

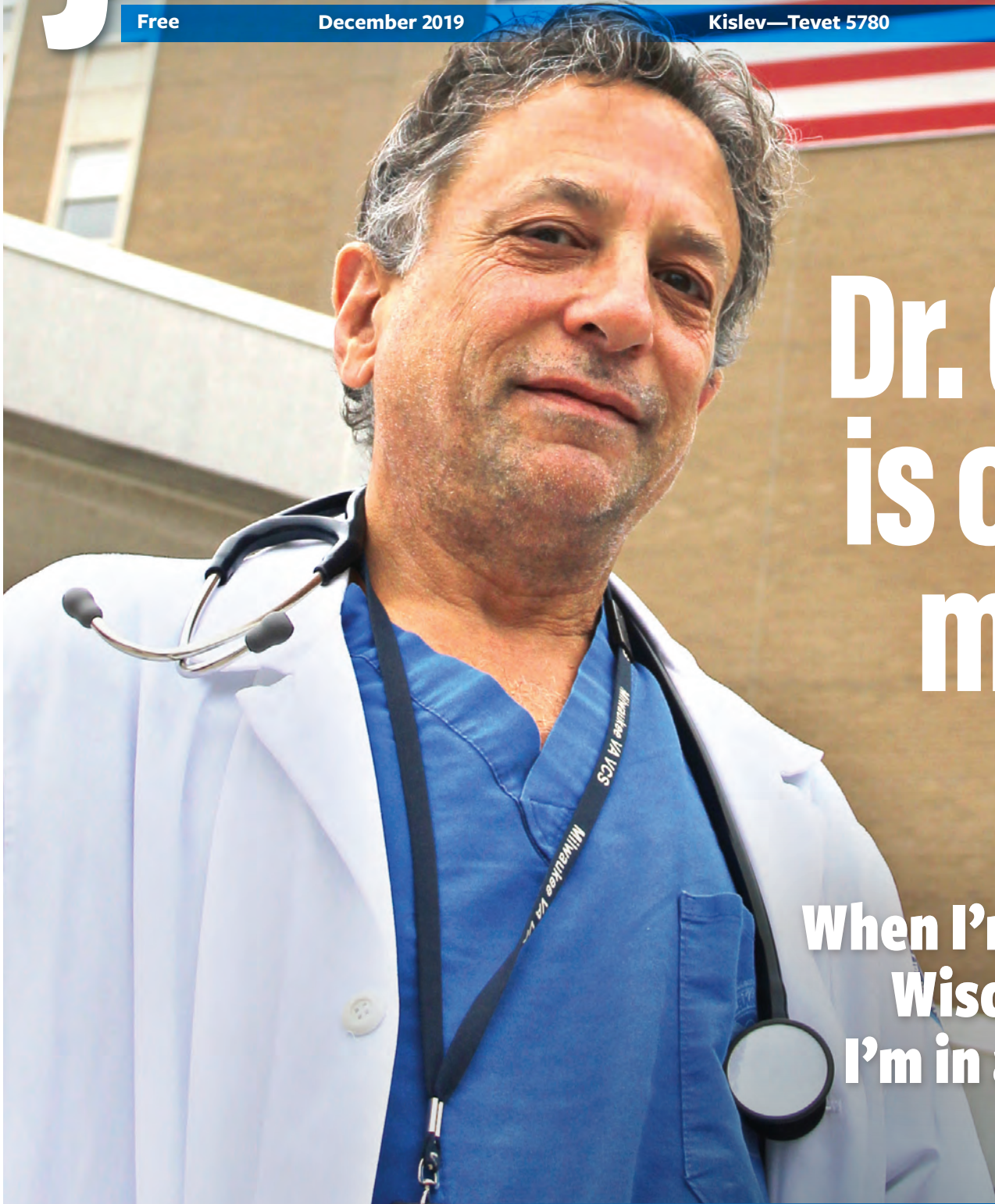
THE WISCONSIN Jewish Chronicle

Free

December 2019

Kislev—Tevet 5780

  JewishChronicle.org



Dr. Green is on the move

When I'm not treating Wisconsinites, I'm in an Israeli ER

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Former Today's TMJ4 reporter finds love as fiancé finds Judaism p 26

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Dec. 13	3:59 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	3:54 p.m.	3:59 p.m.
Dec. 20	4:01 p.m.	4:07 p.m.	3:56 p.m.	4:01 p.m.
Dec. 27	4:05 p.m.	4:11 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.

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“It’s an absolute outrage.”

— **Fiona Hill**, a former White House senior staffer who testified in the presidential impeachment hearings, on the narrative that George Soros is behind an array of evildoings.

...

“... it’s no surprise that the greatest propaganda machine in history has spread the oldest conspiracy theory in history — the lie that Jews are somehow dangerous. As one headline put it, ‘Just Think What Goebbels Could Have Done with Facebook.’”

— **Actor Sacha Baron Cohen**, after receiving the international leadership award from the Anti-Defamation League. Reported Nov. 21, 2019 by JTA.

...

“... with Satan are Jews ...”

— Part of a rant aimed at a Jewish man and child wearing yarmulkes on Great Britain public transit, before other riders stood up to him, including a Muslim woman in a hijab. Reported by multiple people on Twitter on Nov. 22.

“... while I certainly worry about an erosion of truth, I don’t think most people want to live in a world where you can only post things that tech companies judged to be 100 percent true.”

— **Mark Zuckerberg**, in an Oct. 17 speech at Georgetown University.

...

“In his role as your senior advisor, Stephen Miller has promoted hate speech spewed from neo-Nazis, bigots, and white supremacists.”

— November letter signed by the Anti-Defamation League and other Jewish groups, sent to President Donald Trump.

...

“... an attempted coup.”

— **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**, on the corruption charges against him.

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SPORTS

Jews who curl



Tedd Lookatch of Mequon is among the small number of Jews who curl. Here, he curls at the Milwaukee Curling Club in Cedarburg. Photo by Gregory Shaver.

Teddy Nykiel
Special to the Chronicle

The idea of a Jewish curling team might evoke images of the Jamaican bobsled team in “Cool Runnings,” but Tedd Lookatch of Mequon is determined to assemble one.

“I always thought it would be cool to have a team of all Jewish people,” he says.

Lookatch has been curling for about 15 years at the Milwaukee Curling Club in Cedarburg. He’s one of a handful of Jews there, but wants to share his passion for the sport with his broader Jewish community.

Lookatch’s dream of an all-Jewish curling team isn’t unprecedented. There’s a fledgling Israeli team, which first competed on the international stage in fall 2014, winning a C-Group

“The sport is all about camaraderie and tradition. I think it fits in with a lot of Jewish values.”

— Tedd Lookatch

silver medal at the European Curling Championships.

The Israeli Curling Federation recruited team members from the U.S. and Canada, and Lookatch says he was among a group to meet with the ICF at an event in Chicago in early 2014.

But although Lookatch didn’t make the Israeli team, he found himself on an all-Jewish team at the Milwaukee Curling Club in 2016. Lookatch’s oldest son,

Noah, now age 22, came in to replace an injured player on Lookatch’s competitive men’s team. The team’s other two players, Gabe Ziskin and Ian Stall, also happened to be Jewish.

The team split after the season. Lookatch believes it was the club’s first all-Jewish curling team, but with the club’s history dating back to 1845, it’s difficult

See p44 **Curling**

BOOK TALK

Noted author of Houdini book to speak

Chronicle staff

The author of “The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini,” which is listed as the “#1 New Release” in Amazon’s Magic and Illusion category, is to speak Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019 at Jewish Museum Milwaukee.



Joe Posnanski

New York Times bestselling author Joe Posnanski is a former senior columnist for Sports Illustrated, and a current national columnist for NBC sports. The Charlotte, North Carolina resident is the author of four books.

The event is 5:30-7 p.m. at the museum, which is a program of Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Admission is \$9 or for museum members, \$6. The fee includes

See p7 **Houdini**



Photo Credit: Jewish Beginnings Lubavitch Preschool

As you prepare to light the Chanukah candles, don't forget a gift to the Annual Campaign.



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Blue and White party chairmen Benny Gantz and Yair Lapid during a faction meeting at the Knesset, the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem, Nov. 18, 2019. Photo by Hadas Parush/Flash90.

Election carousel takes another turn

Israel might be headed to a third round of elections in less than a year

Marcy Oster
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israel may be headed to its third election in the span of one year. But then again, it may not be.

Benny Gantz, head of the centrist Blue and White party, informed Israeli President Reuven Rivlin on Nov. 20 that he could not form a governing coalition. Gantz had been given 28 days to try to form a government — and his deadline was Nov. 20 at midnight.

Gantz's failure came after four weeks in which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had also failed to form a government. That marked the second time this year that Netanyahu fell short of assembling a coalition. He was unable to form a government following the first round of elections in April, and the Knesset, or Israeli parliament, voted to dissolve itself and hold a second round of elections before another lawmaker had a chance.

What comes next?

Israelis should not count on another Election Day just yet. Now lawmakers have 21 days to nominate one of their own to form a government. But they have to put their money where their mouths are. In order to become prime minister, a lawmaker must obtain the signatures (and support) of 61 lawmakers, representing a majority of the 120-seat Knesset.

That means that Gantz and Netanyahu both still have a shot — if they can get those 61 signatures.

If a lawmaker manages to get the support of a majority of Knesset, he or she has an additional 14 days to form a government.

But if we get through the next five weeks and no government is formed, the current Knesset will be dissolved and a new election

will be held within 90 days, bringing us to March 2020.

Why is this happening?

Israeli politics have entered a perfect storm. Neither of this year's elections gave anyone a clear mandate to form a government. Blue and White garnered one more seat than Netanyahu's Likud party in the September elections, but overall, Netanyahu's bloc of religious and right-wing allies was larger than the group of Gantz's supporters from the center and left.

Much of the drama revolved around Avigdor Liberman, head of the secularist right-wing Yisrael Beiteinu party. Liberman's party was the kingmaker between Gantz and Netanyahu, holding enough seats to give either of them a comfortable majority. He was holding out for a secular unity government made up of both Likud and Blue and White, Netanyahu's and Gantz's parties.

But Netanyahu would not desert his religious allies on the right, and Liberman would not sit in a government supported by the Arab parties on the left, which pledged support for Gantz, and that left the process deadlocked.

"Preventing Israel's citizens a government led by those who were elected to do so in a clear and decisive manner is a dangerous move, one of its kind in Israel's history," Gantz said in a statement late November after admitting defeat. "No secular, Arab or religious party is above the people's best interest. No leader has a right to tell the people 'my personal interest takes precedence over the people's interest.'"

He added that since he had entered politics, "I've proven that don't cave to any kind of threats."

Politics in Israel have also be-

See p10 **Elections**



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ISRAEL

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicted for corruption

Marcy Oster
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Benjamin Netanyahu has been charged in three corruption cases, marking the first time a sitting Israeli prime minister has been indicted.

The charges, announced on Nov. 21 by the Justice Ministry and Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, include bribery and breach of public trust.

Netanyahu has denied the charges and called the investigations against him a “witch hunt.”

In a televised address after the indictments were announced, he asserted that the charges are an “attempted coup against a prime minister.”

He has 30 days to request that the Knesset grant him parliamentary immunity in order to avoid a criminal trial. Government ministers are required to resign if faced with a criminal charge, but not the prime minister.

The most serious charge is for bribery in what is known as Case 4000, which alleges that Shaul Elovitch, majority shareholder of Bezeq, received political favors for the Israeli telecommunications giant in return for favorable coverage of Netanyahu on the Walla! news website owned by the company. Conviction on the charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Netanyahu was indicted for breach of public trust in two separate cases.

In Case 1000, he is accused of accepting illegal gifts from Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan, including Cuban cigars and pink champagne. The gifts totaled about \$200,000. In return, Netanyahu allegedly helped secure a U.S. visa for Milchan and

supported a law that would give tax breaks to the billionaire if he moved back to Israel.

In Case 2000, the prime minister allegedly advanced a law that would have hurt the free daily newspaper Israel Hayom, funded by the U.S. casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, in exchange for positive coverage from the popular general circulation Yediot Acharonot.

Netanyahu defended himself against the charges during a four-day pre-indictment hearing in October.

The Justice Ministry also announced that Yediot’s publisher, Arnon Mozes, as well as Elovitch and his wife, Iris, will be charged with bribery.

The announcement comes a day after Blue and White party head Benny Gantz said he had failed to form a government coalition. Gantz had worked for about a month to join with Netanyahu and his Likud party in a unity government in which they would alternate serving as prime minister.

One of the sticking points involved whether Netanyahu would step down as prime minister in favor of Gantz if he were indicted.

Blue and White said in a statement: “A prime minister up to his neck in corruption allegations has no public or moral mandate to make fateful decisions for the State of Israel. Because there is concern, whether or not the charges prove to be true or without merit, that Netanyahu will make decisions in his own personal interest and for his political survival and not in the national interest.”

See p47 **Netanyahu**



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivers a statement to the press after a security cabinet meeting in Tel Aviv, Nov. 12, 2019. Photo by JTA/Miriam Alster/Flash90.

STATE

Former Gov. Walker refers to Chanukah to make his point

Chronicle staff

Former Republican Gov. Scott Walker tweeted an image of a Chanukkah to make the point that “Christmas tree” is a better descriptor than “holiday tree.”

The tweet was apparently in response to the Democratic Gov. Tony Evers administration’s reference to the “2019 State Capitol Holiday Tree.” Walker had referred to the state capitol tree as a “Christmas Tree” when he was governor.

About Scott Walker

Born in Colorado Springs, Colorado

State governor 2011-2019

Ran for president 2016

Sought third gubernatorial term, defeated by Gov. Tony Evers 2018

Walker tweeted the image of a Chanukkah, which is the nine-branch version of a menorah used for Chanukah, as opposed to the seven-branch menorah that’s a symbol of Judaism. He wrote, “This is a Menorah candle this is lit during the Festival of Lights as



Menorah tweet; screen shot from Scott Walker’s Twitter page.

part of Hanukkah.”

His statement was met with a barrage of ridicule and anger on Twitter. Some users said that the “Festival of Lights” is not a subset of Chanukah. Others argued that “Menorah candle” is not a religious term. One Twitter user said the Jewish symbol was being used by Walker for a “culture war.”

Later appearing on “Fox & Friends” with hosts Steve Doocy and Ainsley Earhardt, Walker said that he likes the term Christmas

tree because “that’s what it is,” according to Fox News.

“... I referenced the menorah, which is used during the Festival of Lights, part of what we traditionally think of as Hanukkah. That’s not a holiday candleholder. And we celebrate other faiths as well. Why not keep it Christmas? That’s what this tree’s all about.”

Walker added, “we honor those who are of different faiths.” ●

\$5,000 College Scholarships Available

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Liam McLean, Nicolet High School graduate now attending University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was 1 of 4 scholarship awardees in 2019.

The Jewish Community Foundation will begin accepting applications for awards on **Monday, Dec. 9, 2019** from the Harry Hecht Family Memorial College Scholarship Fund.

\$5,000 scholarships will be awarded to outstanding Jewish high school seniors to help fund their freshman year of college. Awards are based on academic performance, community service and financial need.

Application deadline is **Wednesday, March 18, 2020.**

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For applications and information visit
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IN BRIEF

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Trump administration: Israeli settlements aren't illegal

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration will no longer regard West Bank Jewish settlements as illegal, another dramatic change that aligns it with Israel's right-wing government.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in reviewing the history of U.S. policy on settlements said that since 1978, the United States has regarded settlements as illegal. But, he said, successive presidents have turned a blind eye to some settlement building while condemning other instances.

Pompeo said at a brief news conference on Nov. 18 on an array of issues that it would now be the U.S. position that "the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements is not per se inconsistent with international law."

That, in addition to moving

the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, recognizing the Golan Heights as Israeli and cutting aid to the Palestinians, brings the Trump administration closely in line with the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Pompeo emphasized that the recognition would not extend to settlements that Israel's courts deem illegal and the new position does not prejudice the status of the West Bank.

Deeming settlements illegal "hasn't advanced the cause of peace," Pompeo said. "There will never be a judicial conclusion to the conflict."

President Donald Trump's adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has led a team that has drafted a peace plan over the past three years, but it has yet to be released. The Palestinians dropped out of the process in December 2017 after Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Netanyahu in a statement said that the U.S. decision "rights a historical wrong" and Israel "will continue to reject all arguments regarding the illegality of the settlements."

Blue and White party head Benny Gantz, who is trying to form a government coalition, also applauded the U.S. move.

"The fate of the settlements and the residents of Judea and Samaria should be determined by agreements that meet security requirements and that can promote peace," he said in a statement.

— Ron Kampeas

US Embassy in Jerusalem issues travel warning

JERUSALEM — The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem issued a travel warning for visiting Americans in the aftermath of the U.S. announcement that the government does not consider the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank as illegal.

The warning issued Nov. 18, 2019 said the visiting Americans could be targets of "individuals and groups opposed to the Secretary of State's recent announcement." It covers those visiting or

planning to visit Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

"Potential targets include public events, such as demonstrations, holiday events, and celebratory gatherings; hotels, clubs, and restaurants popular with U.S. citizens; places of worship; schools; shopping malls and markets; tourism infrastructure; public transportation and airports," the statement said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made the announcement on settlements — a reversal of U.S. policy — that day.

The warning recommends that U.S. citizens "carefully consider risks to their personal safety and security at sites and events that are potential targets. In addition, U.S. citizens in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem should avoid non-essential movements and events that attract attention. U.S. citizens should carefully consider risks to their personal safety and security at sites and events that are potential targets."

The U.S. government prohibits its U.S. government employees to travel to the West Bank, including Jericho and Bethlehem, as well as to the Old City of Jerusalem.

— Marcy Oster

The statement concluded with Vindman retelling his family's immigrant story and an expression of appreciation for U.S. democracy in contrast to Russia's authoritarian government. Vindman's family was among a group of Soviet Jewish refugees that was allowed to immigrate to the United States in 1979. He and his brothers have served in the U.S. military.

— Ben Sales

Palestinians killed, Israelis injured in rocket attacks

Fifty-eight Israelis were injured during the wave of rocket attacks fired by terror groups from Gaza, during a spike in violence in mid-November.

Thirty-four Palestinians, most of them reported to be members of Islamic Jihad and other Gaza terror groups, were killed in retaliatory strikes.

The attacks cost the Israeli economy \$315 million and three homes were directly hit, the Consulate General of Israel in New York said in a statement.

After the Israel Defense Forces killed two Palestinian Islamic Jihad senior commanders — Baha Abu al-Ata and Rasmi Abu Malhous — in targeted airstrikes, a total of 450 rockets were fired from Gaza at Israel between Tuesday, Nov. 12 and the following Thursday morning's ceasefire.

One of the rockets hit an assisted-living facility in the southern Israel city of Ashkelon, injuring a woman in her 70s. Israel retaliated in an operation it called Operation Black Belt.

The initial airstrike into Gaza also killed at least eight members of Malhous' family. BBC reported that 111 Palestinians were injured in the exchange of fire.

"Israel is not interested in an escalation, and quiet will be met with quiet. However, Israel will take all necessary steps to protect its citizens and will not tolerate attacks by terrorist organizations that target Israeli civilians," the consulate's statement added.

— JTA Staff

Labour's anti-Semitism problem is an election issue

Just like the Democratic Party in the U.S., Britain's liberal Labour Party usually counts on star power for a boost.

Ahead of the upcoming Dec. 12 general election, for instance, Labour has scooped up endorsements from major celebrities such as former Oasis lead singer Liam Gallagher, pop star Lily Allen and comedian Eddie Izzard.

But for the first time in de-

See p41 In Brief

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Jewish Women's Endowment Fund

Women's Philanthropy

MILWAUKEE JEWISH FEDERATION

INTERNATIONAL



After trying to enter this synagogue in Halle, Germany on Oct. 9, 2019, a frustrated attacker killed two people outside the shul. Photo by Alex Koch.

Security supported by Federation saved lives in Germany

Gunman was kept at bay by stronger entrance

Chronicle staff

Security supported by Federation dollars likely saved dozens of lives in Halle, Germany in October 2019, when a gunman was kept at bay by a synagogue's doors there.

In 2015, the Halle synagogue received a grant from the security assistance fund of the Jewish Agency for Israel. The synagogue then strengthened its main entrance and installed security cameras. This was part of a much larger and ongoing internation-

al security effort funded by Jewish federations – including Milwaukee Jewish Federation — and other donors.

“Federations are the largest source of philanthropic funding for the core operations of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and our dollars raised locally are an important part of that,” said Miryam Rosenzweig, president and CEO of Milwaukee Jewish Federation. “Federation funding gives the Jewish Agency for Israel the support it needs to secure Jewish communities globally, including those doors in Halle.”

Two people were killed by the gunman who opened fire near the synagogue during 2019 Yom Kippur services and at a kebab shop in Halle, a town in eastern Germany.

The masked gunman reportedly was repelled by the synagogue's doors, which were secured shut during the services on the most solemn day of the Jewish year. There were 51 worshippers in the synagogue during the attack, including 10 American youths, according to The New York Times.

The gunman, who was reported to be a far rightist and livestreamed the attack, then shot a woman dead near the entrance to the adjacent Jewish cemetery and subsequently killed a man at the nearby kebab shop.

“The perpetrator shot multiple times at the door and threw a couple of Molotov cocktails, fireworks or grenades at it. But the door stayed closed, God has protected us,” Max Privorotzki, the head of the Jewish community in Halle, told Spiegel online.

The head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Josef Schuster, said the news of the attack and killings has “deeply distressed and frightened our community.”

SITE, a private intelligence group based in the United States, said a video posted before the attack claimed in English that the “root of all problems are Jews.” CNN quoted a German security official as saying that the ideology driving the attack was from the far right.

Antisemitism is on the rise worldwide and Federations are working to meet the challenge.

“It's inspiring to know that our work here in Milwaukee is not only to secure our own community but adds to the security and safety of Jews around the world,” Rosenzweig said. “It's part of our historic Federation mission and it's an honor for us to continue to be a critical part of that.” ●

JTA contributed to this story.



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IMMIGRATION



Ahmad Rashed and his son Yousef, who were settled with assistance from Jewish Social Services of Madison.

Madison Jewish agency increasingly aids incoming Muslim refugees

Jewish Social Services takes on greater share from Muslim-majority countries

Cara Spoto
Special to the Chronicle

MADISON— The story of Muslim-Jewish relations has too often been focused on its conflicts.

But a small Jewish agency has been turning that lopsided narrative on its head in recent years through refugee resettlement work.

A drastic reduction in immigration from Muslim-majority countries has led to an unintended consequence – if you're coming to Wisconsin from one of those nearly-banned nations, there's now a pretty good chance that Jewish Social Services of Madison will help you settle here. JSS is not affiliated with Jewish Family Services in Milwaukee.

In four years, JSS has gone from handling fewer than 1 percent of refugee arrivals from predominantly Muslim countries to more than 40 percent.

This unexpected phenomenon began in early 2017 as President Donald Trump signed what is commonly referred to as the "Muslim Ban," an executive order aimed at blocking migrants from countries like Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

And it has only increased as other resettlement agencies have bowed out due to declining case-

loads resulting from the Trump administration's continued cuts to the refugee program, and other obstacles.

In 2016 there were nine volunteer agencies in Wisconsin resettling refugees in 24 different communities. As of September of this year, there were five agencies, resettling refugees in 15 communities.

A call to action

A small but active nonprofit known for assisting people of all backgrounds, JSS hadn't facilitated refugee resettlement here for more than two decades when staff began hearing from members of the local Jewish community in the fall of 2015. They wanted to know what the agency could do to help with the growing migrant crisis in Syria.

Executive Director Dawn Berney remembers the calls coming after newspapers began publishing the shocking, and now historic, photo of 3-year-old Alan Kurdi, a Syrian boy who drowned in the Mediterranean Sea after fleeing the carnage in his homeland.

"What are you going to do about this?" people asked.

Berney talked with her board of directors to see if they would sup-

See p10 **Refugees**

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**HOLOCAUST STORIES:
 IN THEIR HONOR**




featuring
Ava Tevvs
Interview by
Ben Merens
Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019

10 am
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 Daniel M. Soref Community Hall
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Elections from p4

come more polarized, with voters and politicians sticking to a party or ideology with more fervor than ever before. That has made it even more difficult to find enough common ground on which to form a majority government.

So what should we expect?

With two weeks remaining for politicians to try to cobble together a government, there is "considerable public support" for a unity government, Shany says. He adds that that appears to be the only option left on the table.

On Nov. 20, Gantz said that he will continue his efforts over the next 21 days "to form a good gov-

ernment for the citizens of Israel."

Israelis by and large do not want to hold another election, in large part because it costs money that could go to services like education and health. Each election — including publicly funded campaigns — costs an estimated \$130 million. Election Day is also a public holiday in Israel, which costs the economy upwards of \$288 million.

In addition, the current caretaker government cannot approve a state budget. That means that if there is a third election, Israel will enter 2020 without a budget.

The results of a third election are likely to look much the same as the two previous ones — which

does not bode well for whoever is tasked with forming a coalition on the third try.

Meanwhile, Israelis appear to be amusing themselves by trying to figure out what to call a third election. Jerusalem Post reporter Lahav Harkov in a tweet suggested threeppeat, hat trick — or ice cream.

Why ice cream? If two random Israelis bump into each other twice, they have a whimsical tradition of saying to each other, "On the third time, ice cream!" Or, in other words, that they should go out for the cold treat next time they meet.

Get ready for a triple scoop! ●

Refugees from p9

port the nonprofit working to help refugees settle here. And, despite the extra expense, the board voted unanimously to back the effort.

A year later the agency welcomed three Syrian families, all of them Muslim, to their new life in Madison: A family of five, comprised of parents, children and a grandmother; a family of three; and a family of four, all of them with children under the age of 10.

A new life

According to JSS, the agency has resettled 137 refugees over the course of the last four years — more than 65 of them from Muslim majority countries.

It is, of course, a core Jewish value to welcome the stranger, as Berney points out.

"Nearly all Jews in the United States came here as refugees. We were able to succeed in this country in part due to the assistance of resettlement agencies," Berney said.

Ahmad Rashed was 26 in January of 2017 when JSS helped him, his 24-year-old wife Hanan, and their then 2-year-old son settle in Madison.

Originally from Syria, Ahmad and Hanan had fled to Jordan in 2012 along with thousands of other refugees just as the Syrian Civil War was escalating.

The family escaped having to live in a refugee camp, but life in Jordan was hard. Without the money to purchase a work visa, Ahmad could do little to provide for his family.

When he learned that a Jewish agency would be resettling him in America, Ahmad says some family members told him not to go.

He's glad he didn't listen to them.

"They hate Muslims. They hate Arabic people," they said. But it is so different. They had it backwards," Ahmad, now 29, said.

He remembers being overwhelmed after arriving in Madison and seeing just how much JSS and its team of volunteers provided his family — a furnished apartment, winter coats, a prepaid cell phone with a data plan, and a hot

meal, among other things.

"I cried when I see that. My wife too."

Today Ahmad does granite work, a trade he once practiced in Syria. His son Yousef is in kindergarten, and Hanan is taking English classes.

Staying in the game

As for how JSS has been able to continue to help people like Ahmad while other agencies have dropped out, Berney credits the nonprofit's many volunteers, the generosity of the Madison Jewish community and the relationships it's been able to build with other agencies in Madison.

"My entire staff for all that JSS does is just 14 people including part-timers. We only have one full-time person working on refugee resettlement, so we are lucky to have lots of volunteers," she said. "Open Doors for Refugees does all the furniture collecting and pretty much all the apartment set-ups."

The agency also gets help from the Madison Refugee Union, former refugees that strive to help give those who have recently settled in Madison a sense of community.

Group members will often volunteer to make a new family's first meal, provide transportation, help them figure out how to ride the bus, apply for a Green Card or open a bank account.

"After our first family came in from Congo, I reached out to someone in the Muslim community to move furniture. So it was a Jewish agency resettling a Christian family that got help from the Muslim community," Berney said. "One of the most positive things about our work is how it has really helped bring the community together."

Motherless exiles?

But as JSS, and other agencies, struggle with the more practical issues of relocating refugees — Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan recently ceased settling refugees in Madison due to a lack of affordable housing in that city — they are facing an even greater obstacle: The

continued reduction to the refugee program.

The Trump Administration has announced it is slashing the national program by almost half in Fiscal Year 2020, cutting the number of refugees the country could accept between Oct. 1, 2019 and Sept. 30, 2020 to 18,000 — a fraction of the 110,000 President Barack Obama said should be allowed into the United States in 2016, his final year in office.

While JSS is still waiting to see what the new cap means for them, Berney said the agency is hoping to resettle 100 refugees from a variety of countries over the next 12 months.

But she is still worried about the long-term impact that reductions in the federal program will have on the resettlement framework in America.

"Agencies are funded based on the number of clients we resettle, so when the numbers shrink, agencies — especially larger ones with more infrastructure — have to make difficult choices," she said. "If resettlement agencies close, then the capacity of the United States to continue to resettle the numbers that it did through 2016 will shrink. And long term, it will take time to rebuild the programs. This is why I am so grateful to the Madison Jewish community. Individual contributions have made it possible for us to continue to do the work at a level that is appropriate for our clients, even when the government funding has shrunk."

Both Berney and Mary Flynn, who oversees the resettlement program for LSS, also worry about what the country as a whole will lose by not sticking by its promise to offer refuge to those in need.

"I just really believe that this administration does not realize the contributions that refugees make to the underpinnings of our society on a daily basis," Flynn said. "I think once they understand it more fully they will change their position." ●

This article is an exclusive for our print readers. It does not appear online.

FIRST PERSON

When I'm not treating Wisconsinites, I'm in an Israeli ER

Jeffrey Green, M.D.
Special to the Chronicle

Two years ago I took a job as an ER doctor at Assuta Ashdod University Hospital, halfway between Tel Aviv and Gaza, in the first new hospital in Israel in 40 years. I do not know why I am OK with this, far from my comfort zone. Wrestling with language and with life and death under time pressure surrounded by hot-headed Israelis with the added bonus of an occasional rocket attack in a real war.

I sit in the empty hospital cafeteria looking out two-story windows at the courtyard. A simple dinner after a long shift. Bread and jam, cucumbers, tomatoes and

something between cream cheese and sour cream that we don't have in the States. I call my wife Anne in Milwaukee to exchange stories. The sirens went off today. The ER was on standby for a mass casualty incident. Rockets rained down from haters in Gaza. With each barrage the people of Ashdod ran for shelter. The Iron Dome missile defense system intercepted, amazingly plucking hundreds of deadly bombs from the sky. Ashdod was spared a mass casualty for now. The system worked. In the ER we saw household injuries from the scramble for shelter.

See p12 **Ashdod**



Jeffrey Green, M.D., Milwaukee, is an emergency medicine physician who splits his time among Assuta Ashdod University Hospital in Israel, the Milwaukee VA Medical Center, 5000 W. National Ave., and Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center in Walworth County. Green has traveled between Israel and Wisconsin at least a dozen times since February 2018.

Above left, Assuta Ashdod University Hospital in Israel in spring 2019. Below, the lobby of the hospital during Yom HaAtzmaut 2019. Above right, Jeffrey Green is shown above a shot of his hospital identification card. Photos by Jeffrey Green.



Ashdod from p11

A broken nose. A broken rib. A lot of raw nerves.

Then interrupting mid-sentence in the dining hall comes a familiar howl, The Siren, starting low, then screaming out in a long mid-alto wail.

Over the courtyard I see a round white flash in the sky. I hear distant explosions as I run through the lobby and head for the bomb-proof wing of the hospital, with its iron shutters and massive concrete walls. In my fortified call room I finish the bread and white stuff (that's actually roughly the name in Hebrew) and phone Anne back.

I am not rattled by this rocket attack. I feel safe in the mother-ship, my bomb-proof hospital. Under the Iron Dome – such an overconfident name for a patch-

work of missile launchers.

There is no dome. The next day Ashdod was not spared. A rocket got through and struck downtown during rush hour, killing a young father and generating the familiar chaos of blood, broken glass, gridlock and frantic phone calls.

Since dividing my time between Ashdod and the Milwaukee VA Medical Center I am often asked at both locations what is different about ER practice over there on the other side. So much is exactly the same. Human anatomy and physiology, love for loved ones, the inevitability of illness and injury, the finality of death. But so much is different.

It is a generalization and a leg-

See p13 **Ashdod**



JEFFREY GREEN, M.D.

Chronicle staff

Dr. Jeffrey Green was hired at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center as medical director of the Emergency Department, a position he served in from 2010-2014. He then chose to return to full-time patient care. More recently, he's been flying between Israel and Milwaukee about every two months, a routine he's fallen into since last year.

Q: Why do you travel between ERs in Israel and Milwaukee?

A: He gave us two reasons: One is that he's got an adult

daughter in Israel. The other is his love of Israel. He did some medical school in Israel, and he and his family lived there from 1993 to 1998.

Q: How can you do this?

A: Emergency medicine is a specialty that lends itself to this. There's no beeper for an ER doctor, Green said.

"My Hebrew skills aren't great but just enough," he said. A scribe in Ashdod helps him with paperwork and some translation.

His arrangement has been half-time at the hospital in Ashdod and part-time with two hospitals in Wisconsin.

Q: What's your schedule?

A: Green flies either to or from Israel around the middle of each month.

"This is a human experiment," he said.

He's actually slowly moving to Israel and plans to shift his monthly travel to more time in Israel.

Q: Where do you sleep?

A: In Israel, Green, 61, sleeps in an Ashdod hospital call room during the week and at his daughter's apartment on the weekends. He gets around with an electric scooter.



This is a typical lunch from the Assuta Ashdod University Hospital cafeteria, for 5 shekels. Shot last winter. Jeffrey Green tells us this is a good Moroccan meal for \$1.43! Photo by Jeffrey Green.



Visitors brought the traditional sounding of the shofar for Rosh Hashanah 2019 to the emergency room at Assuta Ashdod University Hospital in Israel. Photo by Jeffrey Green.



This is a map from the Assuta Ashdod University Hospital's required "employee education" showing Ashdod is in the "Yellow Zone." People have 45 seconds to get to the shelters. Photo by Jeffrey Green.



Here's the Tamara Juice Bar in Tel Aviv, October 2019. Jeffrey Green likes to get carrot/beet/apple/ginger during the day. At night is banana/date/pecan/tahini.



Emergency road parking prohibited! At least, that's what the sign said. This is at the entrance to the Assuta Ashdod University Hospital in Israel. Eventually, the sign was removed. Photo by Jeffrey Green.



For Purim 2018, this doctor and Magen David Adom ambulance worker are the children of actual staff at Assuta Ashdod University Hospital. Photo by Jeffrey Green.

Ashdod from p12

endary stereotype but I will say it — there is a layer of courtesy and privacy and distance amongst Americans that is often stripped away amongst Israelis. A layer of gloss and politeness. Insulation between what Americans are feeling and experiencing and the feeling and experience they convey to others. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the human drama of the emergency department. Comparatively, life in Israel is raw and life in America is processed, packaged and disguised.

It is known that at times a line in Israel becomes a swarm of people unable to contain themselves in a proper queue, from which only the most aggressive and assertive will get served. This is life in Israel. It adapts poorly to the emergency department, where patients and family members repeatedly come from the bedside or the waiting area to the physician workstation to inquire on their progress. When will I be seen? I've been here for four hours (we check the computer, it's two). Meanwhile can I get meds/X-rays/food/cigs/a second opinion? I say things over and over, like: "I am running as fast as I can and all the time we spend talking about your long wait is keeping everyone here from getting care."

But then when it's their turn and they get their care we bond and become like family. When the visit concludes with a diagnosis and a plan and relief of their pain or nausea or worry, or maybe not relief but a better understanding of their plight and the limits and choices of the emergency department, then they open their hearts and the lack of insulation is a good thing. Thank you letters, bakery and candy boxes are frequent. They love that I am American and I love that they are Israeli and our paths have crossed here. ●

ON THE COVER



Dr. Green outside the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. Photo by Rob Golub.



This sunset was shot in Tel Aviv, Sept. 2018, close to Rosh Hashanah. Photo by Jeffrey Green.

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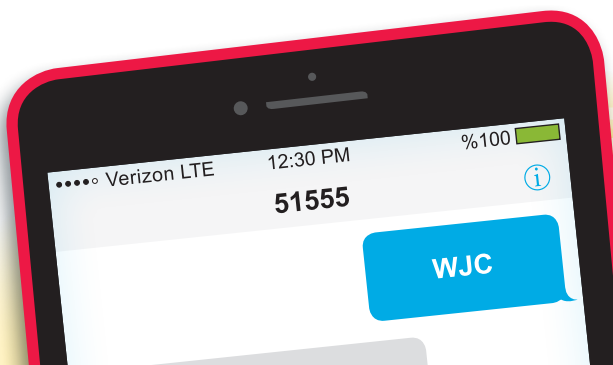
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COMING EVENTS



Sunday, Dec. 1

Film: 'Working Woman'

"Working Woman" (Isha Ovedet) (Israel) (2018) Free film class. Reflecting issues in the #MeToo era, this drama looks at the struggles of an Israeli woman with three children, a husband whose new business is financially insecure, and

a boss who appreciates and promotes her – but begins making inappropriate advances. In Hebrew with subtitles. 1 hr. 33 min. Suitable for ages 16 to adult. Co-sponsored by the Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center, plus SHOFAR and the Israel Center, both of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Talkback following the film: Tziporah Altman-Sha-

fer. Dec. 1, 4 p.m. At the JCC, 6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Whitefish Bay. Open to the entire community. Contact: Laurie Herman at LHerman@JccMilwaukee.org or 414-967-8212.

Monday, Dec. 2

Jewish jokes

Dr. Simon Bronner, dean of the College of General Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at Waukesha, will talk about the Internet age and Jewish jokes at Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha, 830 W. Moreland Blvd., beginning at 7 p.m. Dec. 2. He will have a visual presentation that speaks to going from the oral joke tradition toward our digital age and culture. What does the explosion of Jewish jokes tell us about the Internet and our modern culture? The program is free and open to the public. Call 262-547-7180 for more information.

Tuesday, Dec. 3

Agency speed dating

Find your match and fall in love with a Milwaukee Jewish organization that is helping take care of the needs of the Jewish people and build a vibrant Jewish community! Here's what you can expect at Agency Speed Dating: 1. Inquisitive and curious adults (21+), and insightful and inspiring conversations with Jewish leaders in our community. 2. Gain a better understanding of the inner workings of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and affiliated agencies. 3. Enjoy light appetizers and beer/wine. Free. Dec. 3, 7 p.m., Milwaukee Jewish Day School, 6401 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Whitefish Bay. Event by Young Leadership Division of Milwaukee Jewish Federation. RSVP. MilwaukeeJewish.org/YLD. Young Leadership Director Lauren Berger: 414-390-5702 or LaurenB@MilwaukeeJewish.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Drinking water discussion

The UW-Milwaukee Alumni Association presents Master Chats, an evening with bestselling author Seth M. Siegel in a conversation with WUWM's Environmental Reporter Susan Bence, who together will explore how our drinking water got contaminated, what it may be doing to us, and what we must do to make it safe. If you thought America's drinking water problems started and ended in Flint and Milwaukee, think again. From big cities and suburbs to the rural heartland, chemicals linked to cancer, heart disease, obesity, birth defects and lowered IQ routinely spill from our taps. Siegel shares shocking stories about con-



taminated water, the everyday heroes that have pushed for change, and what we must do to reverse years of neglect and inaction. Siegel is also the author of "Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World." This event is free. Doors open 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. UWM Student Union Wisconsin Room, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. More information and registration can be found at Uwm.edu/Alumni/Events.

Film Class: 'Ask Dr. Ruth'

Free film class, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. "Ask Dr. Ruth" (United States) (2019) A Holocaust survivor from the Kindertransport, feisty Dr. Ruth Westheimer shares much about her life and personal history that led to her becoming one of the foremost and forthright sex therapists of our day. The film follows this dynamo as she – in her typical uninhibited manner – talks about her family, her life and her accomplishments. Note: Includes mature subject matter. 1 hr. 40 min. Suitable for adult audiences. Part of the Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center film series on Jewish Innovation. Talkback following the film: Dr. Amy Shapiro.

A modern rabbi's approach

"A Modern Rabbi's Approach to the Bible." This ongoing event is next on Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m., Congregation Sinai at 8223 N. Port Washington Road, Fox Point. Rabbi Jay Brickman is a trained Jungian, a philosopher, and a practitioner of Tai Chi. 414-352-2970.

Girls Challah Bake




Chabad's Young Jewish Professionals holds a "Girls Challah Bake." Dec. 4, 7-9 p.m. 3133 N. Hackett Ave. It's challah time! Join the ladies of Young Jewish Professionals Milwaukee as they knead, braid, and connect. Learn a new twist on this age-old tradition. You will go home with your own hand-made challah. Small bites and sips.

Thursday, Dec. 5

Houdini the celebrity

"Houdini and the Cult of Celebrity." Dec. 5, 7-8:30 p.m. Fame

See p15 **Coming Events**



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4

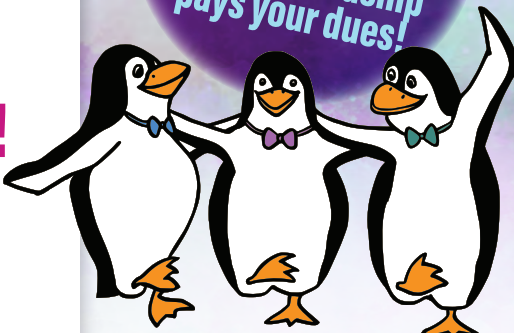
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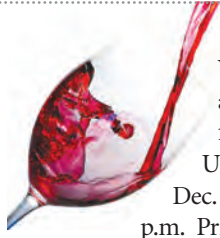
COMING EVENTS

Coming Events from p14.....

has always been shaped by new technologies and changing conceptions of the self. Houdini was the last of the steam-age celebrities, whose fame grew from many of the same developments – transcontinental railroads, teeming cities and an industrialized press – that transformed American life in the industrial age. Yet even as he thrilled crowds, the kind of stardom Houdini enjoyed, was rooted in highly publicized live performances, which was eclipsed by new forms of mass-mediated celebrity: the screen idol, the pop star, the television personality, and the viral sensation. Join Rick Popp, associate professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies at UWM, to explore how the notion of celebrity has evolved between Harry Houdini's time and today. Museum members \$5. Non-members \$7. Jewish Museum Milwaukee, a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, is at 1360 N. Prospect Ave. 414-390-5730. JewishMuseumMilwaukee.org.

Women's equality, wine tasting

Israeli wine tasting with women's equality event featuring Dr.



Yael Hasson, a researcher from Haifa University. Dec. 5, 7-8:30 p.m. Private home.

Sponsored by Israel Center of Milwaukee Jewish Federation and the National Council of Jewish Women. Contact AllisonH@MilwaukeeJewish.org or 414-390-5724. MilwaukeeJewish.org/Yael.

Friday, Dec. 6

Pop-Up Shabbat

Enjoy a vegetarian Shabbat meal, a unique service, and a special Shabbat experience for young Jewish professionals in Milwaukee. Dec. 6, 7-10 p.m. Damascus Gate at 807 W. Historic Mitchell St. Join the Young Leadership Division of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, Congregation Shalom, Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, Congregation Sinai, Young Jewish Adults of Milwaukee and Hillel Milwaukee for a Pop-Up Shabbat. Tickets include an adult beverage (21+ only). Advance tickets are \$18/person, or \$30/pair (couple/friends). Reserve by Dec. 2. Tickets are \$20/person at the door if space allows. Anna Goldstein, 414-390-5733.

Saturday, Dec. 7

Gala charity auction

Temple Menorah welcomes all for a fun-filled evening of fabulous items for auction including gift baskets, jewelry, home decor, gift certificates and many more. Doors open at 7 p.m., light snacks and beverages will be available. All auction items and the gift certificates list will be available for previewing. Bidding begins at 8 p.m. Dec. 7, 7-11 p.m. 9363 N. 76th St. \$8. 414-355-1120.

JCC Family Fun Night

Join the JCC for a family fun night. Dec. 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center, 6255 N Santa Monica Blvd., Whitefish Bay. 414-964-4444.

Sunday, Dec. 8

Film class: 'Redemption'

"Redemption" (Geula) (Israel) (2018) Special for the Chanukah season: A story of redemption. This touching Israeli drama centers around Menachem, the former lead of a successful rock band, who years ago left his secular life to become religious. Now a widower with a 6-year-old daughter diagnosed with cancer, he attempts to reform his original band to help



REDEMPTION

fund the expensive treatments she needs to survive. In Hebrew with subtitles. 1 hr. 44 min. Suitable for ages 12 to adult. Co-sponsored by the JCC and the Israel Center of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Talkback following the film: Uriah Roth. Free. Dec. 8, 4 p.m. Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center, 6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Whitefish Bay. Open to the entire community. Contact: Laurie Herman at LHerman@JccMilwaukee.org or 414-967-8212.

Sunday, Dec. 8

Gallery night

Gallery night with Chabad of the East Side, see page 34.

Monday, Dec. 9

'J-Pride Hangout'

Join J-Pride for a pre-Chanukah Hangout at "one of the newest and coolest spots in town - Hangout MKE." Come play games like XL Foosball, Giant Wall Scrabble, Life

Sized Operation, Shuffleboard and SoccerPool. Family-friendly games are available, all are welcome. Dec. 9, 5-7 p.m. Free. RSVP required. Light appetizers will be provided, drinks (specialty coffee, tea, or adult beverages) are on you. RSVP to Anna Goldstein, 414-390-5733, by Dec. 6.

'On Division' author



Goldie Goldbloom, author of "On Division," in conversation with CJ Hribal. Goldbloom will still be in conversation with Marquette Professor CJ Hribal about her latest work, a deeply affecting novel of one woman's life at a moment of change and a rare glimpse into Brooklyn's Chasidim. Rescheduled from prior date. Co-sponsored by the Harry and Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center and the UWM Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies. Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Held at Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee. 414-332-1181.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Learn with Rabbi Kalmar

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Wes Kalmar. Ninth year of study-

See p16 Coming Events

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September 26, 2019 to January 5, 2020

Thursday, December 5th - 7PM
Houdini and the Cult of Celebrity
 Explore how the notion of celebrity has evolved between Harry Houdini's time and today with Rick Popp, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Journalism, Advertising and Media Studies at UWM.

Thursday, December 12th - 5:30PM
The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini with Joe Posnanski
 Join award-winning journalist and New York Times bestselling author Joe Posnanski in exploring Houdini's enduring legacy through his new book.

Wednesday, December 25th - 12PM
Annual Christmas Cinema: Houdini
 Looking for something fun to do Christmas Day? Take in the 1953 biopic *Houdini*, starring then husband-and-wife Tony Curtis & Janet Leigh. Film begins at 1PM.

CHRISTMAS DAY HOURS: NOON - 4 PM

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December 3 | 3 pm
 Author **Cate Miller** shares her new children's book *Everything You Say About Me That Is Wonderful Is True*. Books will be available for purchase.

December 11 | 3 pm
Rabbi Adams presents "*Palestinian Responses to Yossi, the author of Letters to my Palestinian Neighbor*" by Yossi Klein Halevi.

December 12 | 3 pm
 Author **Rich Hebron** shares his book *Homeless But Human: Life in a Shelter*. Books will be available for purchase.

December 16 | 3 pm
Paul Salsini, Musical Theater Hour

December 18 | 3 pm
Rabbi Adams presents "*Palestinian Responses to Yossi, the author of Letters to my Palestinian Neighbor*" by Yossi Klein Halevi.

Events take place in the Chai Point Lobby except Dec. 12.

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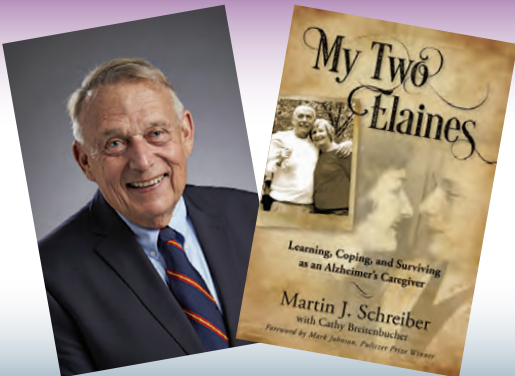


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Governor Martin Schreiber
Thurs., January 8 | 12:30 pm

Speaking Engagement and Book Signing for *My Two Elaines: Learning, Coping, and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver*

Join us as Governor Schreiber shares his remarkable journey guided by his enduring love for Elaine and learn about the importance of caring for yourself in order to "better care for the person with the disease."

Refreshments will be served.

Drive past the Health Center to the apartment area. Valet parking available.

Book signing and raffle for gift baskets will be held after the program. All proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

Seating is limited. Please RSVP by January 6 to Bridget at 262-478-1500 or bmoen@ovation.org.



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COMING EVENTS

Coming Events from p15.....



ing the early prophets and continuing the journey in the book of Samuel II with Rabbi Wes Kalmar of Anshe Sfard Kehillat Torah congregation. This year's class is titled "David and Bathsheva." 12:15 p.m. at the reading room in the JCC across from the Ferrante's Cafe (you can make it a lunch and learn). Dec. 10 (and other dates). Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center at 6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Whitefish Bay. ASKT: 414-228-9296.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Film: 'Dimona Twist'



Free film class: "Dimona Twist" (Israel) (2016) Dec. 12, 7 p.m. Documentary highlights largely unknown stories of women who arrived by ship in Israel in the 1950s-1960s and were sent to the newly established town of Dimona – in the middle of the desert. Seven of these women – originally from North Africa and Poland – candidly share what their lives were like as immigrants. In Hebrew with subtitles. 1 hr. 1 min. Suitable for ages 13 to adult. Co-sponsored by the Israel Center of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Talkback following the film: Uria or Moria Roth.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Houdini author

See story, page 3.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Toy sort with Shalom

Toy sort at Kapco's Kids2Kids Christmas. Dec. 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The "Guys" of Congregation Shalom invite you and your family to help make Christmas dreams come true for children in Milwaukee. Join them at Kapco in Grafton to help load delivery trucks with toys. This volunteer opportunity is open to families and

children of all ages; what a great way to share the values of *tzedakah, tikkun olam* and *shalom*. The public event begins at 9 a.m. and families can arrive any time for complimentary food, beverages, petting zoo, model train and more. Space is limited. Congregation Shalom, 414-352-9288.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Chorale concert

Chanukah concert at Ovation Chai Point. Dec. 17, 7 p.m. 1400 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. Concert will run approximately 1 hour. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Enid Bootzin Berkovits at 414-416-0580 or MilwaukeeJewishCommunityChorale@gmail.com. MilwaukeeJewishCommunityChorale.org.

Assassination in Jewish law

Part of the Lake Park Synagogue fall learning series. Dec. 17, 7-8 p.m. 3207 N. Hackett Ave. 414-962-5508. Classes explore real topics and challenging questions in an open and accessible way using original sources in both Hebrew and English. Class is on "Assassination in Jewish Law."

Tzedakah: Sort items

Families get together to sort items for *tzedakah* on Dec. 17. Contact Sami Stein Avner at Sami@Thi-Milwaukee.org

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Chorale concert

Chanukah concert at Laurel Oaks Senior Community with Milwaukee Jewish Community Chorale. Dec. 18, 7 p.m., 1700 W. Bender Road, Glendale. Concert runs approximately 1 hour.

Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Enid Bootzin Berkovits at 414-416-0580. MilwaukeeJewishCommunityChorale.org

Thursday, Dec. 19

Rabbi Mangold lunch, learn



Lunch n' Learn: "Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah." Dec. 19 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Associate Rabbi Jenn Mangold leads this month's Lunch n' Learn, exploring the history and practice of candle lighting each night during Chanukah. Join her for latkes, sufganiyot, and

Chanukah Talmud study. RSVP by Dec. 16. Congregation Shalom, 7630 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Fox Point. 414-352-9288.

Monday, Dec. 23

Packers Chanukah Party

Celebrate a Packers Chanukah Party with the Young Leadership Division and Israel Center of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The group will light the candles and enjoy sufganiyot at 7 p.m., and the Packers kick-off at 7:20 p.m. Green and gold latkes anyone? Community Shalich, Uria Roth will host. Private address, RSVP required. For questions contact Anna Goldstein at 414-390-5733. Dec. 23, 6:45 p.m.-9:30 p.m.



Tuesday, Dec. 24

Volunteer: Intergenerational Playgroup

Intergenerational Playgroup with a give-back project Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m. at Ovation Sarah Chudnow in Mequon, with Tikkun Ha-Ir. Contact Sarah DeNeve at Sarah@Thi-Milwaukee.org.

Volunteer: Cathedral Center

Every year, Tikkun Ha-Ir is responsible for planning, cooking and serving the Christmas Eve meal at the Cathedral Center. Options for cooking and serving available. Contact Sami Stein Avner at Sami@Thi-Milwaukee.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Volunteer: Visit patients



Visit adult patients at Aurora hospitals on Dec. 25, 12-3 p.m. Contact Bill Gartenberg from Congregation Shalom at BillGartenberg@gmail.com.

Volunteer: Serve meal

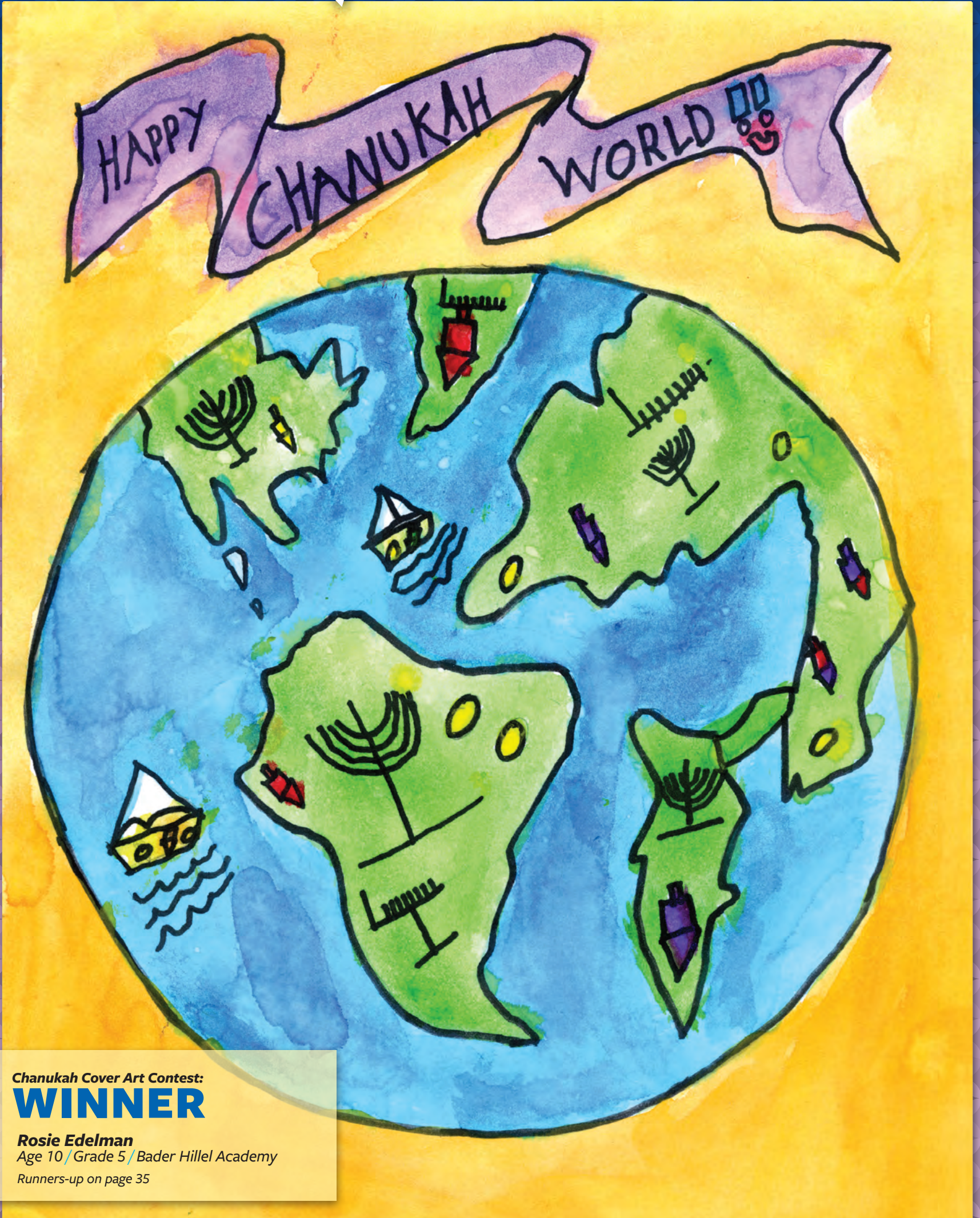
For serving and cooking a meal at St. Vincent DePaul. Contact Rabbi Michal Woll of Shir Hadash at RabbiMichal@ShirMke.org.

Annual Christmas cinema

Annual Christmas cinema is "Houdini." Noon-4 p.m. Looking

See p48 **Coming Events**

HAPPY CHANUKAH



Chanukah Cover Art Contest:
WINNER

Rosie Edelman
Age 10 / Grade 5 / Bader Hillel Academy
Runners-up on page 35

GIFT GUIDE

200-year-old hamsa from Jerusalem



Johdi Tzoref, the owner of Seven Sisters, 928 E. Center St., Milwaukee, shows a 200-year-old antique hamsa from Jerusalem. Also shown are hamsa earrings that come from Israel. Tzoref adds her own beading. The bracelet is 100-years-old, an antique from Jerusalem.

**Wishing all our alumni and friends
a happy and peaceful Chanukah.**



Chanukah 2019/5780

Thanks for diving into the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle special section on Chanukah for 5780! We've got a great special section and I hope everyone has a wonderful Festival of Lights.

Have you ever noticed that everyone has their own little Chanukah traditions, their own way of marking the oil that lasted for eight nights? Here's a bit of mine.

I bought our family's main Chanukkiah, the one we now use most, in a little shop in Jerusalem a few years ago. The owner of the shop was Druze and when he saw that I was shopping for both Jewish and Christian items, he asked me about it. I told him I was buying for more than just me! With that, he decided he was my friend. We had a wonderful, genuine chat, and I still associate it with my family's beautiful Chanukah menorah.

In December or November, we move it from its usual perch, transforming it from *chachkah* to a true Chanukkiah. It hasn't moved yet as I write this in late November, so I'm feeling the Jewish guilt. After it's brief voyage to a more central location, it will move back to its decorative spot in January.

I like to spread some chocolate gelt around the menorah at its Chanukah perch and leave it there for weeks. It's an unspoken rule in the family that that gelt is not for instant consumption.

What are your Chanukah traditions? I bet you have some that you don't even think about. They just happen. I didn't realize I had mine until I thought about it!

Have a great holiday!



Rob Golub, Editor
Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle



GIFT GUIDE

Shofar from Israel



Hudi Rapoport, of Crown Judaica, 2233 W. Mequon Road, holds a shofar from Israel. In front of her are menorahs designed for fun.



Congresswoman
Gwen Moore



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CHANUKAH

This forgotten Chanukah heroine deserves all the love

Steph Black
Alma via JTA

Chanukah season means latkes, menorahs and the retelling of the classic story about Judah and the Maccabees. But there's a woman from a few hundred years before Judah was around who is just as important to this story.

This Chanukah, let's bring this forgotten biblical badass back into the spotlight.

She's not mentioned in the Torah. Her earliest known stories aren't even in Hebrew; they're in Greek. And she's on the fringes of medieval texts, at best. And though her story is interwoven with quite a few fictional elements, the story of Judith is too important not to celebrate and share. She is the feminist activist we need right now — she just happens to be from antiquity.

Judith's story starts in Jerusalem centuries before Judah's story of the Maccabean revolt. A widow of three years, she has been in deep mourning, only wearing rags and ashes. And her children are on the brink of starvation, as her city is under siege by the evil Holofernes and his armies, who have been sent by King Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire to conquer the city and convert the

Jews living there. Though they had fought back against Holofernes as best they could, the Israelites were ready to surrender.

But Judith is not. Determined her city will not fall, she devises a plan and convinces her people that she can singlehandedly defeat their enemies. Judith is disgusted by the faithlessness of the leaders of Jerusalem and tells them that God will act through her.

That night, Judith sheds her mourning clothes, dresses herself in her finest jewels and, with wine and her maid, she leaves the city in the dark.

Alone, the two women walk into the enemy's camp and straight up to the royal tent (that's not something you just, like, did back then). Struck by her beauty, Holofernes asks, "Who are you? Where do you come from and where do you wish to go?"

Judith responds, "I have heard of your wisdom and skill, and since Israel has sinned, I know that you will conquer the city and take possession of it, so I came to save myself and my father's household when you take the city." She promises to help Holofernes conquer the city from the inside, and he invites

See p22 **Judith**



"Judith" (1769) by Pietro Pacilli (Rome 1720-Rome 1772) - Sant'Ambrogio e San Carlo al Corso Church in Rome. Image licensed under CC PDM 1.0

COMMUNITY



Glenn and Eileen Graves are part of the team working to help growing families through the Milwaukee Jewish Free Loan Association.

Loans available for adoption, infertility and more

Milwaukee Jewish Free Loan Association offers loans for growing families

Cynthia Mindell

Special to the Chronicle

The Milwaukee Jewish Free Loan Association is now targeting loans to those adopting a child or otherwise growing their families.

The local nonprofit, which makes loans for various personal needs, has created a fund specifically for adoption and growing families. The Eileen and Glenn Graves Growing Families Loan Fund is the brainchild of MJFLA co-founder and Executive Director Ginny Gen-

delman and new board member Eileen Graves.

“The association made an adoption loan at the beginning of the year and we were excited about this way to help people in our community,” Gendelman said. “We thought, ‘Let’s try to establish a fund to do that.’”

The idea met with strong support from MJFLA board members, two of whom are adoptive parents. Then, during her new board

See p22 **Loans**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Do you know what year this is? East Side Hebrew School graduation



Let us know what year this is from and we’ll include it when we post to our web page! In this circa 1970s photo from the Chronicle archives, the East Side Hebrew School graduates on June 5 in Siegel Hall at Congregation Beth Israel. In the graduating class were Linda Becker, Janet Berman, Stu Cornfield, Phil Durchslag, Jeff Goldman, Wendy Goldstein, Carolyn Hirschman, Sarah Kianovsky, Liz Leshin, Susan Madnek, Brian Mohr, Mike Rosenberg, Sandy Shaprio, Lori Siegel, Dan Stein and Ricky Weiss. Dr. Lucille Glicklich, school board president, presided.



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Loans from p21

member orientation in May, Eileen Graves was immediately captivated by the idea.

"Ginny and [development director] Felicia Miller explained that adoption is an expensive process – there are legal fees and agency fees – and said that if they could provide loans to address this need, more people would be able to adopt," said Graves, a longtime special-education teacher.

"I got teary because my son and daughter-in-law had just had twins and my husband and I were enjoying the experience of being first-time grandparents. This issue spoke to us in a profound way: our feeling is that no one should be prevented from having the family of their dreams because of financial reasons."

The Graves family offered a lead gift to establish the fund, which is for adoption, fertility treatments, or to otherwise help a family grow.

The new fund joins nine others in MJFLA's holdings, which provide personal and college-student loans. A non-sectarian 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the revolving loan funds are entirely supported by members of the community through private donations. As loans are repaid, MJFLA recycles those funds into new loans — to date, some \$700,000.

"When people come to us, they don't want charity; they're looking for a way to solve their own financial challenge through a transaction where they can borrow the money and pay it



The Milwaukee Jewish Free Loan Association honored its founders at the organization's 10th anniversary event, on Oct. 26, 2019. The evening, at Marcus North Shore Cinema, included a private preview screening of "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," starring Tom Hanks. The honored founders were Louise Stein; Dan and Linda Bader; Moshe and Debra Katz; Richard and Lynne Pearson; Ginny and Jeff Gendelman; and Melina and David Marcus.

back," said Gendelman. "Our tagline is, 'We offer a hand up, not a handout.' We're all about making sure that people receive the help they need while still maintaining their dignity."

The initial adoption loan that inspired the idea for the Eileen and Glenn Graves Growing Families Loan Fund follows this pattern, according to Gendelman. A community member had been involved in the adoption process for three years, amassing the requisite fees with

job-related savings and fundraisers. Before she had accrued the full amount, she was notified that a child was ready to be placed with her – earlier than expected. That's when she turned to MJFLA, receiving a loan for the last few thousand dollars to meet the full cost of the adoption fees.

This is the story that inspired Eileen and Glenn Graves. "It's a passion for us," Eileen said. "We just want to help people fulfill their dream of having a family."

Learn more at 414-961-1500 or Mjfla.org. ●

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Judith from p20

her into his tent intending to seduce her. She follows him.

Inside, Holofernes indulges in a feast and drinks more than he ever has in celebration of his near victory, with Judith feeding him cheese and pouring him more and more wine. Yes, my friends, cheese and wine are the weapons of choice in this story. RESPECT. Judith feasts, too, but only on what she has brought with her. Holofernes soon falls asleep. Turning her thoughts to God, Judith grabs the sword on his bedpost, and in one swift motion, beheads Holofernes as he sleeps. (OK, so the sword was a weapon, too.)

Judith then takes the head of Holofernes in her bag and swiftly leaves the tent with her maid. The two return unnoticed back to the city walls, where she commands the guards to put his head up high for all of Holofernes' armies to see upon sunrise.

When they wake, Holofernes' men see what has become of him and flee. Jerusalem is safe, thanks to Judith's actions. The Israelites enter the camps and plunder them for their invaluable riches, much needed after years of living under siege.

Judith is given Holofernes' tent and all his possessions. She is blessed by every woman and leads them in song and dance. She praises God for giving her the courage and strength needed to save her people. Judith is celebrated for three months.

Though many offer, Judith chooses not to remarry, instead living her life as a free woman. She frees her maid before she dies at the age of 105.

This story was once told alongside the more well-known story of Judah and the Maccabees each Chanukah. Both Judah and Judith's names come from the same root and both stories are about military victories that seemed impossible. But mostly, only Judah's story is recounted and celebrated today.

There has been a movement to place Judith back in the forefront of the Chanukah story. Some even eat dairy on Chanukah to commemorate the cheese Judith fed Holofernes before taking his head (cheese latkes, anyone?).

Her story is gruesome. She is a lone woman, determined not to let the children of her city starve or be converted. But instead of cowering and surrendering like the male leaders suggest, Judith decides to take a stand, taking matters (and heads) into her own hands. ●

Steph Black is a women's studies major at American University.

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2 eggs, lightly beaten
3 Tbs flour

Directions: Shred potatoes. Squeeze dry in a large clean kitchen towel. Place potatoes in large bowl. Add onion, eggs, flour, seasoned salt and garlic pepper; mix well. Heat oil in large nonstick skillet on medium-high heat. Drop potato mixture, several heaping tablespoonfuls at a time, into skillet. Flatten slightly with back of spoon. Cook 3 to 4 minutes or until golden brown, turning once. Drain on paper towels. Keep warm. Repeat with remaining potato mixture, adding additional oil if needed. Serve with sour cream seasoned with additional garlic pepper and chopped chives. Or serve with applesauce or apricot preserves.



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ARCHIVES

The hidden history of 'I Have a Little Dreidel'

Albert Stern
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Within the Jewish musical canon are several songs that seem to have always existed — tunes we all know and pass down from one generation to the next.

One example is the Chanukah favorite “I Have a Little Dreidel” — chances are most everyone reading this can sing the chorus, at least. Another example, from a more elevated sphere of Jewish practice, is “Shalom Aleichem” — it isn't hard to imagine Jewish families around the world simultaneously welcoming Shabbat with the familiar strains of this cherished liturgical melody.

What isn't widely known, however, is that “I Have a Little Dreidel” and the melody most Ashkenazi Jews worldwide use for “Shalom Aleichem” were written in the early 20th century by two brothers from New York City.

Samuel E. Goldfarb penned “I Have a Little Dreidel” (with Samuel S. Grossman), while his older brother, Israel Goldfarb, composed “Shalom Aleichem.” To use a Christian equivalent, it would be like having one brother who wrote “Jingle Bells” and another who composed “Silent Night.”

A CD released in 2015, “Dreidel I Shall Play,” called renewed attention to the Goldfarbs and their achievements.

The album featured new recordings of Samuel and Israel Goldfarb's holiday and liturgical songs from the 1910s and 1920s. The new song arrangements are by musician Craig Taubman, and the album attracted the participation of Neshama Carlebach and the late Theodore Bikel.

Driving the project was Myron Gordon, the son of Samuel Goldfarb, who was aided by his own daughter, Tamar Gordon, a professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and his son-in-law Scott Christianson, an author. While the melodies created by the Goldfarbs have become staples of Jewish American life — insinuating themselves into happy memories of celebrations and gatherings of kin — Gordon said the tunes long held associations that represented the antithesis of family togetherness.

The Goldfarb brothers grew up on the Lower East Side of New York in a family of 11 children that emigrated from Galicia, Poland. Samuel was born in 1891, and learned how to read and play music from Israel, who was 12 years his senior.

In 1914, Samuel — who was making music in Yiddish theaters and other popular venues — entered into an arranged marriage with Bella Horowitz, from the family that owned Horowitz-Margareten, renowned makers of matzah and Passover products.

Gordon, their second child, was born in 1920, and still remembers visiting the matzah bakery when he was young.

“The factory took up a whole block of the Lower East Side,” he said. “I remember sliding down the flour slides in the bakery.”

While Samuel started out playing piano in theaters, Israel — a graduate of the Institute of Musical Art (now The Juilliard School), the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University — rose to fame as a noted cantor, and later be-

From the Chronicle archives: “I Have a Little Dreidel” didn't just come from the mountaintop — it was written.



See p36 **Dreidel**

CHANUKKIAHS

Guinness World Records: menorahs

We end with the greatest menorah record of all

Chronicle staff

Did you know that there are menorah records on file with Guinness World Records?

It's true. Here we will tell of the greatest menorah records on earth, ending with the greatest record of all.

For example, a New Jersey synagogue set a Guinness World Record by lighting 834 menorahs on 90 tables in an airport hangar back in 2012. The record is still good, according to Guinness World Records.

The event planned by the Jewish Center of Princeton, New Jersey, took place on the fourth night of Chanukah, at the Princeton Airport. It was organized by the Conservative synagogue's director of programming, Neil Wise, according to The Daily Princetonian student newspaper.

The previous record was set one year earlier by the Merrick Jewish Centre in New York, with 782 lit menorahs.

Largest silver sculpture

The largest silver sculpture was logged as existing in the Ukraine on June 9, 2017. It was, you guessed it, a menorah. The Kieve silver sculpture measured 8 feet, 3.4 inches tall and 6 feet, 5.5 inches wide, designed by Haim Lutin.

The sculpture, made by Yaakov Davidoff, depicts a menorah made entirely of sterling silver and weighs 124.78 pounds, according to Guinness World Records.

Largest display

The largest display of lit menorahs consisted of 1,000 menorahs and was achieved by NCSY, in Stamford, Connecticut on December 8, 2013, according to Guinness World Records. The Stamford Hilton Hotel was the site of this historic feat.

Largest menorah

The largest menorah in the world was designed by Yaacov Agam, according to Guinness World Records, at 32 feet tall and 28 feet wide. It weighs 4,000 pounds and was unveiled Dec. 29, 2005 opposite Central Park in New York City.

Eight days, eight nights

Yes, we went there. The greatest menorah record of all time was set well before Guinness World Records started its recordkeeping in 1954. (It has been called "The Guinness Book of World Records," among other names, before the current "Guinness World Records.")

The great record, of course, is this: Jews fought for the Great Temple and took it back from their enemies. Then, there was only enough oil to burn the Temple's menorah for one night, yet it burned for eight. A miraculous record, indeed. ●

Marcy Oster/JTA contributed to this story.



The largest display of lit menorahs was in Stamford, Conn.



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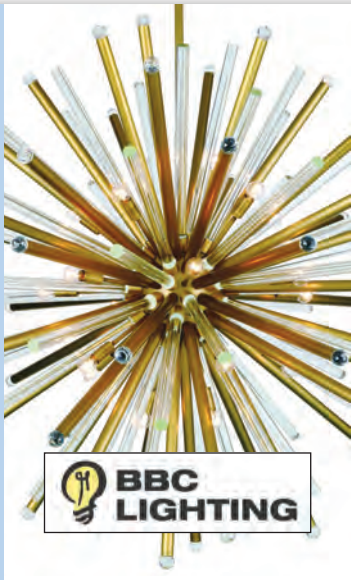
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JEW BY CHOICE

Former TMJ4 reporter and fiancé find love and Judaism



Greg Celestan celebrates Shabbat in Tampa, Florida.

The couple has fallen for one another and they've got a story to tell

Sari Lesk
Special to the Chronicle

To Samara Sodos and Greg Celestan, the Jewish community is like home.

Sodos, a Milwaukee native, grew up in the Jewish community. Although she now lives in Florida, she may be recognized by some in Wisconsin as a former reporter and anchor for Today's TMJ4. Now the founder of a public relations firm, Sodos said her faith has always been an "enormous" part of her life. "Judaism has always been central in my life, in my soul," she said.

Celestan, her fiancé, is newer. The chairman and chief executive officer of defense contrac-

tor Celestar Corp., Celestan is now in the process of converting to Judaism.

Their journey together started at Port Tampa Bay, where Celestan served as a commissioner and Sodos was the director of public relations. Although they met at the port, the pair said it wasn't until after Celestan's term ended that they began socializing.

By then, Sodos had changed her views on finding a partner for life.

Growing up Sodos attended Hebrew school and Sunday school. She went to the Steve & Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken JCC in

See p27 **Love**



Greg Celestan waited to talk with a rabbi about conversion in June. Shabbat in Tampa, Florida.

Love from p26

Eagle River and had some involvement with BBYO-Wisconsin Region.

For a long time, Sodos said, she was committed to marrying a Jewish man and living a Jewish life. But life as a journalist can mean moving around frequently.

“At some point, I decided that finding a great partner in life is just hard enough in itself, so I was willing to date people who weren’t Jewish,” Sodos said.

And as time went on, her connection to Judaism faded, leaving Sodos without one of her sources of joy. But she had found the person with whom she wanted to spend the rest of her life. And she noticed Celestan had a fascination with Judaism. During a discussion about when they wanted to set their wedding, he surprised her by revealing he wanted to convert.

“It was a stunning, emotional moment that took days to process, and I suddenly felt like this lost part of my soul was restored again,” she said. “It was one of the most powerful experiences of my life, and it made me realize that, that’s what real love can do.”

Celestan grew up in Niagara Falls, New York, where he said his family was a minority as black Catholics. He said he was introduced to Judaism while at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where some of the Jewish students became his best friends. He even attended the first Jewish wedding to take place at the military school.

Celestan said between his friends and Sodos, he realized Judaism is where he wants to be. The religion speaks to him because he enjoys the conversation between himself and God, and that it’s a “thinking religion.”

“I always feel like this is where I’ve been,” he said. “It’s an interesting feeling for me. I just feel that every time we go through some different part of either the history or we’re going through the Torah, it makes sense to me.”

He described the conversion experience as “amazing” but said it has introduced some complications. Sodos and Celestan said the process has prompted some negative reactions from people who aren’t comfortable with the decision. Given the success of his company, Celestan is well known in his local business community. He is finding some are struggling to accept his choice.

“I didn’t quite expect that reaction from educated people,” he said. “That part drew me back a little bit. I understand that’s probably the start of what I will see as I go down this path.”

Celestan said he and Sodos are still working through how to respond in those scenarios.

Ironically, he said he had expected the push back to come from other areas. As it turns out, his mom wasn’t surprised with his choice. Celestan said his mom thought the decision made sense, noting that she was a convert to Catholicism.

“Her blessing meant a lot to me,” he said.

Celestan said he expects to complete the conversion process shortly before their wedding next year. He plans to continue his studies to become a bar mitzvah.

The experience has also allowed Sodos to reconnect with her faith, as she attends the classes with Celestan and is now teaching a Sunday school class on the Holocaust. Together, they’re lighting the Shabbat candles each Friday night.

Sodos said she is proud to be with Celestan and that she thinks all Jews should be proud he decided to join the community.

“To me, he is one of the most exciting and greatest converts in history,” Sodos said. ●



The couple attended a reunion at West Point.



Getting engaged at the bride’s father’s house in Brookfield, in May.

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OBSERVANCE

Local Orthodox synagogues engage women

National Orthodox effort seeks to make Simchat Torah more meaningful for women

Amy Waldman
Special to the Chronicle

During Simchat Torah morning services at Orthodox synagogues, the *parshah* is repeated until every man in attendance gets an *aliyah*.

This past year, women in 50 Orthodox Union-affiliated congregations were able to choose between remaining in their seats for that time or participating in a Torah study session of their own. Two local shuls, Anshe Sfard Kehillat Torah and Congregation Beth Jehudah were among them.

The project began with a single rebbetzin seeking to make the holiday more meaningful for her congregational sisters.

“We were looking for ways to engage women in the Simchat Torah experience,” said Dr. Adina Schmidman, of Pennsylvania, “and a rebbetzin colleague had shared that she was doing this in her shul.”

Schmidman, who is also founding director of the national Orthodox Union Women’s Initiative, took the idea to her own shul in 2012, where it became a standard part of the holiday.

“In trying to look at the question of engagement on a national level,” Schmidman said, “this seemed to be an opportunity to engage women in a very natural way within the structure of the synagogue and the structure of the day.”

While there was an application process, Schmidman said, requirements for participation were flexible by intention.

“We really gave a lot of latitude to who (the teacher) was and I think that shows the breadth of Torah and the stretch of Torah, so it was really a kaleidoscope of teachers.”

It was exciting, she said, to see the variety of teachers across different congregations.

“We had shuls who had their rebbetzin, we had shuls that had local teachers, we had shuls who had women within the congregation who didn’t have an official teaching position within the community but who enjoyed and had the capacity to teach.”

Meira Lampert of Congregation Beth Jehudah on Milwaukee’s west side and Rebbetzin Jessica Kalmar of Anshe Sfard Kehillat Torah congregation in Glendale led the local study sessions.

Kalmar has been leading a Simchat Torah women’s study session at ASKT since shortly after she and her husband, Rabbi Wes Kalmar, came to Milwaukee in 2010. Women at ASKT were excited and inspired when they heard that 49 other groups were doing exactly what they were doing at that moment, she said.

Her talk was based on a class given by Rabbanit Shani Taragin of Israel.

“We talked about how Sukkot reflects G-d’s universal relationship with the people of the world, and we compared that with Pesach, which more celebrates G-d’s particular and special relationship with the Jewish people, and we talked about how Simchat Torah is this separate holiday at the end of Sukkot that returns us to our more particular relationship with G-d.”

Lampert, who grew up attending Congregation Beth Jehudah, recently returned to Milwaukee with her husband and two children after living out of state for several years. She described herself as “just a regular member.”

Two months before the holiday, an older woman in the congregation asked her if she would like to prepare a talk.

“It was an opportunity to speak with the girls and young ladies in the community, and I had a lot of flexibility with what I would want to speak about,” she said.

Lampert’s shiur, or study session, addressed staying on track in life despite challenges and obstacles. She used a Torah commentary to ground her talk and drew from her own experience. ●

LOCAL LEADERS

Meira Lampert of Congregation Beth Jehudah and Rebbetzin Jessica Kalmar of Anshe Sfard Kehillat Torah congregation led the local study sessions.

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FIRST PERSON

Dr. Moffic's ABCs of aging well (Jewishly), part 2

N, O, P, Q, R and more from local psychiatrist!

Steven (Hillel) Moffic, M.D.
Special to the Chronicle

For our October issue, published right around our Jewish New Year, we covered the first half of our English alphabet. It seems fitting, then, as the secular New Year approaches and resolutions are sometimes made, to go on to the last half of our alphabetical acrostic, N to Z, from NU to YOU, and ZION, too.

N NU. In Yiddish, Nu has a bit of a challenging edge, like “so what”? When used in English, it often is just an alternative to “new.” For example, Congregation Shalom has a weekly “What’s Nu?” discussion group about current

concerns. Whatever meaning is used, learning new things is good for your brain.

O OPTIMISM. Despite our collective history of intermittent major traumas, we have proved to be resilient and continue to have optimism for the future, including the belief that the messiah will come some day. Optimism, which can be learned to some degree, is associated with living longer and more healthily.

P PHILANTHROPY. Giving financially to others, a Jewish value, is one of the major keys to personal happiness.



Dr. Moffic's ABC's include simchas, or Jewish celebrations. This ketuba is for the wedding of Abraham, the son of Jacob Lopez, to Dona Luna, the daughter of David Marini on Wednesday, 15th of Av, 5458. That's July 23, 1698! Wikipedia photo.

Q QUID PRO QUO. Given the often morally questionable power-based “scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours,” let’s reframe its meaning a bit to loving reciprocity. Say that you’ve been a really good parent. Won’t it be more likely that your children, in more than just Jewishly honoring you, will want to take good care of you in old age?

R RECONCILIATION. One of the most unfortunate outcomes of family relationships is when family members stop talking to one another, as depicted in the Torah with Abraham and his sons Ishmael and Isaac. Often, it takes an unconditional apology by one of the parties to end this before it is too late.

S SIMCHAS. Simchas are Jewish celebrations. My wife and I had one when we celebrated the aging of our marriage in a renewal of vows at Congregation Shalom for our Golden 50th Anniversary last year. Finding ways to celebrate aging can do much to counter its negative stigma.

T TREASURES. Inevitably, most all of us have accumulated some treasures over our lifetime, whether that be objects and/or accomplishments. It is psychologically helpful to recall and be grateful for them. Additionally, starting to give away concrete treasures to any who will value them fits our G letter of “Generosity.”

U UNSAID. So often we pass away without expressing sentiments of importance to loved ones. Some do try to do this during a known terminal illness. However, since knowing when you are likely to die isn’t otherwise knowable, do this whenever the opportunity arises.

V VACCINES. There is a psychological vaccine to take, not only for the young, but for elders. It is to develop as many significant relationships as possible as that will help counter the negative effects of loneliness

See p38 **Moffic ABC**

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IMMIGRATION



Rabbi Dr. Schmuly Yanklowitz is the founder of Arizona Jews for Justice. The panel spoke at Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid on Oct. 30, 2019.

Rabbi and nun advocate for justice at the border

During visit to local congregation, the pair call for action

Jaylyn Fahey

Special to the Chronicle

Rabbi Dr. Schmuly Yanklowitz and Sister Norma Pimentel, both advocates for immigrants, spoke about border control at Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid, and shared stories of how immigrants have impacted their lives.

Yanklowitz is the founder of Arizona Jews for Justice. Pimentel is the executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas and a member of the Missionaries of Jesus. About 120 people attended the Oct. 30, 2019 event in Glendale, sponsored by the Catholic Jewish Conference, a program of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation; the Archdiocese of Milwaukee; and the Wisconsin Council of Rabbis.

In 2014, Pimentel was given permission to visit a deten-

See p38 **Justice**



Sister Norma Pimentel is the executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, with moderator Tom Heinen, speaking at Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid in Glendale on Oct. 30, 2019.



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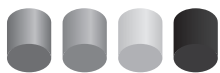
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FROM THE ARCHIVES



Milwaukee Jewish Day School fifth grade exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Remembering Chanukah

The Chronicle did an archives review and found these old photos. These are all from Chanukahs of years gone by! Also see p33



These two photos, above, were sent to us in November 1999 by Rabbi Moshe Rapoport of Congregation Agudas Achim Chabad in Mequon. The Hebrew school pictures have children building menorahs designed in the general style of the menorah in the Holy Temple.

Continued from pg 32



Hillel Academy celebrated Chanukah in December 1999.



Congregation Shalom Hebrew School worked on a Chanukah project, with Devorah Shmotkin at right and Jason Markey at left.

Happy Chanukah

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"Menorah" by Lizzie Katz.

Gallery night on Dec. 8

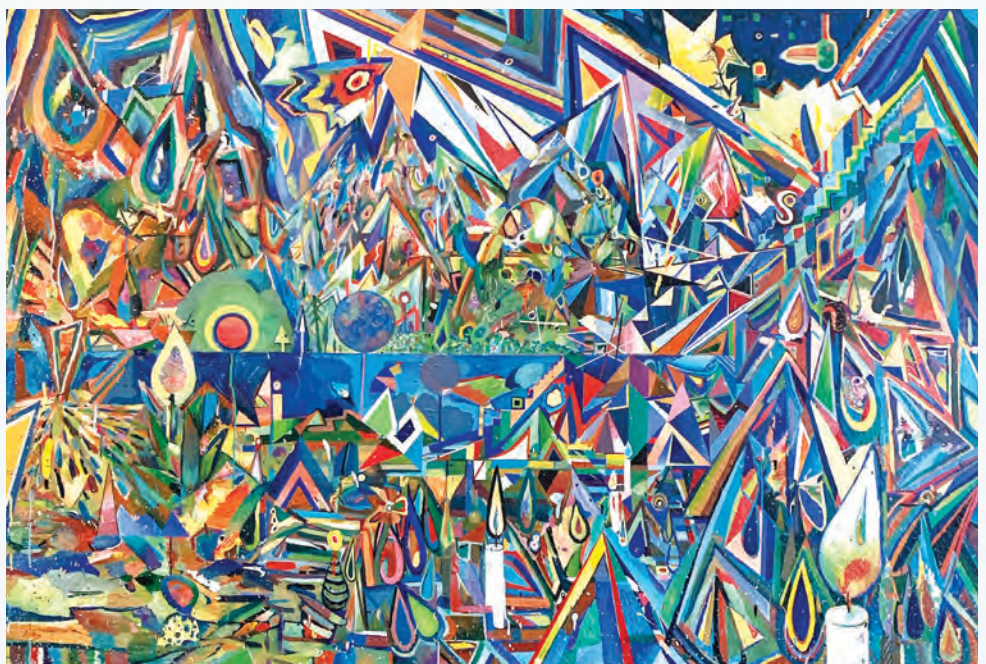
Chabad of the East Side is hosting a gallery night with art, wine and local artists. Several local artists from the Jewish community are expected to attend: Bonita Bruch, Jonathan Ellis, Amy and Jonathan Gelfman, Lizzie Katz, Barbara Schaefer and Miriam Sushman.

"Each artist will display some of their work, and present something, either something about a particular piece, their style, or their story and journey in art," said organizer Mushka Lein. "They will be available for questions after. The art will also be for sale, and a portion of the proceeds will be going to local charity."

Admission is free, at Chabad of the East Side, Sunday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m., 3030 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. ●



"Sisters Storm the Heavens" by Amy Gelfman.



By Jonathan Ellis, Visual Artist.

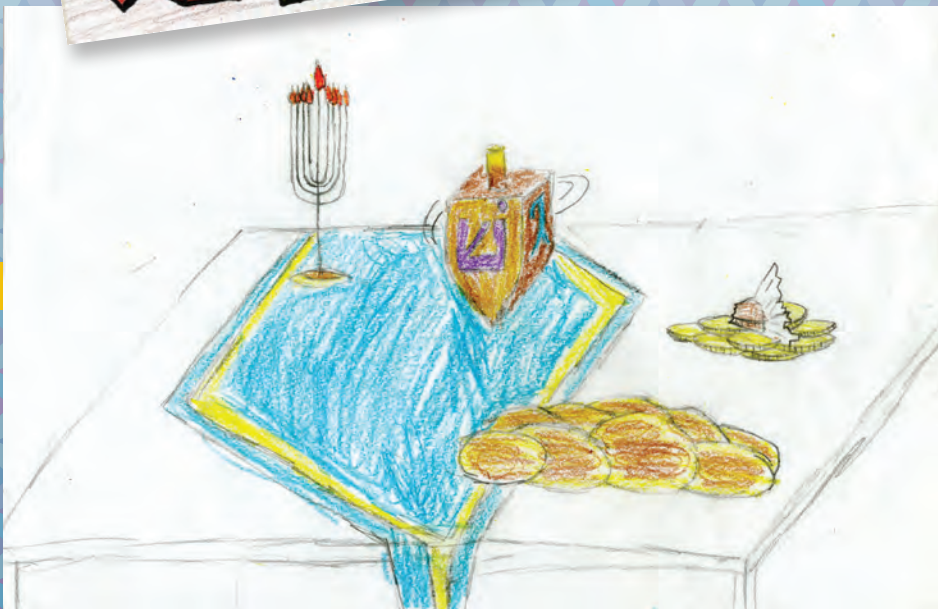
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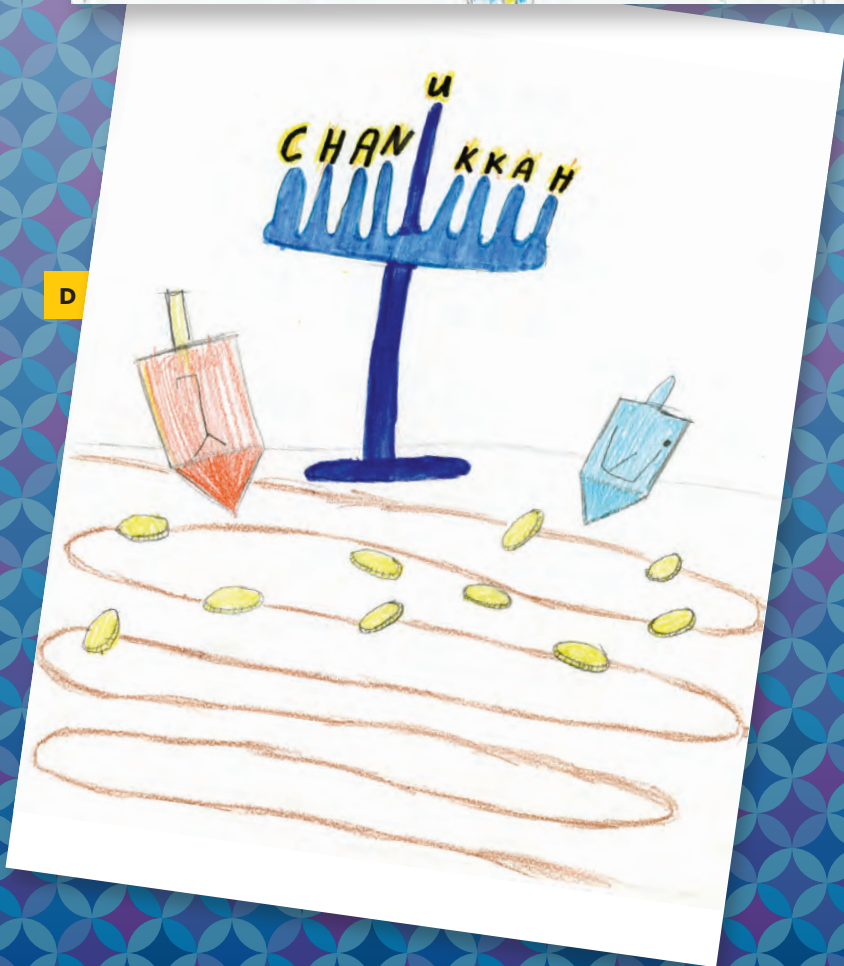
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- B** *Goldie Wilschanski*
Age 10 / Grade 4 / Bader Hillel Academy
- C** *Marley Lohi*
Age 10 / Grade 5 / Congregation Emanu-El Bn'e Jeshurun
- D** *Ashtyn Michael*
Grade 5 / Congregation Emanu-El Bn'e Jeshurun
- E** *Esther Schapiro*
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MUSIC

**Haim, Jack Black and
more record songs for
a Chanukah album**

Gabe Friedman
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Adam Sandler is finally getting some competition in the Chanukah music world.

Haim, Jack Black, the Flaming Lips, Yo La Tengo and other prominent artists have recorded songs for a Chanukah album titled "Hanukkah+," the record label Verve Forecast has announced.

The album came out Nov. 22, 2019 and also features contributions from folk singer Loudon Wainwright III, Adam Green (of the band Moldy Peaches), Alex Frankel (of the electronic group Holy Ghost and a founder of the Jewish deli Frankel's in Brooklyn) and more.

Rolling Stone reported that the record is a mix of covers and original songs. Haim's

contribution is a cover of the late Leonard Cohen's "If It Be Your Will." Black wrote two originals, and the Flaming Lips and Wainwright also penned new songs for the album.

The project is the brainchild of Grammy-winning music supervisor Randall Poster, who was inspired by Yo La Tengo's annual run of Chanukah concerts.

"When our old friend Randy Poster asked us to contribute to an album of Chanukah songs he was putting together, we were kind of stumped," Yo La Tengo, which is led by singer Ira Kaplan, said in a statement. "As non-practicing Jews (and non-Jews), truthfully the holiday has little meaning for us (that's the

meta joke behind Yo La Tengo's Chanukah shows), but we were open to inspiration." ●



This new Chanukah album came out in November.

Dreidel from p24

came the long-serving rabbi at the venerable Kane Street Synagogue in Brooklyn.

He wrote his melody to "Shalom Aleichem," a liturgical poem written by the kabbalists of Safed in the late 16th or early 17th century, in 1918. It's popularity spread throughout the world, so much so that Israel said that "many came to believe this music was handed down from Mount Sinai by Moses."

It wasn't. Its popularity can be traced back to a compendium produced by the Goldfarbs in 1918 called "Friday Evening Melodies." Over the next decade, the brothers — under the aegis of the progressive Bureau of Jewish Education of New York, where Samuel was eventually hired as the musical director — published expanded versions of this work known as "The Jewish Songster," which was used by Ashkenazi congregations throughout the United States for decades.

The book remains a key document in the history of Jewish American music.

"Their mission was to present modernized versions of cantorial songs for Jewish Americans," said Gordon, "as well as some of the Zionist songs coming out of Palestine and old Yiddish songs."

During the 1920s, Samuel Goldfarb wrote "I Have a Little Dreidel." (A highlight of the new album: a scratchy snippet of the original 1927 recording.)

"Generally speaking, in America Yiddish music influenced the popular music of Broadway and Hollywood," he said. "With these kinds of songs, it was the opposite — it was an American tone being brought into a Jewish context."

The dreidel song, adds Gordon, "took some time to catch on," and did not do so until the early 1950s, "when Chanukah was becoming more commercial and parallel to Christmas." There was no single hit recording of the tune — its popularity as a folk song seems to have spread organically.

Gordon didn't really know his father Samuel, who left his mother for a younger woman in 1929. With his new wife, Samuel moved to the West Coast, where he worked for years

as musical director of a synagogue in Seattle. (Decades later, Gordon writes in the liner notes of "Dreidel I Shall Play," his father "oversaw a performance space in the temple's basement, where on one occasion he yanked from the stage an unconventional guitarist named Jimi Hendrix for his wild playing.")

Samuel was unable to repair the broken tie with his son. Gordon writes in the liner notes: "I saw him again on just a few occasions — once, during the war, when I was in my Army uniform, visiting him in Seattle, he introduced me as 'a friend.'" Gordon said his father met his own wife and children only once, in 1962. The family gathered around the piano and sang "I Have a Little Dreidel."

By then, Gordon had dispensed with the Goldfarb name and had found his calling as a clinical psychologist. But he retained boxes of memorabilia from his father's early career, including letters, songbooks, sheet music and recordings, which he rediscovered only several years ago. Using that material to reconstruct the past and give the songs and stories behind them new life was a form of therapy, he said.

The result is the album. The holiday and biblical songs on "Dreidel I Shall Play" have an old-fashioned charm, and Taubman's arrangements are contemporary and lively. The standout song is "Little Candle Fires" performed by Bikel — in one of his last recordings — a sweet, sentimental holiday tune that deserves a place in the Chanukah pantheon.

Musical virtues aside, the release is equally distinguished by Gordon's retelling of his family story in the liner notes. Family history, generally speaking, had never brought him much happiness, but he says the completion of "Dreidel I Shall Play" has helped him salve the hurt of early wounds.

"Finally, I was not a passive victim of my father's leaving us or the yearnings it caused," Gordon said. "I went in the other direction, to produce something that would give me a better association with my father. For me, the songs no longer represent defeat. They represent at last what they were intended to." ●

COMMUNITY



At left is Moderator Mike Gousha, distinguished fellow in law and public policy at Marquette University Law School, interviewing others at the 2019 Economic Forum.

At 2019 Economic Forum, forecaster sees risk with optimism

Milwaukee Jewish Federation's annual event for the business community

Chronicle Staff

MILWAUKEE — There's some risk, but the U.S. economy is strong and could weather the current worldwide storm, according to a top economic forecaster.

He made the prediction as others are cautioning that an economic downturn could be on the horizon, if only because the last recession was a long time ago by economics standards. It was a decade ago.

Jason Schenker made his remarks as keynote speaker at Milwaukee Jewish Federation's 2019 Economic Forum. Bloomberg News has ranked Schenker first in the world for his forecast accuracy in 25 categories, including the euro, the British pound, U.S. new home sales and U.S. jobs.

A sold-out crowd attended the luncheon at The Pfister Hotel, 424 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Oct. 29, 2019. This year's Economic Forum event marked seven years of "straight talk" about the national and Milwaukee-area economy.

"While our mission is to take care of the needs of the Jewish community and build a vibrant Jewish future, we know that cannot happen without a strong, vibrant Milwaukee," Miryam Rosenzweig, president and CEO of Milwaukee Jewish Federation, told the audience of businesspeople.

After the event, Rosenzweig said it was "humbling to be in the room with local business leaders, including many of the great philanthropists of the Milwaukee area. When business and philanthropy work together, the results are the strength we see in

today's Milwaukee. We can envision a strong future together."

The welcoming hosts of the event included Moshe Katz, board chair of Milwaukee Jewish Federation; Linda Gorens-Levey, partner of General Capital Group; David Lubar, president and CEO of Lubar & Co; Greg Marcus, president & CEO of Marcus Corp.; and Rosenzweig. Gorens-Levey, Lubar and Marcus were all co-chairs of the event, along with Allan "Bud" Selig, commissioner emeritus of Major League Baseball.

Though Schenker told the room that "the global economy isn't growing much right now," he expressed some optimism for the U.S. economy.

"Our economy is the strongest in the developed world," he said. "The consumer is very, very strong and that is 70 percent of the economy."

Locally, we may see more international interest akin to Foxconn, he said. "Everyone's trying to get their tech manufacturing out of China fast," he said.

The reasoning is twofold: The prospect of both tariffs against China and the management of Chinese security issues. The number of Chinese patents for quantum computing has outstripped American efforts, Schenker said, and this "is just one of the areas that has become a national security issue." He foresees the U.S. government taking such security issues seriously.

Several panelists joined Schenker on stage. They were Joel Brennan, secretary of

See p39 **Economy**

"The consumer is very, very strong and that is 70 percent of the economy"

— Jason Schenker



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Moffic ABC from p30.....

and the loss of loved ones, the unhealthy equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day!

W **ORSHIPPING.** There is accumulating evidence that some sort of worship has positive ramifications for health. When it is done with others, lessening loneliness is an added value.

X **CHROMOSOME.** Sorry, men, but we have the X chromosome and women do not. This difference seems to play out in part in our lowered life span, yet our tendency to ignore our own health and mental health is as much of a factor or more, and correctable at that.

Y **YOU!** Given that Judaism believes that we are created in the image of God, our purpose can include simply being your best self as we transition more often in old age from doing to being.

Z **ION.** Although Zion National Park could be justified here as one of those bucket list destinations, Zion Jewishly refers to Jerusalem, Israel, and/or the Jewish people more generally. It connects us to our people, land, and ancestors, a connection that can reduce our fear of death.

I hope this completed alphabet will be of some ongoing use for healthy new Jewish and secular New Years. ●

Steven Moffic, whose Hebrew name is Hillel, is a psychiatrist and a regular contributor to the Chronicle.

Justice from p31.....

tion center. What she saw were only children; some even 5-years-old. They were packed into cells for several weeks. One child came to Pimentel and said, "Please get me out of here, my mom is here."

Pimentel responded, "If you came with your mom, you will go out today, I promise." She immediately told an officer about this situation and he just stared at her, she said.

That evening, the mother and child walked into Pimentel's humanitarian center and the little boy ran straight towards her with the biggest hug, not letting go. "This is an experience that grounded me for life," she said.

The rabbi and sister talked about how asylum seekers need assistance.

"Once you decide you want to do something, I promise you will find way more than is possible. For example, volunteer, donate and vote," Yanklowitz said. But most importantly, "do who you are: your passion, purpose and power."

"It starts by seeing. By actually encountering the other person and having the opportunity to be present for them. That cannot replace anything else. Through that encounter, you come to a realization there is something about you that connects with the other," Pimentel said.

Yanklowitz then shared a profound encounter that occurred on Shabbat when he and his family had a homestay. The woman in the family was a young mother who was just released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). She and her 2-year-old daughter were staying in Yanklowitz's guest room that night.

"That moment shook my presumptions in so many ways of seeing how children can be our teachers."

— Rabbi Dr. Schmuly Yanklowitz

Yanklowitz tried desperately to communicate with hand gestures, for the two spoke Spanish. It was quite awkward, he recalled.

After a few hours, he looked down the hallway and saw his daughter playing with her daughter; laughing and hugging in a way that showed there was no barrier. "That moment shook my presumptions in so many ways of seeing how children can be our teachers," Yanklowitz said.

Politics was brought up by an attendee during audience questions at the end of the program. According to Yanklowitz, we must start with G-d to get beyond politics and see humanity. "It's not from prayer, but seeing G-d within every human being," Yanklowitz said.

"Before they are immigrants, they are humans. We must not sabotage that, because that is what politics is trying to do to us," Pimentel said.

To learn more about how you can help assist asylum seekers, visit ArizonaJewsforJustice.org or contact VolunteerCoordinator@cdob.org ●



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HOLLYWOOD



Idina Menzel sings "God Bless America" at the conclusion of the 2008 National Memorial Day Concert on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol, Washington D.C. Menzel is Jewish. Wikipedia photo.

Idina Menzel gets Hollywood star

Marcy Oster

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Actress Idina Menzel got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The Broadway, television and film star was honored with her star on Nov. 19, days before the opening of "Frozen 2," where she reprises her role as the voice of Elsa. "Frozen" co-star Kristen Bell also received a star the same day.

Menzel was a recurring character on the television show "Glee" and starred in the original Broadway run of "Wicked." ●

Economy from p37.....

the Wisconsin Department of Administration; Peggy Coakley, president and CEO of Coakley Brothers and Brothers Interiors; and Kevin Zaba, group executive and platform president at Rexnord.

Panelists discussed the challenge of finding workers in Wisconsin, an issue that has been coming up at similar economic events in Wisconsin for years. There was discussion of working harder than ever to embrace diversity and using technology to reduce the need for the human workers that can't be found. Talk turned to recruiting inmates upon release from prison.

Brennan said Milwaukee's best path will be leveraging the assets already here.

"Milwaukee is not going to be the next Austin," he said. "We need to figure out how we can be the best Milwaukeee."

Moderator Mike Gousha, distinguished fellow in law and public policy at Marquette University Law School, asked how much politics play into the panelists' business plans.

"Blue or red, we still make green," Coakley said. "I think you have to put the noise aside and focus on what's right for your organization." ●



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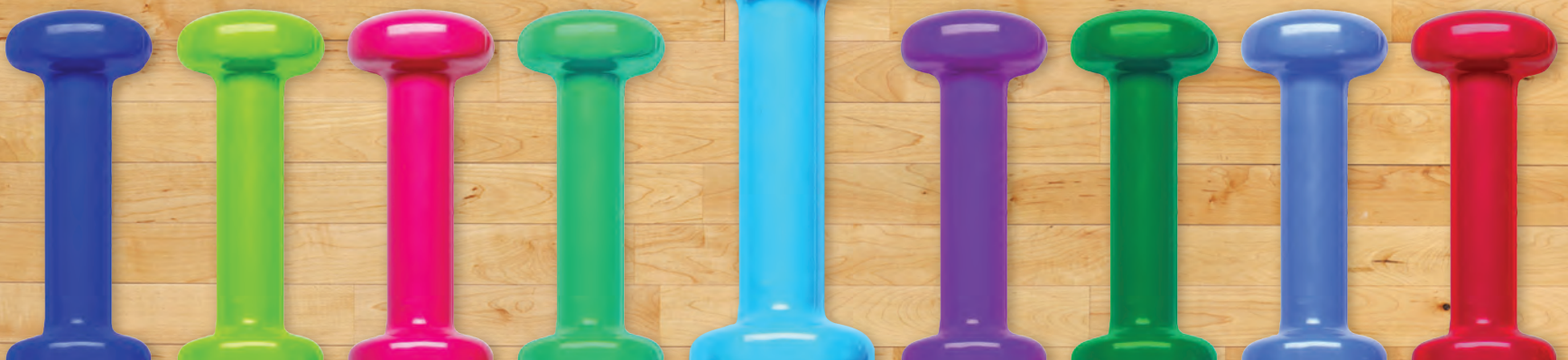
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In Brief from p6

acades, Labour is also beginning to take serious flak from celebrities and other significant parts of the electorate over a festering antisemitism problem.

Two dozen prominent non-Jewish Brits — including Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, novelist John le Carré, author Fay Weldon and actress Joanna Lumley — said in a letter published Nov. 14, 2019 in *The Guardian* that they will not be voting for Labour because of the antisemitism controversy.

“The coming election is momentous for every voter, but for British Jews it contains a particular anguish: the prospect of a prime minister steeped in association with antisemitism,” the celebrities wrote. “Opposition to racism cannot include surrender in the fight against antisemitism. Yet that is what it would mean to back Labour and endorse Corbyn for Downing Street.”

The letter is part of a growing body of evidence suggesting that British Jews are not the only ones who have been following the Labour scandal. The party, under Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership, is becoming increasingly unpalatable to non-Jews, too.

In a Jewish News poll in October of more than 1,000 non-Jewish voters, 55 percent agreed with the statement that Corbyn’s “failure to tackle antisemitism within his own party shows he is unfit” to lead.

— *Cnaan Liphshiz*

Aly Raisman will have a cameo in ‘Charlie’s Angels’

Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman will appear in the latest “Charlie’s Angels” film.

“I’m officially an angel (Is this real life?),” the Jewish-American gymnast tweeted Nov. 6, 2019, followed by a series of photos. One featured Raisman standing beside the film’s director and co-writer, Elizabeth Banks, who plays Bosley. She thanked Banks and Sony Pictures for including her in the film.

The “Charlie’s Angels” series — this will be the third film produced since 2000 — is based on a 1970s TV show of the same title. The plot, which has feminist messages, is about a group of young women who work as private detectives in an agency run by a wealthy mystery man named Charlie.

Fellow Olympian and snowboarder Chloe Kim also is making a cameo in the film, the *Boston Globe* reported.

Raisman, who competed on the 2012 and 2016 U.S. women’s Olympic gymnastics teams, has made cameos before — she appeared on “Lip Sync Battle” and in a Maroon 5 video — but has yet to appear on the silver screen, according to IMDb.

Raisman, 25, has three Olym-

pic gold medals, two silver and a bronze.

— *Cnaan Liphshiz*

Quentin Tarantino, Israeli wife Daniella Pick in Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM — U.S. filmmaker Quentin Tarantino and his Israeli wife, actress and model Daniella Pick, are renting a home in Tel Aviv.

The home in an affluent neighborhood in the northern part of the city rents for nearly \$23,000 a month, the Israeli business daily *Globes* reported. It is two floors and 5,000 square feet, and is located near the Kikar Hamedina, a major plaza of high-end shops and restaurants.

The couple, who were married a year ago, are expecting their first child. They announced the pregnancy in August but did not say when the baby was due.

It will be the first child for both Tarantino, 56, and for Pick, 35. She is the daughter of the popular Israeli singer and composer Svikka Pick.

— *Marcy Oster*

Pope Francis denounces rise of antisemitism

Pope Francis denounced the current rise of antisemitism and spoke against new persecutions against Jews.

Speaking Nov. 12, 2019 at the Vatican, the Argentina-born pope improvised his comment outside his prepared remarks at

his weekly papal audience.

“I would like to make a separate note. The Jewish people have suffered so much in history, they have been chased away, they, too, have been persecuted,” he said.

Francis, the former Jorge Bergoglio, often recalls his experiences with Jewish friends during his childhood in Buenos Aires. As pope, he has previously spoken against antisemitism.

In his remarks, he reviewed past Jewish persecutions but warned also about the “rebirth” of hate against the Jews.

“In the last century we saw so many brutalities against the Jewish people, and we were all convinced that this was over,” the pope said. “But today the habit of persecuting the Jews, brothers and sisters, is here reborn. This is neither human nor Christian.”

He concluded: “The Jew-

ish people are our brothers, and they should not be persecuted. Understand?”

The pope, the former archbishop of Buenos Aires, did not refer to any specific incident. His comments were a part of his reflection on the biblical account of the expulsion of the Jewish people from Rome by Emperor Claudius in the first century.

Also this year, the pope sent a letter to the Argentine Jewish political umbrella organization DAIA ahead of the 25th anniversary this month of the attack that killed 85 people at the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires.

“Since the first day,” he wrote, “my heart has been with the relatives of the victims, Jews or Christians.”

— *JTA Staff*



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Davey Singer is among the Shir Hadash volunteers who bring joy to Christians on Christmas. Shir Hadash photo.

Local Jews volunteer for that other really great holiday

Volunteering on Christmas helps local Christians take time off or celebrate

Lee Fensin

Special to the Chronicle

You don't have to be a Christian to act like Santa Claus and spread joy this time of year.

You can be a Jew with a kind heart and the belief that there's a line in the Torah that reads: Thou shalt not spend all Christmas Day patronizing a Chinese restaurant and a movie theater.

Those Jews might take a shift at work on Christmas that would ordinarily be manned by a Christian. They might visit hospital patients. They might get together with fellow congregants to make and serve food for the hungry at shelters, bring hand warmers to the homeless and give toys and books to children who otherwise might not get anything.

The Jewish volunteers don't do it for the rewards, but that doesn't mean the work isn't rewarding.

"I get much more out of it than I give," said Nadine Zuckerman, the event chairperson for Congregation Emanu-El B'Ne Jeshurun who helps organize volunteers for Christmas at the Meta House and the Guest House. "For me, it's very rewarding. I realize how fortunate I am, so I want to give back a little something. These people are trying to get their lives together, and it's not always easy, especially when they don't have family."

Meta House deals with women's substance abuse, while Guest House provides shelter for men. Women at Meta House are allowed to have their children with them.

Zuckerman said CEEBJ volunteers serve lunch on Christmas for 30 to 35 women and children.

They play bingo, sing Christmas carols and bring gifts for the children and toiletries, jewelry, scarves, hats, socks and mittens for the women.

The volunteers also mingle with the clients to see if they want to talk. "Maybe they want to talk about family or the weather," Zuckerman said. "We take our cue from them. We want them to feel comfortable."

Between six and eight volunteers have provided homemade lunches for 30 to 35 people on Christmas at Meta House for the past 10 years. Congregation Shalom provides money for gifts.

CEEBJ volunteers have been going to Guest House a few years longer. Zuckerman said her group used to provide a turkey dinner on Christmas, but because there are several other spots where the homeless and poor can get a turkey lunch, CEEBJ switched three years ago to homemade pasta and casseroles for approximately 86 men. "When giving people a meal (that include salads, fruit and dessert), it's nicer if it's homemade," Zuckerman said.

She added, "It's Jews doing something for Christians on their holiday."

Reenie Kavalor, who as CEEBJ's social action chair also helps coordinate the synagogue's Christmas activities, says it's not hard getting volunteers, who try to make the day special for clients. "Guest House is not very big so we have had to turn volunteers away," she said.

Kavalor added, "It's wonder-

See p43 **Volunteers**

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Volunteers from p42

ful to see how appreciative these individuals are. It's lovely to do something for someone on their holiday so they're not forgotten."

Kavalari said Deborah Carter Berkson, the late wife of CEEBJ Rabbi Marc Berkson, was an "instigator" for the Christmas projects. In her obituary, the Berkson family suggested memorials go to the temple's Food Bank Fund.

Bill Gartenberg, a member of Congregation Shalom's social action committee, said one of the group's original ideas was to have Jews work for Christians on Christmas. "But that didn't evolve because of legal reasons," he said.

So Shalom volunteers, partnering with volunteers from CEEBJ, Congregation Sinai and Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid, provide activities at the VA Center as well as the Sojourner Family Peace Center, Meta House and Guest House. Staffing is low on Christmas, so volunteers enable the full range of activities to go on.

Toby Recht got Shalom involved 10 to 12 years ago, and Gartenberg eventually took over.

Gartenberg said he has tried without much success getting other non-Christian communities involved. The Mormon commu-

an appreciation for the attention paid to them, especially those who don't have anyone to come see them. To be alone is tough."

Nelles added, "I have found that it means as much for the volunteers as for those people being visited."

Shalom and its partners also work with Aurora hospitals in the area on Christmas, as volunteers bring plants and good cheer. With the help of Andrea Bernstein, Hours Against Hate coordinator for the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, one Jewish girl and one Muslim girl went into hospital rooms on Christmas last year to introduce themselves to patients.

Although Gartenberg works with "some big-time repeat volunteers who have done this for years at various sites," he has had years when he still needed volunteers a few weeks before Christmas. "But I learned not to panic because every year it comes together," he said.

"Seeing the gratitude of the people we help makes it worthwhile," he added.

Gartenberg, a retired pharmacist, used to volunteer to work on Christmas so Christians could have the day off.

Tikkun Ha-Ir works with var-



Tikkun Ha-Ir volunteers help serve food on Christmas Day. Photo by Sami Stein Avner.

the children, who can be as young as 8, asking such things as what is exciting for them during the Christmas season. "We want to make it a positive experience for the kids," Avner said.

Toys, books and winter essentials come from Tikkun Ha-Ir's annual homeless gift drive.

Shir Hadash has been working with the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Milwaukee for more than 20 years, providing the Christmas meal so that the staff can have the day off and the clients can experience an air of festivity.

Jim Hagen got involved early once his family joined Shir Hadash. He was asked by Rea Katz to supply milk for the meal, and he recalls his daughter, then 3 years old, helping bring the milk from the family van during a blizzard. "She was pushing the jugs down the sidewalk like they were hockey pucks," Hagen said. His daughter is now 23 and still plays a part by baking cookies.

Children are kept busy carrying water to tables and wrapping utensils in napkins. "When kids help, they see the face of poverty and hopefully realize there is more to life than themselves," Hagen said.

Hagen added, "It's an unfortunate period in these people's lives, sometimes out of their control. I can see myself in their shoes if something in my life didn't go right."

St. Vincent de Paul provides the turkeys, but Shir Hadash cooks them and provides sweet potatoes, stuffing and cranberries. Shir volunteers, who range from those in their 80s to preschoolers, also include a healthy component to the meals, such as salads and fresh vegetables. They also bring tablecloths and festive napkins.

Hagen called the older volunteers "a real cast of characters." They included Bob Jacobs and Sidney Fine, both of whom have died.

"Jacobs loved to tell jokes, and Fine was a very loving person who had his bar mitzvah at Shir when he was 85," Hagen said.

Volunteers sometimes bring instruments to play holiday music and engage people who can be very lonely much of the year in conversation.

Hagen, who uses an online spreadsheet to sign up volunteers, said Shir Hadash Rabbi Mi-

want it to be an institutional meal," Hagen said.

Why do so many Jews give up time at home with their own families to help others? For many, it could be the message of Billy Jonas' song, More Love: "There is just one task; All that matters is the answer when the question's asked; Did you put more love in the world today?"

Hagen said, "The Torah teaches us to help those less fortunate. Love your neighbor as yourself. That's why I do it. We are expected to help our neighbors, and Milwaukee is an extended family."

Avner perhaps speaks for all Jews who volunteer on Christmas, noting: "The holiday itself doesn't mean anything to me, but it means something to me to help someone else celebrate." ●

For Christmas, the head of a local Jewish agency transforms for a day into Santa Shapiro

— see page 45.

nity has helped, and one of its volunteers sings and plays his guitar.

Gartenberg has had more success getting Jewish volunteers, such as Elaine Nelles, a member of the CBINT social action committee. Gartenberg contacted the synagogue about six years ago and since then, anywhere from three to 10 CBINT volunteers have partnered with the Shalom group.

Nelles said the volunteers don't have a script when they enter a room with small gifts supplied by Shalom. "We want to let them know that others are thinking about them on their holiday," she said. "Whoever I have talked to have shown a sense of gratitude,

ious synagogues and Hillel Milwaukee to provide Christmas cheer at Friendship House and the Cathedral Center, which serves homeless unaccompanied women and families.

Sami Stein Avner, Tikkun Ha-Ir's executive director, said, "It's such an uplifting and humbling experience to be part of bringing someone joy, helping them find a little extra light in often a dark time. It feels like we're doing a mitzvah."

An intergenerational group of about 10 serve meals. Gifts for kids are unwrapped, allowing children to select their own books. Volunteers often talk with



Shir Hadash volunteers Lenore Lee (in hat) and Marilyn Jacobs help serve food to the poor and homeless on Christmas. Shir Hadash photo.

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Curling from p3.....

to know for sure. But, the experience inspired Lookatch get more Jews involved in the sport.

“My dream now is to have our men’s Brotherhood come out on the ice for an event,” says Lookatch, who’s a member of Congregation Sinai in Fox Point. “I’d like to get my rabbi out there.”

Win or lose, you schmooze

Curling originated in 16th-century Scotland, but

modern curling culture has characteristics that Jews — and Wisconsinites — can appreciate.

The sport, which draws comparisons to shuffleboard, bowling and chess, is taxing enough to make you break a sweat but accessible enough for players of all ages.

“If you’re doing it right, you should have a little exhaustion afterwards,” Lookatch says, but later adds: “It’s not like we’re trying to field a competitive football team. It’s a lifetime sport.”

Curling also emphasizes sportsmanship: Matches start and end with a handshake, and players call their own fouls.

Finally, every game ends with a custom called broomstacking, which is essentially schmoozing: Members of opposing teams sit together to talk, drink beer and munch on packed-from-home snacks like cheese and crackers.

“The sport is all about camaraderie and tradition,” Lookatch says. “I think it fits in with a lot of Jewish values.” ●



Tedd Lookatch of Mequon, at right, curls at the Milwaukee Curling Club in Cedarburg. Photos by Gregory Shaver.

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CHESED



Mark Shapiro is a local Jewish leader but come Christmas he's Santa Claus. Here, he reads to children at a Milwaukee shelter on Christmas Eve.

Santa Shapiro is in it for the tzedakah

The head of the JCC volunteers with Tikkun Ha-Ir every Christmas Eve

Rob Golub
RobG@MilwaukeeJewish.org

MILWAUKEE — If you don't celebrate Christmas — because you're Jewish — what should you do with yourself on Christmas Eve?

For Mark Shapiro the answer is obvious: Get into a Santa Claus outfit.

He's been doing so for years as part of a larger effort by Tikkun Ha-Ir, the nonprofit that seeks a more just Milwaukee. Tikkun Ha-Ir volunteers and "Santa Shapiro" annually spend Christmas Eve at shelters, to spread Christmas cheer, serve a meal, and give out gift bags that were assembled in the Jewish community. Mark's wife Sharon arrives as Mrs. Claus and their daughters Sophie and Carli are elvish helpers.

Mark is careful to point out he's one volunteer among many, his family is instrumental and nothing is possible without Tikkun Ha-Ir.

He becomes Santa with a pillow for added weight and an ice pack to help cool down the workout. Santa is not an inactive fellow, you know.

"He really takes his charisma and puts it all out there for the families," said Sami Stein Avner, executive director of Tikkun Ha-Ir.

One does not have to be Christian to understand that Santa is a key role, a larger-than-life character who matters deeply to people. Mark said that with the suit comes responsibility.

"The suit is powerful," said Mark, whose day job is president and CEO at the Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center in Whitefish Bay. "It makes adults turn into children. It makes children the happiest

THREE WAYS TO HELP

1. Support the holiday gift drive.

See the "Giving" menorahs at several locations in the Jewish community.

2. See volunteer opportunities Dec. 24-25 in Coming Events, in this edition of the Chronicle, page 14.

3. Visit the Tikkun Ha-Ir site at Thi-Milwaukee.org for more ideas.

that they can be."

Santa Shapiro makes several stops, including Friendship House and the Cathedral Center, shelters for women and families in Milwaukee. Those served can be escaping abusive relationships or single mothers in a tough financial spot.

Santa visits with families who may not expect that they can afford gifts. Mark remembers a boy turning to his mother and saying, "See, I told you Santa was going to come this year."

"Ho-ho-ho," Mark will sometimes bellow, Avner said. "The kids are jumping all over him."

Mark also visits a women's floor. There are no kids here, but it's worth it. Avner remembers a shriek on the women's floor: "It's Santa!"

"He really puts on his shtick,"

See p48 **Santa**

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LIFECYCLE

Obituaries

Tauba Biterman

Tauba Biterman of Shorewood died Nov. 11, 2019. She was 102.

Tauba, born Sept. 10, 1917 in Poland, came to Milwaukee from Germany in 1948. She was a Holocaust survivor and a member of the Speakers Bureau of the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center of Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

Tauba was predeceased by husband Edward Biterman in 1975.

Loving mother of Shirley (Irv) Fuld and Joel (Francine) Biterman. Cherished grandmother of Julia Steinway, Melissa (Michael) Gurovitsch and Aaron Biterman. Proud great-grandmother of Eliana, Jaron, Noa and Levi Steinway, and Miles and Simon Gurovitsch.

Funeral was held Nov. 12 at the Goodman Bensman Funeral Home with burial at Agudas Achim Cemetery. Memorial contributions are welcome to The Shul in Bayside or the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center.

Phyllis Raskin Ellis

Phyllis Raskin Ellis of Mequon died Oct. 23, 2019. She was 96.

Phyllis was born March 6, 1923. Preceded in death by husband Sidney "Shimmy" Ellis and sister Eleanor Raskin Lyons. Dear mother of Brian (Steven Farmer) Ellis, Dean (Wendy) Ellis and Robin (Dr. Steven) Schopler. Loving grandmother of Jonathan Ellis, David (Aubrey) Ellis, Michael Ellis, Lisa (Brad) Resnikoff and Ellen (Perry) Freifeld. Adoring great-grandmother of Ashlyn and Pierson Ellis; Harry and Maxine Resnikoff; Vera Freifeld. Survived by nieces, nephews and cousins. Special thanks to her team of loving caregivers.

Graveside services were Oct. 27, 2019 at Mound Zion Cemetery. Memorials to a charity of your choice. Rabbi Jessica Barolsky and Blane Goodman Funeral Service assisted the family.

Harriet Gorelick

Harriet Gorelick of Milwaukee died Oct. 11, 2019. She was 89.

Preceded in death by loving husband George Gorelick. Dear

mother of Jeff (Lisa) Gorelick, Sherri Gorelick and Amy (Abraham) Fiszbein. Treasured grandmother of Ariel (Jeff) Stein, Lindsey (Matthew) Taylor, Ava Mikkelsen, Benjamin Fiszbein, and David Fiszbein.

Graveside services were Oct. 13, 2019 at Mound Zion Cemetery. Memorials to Chai Point, The Friendship Circle, The Shul, or Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun. Mound Zion Cemetery and Blane Goodman Funeral Service assisted the family.

Jay H. Lessing

Jay H. Lessing of Milwaukee died Nov. 1, 2019. He was 64.

Beloved husband of Jo-Anne Lessing (nee Barczack) for 32 years. Son of Fanchon Lessing, brother of Louise (Alan) Fligiell, brother-in-law of Craig (Barbara) Barczack, Cheryl Barczack and Janice (James) Wilkins. Further survived by nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Jay worked in the machine trades for 15 years before leaving to finish his college degree. After completing his bachelor of arts degree at the age of 46, he became

a para-professional at Milwaukee Public Schools, working with special needs and autistic children. He retired in 2015. He loved fly fishing. His love of the sport only increased as he and his wife took many trips to Montana to fish and explore the beauty of the west. He also enjoyed hiking, road trips, history, music and walking the neighborhood with his beloved dog, Ellie.

Sheppard Parr

Sheppard Parr of Boynton Beach, Florida died Oct. 2, 2019. He was 78.

Shepp was born Aug. 29, 1941 in Milwaukee, the son of David and Mildred (Sorkin) Parr. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee in 1963. He is predeceased by his beloved first wife, Lynne (Scheffrin), his youngest son, Jeffrey, and his brother Thomas. Shepp married Meryl Friedman Nov. 12, 2005.

Prior to attending the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Shepp proudly served our country as a member of the United States Coast Guard. With a degree in journalism, Shepp pursued a career in advertising. He was an avid photographer, automobile enthusiast, and deeply cared for all of his family and friends. Shepp

was exceptionally involved with the local chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation, including service as a past board member.

He was a member of Congregation Shalom while living in Milwaukee.

Survivors include his wife Meryl; son Andrew (Jody) Parr; daughter-in-law Jody Grossman; daughter-in-law Libby Pollack; grandchildren Brooklyn Parr and Ari Parr; daughters Amanda Friedman and Marissa Friedman; and brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Beth Israel Memorial Chapel and The Gardens of Boca Raton, Boca Raton, Florida, assisted the family. Services on Oct. 6, 2019, with Cantor Ann Turnoff officiating. Memorials may be directed to the Scleroderma Foundation (sclorderma.org).

James "Jim" Polacheck

James "Jim" Polacheck of Bonita Springs, Florida, died Oct. 11, 2019. He was 73.

He was born in Milwaukee June 11, 1946 and graduated from Nicolet High School, then Morris Harvey College in 1968.

Loving father of Caryn (Russell) Reese, Amy (Michael) Davidoff, Neil (Dana) Silverblatt,

See p47 Life Cycle



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Audrey A. Mann

Audrey A. Mann passed away peacefully on the evening of November 1, just one month shy of her 90th birthday. But she was not shy about her love for the city of Milwaukee and its culture as well as the beauty of the changing seasons in the Midwest where she lived all of her life.

Mrs. Mann was born in Chicago in 1929, attending Hyde Park High School, The University of Illinois and Northwestern University where she received a B.S. in English Literature and Art History.

Upon moving to Milwaukee in 1956, she immersed herself in the community, working first for the Children's Art Program at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Later she became a museum docent. A major collector of studio art glass, Mrs. Mann demonstrated her expertise and passion on the subject by curating shows of glass sculpture at the Milwaukee Art Museum and at the Villa Terrace Museum of Decorative Arts.

She also served on the boards of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and the United Performing Arts Fund and was a lifelong supporter of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. She attended Congregation Sinai and treasured her friendship with Rabbi David Cohen.

Mrs. Mann will be interred at Greenwood Cemetery next to her beloved husband, Dr. Robert W. Mann, who predeceased her in 1999.

Survivors include children from her first marriage to James D. Scheinfeld: son John Scheinfeld and wife Karen Vock of Sherman Oaks, California; daughter Shaina and husband Richard Noll of Port Townsend, Washington; son Robert Scheinfeld of Charlottesville, Virginia and grandchildren Rachel Noll James, Mischa Noll, Alexandra Scheinfeld and Aidan Scheinfeld.

For the last 12 years, Mrs. Mann lived a full and happy life at Saint John's on the Lake. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the Saint John's Foundation, Directors Fund for Charitable Care, an endowed fund that provides support for residents whose personal resources can no longer fully cover their residence costs, 1840 North Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202.



LIFECYCLE

Life Cycle from p46.....

Adam (Michelle) Silverblatt, and Rebecca Tanner (fiancé Ofer Shalom). Further survived by sister Joan (Henry "Pat") Kerns and seven grandchildren.

The cause of death was glioblastoma, a cancer in the brain. Jim was diagnosed in 2013 and fought the good fight until now. He lived every day to the fullest and continued to fight every day with the utmost courage. He was very involved with the Brain Cancer Awareness 5K to raise money to fight this awful disease.

Burial in Pittsburgh on Oct. 16, 2019, with assistance from Rabbi Jamie Gibson.

Memorials welcome to the Head for the Cure Foundation, 1607 Oak St., Kansas City, Mo., 64108.

Frank Rubensohn

Frank Rubensohn of Atlanta died Oct. 21, 2019. He was 76.

He was born July 12, 1943 in Johannesburg, South Africa, and he came to Wisconsin from that city in 1981. He graduated from Athlone Boys High School in Johannesburg in 1960.

He was a member of Temple Menorah. He worked in the mannequin manufacturing industry. He also partnered with another Milwaukee family to open FotoFast one hour photo processing stores in various shopping malls in the greater Milwaukee area.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Joyce Rubensohn; sons Daron (Sarah) Rubensohn and Joel (Marci) Rubensohn; grandchildren Hannah, 15, Alana, 12, and Joshua, 8.

He had an interest in photography and numismatics. Frank was an only child of Alfred and Gertrude Rubensohn who both predeceased him. Frank lived with multiple sclerosis for over 30 years, an illness he fought with courage, dignity and without complaint. He was cared for by his extremely dedicated wife. Frank was a real "people person" who maintained many long-

standing friendships with people around the world despite the severity of his illness. Frank and Joyce moved from Milwaukee to Atlanta in April 2019 to be closer to family.

Burial was at North Atlanta Memorial Park in Atlanta on Oct. 23, 2019, with Rabbi Joshua Helle and Dressler's Funeral Home. Memorials welcome to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Herbert Usow

Herbert Usow of Boca Raton, Florida, died Oct. 17, 2019. He was 96.

Dear husband of Sylvia Usow for 72 years. Loving father of Jason Usow, Randy Usow, Jody Usow and her husband, and the late Shelley Usow. Treasured grandfather of Samantha, David, Alexander, and Haley. Further survived by other relatives and friends. Herb had an illustrious and extended career as a litigator in Wisconsin. He was a vibrant and engaging man who will be long remembered by all who knew him.

Funeral services Oct. 23, 2019 at Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun. Interment at Anshai Lebowitz Cemetery. Cantor David Barash and Blane Goodman Funeral Service assisted the family. Memorials to Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun.

Gerald "Jerry" Volk

Gerald "Jerry" Volk of Milwaukee died Oct. 18, 2019. He was 88.

Loving husband of Barbara Wynn Volk. Dear father of Stephanie (Steve) Rubnitz and Mari (Evan) Lederman. Adoring grandfather of Alyssa, Carly, and Jordana Rubnitz; Tanner, Spencer, Carter, and Cooper Lederman. Cherished brother of the late Annabel Volk and Sheldon (Sandy) Volk. Special thanks to Elizabeth Residence and Badger Hospice for their compassionate care.

Graveside services were Oct. 22, 2019 at Mound Zion Cemetery. Rabbi Noah Chertkoff and

Blane Goodman Funeral Service assisted the family. Memorials to Congregation Shalom, 7630 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Fox Point, WI 53217.

Bnei mitzvah

Noah Jordan Arnold

Noah Jordan Arnold will have his bar mitzvah on Jan. 18, 2019.

He is a member of Congregation Shalom and a student at Whitefish Bay Middle School.

The proud parents are Kelly and Brent Arnold, Whitefish Bay. Noah's brother is Eli, 9.

Noah's grandparents are Janice and John Holz, Franklin; Marsha and Ray Miller, Bayside; and Ronald and Wendy Arnold, Glendale.

Birth

Harrison James Gordon

Harrison James Gordon was born Sept. 18, 2019.

The proud parents are Melissa and Charles "Andy" Gordon, Milwaukee. Brother August Henry is 2.

Grandparents Shelly and Fran Lamote live in Windom, Minnesota. Grandparents Bonnie and Paul Gordon live in Milwaukee.

Grant-grandmother Bonnie Thooft is in Tyler, Minnesota. Great-grandmother Doris Seiden is in Milwaukee.

The Hebrew name is Chaim Melech, in memory of Helen and Herman Levy, Andy's grandparents.

Anniversary Temple Menorah

Temple Menorah, Milwaukee, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

lawmakers form a government.

"It is not an issue of right or left," Mandelblit said. "It is not an issue of politics, it is required."

The attorney general called the lengthy process of investigation and leveling of charges "serious and responsible," and said the decision was made "only for legal considerations and based on evidence. No other consideration influenced me." He added that "at the end of the day, the decision was mine."

Netanyahu in his TV address said he has "given my life for my country." He echoed that this is "a very hard day."

He called the investigation "contaminated," and criticized the attorney general, saying that "To my sorrow, Mandelblit could not stand up to pressure from [state prosecutor] Shai Nitzan."

Netanyahu suggested that the timing of the announcement was suspicious, noting that it came on the "most sensitive time politically since the establishment of the state."

"I won't let them win, I will continue to lead the country," he said.

Following his address, Netanyahu tweeted "Investigate the investigators."●

Netanyahu from p5.....

After the charges were announced, the party tweeted a video of Netanyahu from 11 years ago calling on then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who was facing corruption allegations, to step down. Netanyahu's statement is nearly identical to the one issued by Blue and White.

Mandelblit in a televised statement about an hour after the charges were released said that "today is a hard and sad day." He said he made the decision to indict Netanyahu "with a heavy heart, but wholeheartedly."

His statement responded to accusations that he made the charges public in order to help



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Cecilia

Santa from p45



Sami Stein Avner, Santa Shapiro, Sophie Shapiro, Sharon Shapiro and Carli Shapiro.

Avner said.

But why? Santa's a symbol of Christmas, right? It's an awfully nice holiday, but it's not ours. So why show up for Christmas Eve?

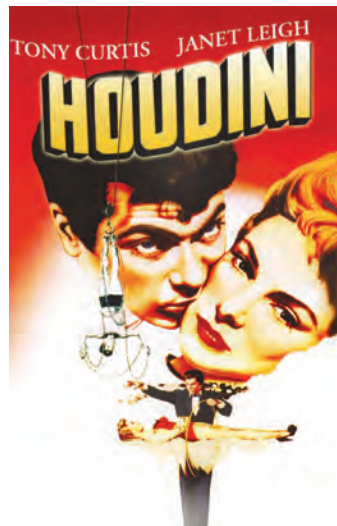
On this, both Mark and Avner are confident.

"We don't have to wait for just a Jewish holiday to go and give back to people," he said, citing the Jewish value of *tzedakah*, or charitable giving. It's "truly creating a just world," he said.

"It's an opportunity to step in," Avner said, noting that non-Jews may be less available to volunteer on Christmas Eve. "I think it's important for us to take up the responsibility on Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. I think bringing Santa in is an act of *chesed*."

She sees it as "an act of loving kindness, and not to our Jewish community but to our broader community." ●

Coming Events from p16



for something fun to do Christmas Day? Visit Jewish Museum Milwaukee to enjoy "Houdini," the 1953 biopic starring then husband-and-wife Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh as Harry and Bess Houdini. The film's storyline is a fictionalized account of Houdini's life. It details his beginnings as a locksmith, up through his international success as a world-renowned escape artist and stage magician. The museum will begin screening the film at 1 p.m. and should end before 3 p.m., giving you enough time to view permanent and special exhibits before or after the film. Regular museum admission applies. Members free. Offered in connection with Inescapable: The Life and Legacy of Harry Houdini, an exhibit on display at the museum through Jan. 5, 2020. Jewish Museum Milwaukee, a program of the Milwau-

kee Jewish Federation, is at 1360 N. Prospect Ave. 414-390-5730. JewishMuseumMilwaukee.org.

Thursday, Dec. 26

Drinks and Dreidels

Drinks and Dreidels to be held Dec. 26 from 6-9 p.m. Join Chabad's Young Jewish Professionals Milwaukee and Young Jewish Adults Milwaukee for Drinks and Dreidels: a premier Chanukah party for young adults. Open bar. Gourmet latke bar. Glam donut bar. Dreidel tournament. Gaming. Menorah lighting. Hangout MKE, 1819 N. Farwell Ave. \$12. Young Jewish Professionals of Milwaukee. 414-316-4643.

Sunday, Jan. 12

BBYO for 8th graders

All 8th graders are invited to join BBYO-Wisconsin Region, the teen youth group, for free for an afternoon at the new Whirly-Ball facility in Brookfield (buses from/to North Shore) for recruitment kickoff. Jan 12. Wisc@Bbyo.org or call 414 326 2808.

Saturday, Jan. 25

BBYO for new members

Interested in joining BBYO-Wisconsin Region teen youth group? Get on the Mystery Bus Tour Jan. 25, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Wisc@Bbyo.org or call 414-326-2808. ●

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THE WISCONSIN Jewishchronicle

D'VAR TORAH

All this fuss about some slow-burning oil?

Rabbi Hillel Brody
Special to the Chronicle

We all know the story. During the Second Temple era the Syrian-Greek army occupied the land of Israel, defiled the Temple, and outlawed much of the practice of Judaism. The Maccabees, a small ragtag band of Temple priests saw that to save our way of life they had no choice but to rise up in revolt.

In a miraculous turn of events, the clerics defeated the mightiest army in the world, driving them off and restoring Jewish religious freedom. In rededicating the Temple, the Jews lit the menorah, which was a daily part of the Temple service. Remarkably, the last of the pure oil, which should have only been enough to last one night, lasted for eight nights, until they could produce more oil. In commemoration of this, we light candles, have parties and eat doughnuts.

Seriously? All this fuss about some slow-burning oil?

Don't misunderstand, I believe in miracles. And I do believe that the aforementioned spontaneously non-combusting oil was indeed one. But is it so significant that we need to re-enact that miracle every year? Are there no more momentous miracles in this story for us to recall?

And, while I am spouting off in what might be construed as a distinctly unrabbinic fashion, let me ask this: Why, G-d? Why did You feel the need to have the lights burn extra long? Surely You don't perform miracles just because You can? I like to think that miracles are performed for an important purpose. Labor negotiations with Pharaoh at an impasse? Sure, let's have some plagues! Jews stuck between the Egyptians and the Red Sea? That's a perfect spot for a suspension of the laws

of nature. Boom. Miracle.

The Chanukah light revelation, however, appears to be rather gratuitous. What awful result would have happened if the oil which was enough to burn for one night

Rabbi Hillel Brody is director of community outreach at Yeshiva Elementary School.



Rabbi Hillel Brody

had burned for, say...one night? It seems doubtful that the Jews would have said, "No miracle!?! That's it, we're out!" Certainly, their reaction would have been something more along the lines of, "Hey, that was awesome! Great start! We're gonna do this again just as soon as we produce some more oil!"

So what's the big message? To answer this question, we have to understand a bit about what was going on before the Greeks showed up. Rabbi Yoel Sirkis (1561-1640) explains that at that point in history things hadn't been going so well from a Jewish point of view. Jewish commitment was waning. Temple attendance was down. In a recurrent theme in Jewish history, when the Jews are disconnected from G-d our enemies show up. So low was Jewish engagement that many Jews went along with the Greeks, who, unlike most of our other oppressors, were more than happy to accept those Jews who were willing to replace Judaism with Greek pagan philosophy.

The tiny minority of Jews who took action were, in essence, saying that G-d is worth fighting for. Maybe they hadn't been motivat-

ed earlier, but at this point they were ready to risk their very lives for the Jewish future. When it was all over, and the Jews had vanquished their persecutors, G-d wanted them to know that He was with them. He sent them a message through the extra light: When you rededicate yourself to Me, I notice. When you sacrifice to bring light to the world, you get to see more light.

Without question, our world today desperately needs more light. And we need to be the Maccabees. On Chanukah, there is a real potential for rededication in the air and we can re-experience the miraculous light of our history. Chanukah can be about so much more than candles, parties and doughnuts, if we just ask ourselves some questions: What am I doing to rededicate myself to G-d? How am I bringing more light to the world?

Answer that, and Chanukah becomes a turning point. Answer that, and our world will truly be a bright and beautiful place. ●

WHAT'S NU?

All invited to rabbi welcome dinner

All are invited to welcome Rabbi Pinchas Yehuda Levin – spiritual leader of Congregation Anshai Lebowitz – to the Milwaukee area and enjoy a communal celebration dinner (kashrut observed) on the last night of Chanukah, Sunday, Dec. 29, at 5 pm.

Event to take place at Congregation Anshai Lebowitz, 2415 W. Mequon Road, Mequon. The community is invited to light candles and enjoy music, fine food, libations, games of dreidel and lively conversation.

The event is free, though donations are graciously accepted. RSVP by Dec. 20 to 262-512-1195; leave a message if no answer. For more information, call Ruth Ann Guthmann, 262-777-0097 or Maggi Treager, 262-853-3897. ●



All are invited to welcome Rabbi Pinchas Levin to the community.

Congregation Shalom seeks tutors

Congregation Shalom is in need of volunteer tutors.

The synagogue partners with Our Next Generation to tutor inner city children at the shul.

Students arrive at Shalom between 4:20 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Thursday afternoons during the school year. The shul tutors them until about 5:15 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. Tutoring involves helping with their assigned homework, reading with them and various other activities. The students generally range in age from 3rd-6th grade.

Have a math phobia? No worries, the synagogue has volunteers who are available to assist

other tutors with math.

Generally, tutors are paired with the same student throughout the year, which allows relationships to develop. Many of the students are Muslim, and many of their parents were refugees from Somalia.

If you'd like to be part of this program contact Debbie Eder at Debbie@EderFamily.com or 414-699-9545, or contact Jen Gilbert at GilbertFam@me.com or 414-614-7064.

You can also arrange a time to watch the program in action, if you'd like to do that prior to committing. ●

CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

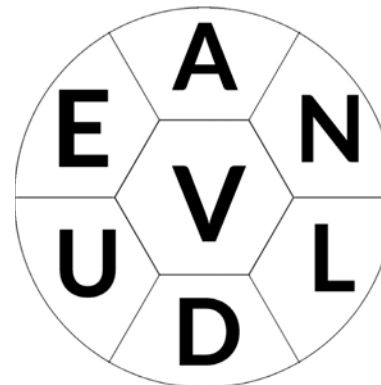
Nicolet study project



Fifth-year German and Hebrew students at Nicolet High School in April 1999 hold a discussion of their joint study project on the effect of events leading up to World War II and the Holocaust on contemporary German and Hebrew Literature.

PUZZLE

Yoni Glatt's JEWISH SPELLING BEE



How many common words of **5 or more** letters can you spell using the letters in the hive? Every answer must use the center letter at least once. Letters may be reused in a word. At least one word will use all 7 letters and have a direct Jewish connection.

Proper names and hyphenated words are not allowed. Score 1 point for each answer, and 3 points for a Jewish related word that uses all 7 letters.

RATING: 20 = Good • 25 = Excellent • 30 = Genius

Answers on page 52

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EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Marvel Comics: Suicide bombs are bad

Rob Golub

RobG@MilwaukeeJewish.org

As some of you know, I'm a huge comic book geek.

I don't read a lot of the modern superhero comics, yet I was interested in Marvel's ongoing relaunch of the X-Men titles.

The X-Men comics and movies are now owned by the same company — Disney — for the first time in a long time, so the X-Men comicbook relaunch may tell us something about where Disney could take future movies. Exciting, right? I was curious for a glimpse.

Thus, I picked up "X-Men #1," published in October, and sat down for a read.

Imagine my surprise when on page 3, the character Storm, who is usually known more for controlling the weather than for hot air, took a moment to whitewash the horror of suicide attacks.

"Suicide bombs and serving the greater good are always the last refuge of a conquered people," said Storm, while advising Cyclops to be wary of their foes.

Really?

Might Storm (or writer Jonathan Hickman) be talking about Israel, since some on the far left

seem to think Israel is a conqueror? Some irony here — given that suicide attacks are actually not always the refuge of a conquered people, we can narrow down who this statement may be aimed at.

The reality is that Iraq, Israel and the territories, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka together accounted for 90% of all suicide attacks between 1981 and 2006, according to a Yale University article. There have been other sources of suicide attacks throughout history, including World War II kamikaze pilots.

Maybe Storm is upset that America was out to conquer Japan?

Sarcasm aside, my point: Suicide attacks are not always the last refuge of a conquered people. They are an infrequently utilized tool and have most recently and infamously been turned to by some radical Muslims with political grievances.

Is it Marvel's message to the world that suicide attacks are justifiable? If suicide attacks are "always" the last refuge, does that make them ordinary and therefore OK? I mean, everybody does it, right?

This seems yet another example of the multiculturalism run amok that's taken root today.

I believe President Trump planted this particular acorn, though I don't think he's really to blame, at least not directly. Basically, the problem is that the president has driven the far left over the edge of reality.

The president's anti-Muslim rhetoric has so inflamed the far left that it now seems ready to accept anything that any Muslim does as OK. Suicide bombs? Yes, they've happened, admits the far left, but it adds that they Must Not Be A Muslim's Fault. That's Israel's fault, or society's fault, or a "conqueror's" fault, or so we're told.

And this creeps into our national media, including our entertainment.

We need a new framework. How about this? The God we all have in common has given us the wondrous gift of human judg-



ment. He did not give it to the rock or to the ant. He gave it to, to people. I personally believe that with that gift comes an implied expectation of use.

We need to be able to hold three ideas in our minds simultaneously: 1. Most Muslims are good people. 2. Hating all Muslims is bad. 3. There is no justification for a suicide bombing.

I think it's fair to expect this of all of us, and that includes even my beloved Marvel Comics. ●

Rob Golub is editor of the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle.

LETTER**To the editor:**

Chanukah is not far off, but the history of Chanukah looks a lot like the current situation. During Chanukah, about 2,200 years ago, a large segment of the Jewish population of Judah favored the progressive Greek culture, i.e., Hellenism, over the Jewish culture. Many Jews rejected Judaism and the Holy Temple of Jerusalem. The Greeks attempted to conquer Judah but they were rejected by the Macabees. However, the Macabees lasted for less than 40

years as the Hellenist Jews asked the Greeks to return, which they did and retook Judah. The Jews changed their names to Greek names such that the kings of Judah all had Greek names, e.g., Aristobulus. About a century later Greece was defeated by Rome and Rome took control of Judah. Eventually, Rome destroyed Judah, expelled Jews which lasted for 2,000 years, and changed the name of Judah to Syria Palaestina.

When one looks at Jewish culture today, one sees many similarities to Chanukah. In the Unit-

ed States 75% of Jews voted for a president who gave Israel's number one enemy, Iran, access to \$150 billion and guaranteed they would get the nuclear bomb within 10 years. Obama also failed to veto U.N. Resolution 2334 that made it illegal for Jews to be in Judah. This act was considered the most antisemitic act in 2016 by the Wiesenthal Institute. In Israel the left-wing party, Blue and White, is very anti-Judaism and has accepted support from the anti-Zionist Arab parties. The right-wing party, Likud, lost support

when a large block exited because they rejected Likud's support of Judaism.

So today, like 2,200 years ago, the security of the Jewish state is being jeopardized by a large segment of the Jewish population choosing a progressive culture over the culture of Judaism. It looks like we are in the midst of Chanukah II. I only hope and pray the result will not be the same. ●

*Ivan M. Lang
Jupiter, Florida (former resident of Glendale)*

COMMENTARY

Jewish leaders denounce anti-Israel United Nations resolutions

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, issued the following statement:

We are dismayed by the UN's continued and blatant bias against Israel as evidenced by the submission last week of more than a dozen resolutions concerning the Jewish State, eight of which were passed. These resolutions are antithetical to the UN's purpose as an international body meant to treat all nations equally.

Included in the eight that were passed was a resolution creating a committee to investigate alleged human rights abuses by Israel, as well as a resolution critical of Israel's presence in the Golan Heights.

No other country in the international community is subject to this kind of treatment by the UN, and the continuation of Israel being singled out for censure does not bode well for hopes of reform.

In particular, we oppose the resolution renewing the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which has been under investigation in recent months since an internal UN report found evidence of corruption and mismanagement. The UNRWA Commissioner General Pierre Krähenbühl resigned in disgrace just last week due to these allegations, yet the agency's mandate has been renewed without change despite it being embroiled in scandal. There are also many problems regarding UNRWA beyond the report, including the biased textbooks used

in their schools, that should be addressed before coming to a blanket renewal.

Jewish leaders urge international community to stand with Iranian people

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, issued the following statement:

We stand in solidarity with the Iranian people as they protest the repressive regime that has controlled the country since 1979. The widespread and ongoing protests are not limited to any class or region of the country and send a clear message: Iranians have had enough.

The people of Iran, a proud nation with a rich heritage, do not

share the desire for regional hegemony that is relentlessly pursued by the Ayatollahs, and they do not want to continue living in a pariah state that seeks nuclear weapons at all costs. They do not echo the calls for death to Israel and death to America; what these protestors are shouting is death to the dictator, death to Khamenei, and death to Rouhani.

In a vicious crackdown against these unprecedented protests in over 100 cities, the extremist regime has slaughtered more than 300 of its citizens and blocked internet access. The international community must stand with the Iranian people and forcefully condemn these brutal attempts to stifle dissent. The UN Security Council must act against these outrageous assaults. ●

COMMENTARY

Opinion: Do you see what I see?

The spike in antisemitic incidents began when Trump took office

Lloyd Levin

Special to the Chronicle

This is the season of the year when we all hear holiday songs and one of the most recognized has lyrics that include “Do you see what I see . . . Do you hear what I hear?”

I have been thinking about those questions in relation to our Jewish community and President Trump. This president took office with the proclamation that groups of people from certain places were “not welcome” in America. He also said that an Indiana-born judge of Hispanic heritage has no

right to be sitting on the bench in this country.

When people are labeled as “the other,” we Jews know very well what that means; we have experienced it for millennia. It is precisely how the Holocaust began – defining us as “the other.” And, when families are separated – one line to the right and another to the left and forced into detention facilities (as what has happened on our southern border), how can we not recall the “selections” that took place in the 1940s?

Were we listening to Trump’s comments on the Charlottesville

riot on Aug. 12, 2017? “There are good people on both sides!” He believes that there are white supremacists that are “good people!” The spike in antisemitic incidents began when Trump took office.

I have friends who say “But, he has been the best president ever for Israel.” The extraordinary relationship between the U.S. Congress and military and Israel wasn’t forged by Trump and will thankfully outlive his presidency. The absolutely worst thing that could confront Israel in today’s world is for its most import-



Lloyd Levin

ant ally to be disrespected and mistrusted.

Do you hear what I hear – do you see what I see? When lies become truth and truth becomes lies, we Jews need to be worried; we need to raise an alarm – not just for our own community, but for all Americans! ●

Lloyd Levin of Shorewood is a past officer of Milwaukee Jewish Federation, past president of the Milwaukee Board of Jewish Education and founder of Secure Futures, a not-for-profit financial literacy program.

Point/Counterpoint

TRUMP

Opinion: Donald Trump, philo-Semite

Our president has an interest in and a respect for the Jewish people

Jim Beer

Special to the Chronicle

In August, Israel banned entry into the country by anti-Semitic BDS-supporting Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar. Among the media, Democrat politicians, and leftist organizations opposing the decision were Jewish individuals and entities, including, sadly, but not surprisingly, the Milwaukee Jewish Community Relations Council.

The president of the United States, who supported the Israeli ban, took notice of this, saying, “Where has the Democratic Party gone? Where have they gone where they’re defending these two people over the state of Israel? And I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat — I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty, alright?”

In reaction to this statement, the president was roundly accused of employing an “antisemitic trope,” by accusing Jews of dual loyalty. Any unbiased observ-

er would know that Trump had done no such thing – that the historical accusation of “dual loyalty” against Jews blamed them of favoring Israel at the expense of the U.S., while Trump was referring to bias against Israel. He was merely stating the obvious – that any Jew who opposed Israel’s banning of the congresswomen was clearly taking the side of two opponents of Israel who would use their visit to undermine the Jewish state.

The president’s observations about the growing lack of support for Israel among American Jews merely reflects what they are reporting about themselves. A Pew Research Center survey earlier this year reported that 42% of American Jews said that President Trump favors Israel too much, compared with 26% of Christians. What’s wrong with this picture!? His observations about the lack of Democratic support for Israel is likewise on target. A 2018 Pew survey found that almost twice as many liberal Democrats support

the Palestinians as support Israel (35% vs. 19%). All Democrats tied (27% Israel to 25% Palestinians). (In comparison, 79% of all Republicans support Israel, only 6% support the Palestinians). And yet, these are the very same people who call President Trump an antisemite.

This ironic smearing of the president as an antisemite was consistent with that which the left has employed at least since he was inaugurated. Trump was barely in office when he was being blamed for inciting the rash of bomb threats being phoned into Jewish community centers across the country. We know now that these phone calls were made by two individuals, an Israeli Jew who is mentally disturbed and a leftist American. Then came Charlottesville, with the president being falsely accused of declaring that there were “very fine people” among the white supremacists and neo-Nazis, when anyone who takes the time to watch the video or read the transcript of these remarks will see that he was referring to people both supporting and opposing the taking down of Confederate statues, and that he was “not talking about the neo-Nazis and the white nationalists.”

Even more to the point is that if Trump is an antisemite or a white supremacist, he’s certainly doing a bad job of it. He has a Jewish daughter and Jewish grandchildren who he appears to love. He has long employed Jews in prom-

inent positions in his businesses and now in government. And no president in history has been such a staunch supporter of the Jewish state — not even close. The facts are that President Trump:

- even before he was inaugurated, attempted to get the infamous and outrageous anti-Israel U.N. resolution, that the outgoing Obama administration pointedly failed to oppose;
- publicly recognized reality — that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel;
- moved the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, unlike his predecessors, who promised during their campaigns to do so but abandoned this commitment after being elected;
- defunded the corrupt, terrorist-supporting United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which has colluded with the Arab states and the PLO to keep so-called “refugees” in misery for decades as a weapon to exploit against Israel;
- has cut hundreds of millions of dollars of aid to the Palestinian Authority in response to its intransigence;
- withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal that would eventually pave the way for Iran, which has sworn to eliminate Israel, to develop nuclear weapons;
- recognized Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights, which is vital



Jim Beer

to its security;

- repudiated the 1978 State Department legal opinion that held Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria are ‘inconsistent with international law.’

In taking these actions, President Trump has refused to play along with the decades of international appeasement of Muslim/Arab/leftist antisemitism. Perhaps he understands that the only difference between the Nazis and the Jewish people’s present-day-enemies is . . . Israel. That is, we now have a Jewish state with the might to defend itself against those who would annihilate it. Not only is the accusation that he is an antisemite an ugly lie, the facts argue rather that he is a philo-Semite – a lover of the Jewish people. He deserves our gratitude. ●

Jim Beer is a resident of Fox Point.

You decide: On the Jewish Community Relations Council

Our opinion writer states that the local Jewish Community Relations Council opposed barring two congresswomen from entering Israel.

The JCRC expressed its position at the time by saying it “stands with” the Jewish Federations of North America, which said it “believes that every member of Congress, without exception, should be allowed to visit Israel, irrespective of whether we agree with their point of view. The relationship between Israel and the U.S. Congress is longstanding and unique, and has served as the bulwark of America’s bi-partisan support for Israel for decades.”

Several Jewish organizations, including the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), issued similar statements.

TO SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, EVENTS, LIFE CYCLE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MORE, VISIT:

Jewishchronicle.org

IN PICTURES

A survivor's story



On Nov. 17, Joyce Garbaciak of WISN interviewed Holocaust survivor Werner Richheimer at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee. The Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center, a program of Milwaukee Jewish Federation, was a sponsor of the event.

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Puzzle Solution from p49.....

Jewish Answer:
UNLEAVENED.

Here is a list of some common words:

AVENUE, DAVEN, DAVENED, DELVE, DELVED, DEVALUE, DEVALUED, ELEVEN, EVADE, EVADED, EVENED, LEAVE, LEAVEN, LEAVENED, LEVEE, LEVEL, LEVELLED, LULAV, NAVAL, NAVEL, UNEVEN, UNLEVEL, UNLEVELLED, UNVALUE, UNVALUED, UVULA, VALUE, VALUED, VALVE, VANDAL, VENDED, VENUE

Questions/comments/compliments: email Chronicle@MilwaukeeJewish.org



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The course will focus on four areas of Judaism ■ Spirituality and a Jewish understanding of God in a Jewish context ■ Ethics (Torah): Exploring what God wants of us, looking at ancient and modern sources that show Jewish teachings on living an ethical life ■ Community and Israel: How Jews relate and respond to each other, and the connection with a Jewish community and with Israel ■ A Jewish home: What does it mean to have a Jewish home, and what are customs and laws that might be followed?

The fee for non-CEEW members is \$45 and for CEEW members \$25, due at registration, for all four classes to cover the cost of materials and refreshments.

RSVP by Jan. 2: Cantor Deborah Martin spiritualleader@waukeshatemple.org.

CHAI LIGHTS



Jaylyn Fahey is the editorial intern for the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle. Here, she takes notes to get the story for the Chronicle in October 2019. Fahey is a University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee student who is a member of Hillel Milwaukee. Photo by Rob Golub.



BBYO-Wisconsin Region partners with Friendship Circle, with BBYO teens volunteering at several events throughout the school year. This is a picture of the Friendship Circle committee, who met with Friendship Circle staff at their new headquarters, got a tour of the space, and discussed how BBYO can be an asset to Friendship Circle throughout the school year.



The Milwaukee Jewish Federation's Economic Forum 2019 was held at The Pfister Hotel on Oct. 29, 2019. Photos by Troy Freund.

Below, in alphabetical order, attendees at the Milwaukee Jewish Federation 2019 Economic Forum included Ilissa Boland, Flo Carneol, Marina Chester, Idy Goodman, Becca Guralnick, Dana Margolis, Susan Angel Miller, Lauri Roth, JoAnn Strickon and Michelle Wales.



CHAI LIGHTS



Jeanette Peckerman, Betty Chrustowski and Marilyn Pelz attended the Lion of Judah and Pomegranate Society Luncheon on Oct. 31, 2019. Photo by Troy Freund.



The Lion of Judah and Pomegranate Society Luncheon was held Oct. 31, 2019. Photo by Troy Freund.



Rabbi Jay Brickman attended Immigration day with L'Chaim Chaverut Clubhouse on Nov. 6, 2019. Submitted photo.

The Chronicle welcomes submitted photos for Chai Lights and online.

Please send photos, names, information about what's happening and who shot the photos to Chronicle@MilwaukeeJewish.org.

THE WISCONSIN Jewish chronicle



Sam on the left and Ari on the right are studying Hebrew in Chevruta (study partners) at Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun in River Hills.



Ashtyn at Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun in River Hills uses sign language for Hebrew that Jen Saber teaches. Here Ashtyn is in the middle of signing the blessing for studying Torah.

CHAI LIGHTS



Greg Marcus, Susan Solvang and Lauri Roth attended the Oct. 2, 2019 Major Donor Dinner of Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Photo by Troy Freund.



Stan Jolton and Rosalie Gellman attended the Oct. 2, 2019 Major Donor Dinner of Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Photo by Troy Freund.



Brian Eglash and Moshe Katz attended the Oct. 2, 2019 Major Donor Dinner of Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Photo by Troy Freund.



Ann Meyers, co-president of Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha, helped hold the unrolled Torah during CEEW's Simchat Torah celebration on Oct. 20. Photo by Marsha Fensin.



Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Dallet stands between Elaine Goldberg, left, and Cindy Levy after Dallet spoke at Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha on Oct. 22. She said it's tougher for women than for men to rise in the legal profession, but said being Jewish had not hindered her career. Photo by Marsha Fensin.



A plethora of books. Alice Lambie, left, and Ellyn Lem volunteered at the Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha table at the Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books held Nov. 1-2 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at Waukesha. Photo by Simon Bronner.



Charles H. Goodman, LFD

Blane M. Goodman, LFD

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