



Shalom06|18

The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community published by the *Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks*

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FUN theme of Annual Meeting and Picnic

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Fifteen minutes of meeting, hours of fun! Join us on Sunday, June 3, for the Jewish Federation of Reading's annual meeting and picnic! A very short business meeting will begin at noon at the Wyomissing Hills Park followed immediately by a kosher picnic meal.

Cool off with Rita's Italian Ice and then stay for games, swimming and special Israeli drumming at 2 p.m. This unique musical treat will be fun for all ages!

All activities are FREE and will take place at Wyomissing Hills Park, 53 Valley Road in Wyomissing. Free parking is available at the Wyomissing Hills Pool or

on the street by the park. Handicapped parking is also available.

If you haven't had a chance to RSVP yet, please do so by contacting Brenda at the Federation office, 610-921-0624 or info@jfreeding.org

We hope community members of all ages will join us for this fun afternoon!

Israel celebrated at community event

By Amanda J. Hornberger

More than 100 community members gathered to celebrate Israel's 70th birthday at Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel 70 Celebration at RCOS on Sunday, April 22.

A highlight was the musical entertainment of Pella, a group of seven male singers from New York. Pella worked the room singing to each table before gathering everyone together for singing and dancing.

Children learned about Israel at seven activity stations sponsored by PJ Library. Each station represented a different location in Israel, including our own Western Wall with an opportunity to insert prayers.

Highlights for the kids included sand art in the Negev Desert and marshmallow toothpick creations at Technion in Haifa.



Sand art in the Negev Desert..



Engineering with marshmallows, left, and getting into the swing of things with the musical group Pella..

Volunteers make difference in community

By **Richard Nassau**
Development Director

Contributions to our Jewish community go beyond dollars. We are fortunate to have talented, caring people that give of their time. Very little would be accomplished without the many volunteers



that make it possible. It is because of our volunteers that our Jewish community can offer all the programs, events, and services that it does.

You're holding a newspaper that has been refreshed and updated because of volunteers. They used their skills, abilities, talents, wisdom, and experience to make sure this newspaper remained meaningful to you.

We value volunteers. We know people volunteer for many reasons. They may be interested in learning new things or supporting an organization in a new way.

Volunteering allows people to start new or enhance current community connections. They are also able to integrate their actions with their charitable giving.

Studies have shown volunteering is helpful for people undergoing a life transition. It is a way for them to stay connected to their communities. It helps reduce stress through what may be a difficult time. It also provides a new sense of purpose and involvement.

Volunteering may help with life transitions, but it is not the reason people volunteer. The number one factor for volunteering is to make a contribution to the community. This is followed closely by people wanting to use their skills and experience to give back. Number three is because they were personally affected by the cause or organization.

For us here at Federation, JCC and JFS, we want every one of our volunteers to know that the benefit extends both-ways. Our volunteers increase the quality of our services and our programs. Volunteers

are a source of community values, culture, and history. They can be role models for a younger generation. Their specialized skills go far beyond what we as a staff can accomplish. We know first-hand how their personal talents, experience, and education make a real difference in our community.

We invite you to become a volunteer and are always open to exploring new ways for people to do so. It may be as a family or for a specific time period or toward a defined, structured outcome. Volunteering is not just setting up the chairs in the social hall.

As Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "Whatever community organization, whether it's a women's organization, or fighting for racial justice ... you will get satisfaction out of doing something to give back to the community that you never get in any other way."

Thank you to all our volunteers!! We appreciate all you do.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me 610 921 0624 or RichardN@JFREading.org.

Fall during bike ride leads to inspiring experience

By **Rabbi Yosef Lipsker**

When disaster strikes, we freeze, flee or fight. On Sunday, April 29, I had the chance to see all three.

My brother-in-law Rabbi Uriel Vigler runs an organization called Belev Echad, which is dedicated to giving wounded IDF soldiers the support they need. This can come in the form of legal or medical advocacy, educational scholarships, and even career placements. Sunday's event, however, was all about recreation.

Having sponsored an all-expense paid trip to New York for 10 soldiers, Belev Echad arranged a bike ride — aptly named BIKE4BELEVECHAD — to raise funds and awareness for the organization in order to continue serving the IDF veterans. The 75-mile bike ride took place throughout different parts of Manhattan and was led by 10 wounded soldiers.

I participated in the bike ride and enjoyed the fresh air, exercise, and camaraderie. However, at the 47th mile, a rider suddenly pulled up short in front of me, and I was caught without warning. In order to prevent a certain collision, I swerved to avoid him, but my bike lost balance along the gravel, and I was bundled hard into the road.

The three reactions to disaster occurred at the same moment.

Some riders froze, unable to move or respond to my injury, which turned out to be a particularly deep gash. Others kept riding before realizing what had happened.

It was the reaction of the soldiers that was truly remarkable. They reacted with the 'fight', and within moments, they leapt off their bikes, examined my wound, bandaged



Rabbi Lipsker with the men who came to his rescue during a charity bike ride.

me up, handed me water and held my arm steady. Their immense training came to the fore, and they responded to my fall with certainty and conviction.

It's true that it wasn't a disaster, so to speak. But a wound is a wound, and the soldiers felt personally responsible to help, even though they had had no part in causing the harm.

While I lay in their care, a thought struck me. I had participated in this bike ride in order to raise awareness for them. But here I was, a deep cut in my arm, surrounded

by IDF soldiers with thoughts only of how to assist me.

The actions of the soldiers exemplified the Jewish values of unity and fraternity, where everyone helps each other, and no one is left behind. I had never met any of them before, but their ahavas yisrael (Love for one another) was unparalleled.

Thank G-d, I'm fine now, but the experience really highlighted to me the importance of helping one another altruistically, and how this is what will strengthen us all as one nation, with one heart.

Development

Annual Campaign

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Maimonides Society

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Chai Circle

L'Chaim Society

Book of Life

Letter of Intent

2018 totals
as of May 18

Jewish Community
Campaign
\$200,319

*Includes transfers from Donor
Advised Funds

Afternoon Study Session at the JCC
"The Book of Judith
in Text, Tradition, and Art "
Thursday, June 28, 2 p.m.

Jennifer Koosed, Professor of Religious Studies at Albright College, will discuss the book she is writing with her husband, Robert Seesengood, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Albright. Although the Book of Judith is not in the Bible (except for Catholics), the story about the beautiful and pious widow who cuts off the head of the enemy general has fascinated readers for two millennia. Professor Koosed will guide us through Judith's story and examine some of the most important works of art that depict her daring deeds.

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From the President's Desk

Hamas deserves blame for casualties at Gaza border

By William D. Franklin
President

Friends and family are asking me why Israel has not developed innovative strategies to minimize casualties while protecting the Gaza border in this latest round of violence. For



more than eight weeks, rioters have demonstrated and attacked the fence as cover for terrorists' attempts to breach and infiltrate Israeli border towns. Hamas posted on Facebook, maps for their operatives showing the quickest routes from the border to Israelis' homes, schools, and day-care centers. This is the latest Hamas tactic to destroy Israel.

A recent *Washington Post* editorial reprinted in the *Reading Eagle* (May 17), titled "Israel should work to mitigate casualties as it protects border," correctly describes Hamas' new strategy but incorrectly holds Israel responsible for the deaths.

To give context, on May 14 Hamas leader Ismail Haniya called a public

strike, shut down the schools and opened prisons coercing workers, students and prisoners to attack the fence. He spurred on the rioters saying -- "We will tear their fence down just as we will tear out the hearts of the Zionists." Hamas provided free transportation from all over Gaza to the border for civilians, including women and children, and hired them as extras, paying \$14 a person or \$100 a family for participation. They were paid \$500 if they managed to get injured. Hamas forced its commanders and operatives to go to the border dressed as civilians, each serving as director of an area. Hamas also gave anyone with a video camera front-row access to the show and provided free Wi-Fi. In addition to the wire cutters, slingshots, knives and in some case firearms, what hasn't been widely reported is that at three locations on May 14, terrorists, disguised as rioters, used AK-47's, Molotov cocktails and tried to plant IED's to tear open the fence. Even Hamas reported that most of those killed on May 14 were active Hamas operatives. This wasn't a protest, it was an act of war.

Israel understands Gazans' right to express frustration and rage, but Israel

is not the primary cause of their misery. Hamas has misused hundreds of millions of dollars of international aid to build tunnels, acquire and build rockets, buy guns, and pay their military wing instead of building schools, hospitals, infrastructure and creating jobs. Recently Hamas refused to allow two trucks from Israel carrying much needed medical supplies for Gazans to transfer their goods at the border and set on fire the Kerem Shalom crossing, destroying the main passage of diesel and other fuels into Gaza.

The above does not explain what the Israel defense Force (IDF) has done to minimize casualties. For the past six weeks, the IDF used social media, mass media, leaflets and loudspeakers saying, in Arabic, "You can demonstrate all you want in Gaza but do not approach the fence or try to tear it down -- if you do you will be hurt." In addition, they first used smoke, tear gas, water cannons, and nontoxic foul-smelling fluids, unfortunately with limited success, before resorting to live ammunition.

The question remains, why has the IDF not developed new tactics to neutralize

this new Hamas tactic. Hamas' first tactic was sending in terrorist bombers. This has been contained by the fence on the Gaza border and surveillance. When that was neutralized, Hamas resorted to firing about 10,000 missiles at Israeli civilians. It took some time, but the development of the Iron Dome stymied that approach. Subsequently, Hamas dug tunnels to get infiltrators into Israel. The development of world leading technology again took time, but has given Israel the ability to locate and destroy Hamas tunnels. Thirty-two have been demolished in the last year. Israeli intelligence and technology have contained each of these new threats, but it takes ingenuity, intense focus and does not happen overnight.

The massing of people to riot at the border and attack the fence is Hamas' newest tactic. The IDF is reviewing its defensive procedures and continuously works to develop new responses to minimize the damage of new challenges. However, the mission of the men and women in the IDF is to protect Israeli citizens and Israeli sovereignty. And they would rather defend their actions to the world than fail in that mission.

Hamas turns away truckloads of Israeli humanitarian aid

Hospitals in the Gaza Strip were reported to have struggled to treat Palestinians wounded in clashes with Israeli troops on the Israel-Gaza border, according to the *Jerusalem Post*.

The newspaper reported that Hamas turned away two large truckloads of Israeli humanitarian aid intended to relieve medical shortages in the Gaza Strip following clashes at the Israel-Gaza border in mid-May.

The Israel Defense Forces said it coordinated the transfer of eight truckloads of vital medical equipment through the Kerem Shalom crossing

due to severe humanitarian conditions in the Hamas-controlled enclave, with hospitals struggling to treat Palestinians wounded during the turmoil in mid-May.

Hamas accepted four trucks of aid supplied by the Palestinian Authority and two trucks supplied by UNICEF. But two truckloads of medical aid provided by the IDF were turned away when the origin of the equipment became apparent.

In addition to 53 tons of medical equipment set to be transported into Gaza via the crossing following the border clashes, the increased Israeli aid included more than 14,000 units of

intravenous infusions, 40 medical basins, 20 medical examination couches, 25 infusion stands, 85,000 disinfectant pads and 12,500 bandages. The transfer was facilitated by the IDF in coordination with the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, or COGAT, and the Gaza District Coordination and Liaison office.

The *Post* reported that Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman approved the reopening of the crossing three days after Palestinian protesters set it ablaze for a second time in two weeks, causing damage worth \$8.3 million to the crossing's infrastructure.

The Hamas-run Health Ministry reported that 64 Palestinians were killed and hundreds wounded over the two days of clashes May 14 and 15.

A joint investigation by the IDF and the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) concluded that at least 24 of the Palestinians killed during the May 14 clashes were members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Fifty of the casualties were Hamas members, senior Hamas

official Salah Al-Bardawil said in an Arabic-language television interview circulated widely on social media.

The director of Gaza's Shifa Hospital's emergency department, Ayman Al-Sahabani, told Reuters that medical supplies were running out.

"We are talking about 25 times the capacity of the emergency department, with all the big challenges and the shortage of medicine and medical supplies that has reached critical levels," he said. "... A lot of these patients are waiting their turn to enter the operating rooms."

Increased efforts should be made to improve conditions in the Gaza Strip, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov said at a UN Security Council meeting on May 15. "The United Nations, together with international partners, will need to focus and redouble efforts to implement projects that will have an immediate impact on improving the electricity, water and health situation as a matter of urgency," he said.

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**Contact Haia Mazuz to register:
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Event limited to 40 guests

Shalom

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The opinions expressed in *Shalom* are of the writers and not the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks



Our 2018 graduates



Anna Balchunas, daughter of Cynthia & George Balchunas, is graduating with honors from New York University, with a major in psychology and a minor in linguistics. During her time at NYU she worked at several nonprofit organizations, including Doctors Without Borders, Human Rights Watch and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. She's been elected to NYU's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.



Marj Berman, daughter of Sharon & Ron Berman, graduated from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in May. She will have a Master of Public Health in the field of Population and Family Health, with a certificate in Health Promotion. After graduation she plans to stay in New York City and work developing health education campaigns.



Matthew Driben, son of Lynn & Jeff Driben, is graduating from Wyomissing High School. He will attend Brandeis University in the fall and run on their cross country and track teams. In high school, Matthew's passions have been competing for the Quiz Bowl team, editing the school newspaper, playing piano, and his part-time job walking dogs.



Leah Egolf, daughter of Susan & Scott Egolf, is graduating from Fairview High School, Boulder, Colo. Formerly of Exeter Township, Leah figure skates and earned a bronze medal at the 2017 Southwestern Nine States Championships. She plays violin and piano. She is a board member of Boulder Temple Youth. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison in the fall.



Hannah Rachel Glassmire, daughter of Galen & Melissa Glassmire, is graduating from Schuylkill Valley High School. She was part of the swim team, PYEA and Leo Club. She plans to attend Jefferson University to pursue Pre-Med Studies.



Abby Goldberg, daughter of Debbie & David Goldberg, is graduating from Wyomissing High School. She plans to attend Brown University, where she will study Applied Mathematics and Psychology. Abby is a high honors student and a National Merit Finalist. She is the Student Director of the Wyomissing Drama Club and plays the violin in the school orchestra. Abby co-taught Tech Tuesday at the JCC.



Sophia Goldman, granddaughter of Lila Shapiro, is graduating Magna Cum Laude from West Chester University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. She will be attending Drexel University in September to pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.



Tristan Haas, son of Jill & Michael Haas, graduated from Lancaster Country Day School. He will attend Dickinson College. Tristan has played ice hockey for 10 years. He was a crew member for eight school shows and had a principal acting role in the 2017 production of "Almost Maine." He took part in a summer academic exchange at Bishops Diocesan College in Cape Town, South Africa.



Kacie Horowitz, daughter of Elyse & Jeff Horowitz, is graduating from Gov. Mifflin High School. She will be attending Monmouth University in Long Branch, N.J., in the fall. In high school she was active in Miffling's Spring Swing, student government and school musicals. She was a member of NFTY-PAR for four years and vice president of RAFTY as a senior.



Erica A. Kauffman, daughter of Jody & David Kauffman of Basking Ridge, N.J., and granddaughter of Robert & Shirley Kauffman of Wyomissing, is graduating from Rutgers University with a Master of Education. She is certified as a New Jersey substitute teacher and will receive her teaching certification following graduation. Erica is a 2016 graduate of Ithaca College.



Jessica McIntosh, daughter of Dwight & Mindy McIntosh, is graduating from Antietam High School. She is a member of National Honor Society and ARTietam. Jessica played tennis for four years and is a six-year veteran working on crew for school musicals. She is a member of Liberty Region BBYO and has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. Jessica plans to attend Reading Area Community College and major in criminal justice.



Brandon Missan, son of Anne Missan and Paul Missan, will be graduating with high honors from Wilson High School. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.



Audra Nemirow, daughter of Mark & Geri Nemirow, is graduating from Exeter High School. She is a member of National Honor Society, a regular writer for the *Reading Eagle's Voices* and a senior company member at Berks Ballet Theatre. She will attend Hofstra University in the fall.



Cary Politzer, son of Frank Politzer and Kathryn Hayter, graduated from Duke University School of Medicine and will receive training in Orthopedic Surgery at the University of California, San Diego in July. He is a 2009 graduate of Wyomissing High School and a 2013 graduate of Duke.



Dana Rosenzweig, daughter of Barbara & Seth Rosenzweig of Wyomissing, graduated with an MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She will be working as a management consultant for McKinsey and Co. in Washington, D.C.



Isaac Singer, son of Julie (Hyman) & Fred Singer, graduated in May from Conestoga High School in Berwyn, PA. Isaac will be attending New York University in September, studying computer science.

Our 2018 graduates



Chase Mitchell Weizer, son of Jeffrey & Ilene Weizer, is graduating from Blue Mountain High School, Orwigsburg. He will be going to Dickenson College and studying microbiology and genetics.



Brian Wernick, son of Andy & Corinne Wernick and grandson of Esther & Sid Bratt, completed his surgical residency at St.Luke's hospital in Bethlehem. He will continue with his training at Northwestern Memorial Hospital as a fellow in Vascular Surgery.



Jamie Zamrin, daughter of Michael & Sharon Zamrin, is graduating from Cocalico High School in Denver. She will attend Lehigh University, where she plans to major in International Studies. Jamie will also be on the Cross Country and Track teams.

B'nai Mitzvot 5778



Sam Edward Lloyd Brown, son of Lisa & Robert Brown, became a Bar Mitzvah Nov. 11 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. A reception was held at the Reading Country Club. Sam is an eighth-grader at Exeter Junior High School. He enjoys math and science and plays goalkeeper on the junior high and Exeter United soccer teams.



Joshua Van Cole, son of Bruce & Piyali Cole, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah Sept. 1 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. He is a seventh-grader at Wyomissing Junior High School. His interests include walking his dog CJ, swimming, traveling, camping, playing chess, gaming and hanging out in his man-cave with his turtle Fred. He is a Scout and swims for the Reading YMCA.



Troy Fidler, son of Michael & Sonja Fidler and grandson of Irving & Diane Fidler, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah May 19 at Keshet Zion Synagogue. Troy attends Antietam High School. He studied karate and was awarded his Black Belt. He loves to hike Mount Penn and Neversink Mountain.



Sophia Horowitz, daughter of Elyse & Jeff Horowitz, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on Oct. 28 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. It was a wonderful night shared with family and friends. She is completing seventh grade at Gov. Mifflin Middle School.



Ruby Nemeroff, daughter of Lisa & Jeff Nemeroff, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah April 28 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. She is a seventh-grader at Lancaster Country Day School. Ruby loves art, music, movies, Taekwondo and the outdoors. She plays piano and guitar.



Benjamin Primack, son of Pam Charendoff and Jonathan Primack, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on May 12 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Ben is a seventh grader at Wyomissing Junior-Senior High School, where he is an honor student and all-season athlete. He represents Wyomissing Junior High in baseball, basketball and cross-country running.



Talia Marielle Rotenberg, daughter of Stephanie Rotenberg & David Rotenberg and granddaughter of Dr. Larry and Alison Rotenberg, is celebrating her bat mitzvah June 9 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. She is a seventh-grader at Wilson West Middle School. Talia's interests are singing, yoga, dancing and being involved with her school musical.



Aspen Taylor Weizer, daughter of Jeff & Ilene Weizer, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on April 21 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Her brother Bryce Weizer acted as cantor alongside Rabbi Michelson. She is a seventh-grader at Blue Mountain Middle School and studies Chinese, dance and piano along with her full course of schoolwork.

See the new musical nominated for 11 Tony Awards on JCC bus trip

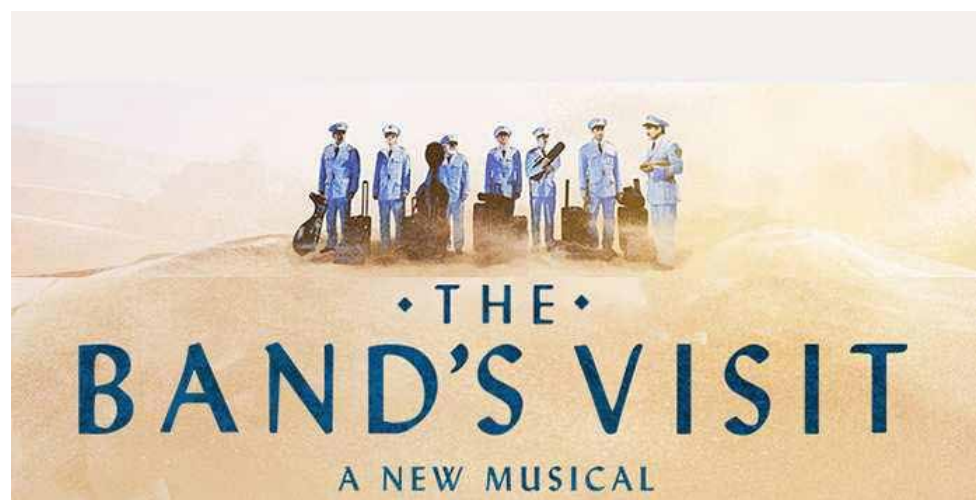
By Amanda J. Hornberger

Join us Aug. 22 for a JCC bus trip to New York City to see the new musical "The Band's Visit". Based on a 2007 Israeli film, "The Band's Visit" is one of the best-reviewed new musicals of the year!

In the musical, a mix-up sends a group of Egyptian musicians to a remote Israeli town. When the locals take them in for the night, their lives intertwine in the most unexpected ways. Fate brought them to town. Their music brought it to life. Our private bus will depart the

JCC at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 22 and go directly to the Barrymore Theatre. The show is 90 minutes without an intermission. After the show enjoy some free time in New York before returning by bus to the JCC.

The price is \$100 for JCC members and \$115 for non-members. Pricing includes your theatre ticket, round-trip bus transportation and bus driver gratuity. Seating is limited to the first 25 people so RSVP today! Please RSVP to info@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624 by June 30.



Join us for Israeli summer Movie Mondays

By **Amanda J. Hornberger**

In honor of Israel's 70th birthday our summer Movie Mondays will all be Israeli films or about Israel. Join us on the second Monday of the month for our JCC Movie Mondays at 2 p.m. at the JCC. Free popcorn provided!

Here's a list of our Summer Movie Mondays:

June 11 at 2 p.m.: "The Band's Visit"

In this 2007 film, an Egyptian band gets stranded in a nowhere Israeli desert town.

What unfolds is a warm and delightful take on cross-cultural relations. Come see the film that inspired the Broadway musical!

July 9 at 2 p.m.: "In Search of Israeli Cuisine"

One of the community's favorite films from the 2017 Reading Jewish Film Series, this is a portrait of the Israeli people as told through food. This documentary explores the various cuisines of the more than 100 cultures that make up Israel today.

Aug. 13 at 2 p.m.: "The Women's Balcony"

A hit from our 2018 Reading Jewish Film Series, "The Women's Balcony" explores the relationships in a community when the women's balcony in an Orthodox synagogue collapses in this 2016 Israeli comedy drama. The event and the aftermath tests the women's friendships in this rousing, good-hearted tale about women speaking the truth to patriarchal power.

Help us make way for a JCC youth lounge

Recent focus groups participants indicated that many people are missing the JCC building as a place to meet and that there is a need to form a youth committee to better plan events to engage our middle school and high school youth.

As a result, we will be renovating one of the large rooms in the Berkshire Boulevard office to be a youth lounge.

To make room we need to dispose of the many trophies showcased on the walls.

If you are interested in claiming or having one of the trophies, please stop by the office to pick up.

You can also see pictures of our collection on the JFR website, www.readingjewishcommunity.org.



Do you remember when?

By **Tootie Moyer**

- Milk was delivered to your house in a milk box that was outside — in winter the top would pop up when frozen.

- We had ice tongs to carry large blocks of ice to use in the refrigerator.

- There was no television after 10 p.m.

- We had no school on Tuesday of Reading Fair week, the fair was held where the Fairgrounds Mall is now.

- We had no kindergarten or male teachers

- Gas was 25 cents a gallon

- You did not use the words "I forget" — now I use it 10 times a day

- Almost every boy had a red Flyer wagon

- Doctors and nurses never wore gloves

- Encyclopedia Britannica was the source of information, no smartphones

- There was no such word as "mall," all shopping was done on Penn Street

- Rosedale Knitting Mills in Reading was called Rosedale Ordinance — it made bombs for World War II, I worked there for two years.

- If you were in the hospital you had to pay every day for TV.

- We put diapers that we washed on the radiators so our babies did not get colic

- Bagels were crisp on the outside — not like a cake

- We went through a tunnel at Reading High to get to the gym.

- We played in the street and hardly ever had to move for a car

- We could buy song sheets at the store to learn the words of the newest songs

- We didn't have to carry a house key; there was no need to lock the doors

- We had "Victrola's" for music from records — now I really am showing my 94 years

- Radio programs — see if you remember any of these:

- Amos and Andy
- Rudy Vallee
- Fibber McGee and Molly
- Walter Winchell

- One dollar got you a whole bag of groceries

- We went swimming at Drumheller's Pool or Fleetwood Pool

- We had no TV, computer or smartphone — "WOW," how did we ever survive

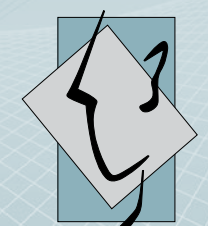
- We carried our books to and from school in our arms — no backpacks

- To get into college only grades counted; now extra activities are just as important

- We had two newspapers everyday — *The Reading Times* and the *Reading Eagle*

The "now" generation has it much easier to get a good education — but they still need us "youngsters" to guide them. See you later!

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Yom Ha'atzmaut

PJ Library

PJ Our Way

Leo Camp Lecture

Tech Tuesday

Yom Hazikaron

Art Exhibits

Yom Hashoah

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Purim Carnival

Richard J. Yashek

Memorial Lecture

Kristallnacht Remembrance

Youth Events

Purim Masquerade Party

Bridge

Chevra

Mahjong

Trips to NYC/Philadelphia

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Shabbat B'yachad

Community Calendar

Israel Book Group: 'Lioness' by Francine Klagsbrun

By Moisey Schneider
and Andi Franklin

In "Lioness," Francine Klagsbrun tells a fascinating story of how a young woman without higher education fled from pogroms in Russia to America, emigrated to British Palestine without speaking any Hebrew, and succeeded in a male-dominated society to become one of the most important figures in the history of the Jewish state.

Golda Meir grew up in Milwaukee, where she early on showed political and organizational skills. In 1921 she arrived in Mandatory Palestine and joined a kibbutz with her husband. Her political career started when she attracted the attention of David Ben-Gurion. She signed Israel's Declaration of Independence, served as its first ambassador to the Soviet Union as well as labor minister and foreign minister for a decade. As ambassador, she was mobbed by thousands of Russian Jews in Moscow leading her to push for their right to emigrate to Israel. She continued to be a strong advocate for Russian Jews her entire life.

In 1969, she became the first female head-of-state in the Western world, serving from the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War through the nearly catastrophic but ultimately victorious 1973 Yom Kippur War. She resigned in 1974 at the age of 76, having been in the leadership of Israel for more than half a century.

Golda brought fiery oratory, plainspoken appeals and shrewd deal-making to the cause to which she dedicated her life, the State of Israel. Her American connection and unaccented English became strategic assets for Zionism. She conducted so many fundraising trips to the U.S. that David Ben-Gurion called her "the woman who got the money which made the State possible."

At a Madison Square Garden rally

after the Six-Day War, she said that the world called Israelis "a wonderful people", praising them for having prevailed against such odds. But the world also demanded that Israel return to the same indefensible borders that would allow Syrian guns to once again rain bullets down on northern Israel, Jordanian Legionnaires to shoot at will in Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip continue to be a source of Fedayeen terrorist infiltrators. Unfortunately, her wisdom is still relevant. Golda then asked, "Is there anybody who has the boldness to say to the Israelis: Go home! Begin preparing your 9- and 10-year-olds for the next war, perhaps in 10 years." The next war would not come in 10 years, but in six, while Golda Meir was prime minister.

The author talks about Golda's leadership before, during, and after the 1973 Yom Kippur War to show her ultimate place in Israeli history. When Arabs attacked, it took everyone in Israel by surprise. In Israel she is still held responsible for her early misjudgment and lack of military preparation. But once the war started, she remained calm and in control, making key military decisions. Klagsbrun describes how Golda was able to rely on her personal relationships with President Nixon and Henry Kissinger that made possible the critical resupply of arms that enabled Israel to take the war into Egyptian and Syrian territories. Golda was especially adored by American Jews, many of whom knew her as "Our Golda" for her charisma, intelligence, and Idealism and therein lies the greatest paradox in Golda Meir's life: outside of Israel she remains a revered figure.

Golda said: "We do not rejoice in victories. We rejoice when a new kind of cotton is grown and when strawberries bloom in Israel." And she is famous for saying, "We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for

Next meeting of Israel Book Group

The Israel Book Group will meet **July 25 at 7 p.m.** to discuss "**BIBI - The Turbulent Life and Times of Benjamin Netanyahu**" by Anshel Pfeffer

A recent *New York Times* book review stated, "Anshel Pfeffer's biography is superbly timed." Benjamin Netanyahu is now close to becoming Israel's longest-serving prime minister. If there is a master key to cracking the Bibi code, this readable book argues that it is his identity as someone who has always stood outside the mainstream.

Pfeffer is one of the most prolific of Israel's younger generation of journalists. His work for *Haaretz* reflects that paper's liberal bent, instinctively opposed to Netanyahu and much of what he represents.

Please plan on joining us the evening of July 25 at the home of Andi & Bill Franklin- 1110 Fairview Ave # 4; Wyomissing.

forcing us to kill theirs. We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us."

Golda Meir's story is also a tale of socialism. From her early years in Milwaukee, she was a strong socialist activist. In Israel she tried to organize a socialistic family wage system in which people would be paid according to their needs rather than their talents. But she lost the battle when unionized nurses insisted on being paid according to their education and experience.

With her strong socialist leanings, she was enraged that the socialist governments of Europe had refused to come to Israel's aid during the Yom Kippur War. At a conference attended by eight heads of European states, she wanted to hear for herself what it was that kept the heads of these socialist governments from helping Israel. Russia had given the Arabs everything; the best weapons, military instructors, training and officers but the European countries would not even permit American planes to refuel as they carried much needed goods to Israel. Wanting to understand what socialism had become, she never

received an answer.

One of the great sorrows and disappointments of her life was that world socialist structures failed to support the State of Israel. History shows that socialism, sooner or later, turns against Jews, as happened with the German National Socialist (Nazi) Party and in Russian totalitarian socialism. On the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, the World Socialist website called Israel a nakedly colonial project.

One of the most famous women in the world and winner of numerous awards, she lived in a small house with her son's family. To this day her name elicits comments of her charm, intelligence, and idealism. Golda once said, "Jews cannot be dependent on other nations and cannot afford pessimism."

When asked how she wanted to be addressed she would answer, "Call me Golda," and so the world did.

She is buried near other national leaders in a section of Jerusalem's Mount Herzl Cemetery called the Burial Plot of the Nations Greats. She was the face of Zionism in America – "The First Lady" of the Jewish people.

IDF program focuses on the ability, not the disability

When a mother in Israel gives birth to two sons close together, the assumption is that she will have two sons in uniform in their teen years. It's double the anxiety but also double the naches (pride). But when Hagit Ron-Rabinovich's eldest son, Ilay, was diagnosed as autistic at 2 years old, she was resigned to having a home with one soldier — one fighter for Israel — one independent son who would go on to achieve his dreams. Ilay's dreams and hopes for the future, she thought, were squandered and dashed the moment he was diagnosed.

So when Ron-Rabinovich attended Ilay's swearing-in ceremony into the Israel Defense Forces last year, a long-abandoned familial dream was realized. "During his swearing-in ceremony, my mother reminded me, 'Remember all those nights you spent crying that you wouldn't have two boys in uniform? Well, it looks like that fear didn't end up coming true,'" she recalls.

Ilay now serves in the IDF's Homefront Command thanks to Jewish National Fund's (JNF-USA) Special in Uniform project, a signature program designed to integrate Israeli youth with disabilities — mental and physical — into the IDF to serve alongside their fellow countrymen and -women. For many Israelis, serving in the army is a critical rite of passage. "Ilay's lack of communication goes to the very core of what it means to communicate as humans. It's difficult to understand what he needs; if he's satisfied, if he's

happy. For years, we had no idea," Ron Rabinovich said. So when Ilay was given an opportunity to speak for the first time — through using a device that allows him to type into an iPad — he made it clear that he did not want the opportunity to serve to pass him by. "Want to enlist," is what he typed repeatedly, conveying his desire to follow in the footsteps of his younger brother, Adam, and don a uniform as well.

Ron Rabinovich credits JNF with helping cut through the red tape so Ilay's wish could come true. At the IDF, he spends his days organizing supplies within his unit twice a week and every day spent on the base is a happy one. It is one of the few times he feels a sense of purpose, something that many with special needs desire but very few are given the opportunity to have.

"Whenever you mention autism it resonates with so many," Yossi Kahana, director of Jewish National Fund's Task Force on Disabilities, said. "Israel is the only country that integrates people with disabilities into the army, and everyone has an ability to do something. We should do more to realize their potential and let everyone be part of society. They don't need us to help them out, they need us to help them in."

"I'm so excited to be here today," Ron Rabinovich told the Israeli press at the time of the ceremony last December. "For Ilay, this represents the climax of a long and difficult journey that allows him to integrate positively into Israeli society.

Israel serves as a model par excellence for countries around the world in its consideration and care for its

disabled, making room and welcoming them even into its armed forces, which is the spearhead of Israeli society."



Join us to learn more about the benefits to pre-planning your final arrangements.

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An introduction to long-distance caregiving

By Sari Incledon, M. Ed.

You may not realize it, but you may be a long-distance caregiver. Anyone, anywhere may be one. If you are living an hour or more away from a person who needs your help, you are probably a long-distance caregiver.



My college friend living in Tel Aviv was an amazing caregiver to her parents in New Jersey, visiting three or four times a year, but taking care of their affairs and making care decisions from across the Atlantic with the support of her in-state family. She was a very long distance caregiver and a very effective one.

Long distance caregivers may take on different roles including:

- Help with finances, money management or bill paying

- Arrange for in-home care
- Help get durable medical equipment
- Locate care in an assisted living facility or nursing home
- Provide emotional support and occasional respite care for a primary caregiver
- Serve as an information coordinator
- Keep family and friends updated an informed
- Create a plan and get paperwork in order in case of an emergency
- Evaluate the house and make sure it is safe for the older person's needs.

Over time as your family member's needs change, so will your role as a long-distance caregiver.

If you are new to long-distance caregiving:

- Ask the primary caregiver, if there is one, and the care recipient how you can be most helpful
- Find out about local resources

- Develop a good understanding of the person's health issues and needs

- Visit as often as you can; you will become aware of issues that won't be apparent otherwise.

You will want your visit to be as helpful as possible. Talk to the care recipient ahead of time to help prioritize what needs should be attended to. Remember to spend some time visiting with your family member, doing some things unrelated to caregiving. It can be fun and build family memories.

Sometimes family members need more help in their long distance tasks. They may find that hiring a geriatric care manager can help the family member identify needs and find ways to meet the needs of the care recipient. Geriatric care managers usually charge by the hour, and their services are usually not covered by insurance plans or Medicare.

For more information about long-distance caregiving call Sari at 610-921-0624 or contact me at SariI@jfreeding.org.

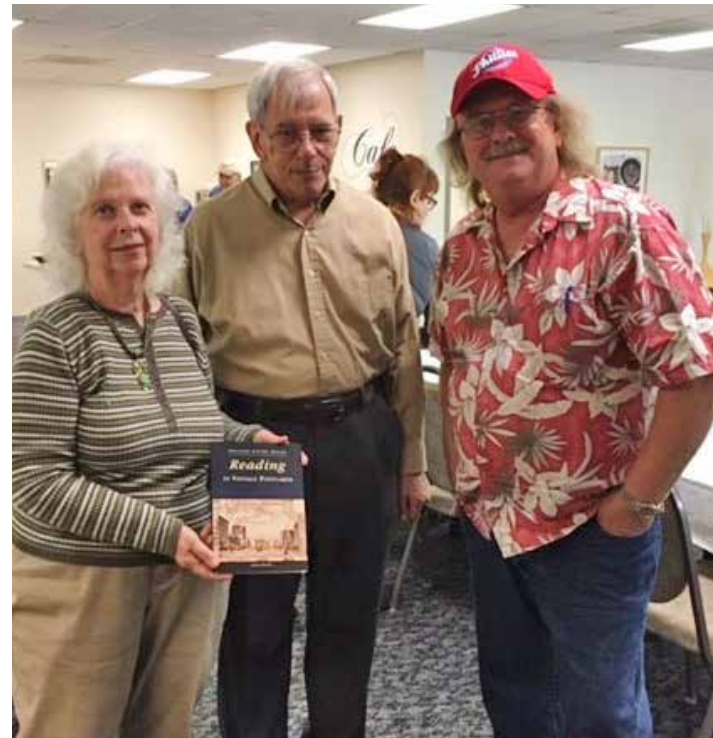
More fun at Friendship Circle



Robert Hassler, on guitar, and Sid Lempiner, on harmonica, playing folk songs at Jewish Family Service's Friendship Circle, which meets Thursdays at 1 p.m.



At left, Ethel Engel talks to Beth Krumholz about the art of Sonia Delauney. At right Vicky and Ellis Sokoloff discuss "Postcards" with local author Paul Druzba.



Jewish Family Service

Food Pantry

Friendship Circle

Counseling Services

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Living with Loss

Information and

Referral

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Holiday Programs

Jewish Family Service

thanks the following professionals for providing professional services to members of the Jewish Community:

Dr. Eric Bluestone
Dr. Geoffrey Zinberg

School year ends on warm note at JCHS

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Reading Jewish Community High School

The Reading Jewish Community High School year concluded May 6 with a four-part dinner program:

We said "I'hitraot," Hebrew for "till we see each other again," to seniors with whom we have studied over these past years: Matthew Driben, Abby Goldberg, Tristan Haas, Kacie Horowitz, Brandon Missan, Audra Nemirow, Chase Weizer and Jamie Zamrin,

Graduating seniors were presented with a mezuzah to take with them for their college room and on their next stages in life. As has been our tradition, Rabbi Dov gave each graduate a mezuzah case, known in Hebrew as a "bayit," and the Jewish Federation gave a kosher mezuzah parchment secured in Jerusalem for the mezuzot.

Each mezuzah case was handmade in Yad L'Kashish, the Lifeline for the Old, located in Jerusalem, with enclosures of hand-painted silk or embroidery. The painted silk was learned from a Russian artist immigrant, and the embroidery reflects native stitching patterns from the worldwide range of immigrants.

For these reasons and in honor of our Federation Better Together program, the mezuzot will be a memory bridge between our own elderly who study with us, and between Israel and Greater Reading.

This year Rabbi Dov presented each participant in the JCHS with a musical DVD featuring Shabbat music, created by Craig Taubman.

We also said "I'hitraot" to Shira Simon who has been a valued and special teacher for these past three years. She teaches full-time in a charter school in Philadelphia, and we are grateful that she agreed to be part of the Greater Reading JCHS despite her busy schedule. Rabbi Dov presented her with a DVD and a wine-bottle "shield" for Shabbat, manufactured in Yad L'Kashish metal shop.

We paused to remember a former student, Adiv Vivek Lift, may his memory



Jewish Community High School seniors, from left, Abby Goldberg, Audra Nemirow, Jamie Zamrin, Chase Weizer, Brandon Missan and Matthew Driben. Not pictured: Kacie Horowitz and Tristan Haas.

be a blessing. Adiv, a special friend to all, tragically died in an auto accident, March 28, 2014. In Adiv's memory, Rabbi Dov established an award presented to an outstanding student at the end of the year dinner and the presentation of an inscribed book that incorporated the values and human qualities which Adiv exemplified.

This year Jamie Zamrin and Chase Weizer shared the honor. They each received a volume of the history and meaning of Jerusalem, tying these two students with us all to the special celebration of Jerusalem and Israel's 70th anniversary.

Changes in faculty

Barbara M. Lerner will be joining her husband, Rabbi Dov, in teaching new and updated classes for the 2018-2019 academic year.

One of the courses Barbara will be teaching is American Jewish History, and she has been accepted to a summer National Educators Institute program on the subject this summer. It is sponsored by National Museum of American Jewish History, where she serves as a docent.

The Institute provides a unique opportunity to engage with the museum's collections, learn from the experts in the fields of American Jewish history and education, and collaborate with museum

staff and fellow teachers.

Our JCHS students will benefit as the teachers will have access to curricula and teaching resources developed by NMAJH, and they will network with colleagues from across the country from colleagues facing similar challenges.

Rabbi Dov visits Religious School

Several weeks before the end of the religious school year, with the cooperation of Rabbi Brian Michelson, Religious School Administrator Judy Synnaron and teacher Irene Sileski, Rabbi Dov visited the sixth- and seventh-grade classes.

It was an opportunity for them to get to know him better and ask questions about the Greater Reading JCHS. This year's seventh-graders will be eligible to attend the Jewish Community High School in the fall.

He shared his love of Hebrew and the art of 'K'tav ST" M' the calligraphy of the Sefer Torah, Tefillin and Mezuzah, and demonstrated the various tools of the traditional sofer or scribe.

Ultimately the students had an opportunity to have their own hand-crafted goose feather quill and copy out the letters of their names as well as receiving a booklet Rabbi Dov prepared for them. They each also received a calligraphy pen that mimics the quill with which to continue practicing at home.

Teens discuss value of continued Jewish education

A pair of Reading Jewish Community High School students discussed the value of local Jewish education during their May confirmation service at Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom

Over the past few years, I have spent my Sunday nights at the JCC in Reading. Although the drive is almost an hour long, I can honestly say the experience is priceless.

Due to Jewish Community High School I have been able to keep in touch with my old Sunday School friends from before my Bar Mitzvah. Additionally I have been exposed to new beliefs, perspectives and unique ideas and themes found in Judaism. Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner is extremely knowledgeable, amiable and talkative and provides new perspectives on many subjects.

During classes we usually participate in an informal discussion group. As older students we are able to hold more in-depth discussions. We explore holidays more meticulously and discuss more mature subject matter. This year I enrolled in classes such as current events, bioethics in Judaism, and my favorite — Comparing Christianity, Islam and Judaism. I learned how each religion interprets ancient texts differently and applies it to their everyday beliefs.

I highly recommend this program to the youth of our community because it keeps our youth involved. As a minority group, I believe it is very important that our community's adolescents are educated appropriately. They must be able to carry on our religion to the next generation and be knowledgeable of facts of our past and present as a people, because our religious beliefs are often challenged due to the surrounding majorities. For example, I will be the only practicing Jewish teen in my

high school. When someone of another faith makes an anti-Semitic joke or a stereotypical comment, the best way to respond is with historical facts and insight on the situation.

Rabbi Dov and the programs at our Jewish Community High School have prepared me well, and I hope others will consider joining. Overall, I feel JCHS has inspired curiosity and confidence in me when it comes to understanding the Jewish faith.

—Easton Weizer

It seems like just yesterday I was standing in this exact spot for my Bat Mitzvah. I was nervous and excited. I feel those same emotions now as I complete my sophomore year of high school and start thinking about my future.

I think Jewish Community High School has helped prepare me to be a mature adult by fostering my critical thinking skills. Many people think of the Bat Mitzvah as the highlight of their Jewish education. However it is really just a stepping stone. JCHS has enabled me to take the next step. Up until my Bat Mitzvah I focused on learning Hebrew and the history of Judaism. During our weekly Sunday night JCHS classes, we often discussed how being Jewish relates to contemporary issues, including current events and world politics.

We have spent a lot of time talking about Israel. I am very excited that this summer I will get to experience Israel. My Camp Harlam friends and I will be traveling to Eastern Europe for one week and then to Israel for a month through a trip organized by the North American Federation of Temple Youth, or NFTY. In Eastern Europe I hope to connect with my rich Jewish heritage. While in Israel I hope to touch the ruins

in Jerusalem, hike Masada at dawn, ride camels across sand dunes, float in the Dead Sea, and, of course, shop in Tel Aviv.

But what I am most looking forward to is working at Kibbutz Hanaton, a new type of Kibbutz model based on social justice in the Galilee. I feel JCHS has taught me to give back to others. I participated in "Better Together," where we were teamed up with senior citizens. I learned through my studies that Jewish tradition emphasizes honoring and respecting senior citizens. *Kibud zekaynim* is a value that reminds us to learn from those who have come before us.

On the kibbutz I will work with a different group, the younger generation. I am excited to lend a helping hand and work with Israeli children. With their parents, I look forward to discussing and exploring critical social issues facing modern Israel.

Just like at my Bat Mitzvah, I believe my confirmation is not an end to my Jewish education but another stepping stone. My steps in Eastern Europe and Israel will enable me to explore my Jewish history and culture from a hands-on perspective. Further, it will allow me to make connections to all our contemporary religious conversations at JCHS.

I am fortunate to have had a full Jewish education including a Bat Mitzvah, summers at Camp Harlam, NFTY weekends, an opportunity to visit Israel and my confirmation. I want to thank my close synagogue community as well as my family. We have shared many holidays and rituals together. I am looking forward to a future filled with Jewish customs. As we say in Hebrew, L'dor V'dor ... I hope to teach the next generation so we can continue our amazing traditions.

—Rachel Radosh

Jewish Education

Camp Scholarships

Israel Trips

Jewish Community

High School

Lakin Preschool

Better Together

Shalom to the Reading-Berks Jewish community

Congregational News

By Rabbi Matthew Abelson
Keshet Zion Synagogue

A person can make a decision that he knows is right and still feel a sense of loss about it. Resigning as Keshet Zion's rabbi, as I did in May, was such a decision. The sense of loss comes from the change in relationship that will transpire with those I have connected with. While I will continue to make myself available by email, phone, and Facebook to any Keshet Zion congregant or member of the Reading-Berks Jewish community, I understand that no longer living in Berks County will change the relationships I have formed with you.



Since moving to Reading in July 2015, I have devoted myself to the congregants of Keshet Zion Synagogue, a group that possesses terrific endurance and dedication. Having been raised in the New York metropolitan area, I learned about how Jews live in an area where we are few. The bonds that I witnessed in my congregation — bonds forged through simchas (happy occasions), challenges, disappointments, and mourning — astonished me. The way congregants clung together made a deep impression upon me.

Throughout my tenure as Keshet Zion's rabbi, what I have been most proud of is our ability to secure a minyan every Shabbat and Yom Tov — no small accomplishment in Berks County. Not only have we publicly read the Torah nearly every Shabbat and Yom Tov, but we have done it in an egalitarian fashion. In an era of #MeToo, we need to affirm those institutions that empower women and recognize their standing as equals in our society. Egalitarian minyanim that fulfill the mitvah of k'riat ha'torah (publicly reading the Torah) constitute one of the ways our society becomes safer and more welcoming of women.

Of course, I can take only partial credit for our consistent Shabbat and Yom Tov minyanim. A dedicated group of Keshet Zion members provided a platform for me to pursue this part of my rabbinate. In fact, one of the reasons I enjoyed my tenure as Keshet Zion's rabbi was because of this group of dedicated worship-service attendees. I want to express special thanks to Paul and Ellen Schwartz, Keshet Zion's gabbaim. To my mind, no one deserves more credit for the fulfillment of the mitzvah of k'riat Torah than they. First of all, to be a gabbai, you have to be in Berks County close to 52 weekends a year. In addition to physically being in the county, you have to overlook the temptation of sleeping in, reading the newspaper, and lingering over another cup of coffee to head to shul. Clearly I had to do that, but I was a paid employee of the synagogue. I need not remind anyone that the gabbai is a volunteer position.

Keshet Zion underwent dramatic change

during the nearly three years I served as rabbi.

The board's decision to sell the building on Perkiomen Avenue was an agonizing one that has given us a chance at new life. The temporary respite at the Federation in Wyomissing prepared us for a move that had been discussed and negotiated over for several years. When I spoke with people in the community, they often described our renting from Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom in Wyomissing as a merger. That impression is quite unfortunate. The independent existence of Keshet Zion, a Conservative congregation, is for the good of the entire Reading-Berks Jewish community.

I have been present for a number of meetings between the leadership of KZ and RCOS, and without prejudicing the outcome of the leaderships' ongoing discussions, I want to share with you my hope for what will transpire.

1. As the most financially robust of the three entities that constitute the Reading-Berks Jewish community — KZ, RCOS, and the Federation — the Federation must take the lead in creating an arrangement that satisfies these parties.

2. The relationship between the three entities should be transformational, not merely transactional.

3. Avoidance of what was occasionally called the "c" word — campus — is counter-productive. The healing that sharing a location promises cannot be achieved if a wound is not properly addressed. The inability to establish a campus more than two decades ago is no reason not to try again.

While Jews offer different rationales for what binds us together, as a rabbi, I emphasize the Torah. On the second day of Shavuot, we read:

"You shall rejoice before the Lord your God with your son and daughter, your male and female slave, the Levite in your communities, and the stranger, the orphan, and the widow in your midst, at the place where the Lord your God will choose to establish His name" (Deuteronomy 16:11).

The "stranger, the orphan, and the widow" constitute the triad of vulnerability in the Torah. No community can regard itself

as living in accord with the Torah unless it protects the vulnerable. One could argue that the Reading-Berks Jewish community as a whole is vulnerable, and that may be true, but that does not alter the relative strengths of each of these three entities. Inevitably in discussions between the Federation, KZ, and RCOS, a great deal will focus on square feet, prices, and costs — all important topics. Nonetheless, if the discussions ignore the transformational potential of bringing these three entities under one roof at one location, then an opportunity will have been missed.

A number of families with young kids are eager for the consolidation that such an arrangement will bring. They know that in a county with few Jews — and even fewer who affiliate — that we need to pool our resources. The boundaries between congregations ought to remain since Conservative and Reform Judaism truly are distinct approaches to our heritage. That said, I hope that the community will heed the call of these families giving them the support that a shared location, a campus, promises.

To conclude, I am grateful to my chevra, Rabbi Michelson who studied Mishna with me regularly and offered me collegial support. I also want to thank the Lipsker family, which expedited my transition from New York City to Reading by hosting me for Shabbat meals at their home.

I want to acknowledge past presidents Lisa Levine and Myron Kabakoff for the successful working relationships I enjoyed with them as Keshet Zion's rabbi. Dr. Levine was the first person from the congregation with whom I communicated regularly as I negotiated my first contract. Myron had the unenviable task of guiding the congregation through its greatest transition since the building on Perkiomen Avenue was constructed more than 60 years ago. Our current president, Cindy Balchunas, has been instrumental in settling Keshet Zion in to its space-sharing arrangement with RCOS on Warwick Drive. Her leadership team, which includes Vice-President Dr. Jennifer Koosed and Second Vice-President Marc Goldstein, is capable, and I trust they will lead Keshet Zion into

- Chabad
- Keshet Zion
- Reform Congregation
- Oheb Sholom

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034
Friday, June 1: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.
Fridays, June 8, 15, 22 and 29: Shabbat service, 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, June 9: Talia Rotenberg Bat Mitzvah, 4 p.m.

CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881
Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763
Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

June Sivan-Tammuz



- June 1**
8:10p.m.
- June 8**
8:14 p.m.
- June 15**
8:18 p.m.
- June 22**
8:20 p.m.
- June 29**
8:20 p.m.

- June 2/Sivan 19**
Beha'alotcha (Numbers 8:1-12:15)
- June 9/Sivan 26**
Shelach (Numbers 13:1-15:41)
- June 16/Tammuz 3**
Korach (Numbers 16:1-18:32)
- June 23/Tammuz 10**
Chukat (Numbers 19:1-22:1)
- June 30/Tammuz 17**
Balak (Numbers 22:2-25:9)



**TOT SHABBAT
END OF SUMMER BBQ
SUNDAY, AUGUST 26TH
AT 11:00 AM**

Yashek Lecture speaker details today's state of anti-Semitism

By Bruce R. Posten

Courtesy of Reading Eagle

Speaking to an estimated 150 people at Albright's Memorial Chapel, Holocaust scholar Dr. Michael Berenbaum asked the audience: "How many people here believe anti-Semitism is on the rise?"

All hands shot up, except one.

That served as a cue for Berenbaum's nearly two-hour talk entitled "Not Your Father's Anti-Semitism," which took listeners on a tour of the current status of anti-Semitism in Europe and the United States.

The 72-year-old Berenbaum, a professor of Jewish Studies at American Jewish University in Los Angeles, was the speaker at the 14th annual Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture presented by the Edwin and Alma N. '51 Lakin Holocaust Resource Center at Albright College with support from the Jewish Federation of Reading.

Berenbaum has written and edited 20 books and served as a consultant on more than 20 films related to the Holocaust. He was the project director overseeing the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"All those who believe that anti-Semitism is on the rise are only half right," Berenbaum said, adding that actual numbers of people actively involved in promoting or acting upon hatred of Jews has declined in the past 50 to 80 years, while the public expression of such hatred has increased dramatically.

He said two factors caused that — the megaphone of the Internet and social media that has provided a platform to embolden a community of like-minded haters to publicly proclaim their rage and biases.

Berenbaum argued that the manifestation of 21st century anti-Semitism is different from the traditional

Jew-hating that reached its height in Nazi Germany during World War II and led to the genocide of 6 million Jews.

He described a different historic sensibility to what a hate crime is in Europe as opposed to the United States.

In the U.S., a hate crime is deemed that which attacks and undermines the fabric of society, loudly condemned by officialdom, while in Europe an assault on a Jew can be relegated to a petty crime and even graffiti on a synagogue might not promote widespread public outrage.

That situation is slowly changing with more European leaders following French leaders who proudly proclaimed: "France without Jews is not France," in a bow to diversity and cultural inclusion, the professor said.

However, Berenbaum said Europe still is plagued with selective memory, denying responsibility for atrocities against Jews during World War II or deflecting all evil onto Germany during that period when, in fact, natives of such nations as Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia exterminated Jewish populations in advance of Germans arriving on the scene.

"Certain areas of European memory have been blacked out between 1938-1942 and Holocaust revisionism has taken hold in order to cleanse themselves (the nations) of all responsibility," he said.

In contrast, anti-Semitism in the United States has slipped down the totem pole of hatred but only because other groups have risen as targets of American anger and resentments, particularly Latinos and Muslims or other immigrants and refugees, gays, lesbians and African Americans.

Jewish anti-Semitic stereotypes in America still exist, however, with many believing Jews control the nation's



Dr. Michael Berenbaum at the Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture at Albright College.

Photo by Ben Hasty, courtesy of Reading Eagle

economy.

"Are Jews disproportionately influencing the economy? Yes, that is accurate," Berenbaum said, quickly reciting names of powerful Jewish banking, government, entertainment and medical figures in the nation.

But, in America, he said there is a disconnect between how Jews see themselves as a minority and how many in the majority see them. For instance, he said, Jewish numbers in America are roughly 6 million and declining, while a general perception is that America's Jewish community can range anywhere from between 20 and 50 million people, he said.

"The problem is we see ourselves as David surrounded by massive Goliaths," Berenbaum said.

Berenbaum sees Jews as more accepted and powerful in the 21st century as compared with the 1930s and 1940s, primarily because they have been in the vanguard of what has become a

global "knowledge-based economy."

"In the last part of the 20th century, the thinking was that those who controlled the natural resources had the power," Berenbaum said. "But since the 1990s, it's all been about information and knowledge. What is Google, after all, but everything and nothing."

"I tell my students I don't give a damn what you learn, but that you learn how to learn to keep pace with changes in society," he said. "Jews have always valued and cherished knowledge for their entire history."

In a world where Syria kills its own people and Buddhists indulge in genocide against Muslims in Asia, the horrors of the Jewish past still resonate globally and can never be erased. But Berenbaum thinks Jews must not be paralyzed by the past or refight old battles.

"I do believe we have a greater capacity today to create our reality and shape the world we live in," he said.

All Around the Town

Congratulations to **Benjamin Robinson**, son of Carole and Michael Robinson, on being inducted

into the Berks County Aquatic Hall of Fame.

Until next time: Shalom!

Obituary

Margaret (Kessler) Levine, 95 of The Highlands, Wyomissing and formerly of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Aventura, Fla. Margaret was a registered nurse and continued her nursing career while raising her family.

She was a dedicated volunteer at Aventura Hospital and a classroom aide and reader in elementary

schools for many years.

Margaret is survived by her children; sons Robert and his wife Eileen of Pittsburgh, Jason and his wife Debbie of Maryland and daughter Judith Schwank and her husband, James, of Fleetwood. She is also survived by her six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, her brother Eugene and her sisters Frances Zeifer and Beatrice Huttner.

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What is the Jewish Community Relations Council?

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Reading is the community relations program run by the Jewish Federation of Reading and is part of a national network of JCRCs which fall under the umbrella of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

The mission and mandate of the JCRC is to advance the public affairs agenda of the Jewish community through consensus, coalitions, civil discourse and activism, all of which vary by the involvement and needs of the particular community.

As the liaison for our local Jewish community to other Jewish and non-Jewish communities locally, regionally and nationally, the mission, more specifically,

of the JCRC is to promote Jewish political interests and related general social policy concerns that impact the welfare of Jews and others and to support the State of Israel. The JCRC also fosters meaningful relationships among diverse ethnic, racial, religious and interest groups, building coalitions based on mutual concerns.

The JCRC mobilizes the Jewish community on critical issues and amplifies its voice in the public sphere, as well as helps to create consensus and leads advocacy efforts in the organized Jewish community.

The JCRC builds bridges with other faiths and interest and ethnic based groups that share the passion of the JCRC for social justice and forging relationships

based on the issues our community cares about most.

The JCRC engages in public policy issues exclusively on the basis of Jewish values and works along with groups of different faiths and ethnicities to carry out its mission and mandate. For example, here in Reading we have been working with and developing relationships with different organizations including the United Way, the Hispanic Center and the Islamic Center.

Please feel free to contact Federation President William Franklin (williamf@jfreeding.org) or JCRC Chair Margo Levin (MargoL@jfreeding.org) should you have interest in becoming involved and/or should you have any questions.

Pennsylvania House and Senate commemorate Israel's 70th

State Rep. Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh) and Sen. Judith Schwank (D-Berks) introduced resolutions commemorating Israel's 70th anniversary.

The resolutions (H.R. 879 and S.R. 340) passed their respective chambers

unanimously.

The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition offers special thanks to:

- Resolution sponsors Schlossberg and Schwank.
- Jewish elected officials in the

Pennsylvania's House of Representatives and Senate.

- Leadership of both legislative chambers and the members of the Pennsylvania Legislature for helping to celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 340 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, DINNIMAN, LEACH, TARTAGLIONE, EICHELBERGER, GREENLEAF, MARTIN, SABATINA, BROWNE, ARGALL, KILLION, AUMENT, RAFFERTY AND FOLMER, APRIL 24, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 24, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 14, 2018, or 29th of Iyar, 5778, as the 70th
2 anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel.

3 WHEREAS, The land of Israel is the birthplace of the Jewish
4 people and, despite Jewish exile, the land remains the place
5 where their religious, spiritual and national identity was
6 formed; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1897, the First Zionist Congress proclaimed the
8 right of the Jewish people to national revival in their own
9 country, a right acknowledged in 1917 by the Balfour Declaration
10 and later reaffirmed by the League of Nations; and

11 WHEREAS, The atrocities of the Nazi Holocaust and the death
12 of millions of Jews in Europe reestablished and refocused the
13 need for an independent Jewish state; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations
15 adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of an
16 independent Jewish state in Palestine and directed inhabitants
17 of the country to take actions facilitating the resolution; and

1 WHEREAS, The members of the National Council representing the
2 Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world
3 met and issued a Declaration of Israel's Independence on May 14,
4 1948; and

5 WHEREAS, In a relatively brief time and despite difficult
6 challenges relating to issues of peace and security, Israel has
7 emerged from a fledgling state to one with a successful
8 democracy, strong economy and powerful military; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize May 14, 2018, or 29th of
10 Iyar, 5778, as the 70th anniversary of the birth of the State of
11 Israel.

Loaves of love at annual Chabad challah baking event

By Alexa J. Schaeffer

Donning bright pink aprons and a fine layer of flour, participants at the annual Challah Bake at Chabad waited patiently for the dough to rise on Sunday, April 29.

As the yeast got to work, Chana Lipsker explained the importance of the challah as a celebratory bread. Baking challah is like raising children, she explained, comparing each ingredient to a concept in child-rearing. You must nurture it but also give it time on its own to rise before it eventually becomes what it is meant to be.

Following the short history lesson, the traditional prayer was said aloud while holding an egg-sized piece of the challah dough.

Once the kneaded dough had enough time to work its magic,

it was time to learn how to form the dough for baking. Three, four, and even six strand braids were demonstrated and executed to perfection with the fluffy dough.

For the baker looking for a shortcut, the "Challah Hack" was showcased using a stainless steel chopper to form a faux braid.

After the dough was formed into the desired shape, it was time to add the best part: toppings! There was the customary challah topping as well as an array of seeds, spices, and sweet embellishments to add to the bread for that extra bit of love it needed.

Finally, it was time to take the challah home and bake it. The aroma and warmth from the bread was enjoyed by all who participated.



An ending and a beginning



Seventh-graders at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom take part in their last service at Religious School while enjoying the company of their buddies in the first grade.

Rare ancient coin found in cave

A rare coin from the Bar Kokhba revolt was discovered in the Qibya cave, northwest of Ramallah, the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories announced.

The coin is believed to have been minted between the third and fourth year of the Bar Kokhba revolt (136-134 CE). One side of the coin shows a palm tree with seven fronds and two clusters of fruit, as well as the inscription "Shim[on]." The other side portrays vine leaves with three lobes and the inscription, "To the freedom of Jerusalem."

Alongside the coin, the archeologists also found pottery fragments and glass vessels that can be dated to the same period. The coin was found during a study conducted by the Civil Administration of Judea and Samaria's archaeology unit, Bar-Ilan University and the University of Ariel during the "Southern Samaria Survey."

The survey is a project, brought to life in 2014, during which different teams of archaeologists cooperate in surveying areas to unearth historical findings that have been left behind at various sites.

"We estimate that there are many archeological artifacts that have not yet been discovered in the West Bank," said Hanania Hezmi, the director of the Civil Administration's archaeology unit. "We are cooperating with all possible authorities in order to uncover important relics of Jewish history in the area."

Experts estimated that the items were brought to the cave by Jewish refugees who lived in the area until 135 BCE. During the Bar Kokhba revolt, they were forced to leave their homes and hide in the cave. The documentation of the artifacts



found in the Qibya cave was carried out in cooperation with the Center for Cave Research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Join Us As We Observe

Tisha B'Av

Our observance will include:

Seudah Mafseket—8:30 p.m. - Saturday, July 21, 2018
The chanting of Eichah - (The Book of Lamentations)
to follow Havdalah

Sunday, July 22, 2018

Keshar Zion Synagogue

555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610



Fast begins: Saturday, July 21st at 9:16 p.m.
Fast ends: Sunday, July 22nd at 8:49 p.m.

Jewish advocate delivers tough speech on Israel-Diaspora relations

One of North America's foremost Jewish advocates voiced concern over what he described as the "growing rift" in Israel-Diaspora relations borne out of religious tensions and political differences.

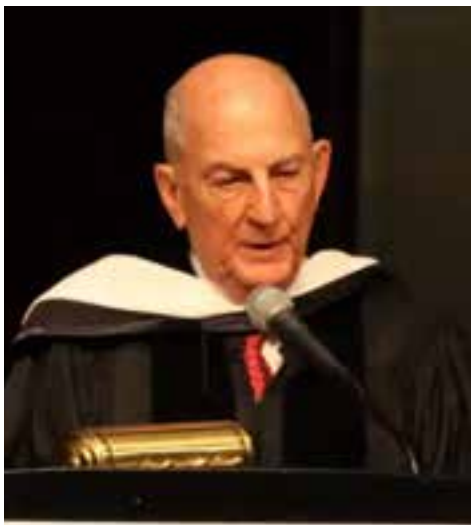
Delivering a speech in New York, Canadian-American businessman and philanthropist Charles Bronfman said that despite the monumental gains the Jewish people have achieved since the Holocaust, a schism between the Jewish community in Israel and North America is expanding at an untenable rate.

"I believe, with depth of heart, in the unity of the Jewish people, whose soul is in Jerusalem," Bronfman said during a commencement address at the Hebrew Union College.

"I believe that if we, as a people, come to that same conclusion, we can achieve a greatness unthinkable until now. But I wonder, is that only a dream? Can it happen? Will it happen? If not, why not? Those of us who have worked intimately with Israeli and Diaspora Jews, must be aware that a rift has been developing, and, sad to say, increasing between us."

The former owner of the Montreal Expos delivered the speech, billed as a tough but honest assessment of Jewish community relations, after being bestowed with an honorary doctorate degree at the Manhattan-based university.

"We need to reflect deeply upon our relationship and we need to ask questions; questions that are urgent and crying out for answers," Bronfman continued. "Will Israel become less central to Diaspora Jews in the coming years? Will disassociation and alienation, perhaps even collision, characterize the relationship? Will Israel find the Diaspora a source of frustration and provocation? Will it view the concept of 'we are one' as an empty vessel? Is it to be a relationship



of mere sentiment or a covenantal relationship in which the partners are unconditionally committed to each other and to the Jewish dream of perfecting the world?," he added.

Pointing to recent polling data that suggested that the emotional connection felt by American Jews towards Israel is waning, Bronfman urged U.S. community leaders to approach the issue with new innovative ideas in order to attract a younger constituency.

"Recent and continuing surveys have demonstrated that Diaspora commitment to Israel is generational. Perhaps, those of us who are older, forget that our children were not alive when Israel went through her birth pains, nor were they breathing during the awful darkness of the Holocaust. Thus, to them, to some of you, the miracles of rebirth of which we speak are stories told in history books, not the emotional experiences of we witness," Bronfman noted. "Perhaps we also forget that the newfound strength, power and freedom of Jews, certainly in North America, as well as in other parts of the Diaspora world, has its own euphoria and perhaps our children have yet to realize that without a strong, moral and

vibrant Israel, the status of Jews in the Diaspora would be very far from what it is," he added.

Bronfman also pressed on the importance of creating a more accepting environment in the religious sphere, which has been contentious issue in Israel-Diaspora relations. The Chief Rabbinate in Israel has repeatedly shunned the Conservative and Reform movements — which bolsters the largest Jewish constituency outside of Israel — accusing the non-Orthodox Jewish denominations of "uprooting Judaism," causing assimilation and intermarriage, and having "no connection" to authentic Judaism.

The issue came to head last June, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rescinded an agreement his own government arranged that would have carved egalitarian prayer space south of the Western Wall plaza. "Our souls are still seared by what happens in Israel. But do Israelis care enough about what happens in the global Jewish World? Can a prime minister really claim to be a guardian of the entire Jewish people when he reneges on a carefully crafted agreement knowing that he will suffer no political consequences at home? Indeed, he can, because this subject and others like it are of little or no concern to the vast majority of Israelis," said Bronfman.

"You must have been as perplexed and angry as I am at the official rejection of your religious tradition of Judaism. We have but one Jewish State. It shocks me to the marrow of my bones that conservative, reform, liberal and reconstructionist Judaism are legally unrecognized by the State of Israel."

Bronfman continued by saying that the Israel-Diaspora "relationship is anything but a one way street. We must do our part just as Israelis must do theirs in order to rescue the Jewish people from breaking apart. Let's make no mistake,

the powerful and vibrant diaspora and the powerful and dynamic State of Israel are interdependent. One cannot exist for long without the other."

The 86-year-old concluded his speech by proposing the establishment of a new policy arm that would protect the interests of both Israeli and North American Jews in order to mitigate tensions among both communities, saying such an organization would fulfill the aspirations of Judaism's greatest leaders from the 20th century. "The time has come to demonstrate both the negatives as well as the positives that proposed Israeli legislation will have on North American Jewry. At the same time, we must heighten awareness of our vibrant communities, their importance to Israel and their real need to be recognized as full partners," Bronfman said.

"Two years after the establishment of the State of Israel, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and Jacob Blaustein of the American Jewish Committee, published statements which defined the relationship between Israel and American Jewry. It is time to revisit the Ben Gurion-Blaustein covenants and to build upon their sense of respect, mutuality and shared destiny," he added.

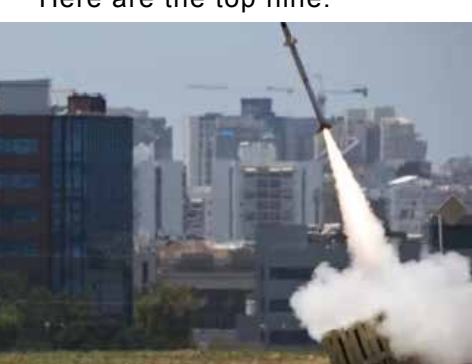
Bronfman is the former chairman of the Seagrams liquor empire and was appointed to lead the Jewish Federation of North America - one of the largest umbrella organizations in the Western hemisphere - in 1999. The Montreal native is also the co-founder of Taglit Birthright Israel, which has shaparoned more than 600,000 young people from 67 countries to the Holy Land since its inception nearly 20 years ago. As a lifelong advocate for Israel and the Jewish community, Bronfman also sits on the board of directors of the Israel policy Forum, and chairs its Advisory Council.

70 years of Israeli ingenuity: What's Israel's top invention?

In celebration of Israel's 70th year of independence, the Ministry of Economy and Industry in conjunction with Ynet conducted the most prominent invention and technological competition since the establishment of the state of Israel.

In the first stage of the competition, over 52,000 participants voted on what they thought was the most influential Israeli invention, in which nine inventions made it to the second round. In the second stage of the competition, 63,000 participants voted on which of the top nine were the most influential.

Here are the top nine:



1) Iron Dome

The flak jacket that protects an entire country.

The only missile and rocket interceptor system of its kind, the Iron Dome was developed in 2007 and is considered to be one of the most important and influential Israeli inventions born out of necessity. The defense system was developed by the Ministry of Defense, Mafat, through the Rafael government company, in cooperation with Elta

Systems, which developed the radar system and Amprest, which developed the control and control system. The Iron Dome system intercepted more than 1,700 rockets and missiles fired at Israel from various regions, and the success rate of the system during Operation Protective Edge in 2014 was 90%. Two of the strongest advantages of this technological development are its ability to save the lives of Israeli citizens and to protect the Israeli economy in times of conflict near the Gaza Strip.

2) Waze

Helping millions "reach their destination"

Waze is an Israeli application developed in 2006 for GPS road navigation which provides turn-by-turn navigation while simultaneously providing real-time user-based information regarding the chosen route such as traffic and speed traps. The company was founded and developed by Ehud Shabtai and was acquired by Google in 2013.

3) Water-Gen LTD.

Fresh drinking water has always been humanity's biggest challenge

Watergen invented cutting-edge technology to provide a low-cost solution for creating a renewable source of fresh and clean drinking water by extracting it directly from the atmosphere. Watergen's solution is a game changer that will improve quality of life and health, as well as save lives. This invention has the capacity to serve billions of people around the world by providing a

basic human biological need, water.

4) Ofek satellite

Israel's eye in the sky

Ofek Reconnaissance Satellites is a company whose details and capabilities are largely classified; however, it is assumed that this defense contractor has developed ultraviolet and visible imaging sensors with an effective operational lifespan of between one and three years. The company had its first launch of Ofek One in 1988 and since then, the company launched a total of 11 times.

5) Netafim - drip irrigation

Helping to grow food in a parched globe

Netafim was founded in 1965 by farmers in the Negev desert who explored different solutions to growing crops in the desert soil. The company produces drippers, dripperlines, sprinklers and micro-emitters. In conjunction with these products, Netafim manufactures and distributes crop management technologies, including monitoring and control systems. To put things into perspective, Netafim controls over 30 percent of the global drip irrigation market in the world.

6) Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.

Safeguarding your digital self

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. is an Israeli startup that was created in 1993 by Gil Shwed with the dream of protecting information, ultimately leading to the creation of Check Point's first product, Firewall-1. The

idea for the initial product came from Shwed's military service in Unit 8200 of the IDF where he worked on securing networks of classified information.

7) "Shoresh" Sandals

Bringing back biblical footwear

Shoresh Sandals, also known as Source, are outdoor sandals used for trekking and other hiking activities and are famous for their non-slip sole. Source sandals are synonymous with being an outdoor Israeli and have deeply embedded roots with the outdoor tradition in Israel among backpackers and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

8) USB stick

Your computer on a key ring

M-Systems Ltd. was the Israeli company responsible for the production of the flash memory storage products which were designed in 1989 by Dov Moran. Originally marketed as DiskOnChip, IBM eventually purchased the flash drives from M-Systems and the product received the Most Innovative Award from EDN in 1995 and later evolved into Flash Drive and DiskOnKey.

9) Micro robotic system that aids surgery

Meet Dr. Robot

Assia Medical center, specifically the Urology ward, has implemented state of the art Israeli technology which specializes in minimally invasive surgeries for the abdominal cavity. The center specializes in robotic technology that enables complex surgeries.

Connecting Jews, Arabs through shared love of soccer

This summer, as the FIFA World Cup is underway in Russia, the historic gates of Jerusalem's Old City will transform into a goalpost as Jews and Arabs join together for a special soccer event. The gathering is set to bring some 200 young players from the eastern and western sides of Jerusalem to compete in a penalty shootout against world-famous goalies, the event organizers say.

"Everyone loves soccer no matter who they are or where they're from. In a lot of senses, it epitomizes the vision that culture has an important role in bringing people together," said Zaki Djemal, one of the founders of Kulna Yerushalayim (We Are All Jerusalem), the nonprofit organization hosting the event. "There's a lot of culture that we all share and have in common. Instead of celebrating that culture separately, we can do it together."

The event, to take place during the World Cup's semifinal games on July 10-11, will include live music, sports legends and screenings of the matches on the ancient walls surrounding the Old City in addition to the penalty-kick competition. In order to generate excitement, the organization is aiming to bring famous goalies from some of the world's best teams to participate alongside the Jewish and Arab youth. While there have been no formal commitments yet, Djemal said they are focusing on getting the attention of Italy's Gianluigi Buffon, Germany's Oliver Kahn, France's Fabian Barthez, Spain's Iker Casillas, and Denmark's Peter Schmeichel.

"We could approach people directly



but we like to position the effort as coming from the ground up," said 30-year-old Djemal, also the cofounder and managing partner of fresh.fund, the first student-run venture capital fund in Israel. Kulna Yerushalayim's website for the initiative, dubbed "Goals and Gates," calls on Jerusalem residents and soccer fans to help get the attention of these soccer stars and bring them to Jerusalem.

Just a week after launching the website, Djemal said news of the event had already reached Europe, with social media posts and a mention on the radio in Italy. Djemal, a Harvard graduate born in London and raised in Jerusalem, explained that if the organization doesn't succeed in getting one of the legendary goalies to participate, the games will still go on. "We have a bunch of Israeli goalies who are interested as well.

Itzik Kornfein, who is one of the most legendary Israeli goalies and is now in charge of sports in the Jerusalem Municipality, has been a supporter of our project and he's happy to help," said Djemal.

This is not the first time Djemal and the Kulna Yerushalayim founders have attempted to break down barriers with cultural activities. Beginning by bringing Jews and Arabs together using a shared love of Middle Eastern music, the organization then launched a project named Jerusalem Double in 2016, which shifted the focus to the classic Mideast board game, backgammon.

Their first backgammon tournament, hosted in Beit Hanina, an Arab neighborhood in East Jerusalem, brought 150 people together. In one year of operations, Jerusalem Double engaged 1,000 backgammon players

and over 4,000 other participants from across the Jerusalem Jewish-Arab divide. Since then, tournaments have been held in more than 12 Jewish and Arab areas of Jerusalem, creating crossover between neighborhoods that are usually segregated.

Djemal explains that the broader strategy is to influence change in Jerusalem, specifically relating to a more equitable distribution of municipal resources between the two sides of the city. After former Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Ofer Berkovitch, now running for mayor of the city, attended a Jerusalem Double backgammon tournament, he worked alongside the organization to help create solutions for the lack of parking available during Muslim prayer times. "The backgammon was a foot in the door. It was an invitation, a tactic to engage with this type of audience, and from that we're also able to surface a lot of other issues and see real change across the board by all populations," Djemal explained.

Part of the goal of Kulna Yerushalayim is to encourage encounters between Jerusalemites in different locations around the Old City, where they may not have previously visited due to fear or stigma, the organization said. The latest project, Goals and Gates, will test the waters to see how a shared love of sports and the World Cup can create a feeling of connection, understanding and empathy between Arab and Jewish Jerusalemites. "I think that if we figure out Jerusalem, we can figure out the entire region," says Djemal.

Israeli earmarks \$5.6 million for new tech parks in Arab towns

The Knesset committee for Arab affairs has approved a NIS 20 million (\$5.6 million) two-year plan for the creation of technology parks within Arab towns in Israel, as a way to boost local employment opportunities locally and close income gaps between Jewish and Arab Israelis. A further NIS 5 million was earmarked to create access roads and transportation to and from these parks. The committee instructed the Ministry of Economy and Industry to set up the plan within 90 days.

Arab Israelis account for some 20 percent of the population, but just 2.5 percent of employees in the high-tech sector, according to government data. Low-income populations have largely been left on the sidelines of the nation's high-tech boom, including the ultra-Orthodox, Arab Israelis, and women, resulting in large income gaps. The ultra-Orthodox and Arab populations, among the poorest in Israel today, are expected to constitute half of the population by 2059 according to the OECD.

"The plan is expected to create conditions for the creation of thousands of new jobs in the fields of development, software and services, and to contribute to narrowing the gap between supply and demand" for the employment of Arabs in the high-tech sphere, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said.

Since 2012, the Israeli government has set up a number of programs to help Arab Israelis integrate into the labor market and the high-tech sector in particular, in an effort to boost economic growth and reduce inequality. In 2015, the government earmarked an unprecedented NIS 15 billion for the economic development of the Arab Israeli sector and other minority communities from 2016

through 2020. The new tech park plan is an extension of the 2015 decision, the committee said.

The move comes as Israel's tech industry, for years the growth engine of the economy, is facing an acute shortage of skilled engineers and programmers. This scarcity could cause the engine to stall, and the country is seeking to tap into new populations sectors to keep it going.

The NIS 15 billion program is already beginning to bear fruit. "Within just two years we have already witnessed a significant increase of many growth indicators in Arab society," said Social Equality Minister Gila Gamliel in the statement announcing the committee's decision. These growth indicators include more Arab students taking high school matriculation exams, more Arab students enrolled in higher education programs, and higher employment rates. "The fact that the plan is so successful attests to the government's commitment," which crosses ministries and parties, she said.

Among the achievements in the past two years, since the implementation of the so-called Plan 922 — the NIS 15 billion plan — there has been a 6.3 percent increase in the rate of matriculation eligibility in Arab society; a 2 percent rise in the number of Arab students, and some 88,000 children and teens who are taking part in informal education programs.

The committee for Arab affairs is headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and includes Gamliel and Economy Minister Eli Cohen. The program was set up in collaboration with Aiman Seif, the director at the authority for the economic development of minorities, and Tsofen, a nonprofit organization that



Alumni and participants of Founders & Coders Nazareth branch

aims to increase the involvement of Arabs in the technology sector.

High-tech firms operating in Israel are beginning to recognize the business sense of employing Arab graduates and opening offices and plants in Arab towns, said Paz Hirschmann, the co-CEO of Tsofen, in a phone interview. "The high-tech industry must come to the heart of Arab towns" to enable real social and economic change, he said. This is already happening in Nazareth, for example.

Nazareth, the largest Arab city in Israel's Northern District, hosts over 950 high-tech employees — compared to just 30 in 2008 — working in firms that have set up local operations, like Amdocs, Microsoft, Broadcom, Alpha Omega and others. Of these employees, 25 percent are Arab women, Hirschmann said. There are also some 70 startups operating in the city.

In Kafr Qassem, 25 kilometers east of Tel Aviv, Tsofen operates a startup accelerator program and is

working to set up a high-tech park in conjunction with the government and the municipality, he explained. The technology park plan "is an important step," Hirschmann said, though "as with any decision, it would have been better had it come five years ago." But, he added, the merging of Israel's demand for skilled workers with greater openness of the Arab population to the tech industry — they are now starting to view it as a viable employment option — makes the timing of the decision perfect.

From 2012 to 2015 the number of Arab undergraduates studying subjects relevant to the high-tech industry increased by 50 percent, Tzofen data shows. Founded in 2008 by Jewish and Arab high-tech professionals, Tsofen seeks to create an equal society in Israel by boosting the number of Arabs in the tech industry and thus helping close income gaps. The organization seeks to promote tech hubs in Arab towns and help Arab engineering graduates find jobs in technology firms.

The real dispute driving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

By Ayossi Klein Halevi

As the U.S. moves its embassy to Jerusalem, and the tragedy at the Gaza border escalates, Israelis and Palestinians continue to contest each other's rights not just to that city, but to legitimacy itself.

On April 30, Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority, provoked an international uproar when he delivered a speech before the Palestinian National Council in which he blamed the Holocaust on Jewish "social behavior" like greedy banking practices. The European Union promptly denounced Abbas; former Secretary of State John Kerry tweeted that there can be "no excuses for antisemitism" [sic]; the dovish Jewish organization J Street warned that "diatribes like this" undermine legitimate Palestinian aspirations; and a New York Times editorial called for his resignation. In fact, Abbas's contempt for Holocaust historicity was hardly new: His 1982 doctoral thesis trafficked in outright Holocaust denial, questioning the number of victims and claiming that Zionists collaborated with the Nazis.

But the international community missed a more consequential affront in Abbas's speech: the denial of the Jewish people's rootedness in the land it shares with the Palestinian people. "Their narrative about coming to this country because of their longing for Zion, or whatever—we're tired of hearing this," Abbas told the Palestinian National Council. "The truth is that this is a colonialist enterprise, aimed at planting a foreign body in this region."

Abbas's "Zion denial" explains much about why the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians remains so intractable. If Israel is merely a colonialist project, rather than the fulfillment of an exiled people's longing to return home, then it is illegitimate. You don't make peace with colonialism—you destroy it. Seventy years after the founding of the Jewish state and the beginning of the Palestinian tragedy, peace remains as elusive as ever—in large part because of the pervasive denial, both within Palestinian society and throughout the Middle East, of Israel's legitimacy, and the hardline response that denial evokes among Israelis.

Abbas's speech only confirmed for many Israelis that this conflict isn't primarily about redressing the Palestinian grievances over the consequences of the events of 1967—the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza—but of 1948: the creation of Israel. Even if we were to uproot every last settlement and withdraw

to the 1967 lines, some Israelis say, it won't bring us any closer to peace, because the real Palestinian grievance is Israel's existence.

This week, as the U.S. embassy is moved to Jerusalem and Palestinians observe the 70th anniversary of the nakba, or the "catastrophe" that saw the expulsion of some 700,000 Palestinians from their homes in 1947 and 1948 by Israelis, violence in the region will almost certainly intensify. The ongoing war over 1948 is being played out on Israel's border with Gaza, where tens of thousands of Palestinians have been gathering over the last month, in attempts to storm the fence that separates the two. In response, the Israeli army has used live fire and killed dozens of Palestinians. Leaders of the extremist group Hamas, which controls Gaza and is organizing the demonstrations, have declared that the "march of return" is the beginning of the end of the Jewish state.

In conversations over the years with many Palestinians and Arabs, I've been told some version of: We have nothing against Jews as a religious minority. You lived in Arab lands for centuries. But we cannot accept your redefinition of yourselves as a people, let alone a sovereign nation. That rejection of Israel's legitimacy ignores that many Jews have always defined themselves as a people with a religious identity, nurtured by the hope of one day restoring their sovereignty in their lost homeland.

Palestinian media, schools, and mosques routinely reinforce the message of denial. According to the prevailing Palestinian narrative, the Jews are pathological liars who have invented their history, thieves without rights to any part of the land—"a foreign body," as Abbas put it. Among the fabrications in this narrative: that there was no ancient Jewish presence here—that's a Zionist lie, too; the massive archeological findings attesting to that presence were all faked; no temple stood on the Mount; and the Holocaust was a Zionist invention intended to extort Western support for a Jewish state.

I know Palestinians who reject that assault on the Jewish narrative and are prepared to accept the indigenesness of the Jewish people in the land we share. But voices affirming the legitimacy of the Jewish story are excluded from the official Palestinian discourse.

The international community has tended to downplay or ignore altogether this deep-rooted denial of the Jewish

story. But the impact on the Israeli public has been profound. Zion denial is one of the most effective arguments of the Israeli right, which portrays the greatly diminished left as hopelessly naive.

It could have been different. By the early 1990s, many Israelis were beginning to come to terms with the ruinous consequences of the occupation on their own society. The turning point occurred during the First Intifada, the five-year Palestinian uprising that began in 1987. I served then as a soldier in the Gaza refugee camps and, like many of my generation, concluded that we had to find another way. Many Israelis, including on the right, came to realize that ruling over another people was a long-term disaster for Israel. The teenagers confronting armed soldiers with rocks proved that Palestinians were no less willing to sacrifice for their sovereignty than we were.

This realization was a historic departure from the mainstream Israeli denial of the legitimacy of Palestinian national identity. "Palestine denial" was notoriously summed up by Golda Meir, the former prime minister of Israel, who in 1969 said that, under the British Mandate, Jews and not Arabs had been called Palestinians and that, in effect, there was no such thing as a Palestinian people. For Meir, Palestinian nationalism was merely a ruse invented by the Arab world to undermine Israel.

Palestine denial remains pervasive within the Israeli right. But there are also those Israelis who have long since come to terms with the right of the Palestinian people to self-definition—a prerequisite for achieving the right to self-determination.

The widespread Israeli awakening during the First Intifada led to the election of Labor Party leader Yitzhak Rabin as prime minister in 1992, followed by the Oslo peace initiative, which was initially supported by a majority of Israelis. The premise of Oslo was a rejection of the old Israeli attitude conveyed by the Hebrew adage, Ein im mi l'daber—there's no one to talk to, no partner for compromise.

But that hopeful moment vanished in 2000 with the Second Intifada, four years of suicide bombings that turned Israel into a nation of shut-ins, afraid to congregate in public places. No less traumatic than the terrorism was the fact that it followed Israeli overtures to end the occupation. We tried to make peace, many Israelis concluded, and in return suffered the worst wave of terrorism in our history. Whether or

not one accepts that normative Israeli version of why Oslo failed, Israel today cannot be understood without grasping the impact of the Second Intifada. Many Israelis remain convinced that the Palestinian leadership's rejection of peace in 2000 was an inevitable consequence of its rejection of Israel's right to exist. The conviction that "there is no one to talk to" returned with full force.

The most significant political divide in Israel today is no longer between right and left, but between right and center: right-wingers who believe that there is no partner for peace and so Israel should settle and annex the West Bank, and centrists who believe that there is no partner for peace but Israel still needs to try to extract itself from the occupation, even unilaterally if necessary. Neither camp believes in the possibility of reconciliation with the Palestinians any time soon.

Israelis and Palestinians are caught in what could be called a "cycle of denial." The Palestinian national movement denies Israel's legitimacy, and Israel in turn denies the Palestinians' national sovereignty. The cycle of denial has defined this shared existence since the creation of Israel 70 years ago.

No matter how vigorously the international community condemns the occupation, it won't move the Israeli public—including those who see the occupation as a long-term threat to Israel as a Jewish and democratic state—so long as Israelis believe that no matter what their country does, the other side will continue to see its existence as illegitimate.

According to polls, a majority of Israelis believe two things about the conflict. The first is that ending the occupation is an existential necessity for Israel itself. The second is that, given the denial of Israel's legitimacy within the Palestinian national movement, a Palestinian state will likely be irredentist and itself a potential existential threat to Israel.

The key to ending the occupation, then, is beginning a new conversation on peace between Palestinians and Israelis—not only about the technical details of an agreement, but about the intangible issues of legitimacy and rootedness of two indigenous peoples fated to share the same tortured land. The international community can help by expressing its vigorous opposition not only to Israeli settlement building, but also to the Palestinian campaign that portrays the Jewish return home to any part of the land as a colonialist affront.

EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE

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Please mail your payment with complete information to the Jewish Federation, PO Box 14925, Reading, PA 19612-4925 or bring to the Jewish Cultural Center, 1100 Berkshire Blvd, Suite 125, Wyomissing. You may set up a “**savings account**” for the purpose of sending cards. Please contact the Jewish Federation at 610-921-0624 for further information.

Contributions as of May 18

Holocaust Library & Resource Center

In memory of:

Bettina Najer – Rosalye Yashek, Sid and Esther Bratt
Paul Lechman – Sid and Esther Bratt, Rosalye Yashek
Margaret Levine – Rosalye Yashek

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In honor of:

Harriet Baskin’s special birthday – Elaine Safir
Matthew Driben’s high school graduation – Debbie, David, Scott, Mark and Abby Goldberg, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer
Leah Ego’s high school graduation – Debbie, David, Scott, Mark and Abby Goldberg
Tristian Haas’ high school graduation – Debbie, David, Scott, Mark and Abby Goldberg
Audra Nemirow’s high school graduation – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer
Isaac Singer’s high school graduation – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer
Chase Weizer’s high school graduation – Debbie, David, Scott, Mark and Abby Goldberg
Anna Balchunas’ college graduation – Debbie, David, Scott, Mark and Abby Goldberg, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer
Dana Rosenzweig receiving her Master’s degree – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer
Brian Wernick completing his Surgical Residency Program at St. Luke’s Hospital – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

In memory of:

David LeVan – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Anzie and Edward Golden, Henry and Helene Singer
Adrienne Bartos – Anzie and Edward Golden

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:

Edith Blanck’s birthday – Marcia and George Eligman
Evelyn and Jay Lipschutz’s new granddaughter Jordanna – Ellen and Don Abramson
Esther and Sid Bratt’s new great-granddaughter Jordanna – Ellen and Don Abramson
Morty Caster’s engagement – Ellen and Don Abramson

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Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

Federation Jewish Community Campaign	\$10
Jewish Family Service	\$10
Leo Camp Lecture Fund	\$10
JFS Food Bank	\$25
JFS Taxi Transportation Program	\$25
Holocaust Library & Resource Center	\$18
Doris Levin Fund	\$10
PJ Library Fund	\$10
Harry & Rose Sack Fund	\$10
Evelyn Thompson Fund	\$10

In memory of:

Rabbi Alan Weitzman – Cheryl and Eric Farber
Adrienne Bartos – Cheryl and Eric Farber
Bettina Najer – Evelyn and Jay Lipschutz, Andy and Corinne Wernick
David LeVan – Sid and Esther Bratt, Berna Sherman and family, Hilde Gernsheimer
Margaret Levine – Berna Sherman, Andy and Corinne Wernick, Hilde Gernsheimer

JFS Food Pantry

In memory of:

Margaret Levine – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

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In honor of:

Margaret Levine – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

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In memory of:

Adrienne Bartos – Glenn and Gaye Corbin
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In honor of:

Jack Viener’s college graduation – Sue Wachs
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Jamie Fromm’s high school graduation – Sue Wachs
Isaac Singer’s high school graduation – Sue Wachs

Religious bullying significant, pervasive issue in U.S. schools

“Religiously-motivated harassment and bullying are on the rise across our country, and are infiltrating our nation’s schools,” testified Aviva Vogelstein, LDB’s director of legal initiatives, at the Commission’s briefing entitled “In the Name of Hate: Examining the Federal Government’s Role in Preventing Hate Crimes.”

“Until recently, though, this problem has been almost entirely ignored by the federal government. It is unconscionable that this category of hate, averaging approximately 30 incidents per school day, 150 incidents per school week, and 602 incidents per school month, has, up until now, been largely unaccounted for and unaddressed,” Vogelstein said.

According to a 2014 Sikh Coalition report, over half of Sikh children in the U.S. said they were bullied in school, and over two-thirds, or 67 percent, report being bullied if they were wearing a turban.

A February ADL report found that anti-Semitic incidents in K-12 schools and on college campuses nearly doubled over 2016. A Brandeis Center/Trinity College study found that 54 percent of Jewish college students reported experiencing or witnessing anti-Semitism in 2014. And a U.S. Department of Education report, released just last month, which at the urging of the Brandeis Center, for the first time, included

statistics on religiously-motivated bullying and harassment, found an alarming 10,848 incidents based on religion in 2015-2016.

Recent incidents include:

- A Muslim student was spit on, called a “Muslim b*tch” and an attempt was made to pull off her hijab at a New York public school.
- A 14-year-old Sikh boy wearing a turban in Washington state was punched and knocked down by a classmate.
- At a Florida school, a classmate drew a swastika and a fake concentration camp number on a Jewish student’s arm.
- In New York, a Jewish boy was verbally harassed, pinned to the ground and had hot wax poured on his skin.
- In Maryland, two Jewish students were followed by two suspects shouting antisemitic epithets and then punched in the face.
- In San Diego a man assaulted a female Muslim student by grabbing her headscarf and choking her with it, calling her a terrorist and telling her to “Get out of this country.”

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, bullying “is linked to many negative outcomes including impacts on mental health, substance use, and suicide.” Kids who are bullied can experience negative physical, school, and mental health issues,

and kids who bully others can engage in violent and other risky behaviors into adulthood.

For many years, the Brandeis Center has been pushing the federal government to gather data on hate crimes against religious minorities, with a particular emphasis on anti-Sikh, anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish discrimination. Brandeis Center Director, Kenneth L. Marcus, has testified before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights about this issue.

“Our government cannot continue to turn a blind eye to religious bullying taking place in our nation’s schools,” Vogelstein said. “Congress and the president must address the longstanding problem of religious hate crimes, harassment, and bullying. We should all have known about this problem for quite some time. But if any question remained, the Department of Education’s staggering findings of 10,000 incidents in one year provides us with 10,000 indisputable reasons to act. Religious harassment and bullying in our schools is a major problem that the federal government is inexplicably failing to address. We need better data, and we need serious and immediate action.”

The Brandeis Center recommended three steps to combat religiously-motivated bullying and harassment.

First, Congress must enact legislation to protect students from religious-based harassment.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of “race, color, or national origin” does not protect students from harassment based on religion, absent an ethnic or ancestral component. Congress should amend existing legislation or pass a stand-alone bill to address this omission.

Second, the Department of Education should issue clear guidelines as to what is prohibited and what is permitted under Title VI.

Lastly, the Department of Education’s agreement to collect data is important but the way the data is currently collected is not useful beyond general figures. The Department of Education should collect detailed information on individual religions, the specific types of harassment and bullying, locations where incidents are occurring and the context behind each incident.

More and detailed information is required to properly identify trends and develop effective strategies for addressing past incidents and preventing future ones.

Israel to shift power supply to Palestinian Authority

Israel's public utility, the Israel Electric Corporation, is set to transfer much of the West Bank's power supply to the Palestinian Authority, in a deal worth some NIS 2.8 billion (\$775 million) that is a step toward granting the Palestinians more autonomy over their affairs.

The IEC signed the 15-year agreement with the PA, making the PA responsible for the power supply. It includes plans to construct four high-voltage power plants. Most of the three million Palestinians living on the West Bank get their electricity from Israel, with a small area surrounding the city of Jericho relying on Jordan for its power, according to Reuters.

Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon touted the agreement, calling it was a "historic step" that could lead to further diplomatic breakthroughs between Israel and the Palestinians. "Strengthening economic cooperation between Israel and the PA is first and foremost an Israeli security interest," Kahlon said in a statement. "The agreement will secure future payments to the IEC and strengthen its financial strength. I congratulate the negotiating teams on completing the mission."

The deal will see the PA pay off a NIS 915m. debt to the IEC. It includes both collateral and a credit-guarantee mechanism, unlike previous agreements which unraveled as Israel and the PA sparred with one another over repayments. The IEC has previously faced difficulty in getting some Palestinian customers

to pay their debts, however, the High Court of Justice forbid the IEC from fully cutting off power to those customers, according to *Globes Business Daily*.

After the agreement's terms are implemented, the IEC will sell power to the Palestine Electricity Transmission Company through its four power plants, which are to be built by both the IEC and the PA. The four power plants will be located in the Palestinian towns of Jalama, Nablus, Ramallah and Tarkumiya, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

"The agreement brings about a new reality in the Palestinians' energy sector, reduces restrictions on power supply and strengthens economic stability," said Finance Ministry Director-General Shai Badad in a statement. "The fair payment for the electricity supplied to the Palestinians will open a new era in economic relations between the parties."

Palestinian officials said the deal would allow Palestinians to regain more control over their affairs and infrastructure. "The agreement... frees the Palestinian electricity sector of complete Israeli control, which has lasted for decades," said Hussein Al-Sheikh, head of the PA's civil affairs agency, as quoted by Reuters.

On the Israeli side, Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said the Palestinians could now more easily upgrade their outdated electrical grid and take responsibility for their own affairs.



"With the signing of the agreement, we will be able to move forward with the Palestinians to develop a modern electricity grid, based on the model of the secondary station we inaugurated in Jenin," he said, referring to a meeting last year he held in Jenin with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah.

The agreement comes on the heels of three years of negotiations between Kahlon and Hamdallah, with other participants including the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) – the Israeli Army branch administering the West Bank – the Palestinian Minister for Civil Affairs, the IEC and the PETC. The deal also reportedly

reduces electric tariffs paid by Palestinian customers who buy power at wholesale prices, according to WAFA.

Given the split between Fatah – the Palestinian faction administering the West Bank – and Hamas, which rules Gaza, the agreement pertains only to the West Bank. Gaza continues to suffer from rolling blackouts and a severely curtailed power supply. In Gaza, residents are lucky to get between six to eight hours a day of power amid a years-long dispute between Israel, Egypt and Hamas over providing electricity. The coastal enclave has been subject to a partial Israeli-Egyptian blockade for the past decade.

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