therefore, there is great operational importance to an exercise involving international cooperation, so that in the event of an emergency, we will be familiar with one another and know how to work in collaboration,” he continued.

“I also believe that a personal relationship between commanders from different countries can be of great value during a large-scale disaster.”

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\*Deceased



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Jewish Federation  
OF THE DESERT



# Princeton's Center for Jewish Life Cancels Event with Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister

By Adina Katz, World Israel News

In the latest attack on free speech by pro-Palestinian activists on American campuses, an address by an Israeli diplomat was canceled. The Center for Jewish Life (CJL) at Princeton University has canceled a campus lecture by Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely at the last minute, caving in to pressure from the Alliance of Jewish Progressives and Allies, which takes a pro-Palestinian stand.

The lecture was scheduled at Princeton's Hillel House. She was notified just a day earlier. In a letter published in the Daily Princetonian, the group stated that to date, the CJL "has indefinitely postponed" Hotovely's talk "until it is vetted through the CJL's Israel Advisory Committee."

"Hotovely's work causes irreparable damage to the prospects of a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," the letter claims, referring to her policy statements as "racist." The pro-Palestinian group objects to her support for construction of Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, including her Zionist proclamation that "This land is ours. All of it is ours. We did not come here to apologize for that."

According to the letter, "Hotovely's



**Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely**

alarming vision for the future of the region is coupled with a complete rejection of Palestinian history and connection to key sites such as the Haram al-Sharif. In a recent speech in the Israeli Parliament, Hotovely spoke directly to Palestinian Members of Knesset, saying, 'You are thieves of history. Your history books are empty, and you are trying to co-opt Jewish history and Islamicize it.'

Haram al-Sharif, the Arabic name for the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem, is the holiest site

in Judaism and Islam's third holiest. The Jewish ties to the site, where the two Jewish temples stood, date back thousands of years. When UNESCO last year denied the Jewish claim to the Mount, siding with the Palestinians, the organization was condemned by Israeli politicians across the board.

Ambassador Carmel Shama HaCohen, Israel's permanent delegate to UNESCO, said at the time that "Israel and the Jewish people do not require UNESCO's or any other country's confirmation of the special connection between the Jewish people and the State of Israel and Jerusalem in general, and the holy sites such as the Western Wall and the Temple Mount in particular."

"There is no connection of another people to another place in the world that comes close to the strength and depth of our

connection to Jerusalem from a religious, historical and national perspective, a connection that has stood the test of 2,000 years," he said.

Hotovely arrived in the US to speak at a number of campuses, including New York and Columbia Universities, in an effort to help pro-Israel students defend the Jewish state in an atmosphere of intense hostility.

"The attempt to cancel my lecture at Princeton University, another station on my campus journey, is indicative of a severe and profound crisis. Although there are those who will not allow me to speak, the lecture will take place in front of anyone interested. I will continue to fight for the truth of Israel everywhere," a defiant Hotovely posted on her Facebook page.

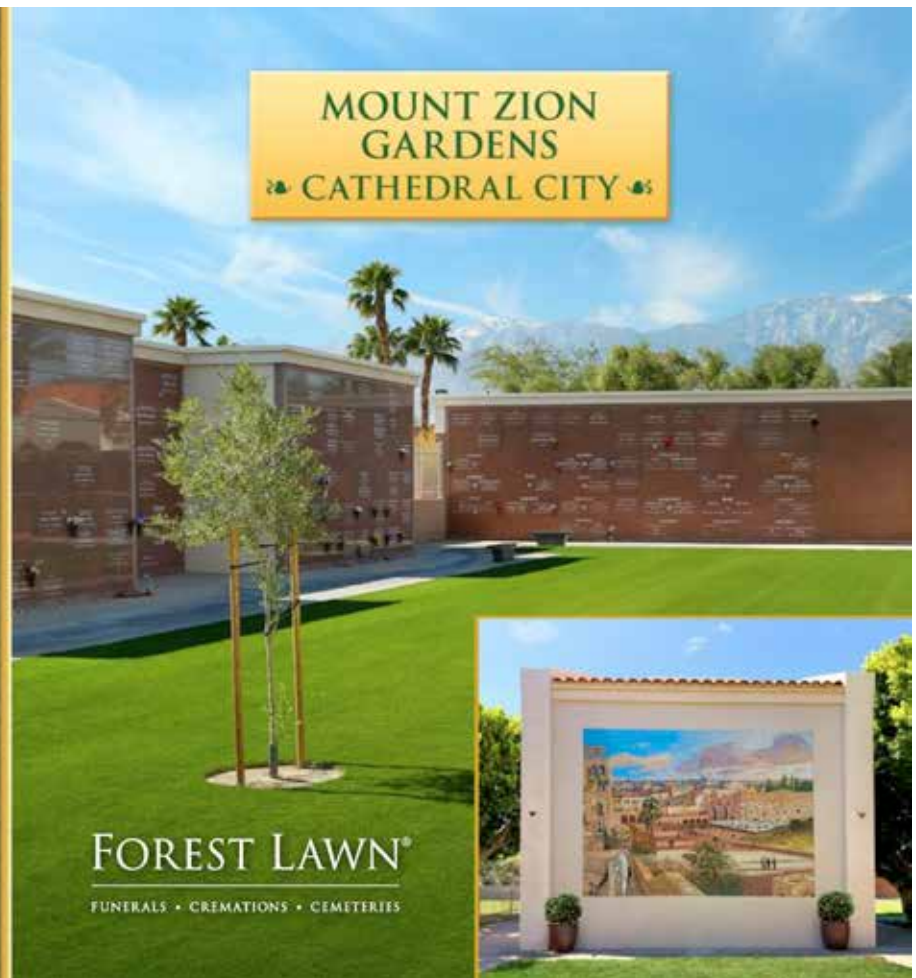
Princeton's Chabad House hosted her lecture.

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Congratulations to **Annette Bloch** on receiving the inaugural Lifetime Passion Award from CancerPartners (formerly Gilda's Club) in honor of her tireless efforts "giving support and hope to thousands of cancer patients" through her generosity ... **Rose** and **Ben Levy** sent this lovely photograph of their great grandson **Itamar Chaim** with his mother **Michal**. Itamar was born to **Eyal** and **Michal Feder Levy** on October 28<sup>th</sup> in Tel Aviv ... *Share your simchas with us. Contact Miriam Bent by email at [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net) or phone: 760-323-0255.*



Annette Bloch



Michal with Itamar

**5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PALM SPRINGS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL** is March 18-21, 2018, at the Camelot Theatres. Previews of the superb, award winning films now available online at [www.psjff.com](http://www.psjff.com).

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*We Mourn the Passing of...*

Judith Fein, Charlie James, Marvin Rosenberg, Judith Salkow Shapiro, Mel Schwartz and Ziva Skoff. Also, we just learned of the death of **Harriet Colman** a year ago. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*

## Community Schools

**Aleph Academy Religious School**  
A Project of Jewish Sunshine Circle  
Director: Shaindy Friedman  
73-550 Santa Rosa Way,  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
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**Temple Sinai Religious School**  
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## Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 1	Shabbat Vayislach	3:56 pm
Friday, December 8	Shabbat Vayeshev	3:56 pm
Friday, December 15	Shabbat Miketz	3:57 pm *
Friday, December 22	Shabbat Vayigash	4:00 pm
Friday, December 29	Shabbat Vayechi	4:04 pm

\* **Light Chanukah candles before Shabbat candles**



## DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

The Desert Holocaust Memorial is located in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park on San Pablo Avenue, just north of Fred Waring Drive, behind City Hall. Dedicated in 1995, it was created through the vision and efforts of Holocaust survivors Joe Brandt and Earl Greif, who raised the funds and oversaw its design and construction. This moving memorial draws visitors from around the world, as well as a site to which school children are brought to learn of the tragedy and horror of the Holocaust. It is a place of solemn remembrance and resolve "Never Again."



# SNIPPETS

## "LIVING ON PINEAPPLE AND COOKIES"



The 2017 Miss World contest was held in Shenzhen, China on November 18. Miss Israel, Rotem Rabi, 21, was in the country for two weeks ahead of the contest, preparing for the big event. What she was not doing too much of, however, was eating, as Rabi keeps kosher. As reported by *Arutz-7*, Rabi will not compromise on her principles, as she has always kept kosher, even when abroad. The young beauty worked for several months last year modeling in Italy. Finding kosher food in China was more of a challenge than usual. Rabi said, "I'm living on pineapple and cookies, and I hope that the problem will be solved in the next few days." To the rescue: As there is a Chabad House in Shenzhen, Rabi was able to have a little more variety in her diet!

Miss Israel contestants have had varying successes in the World contest. In 1998, Miss Israel Linor Abergil won the title of Miss World.

## POWER SHARING\*



Due to Hamas mismanagement, Gazans suffer from daily power outages...but not Gamil and his family. They now have their own off-grid power supply: solar panels and storage batteries that run the refrigerator and the washing machine, and light his home at night when the power goes out. The expensive solution was a unique 'perk' to a former employee...

In better times (since the 1980 and up to the Disengagement in 2006), Gamil had been kibbutz Mifalsim's maintenance man. When the kibbutzniks (whose kibbutz is situated adjacent to the Gaza Strip) got wind of their former employee's plight—food that spoiled in the refrigerator, no lighting in the evening, and so forth—they spontaneously launched an in-house 'crowd funding' campaign to help underwrite purchase of a solar electric system for the family. (*Ynet*)

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES\*



Traffic attorney-at-law Asaf Oren got socked with a parking ticket for failing to pay for parking in a municipal lot where the sign stating paid parking was in force between 09:00-19:00 hours on weekdays and 09:00-14:00 hours on Fridays and holidays. The scrappy young lawyer told the Rechovot Municipality that since Hebrew is written from right-to-left, the hours stated

on the sign *should* be reversed (19:00-09.00) and he had every right to assume the sign meant motorists had to pay for parking between 7 PM and 9 AM...not 9 AM to 7 PM, logic aside and norms notwithstanding. After all, the fine letter of the law is what counts, right? The Municipality accepted Oren's argument, squashed the ticket, and began changing the signs on the times and the times on the signs, accordingly ... probably thoroughly confusing everyone except Asaf Oren. (*Yediot*)

*\*Snippets garnered from Chelm-on-the-Med*



## Have A Nosh With Miriam

By Miriam H. Bent

*I hope you are as excited as I am for this terrific dessert sweet potato latke recipe that I found two years ago and intended to include in my column last year ... and then forgot! It*



*has such delicious ingredients and, being parve, would be a great ending to any Chanukah supper. A second sweet potato recipe is flavored by fresh ginger, another of my favorites. The Romanian latke recipe is made from fine noodles instead of potatoes, and is also a great dessert during Chanukah, sort of a kugel morfed into latkes! Happy Chanukah! MHB*

### DESSERT SWEET POTATO LATKES

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and finely grated | 2 tablespoons chopped dates |
| 3 eggs  | ¼ cup chopped pecans        |
| 1 teaspoon granulated sugar                       | Salt to taste               |
| 4-6 tablespoons ground almonds                    | 1/8 to ¼ cup olive oil      |
| 2 tablespoons golden raisins                      | Powdered sugar              |

In a large bowl, combine sweet potatoes, eggs, granulated sugar and enough ground almonds to make a thick batter. Mix well. Fold in raisins, dates and pecans. Add salt.

In a large skillet, heat oil. Spoon heaping tablespoonful of potato mixture into oil, flattening with back of a wet spoon. Brown on both sides, about 3 minutes per side. Drain on paper towels. Just before serving, sprinkle with powdered sugar.

### SWEET POTATO/GINGER LATKES

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled | 1 Tablespoon sugar       |
| 1 2" x 1" piece fresh ginger | 1 teaspoon baking powder |
| 2 eggs                       | ½ teaspoon salt          |
| ½ cup apple juice            | Vegetable oil            |
| ½ cup all-purpose flour      |                          |

Grate sweet potatoes with grating disk of food processor or by hand. Place in large bowl. Cut ginger into small chunks. Put in food processor with steel blade and mince. Measure two tablespoons of the ginger and add to potatoes. Combine remaining ingredients (except oil) then add to potatoes and toss together until mixed. Heat ½ inch vegetable oil in large skillet over medium-high heat to 356 degrees. Drop ¼ cup batter into hot oil. Cook for 3-4 minutes per side, until crisp. Drain on paper toweling before serving. Can be frozen. To reheat, do not defrost, but put in 400 degree oven for 10 minutes, or until hot and crisp. Makes about 15 latkes.

### ROMANIAN NOODLE LATKES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 8-oz. package fine egg noodles       | ½ cup golden raisins, plumped in a little apple juice   |
| 2 Tablespoons margarine                | Oil for frying  |
| 3 eggs, lightly beaten                 | ½ cup sugar and ½ teaspoon cinnamon, combined in a bowl |
| ¼ teaspoon salt                        |   |
| 1 small apple, peeled and finely diced |   |

Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain well and transfer to large bowl, add margarine or butter and mix well. Cool, slightly. Blend in eggs, salt, apple and raisins.

In large, heavy skillet heat ¼ inch oil over medium heat. Drop noodle mixture by tablespoon into hot oil, flattening each spoonful with back of spoon to form thin latke. Fry on both sides until golden brown and crisp, about 3 minutes on each side. Do not turn latkes until first side is golden and top is set. Drain on paper towels. Coat latkes in cinnamon sugar mixture. Makes about 30 latkes.



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