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Reflections on the New Year

He would be a blind and unthinking optimist who would claim that everything was for the best in this "best of all possible worlds". We witness the pitiful streams of Yazidi refugees fleeing the blood lust of a terrorist entity for whom executions and beheadings are an integral part of their recruitment campaigns. We are haunted by the carnage inflicted by Boka Haram, all in the name of an Islamist cause that seems to resonate, too easily, with too many. We see Christians being targeted throughout Muslim countries, their right to freedom of religion denied by zealots who demand that they either subject themselves to *dhimmitude* or become refugees. We watch in disbelief as civilian aircraft are shot out of the skies by unrepentant pro Russian forces in the Ukraine. And, of course, we listen anxiously as Israel fights back against a barrage of rocket attacks and resists the obduracy of its myopic critics. Greed and hate consume our civilization and the hope that the "savagery of man" may somehow be tamed seems a forlorn one.

Then there are the internal problems facing Western Jewry. In Canada and the United States the menace of anti-Semitism has little impact on our daily lives. We must, of course, remain vigilant and make certain that those who deface our synagogues and desecrate our tombstones are brought to justice. But fears that Gilles Proulx and the few others like him reflect the views of all Canadians are, quite frankly, irrational. In Europe, however, especially in France and Great Britain, with its massive Muslim populations for

whom the concept of multiculturalism has no meaning, anti-Semitism threatens to spiral out of control. When French Jews are intimidated to the point that they believe *aliya* is their only salvation, when lunatic Muslim clerics preach the virtues of jihad in mosques across Great Britain, when Muslim punks break the windows of Jewish stores and harass innocent Jews on their way to synagogue, only the naive would approach the future without foreboding.

But anti-Semitism is not the only issue facing Jewish communities. Intermarriage is increasing and Judaism must find a way to accommodate the growing number of inter-faith couples. Jewish education barely touches the general Jewish community. There is an attenuation of a Judaism in which religion has become largely irrelevant. Jewish organizations vie amongst themselves for public attention often losing sight of the fact that they all are fighting for the same cause.

The pressure of unsolved - and perhaps insoluble - problems would justify a substantial measure of despair. Yet we Jews, who have endured the Inquisition and the Holocaust, have little choice but to continue our journey. In a world which has existed since the beginning of time and will stretch eternally into the future, a year, a generation, a lifetime are of little account. As we stand on the threshold of a New Year, we may only see dark blots on an uncertain horizon. But Jews must still hope that before they are "gathered up unto their ancestors" that our destiny will allow us to find allies who share our belief in the justice of our cause.

THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

Chief Rabbi Quits Amid Controversy

Karol Sidon, the long time chief rabbi of Prague and the Czech Republic, has resigned the former post after two decades serving the Jewish community. His resignation did not come without considerable controversy.

It was not so much that the political and psychological thriller novel "Altschul's Method", supposedly authored by Chaim Cigan, was, in fact, the distinguished rabbi. Most people accepted his explanation that writing about science fiction, alternate history and Jewish mysticism "does not befit a rabbi".

What likely hastened his retirement were reports that he has separated from his third wife and has become engaged to one of his former conversion students.

Karol Sidon, now 71, converted to Judaism in the early 1980s after enrolling in Jewish studies at

Heidelberg university in Germany. He returned to Prague in 1992 and became chief rabbi. "His arrival", says Charles Wiener, a former director of the Prague Jewish community, "was crucial for the community...All institutions in then Czechoslovakia were in the shadow of communism and collaboration, and suddenly someone came who had not been collaborating but was in fact thrown out of the country by communist authorities."

At the turn of the century tensions developed in Prague between Rabbi Sidon and Chabad rabbi Manis Barash. A sometimes violent struggle ensued before Sidon was returned to his post. Even today, some ten years later, the community remains divided.

Sidon's successor is Rabbi David Peter of the Jerusalem Synagogue in Prague, "My dream," he says, "is to help people embrace their Jewishness."

Israeli Customer Turned Away - in Florida

The woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, speaks with an Israeli accent and converses in Hebrew on her cellphone. She has lived in Coral Springs, Florida for 15 years. Recently the Floridian did what she has been doing ever since she got her driver's license - she went to the nearest Shell station to fill up with gas.

But that's when the problem began. An employee of the station allegedly told her that "you guys are killers and your money is not welcome here."

The woman initially believed that the employee was the owner but that is not the case. In fact, the owner is actually Jewish and he told the Coral Springs Talk website that his employee's behaviour was "totally intolerable". Added Pam Rosen, communications manager of Shell's

corporate offices in Houston, Texas: "Shell does not condone the type of behaviour alleged to have occurred and expected that third parties selling shell-branded motor fuels to treat every customer in a fair and exclusive manner."

Shimon Peres and Lauren Bacall

It seems implausible but apparently the late Lauren Bacall and Shimon Peres were first cousins.

The former Israeli president's birth name in Poland was Perski which was also Miss Bacall's birth name, even if she spelled it Perske. Their fathers were brothers.

Bacall never denied the report. She explained to a reporter that her parents divorced when she was six years old. Her father abandoned the family and she never had any further contact with the Perske side. Her mother went back to using her maiden name of

(Please turn to page 21)



WHILE TELEVISION SCREENS MAY HAVE FOCUSED ON THE DESTRUCTION IN GAZA AND the impact of the war on civilians there, Israeli families also suffered from the trauma of constant rocket attacks and damage from Gaza rockets was often extensive. Photo IGPO.

CITY OF BOMB SHELTERS

SDEROT RESIDENTS NOW FEEL UNDERSTOOD

By LINDA GRADSTEIN, MEDIA LINE

Simone Mizrachi wearily follows her two-year-old grandson as he happily jumps on the bouncy castle in a large indoor playground here. A balloon pops and she jumps. The playground has four large underground bomb shelters in case of rocket attacks.

"Enough already," Mizrachi says to The Media Line about the dozens of rockets fired at this small town over the past three days. "My grandson is the second generation already living through these rockets. When we see smoke

from the rockets I try to tell him 'look at the clouds up there,' but he knows it's not clouds. At age 2, he already knows what's going on."

Mizrachi has lived in this lower middle-class town of 24,000 for 32 years and has raised her four children here. For the past 13 years she says, Sderot has been under constant rocket fire. Because it is less than a mile to the border with the Gaza Strip, there are only 15 seconds to get to a shelter after the siren sounds. The Israeli government has spent

of millions of dollars to build bomb shelters here --- at bus stops, schools and in private homes.

Now for the first time, rockets are hitting Tel Aviv, Israel's hedonistic city of sand and sun. Mizrachi says she hopes Israel can end the rocket fire all over the country. But she says

there is a certain satisfaction in the idea that Israelis in bourgeois Tel Aviv now understand what Sderot has been living with all this time.

"Where have they been for the past thirteen years?" she asks angrily. "Now they are finally getting (Please turn to page 11)

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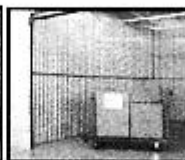


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GETTING IT WRONG

A PARENT RESPONDS TO SATMAR RABBI

By **STEPHEN M. FLATOW**

I've never been impressed by those who claim to know the "real" reason behind some tragedy--usually something along the lines of the victim not having recently checked to make sure his or her mezuzahs were still kosher. But the recent pronouncement by a prominent Hasidic rebbe about who should be blamed for the kidnap-murders of three Israeli teenagers is especially outrageous. And I'm taking it personally.

Rabbi Aaron Teitelbaum, leader of the Satmar Hasidim in Kiryas Joel, New York, declared:

Mr. Flatow, a New Jersey attorney, is the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered by Palestinian terrorists in 1995. - The Editor

"The parents are to blame. They caused their sons' murder...Who let them go there, among known murderers? Is there no place in the Land of Israel to live and study, only inside the animal cage?"

Given the Satmar group's extreme positions, such as its fierce opposition to the existence of the State of Israel, some might dismiss the Satmar Rebbe's remark as the view of only a tiny fringe element. But sociologists estimate that

the Satmar Hasidim number more than 100,000; they are, in fact, the single largest Hasidic sect in the world.

Numbers aside, Rabbi Teitelbaum was in fact voicing a sentiment not so different than what some others in the Jewish community have expressed: that the kidnap victims brought the tragedy on themselves by hitchhiking, or that their parents are to blame, either for allowing them to hitchhike or for

sending them to study in a school in Gush Etzion, that is, the West Bank.

Every parent worries first and foremost about the safety of his children. No sane parent deliberately puts his children in harm's way. Every parent weighs the risk of his child living in, or studying in, or visiting, a particular neighborhood. One may assume that Rabbi Teitelbaum, as a conscientious parent, is aware of the crime statistics in Brooklyn, which is the center of the Satmar community.

At the moment, Brooklyn is less safe than
(Please turn to page 13)

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CRYING "RACISM"

HAMAS DENIES USING "HUMAN SHIELDS"

By MOSHE PHILLIPS AND BENYAMIN KORN

[Moshe Phillips and Benjamin Korn are members of the board of the Religious Zionists of America. This article is part of a series. To view previous installments, please visit <http://www.phillyreligiouszionists.org/lessons-from-the-gaza-war/>.] - The Editor

As the war raged in Gaza, Israel repeatedly pointed to the Hamas strategy of using civilians as human shields. Palestinian spokesmen and supporters, in turn, insisted that it's "racist" to accuse Palestinian terrorists of such behavior.

Diana Buttu, a long-time legal adviser to the PLO who frequently appears in the international media, was interviewed on CNN's "The Lead with Jake Tapper," on July 10. She declared: "The idea that Palestinians use their children as human shields is racist and reprehensible."

Yousef Munayyer, executive director of a pro-Arab group called the Jerusalem Fund, appeared on "The Reid Report" on MSNBC on July 24. Referring to the human shields charge, he asserted that "there's something fundamentally wrong and racist about that argument."

Part of the reason that these Palestinian propagandists have been able to sow seeds of doubt concerning the human shields is that Hamas does such an effective job of intimidating journalists.

For example, the *Wall Street Journal* published a photograph by Nick Casey of Hamas spokesman Mushir Al Masri using a local hospital as a backdrop to give interviews. The hospital and its patients served, in effect, as a shield for Masri to speak to reporters without being targeted by Israel. A few days after it was posted, the *Journal* has removed Casey's photo from its website without explanation.

Meanwhile, a French journalist in Gaza, Radjaa Abu Dagga, published an article in the French newspaper *Liberation*, describing how when he was taken in for questioning by Hamas, the interrogators used a room in the Al Shifa hospital.

(Please turn to page 17)



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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

PARIS, FRANCE: Anti-Israel demonstrations were rampant in Paris (<http://en.parisinfo.com/discovering-paris>) during my family's visit to the French capital in July. But I did not personally witness any of these activities. We thoroughly enjoyed the one week we spent visiting all of the historic sites.

WHERE TO STAY: We stayed at the Jewish-owned Les Jardins du Marais (www.lesjardinsdumarais.com). It is located only blocks away from the famous "Jewish" Marais district. This beautiful hotel has 263 rooms and suites, an intimate restaurant and bar and excellent customer service. Our package included a beautiful and spacious deluxe suite, with all the comforts of home.

There was also an outstanding buffet breakfast, an in-house restaurant and a layout the likes of which I have never seen at a hotel before: 263 rooms spread about seven historic buildings and a dramatic 1,500 square metre backdrop of courtyards and gardens with cozy swing chairs, outdoor lounges, couches and other resting spots. Owner Albert Cohen literally stumbled upon this property in 1987, which at the time was a little alleyway surrounded by buildings and studios, home to famous sculptors and artists in the 1960s on Rue Amelot.

The Saint Sébastien Froissart station on Line 8 of the metro is two minutes on foot from the hotel and it will lead you to any place you wish to go. Wi-Fi is

available in all rooms and common areas. There is a workout room and even in-room massages upon request. Just a short walk from the front desk is a Carrefour grocery store. Email: info@homeplazza.com for more details.

JEWISH COMMUNITY: Present-day French Jewry is estimated at half a million people and is the Diaspora's second largest community, after the United States. Paris and its suburbs are the home to the great majority of Jews (350,000). The Shoah Memorial (<http://www.memorialdelashoah.org>) was opened to the public in January 2005 at 17 rue Geoffroy l'Asnier in the Marais district, on the site of the Mémorial du Martyr Juif Inconnu (Memorial to

the Unknown Jewish Martyr). It is a good place to visit.

WHERE TO DINE: There are currently over 120 kosher restaurants in Paris. We had dinner at a Jewish deli in the Marais district one night. While Parisian food is special, we were pleased to find a few eating spots that reminded us of home.

The renowned Koff Delicatessen (www.koffparis.fr) at 15 Rue la Vieuville was excellent. The husband and wife team of David and Jade designed this place like a New York deli. The menu features bagels, burgers, quesadillas, nachos, sandwiches, smoked salmon, Ashkenazi specialties, Russian dishes and a nice variety of salads.

(Please turn to page 18)

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EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES IN THE NEWS IN OUR CITY

By MIKE COHEN

MOURNING THEIR

PASSING: In recent months the Montreal Jewish community has lost some true leaders. David J. Azrieli, a visionary builder, developer and businessman, community leader, philanthropist and devoted Zionist (he was also a devoted reader of this publication) died peacefully surrounded by his family in his country house in Ivry-sur-le-Lac, Quebec. He was 92...In 1988 I joined the Canadian Jewish Congress as National Director of Communications and one of my first tasks was to work on the organization's then gigantic triennial Plenary at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. The chair was a lovely woman named Rosalind Goodman. She was nothing short of impressive. Over the next 26 years I would follow her tremendous efforts in the community, notably with the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Centre. A tireless volunteer, who committed herself to energizing cancer research activities at McGill and to educating others about the disease, it was this illness she fought and survived in 2007, but one that ultimately took her life on August 11...Former Côte Saint-Luc Mayor Bernard Lang passed away at the age of 88 at the beginning of the summer. Lang was the mayor of Côte Saint-Luc for 22 years. Prior to that he was a city councillor for 13 years. Lang was an articulate spokesman who brought credibility to the city.

PUTTING ON THE

RITZ: The Ritz-Carlton Montreal has hired Arlene Scher as sales director for banquets and special events. While her most recent post was director of new media and marketing for Symposia Theatre, she is best known in the community for the 12 years she spent, between 2001 and 2013, at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim as events coordinator. This is one of the largest synagogues in Canada. The Ritz has launched a new partnership with La Marguerite Kosher Catering. Scher's years of experience at the Shaar made for a logical connection here. The Ritz has a long history of attracting Jewish weddings, sweet sixteens, bar/bat mitzvahs and special events. Shabbat dinners, catered by La

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ARLENE SCHER IS THE new sales director for banquets and special events at the Ritz Carleton. See "Putting on the Ritz" above.

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(Continued from preceding page)

Marguerite, are now being arranged upon request as well. One of the highlights at both the Montreal location is "Afternoon Tea." When the Montreal hotel opened in 1912 it became recognized as a comfortable spot to enjoy "Afternoon Tea" and socialize. A century later, the Ritz has revived the tradition, a flashback to the Edwardian era when Tea Time was a social ritual. It includes a wonderful selection of fine teas, homemade canapés, scones and pastries.

MUSIC CAMERATA:

Hailed as Canada's foremost chamber music ensemble, Musica Camerata Montréal will celebrate its 45th anniversary this season, making it one of the best established chamber music ensembles in Canada. Since its debut in 1970, Musica Camerata Montreal has offered programs of rare originality, and has devoted much of its energy to promoting the music of Canadian composers. Musica Camerata continuously seeks new repertoire and has given the Canadian premieres of many unknown musical works. Musica Camerata's repertoire includes more than 300 works from the 18th to the 21st centuries. Argentinean born Jew Luis Grinhauz, the first assistant concertmaster and a musician with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra for nearly 45 years, leads Musica Camerata. His wife Berta and son Leo are also part of the ensemble. This season began on September 13. Next on the agenda will be November 8, March 14 and May 23. You can find all of the necessary information on their comprehensive website at www.cameratamontreal.com. Each of the concerts will begin at 6 p.m., with no intermission at the Chapelle Historique

du Bon Pasteur (100, rue Sherbrooke E).

GLORIA'S GIRLS:

On October 19, Gloria's Girls will be hosting a "Night at the Theatre" presenting Celebrities on Stage, starring twin celebrity impersonators Anthony and Eddie Edwards, at the Rialto Theatre (5723 Avenue du

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CITY OF BOMB SHELTERS

(Continued from page 5)

a taste of what it is like to live here. There are times that we get sixty rockets a day. Maybe now that they feel it, the government will finally do something."

One or two rockets hit Tel Aviv during the last round of fighting between Israel and Hamas in 2012. Now that rocket fire has become a daily occurrence. Most of the rockets are shot down by the Iron Dome anti-missile system.

Sderot, however, is too close to the border with Gaza for the Iron Dome to be effective. By the time the system identifies a missile launch, it has already landed. Israelis of all ages here have learned to live under rocket fire. Children in these areas near Gaza already know exactly what to do.

"Every time the siren goes off I get a chill and it's

scary," Roni Tarnavski, 12, who lives on a kibbutz near Sderot told The Media Line. "I know I only have 15 seconds to get inside. We can barely go outside because it's really dangerous."

She said the kibbutz swimming pool has been closed down because it would not be possible to get out of the water and into a bomb shelter within 15 seconds. In Sderot, too, the pool has been closed and roads are almost deserted. While most nursery schools are open because they have built-in bomb shelters, colleges have postponed exams.

"I'm finding it very hard to sleep at night," Dov Trachtman, 22, who is studying sociology and film, told The Media Line. "I'm so tired that I fall asleep for an hour or so during the day

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CITY OF BOMB SHELTERS

(Continued from preceding page)

and then at night I just lie awake waiting for the rockets. I can't concentrate so I'm glad the exams are being postponed."

In the course of the past nine years, at least

20,000 rockets have been fired at Sderot and the surrounding area. Most fall in open areas but dozens have scored direct hits. Two weeks ago, a rocket hit the Denbar paint factory here

causing a large blaze when the chemicals caught fire.

The facility was empty at the time, but several workers in the factory next door were wounded. Today, two weeks later, the debris has been cleared, although a burnt smell still hangs in the air. Owner Baruch Kogan says the total damage is about \$4 million, most of which he will get back from the government.

"We are already cleaning up and we will rebuild within three months," Kogan said. "We have no intention of going anywhere."

When it comes to a longer-term solution, Kogan makes a distinction between Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, and the Islamist Hamas which is behind the rocket fire.

"Abbas is trying to talk to Israel without any rockets and that's the way it should be," he said. "But Hamas doesn't want peace – they just want to destroy us."

Sderot Mayor Alon Davidi likes to take visitors to a hill on the western edge of the town with a clear view of Gaza. Among the 100

Palestinians killed in the past few days by Israel's relentless air bombardment of targets in the Gaza Strip were dozens of civilians. Davidi says he regrets any loss of life but blames the Palestinians living in Gaza for choosing Hamas.

"Look at my city," he says. "Hamas is trying to kill my children. I didn't do anything to them. Are there weapons in Sderot that they are trying to hit?"

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GETTING IT WRONG*(Continued from page 6)*

62% of cities in the United States. There are six crimes per 1,000 residents of Brooklyn each year--well above the national media of 3.9. For all residents of New York City, the odds of becoming a victim of crime are 1 in 246. If you live in Brooklyn, it's a lot higher: 1 in 167. Nationwide, 2.42 of every 1,000 people are victims of assault each year; in Brooklyn, it's 3.41. The number of victims of robberies nationwide is 1.13 per 1,000; in Brooklyn, it's more than double--2.40.

Even from the point of view of geography, the statistics should worry the Satmars: the national median of crimes per square mile is 39.3; for all of New York City, it's 47. For Brooklyn, it's 851.

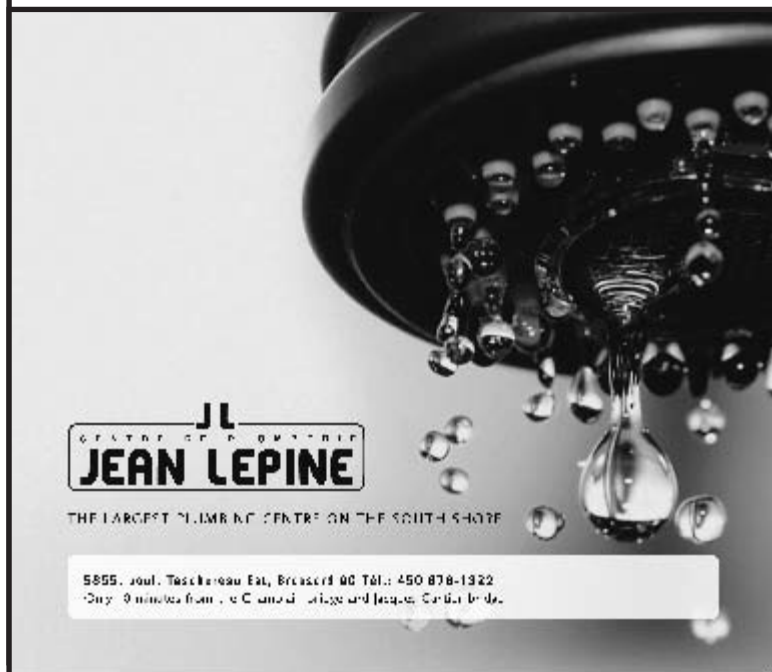
Of course, it's not all gloom and doom for

Brooklynites. For example, the rate of motor vehicle theft in Brooklyn is less than half of the national figure, and the rate of burglary is about one-third that of the rest of the nation.

And that's my point. Every parent has to weigh a variety of factors in choosing where to live, or where their children should study or visit. How many muggings or burglaries do you suppose take place annually in the Gush Etzion communities where the three teenage boys studied? What are the odds of being kidnapped by Arab terrorists? Obviously a lot less than the odds of being assaulted in Brooklyn.

In deciding that their sons would study in Gush Etzion, the Frankels, Shaars and Yifrachs were

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GETTING IT WRONG

(Continued from preceding page)

not irresponsibly sending their children into a mine-field. They were sending them into an area that is heavily protected by the Israeli army, and where the chances of being harmed in a terrorist attack are extremely small. The only reason they seem bigger is because they receive so much news media attention--as they should.

When my daughter Alisa, who was then a 20 year-old student at Brandeis University, decided to spend her junior year in Israel, my wife and I were naturally somewhat apprehensive. On the other hand, Israel and Yasir Arafat had signed the Oslo accords. The government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured the Israeli public and world Jewry that

a new era had dawned, that the vast majority of the Palestinians were now moderate and peace-loving. Shimon Peres insisted that Israel was now living in "a new Middle East."

Gush Katif, the Jewish communities of Gaza, were not considered to be some kind of dangerous no-man's-land. This was long before Israel withdrew from Gaza, long before Hamas took over, long before the first rocket had been fired into Sderot. Israelis and Jews from around the world visited Gush Katif all the time, without incident. When Alisa mentioned that she was going there for a few days in the sun before Passover and that she was following my travel rules, we saw no reason for

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alarm--any more than Rabbi Teitelbaum feels alarm about his children spending a Shabbat in Brooklyn.

Rabbi Teitelbaum is fortunate that he has not experienced the pain of losing a child in a terrorist attack. He should count his blessings, and remember that his first obligation, as

a rabbi, as a Jew, is to feel the pain of his fellow Jew, not to exacerbate that pain with crude blame-slinging. He owes an apology to the families of every victim of Palestinian terrorism.

COMMEMORATING ANNE FRANK



A SAPLING GROWN from the tree that Anne Frank wrote about while in hiding was celebrated recently at the U.S. Capitol as a "living testament" to one of the Holocaust's most cherished victims. The small, leafy chestnut planted on the Capitol's west front lawn is a sapling grown from the original tree that entranced Frank outside the Amsterdam building where the famed diarist and her family hid from the Nazis during World War II. The horse-chestnut was one of the few images from the natural world that could be seen from the Frank's small hideout, where the family lived for two years. "Our chestnut tree is in full blossom," the girl wrote on May 13, 1944. "It is covered with leaves and is even more beautiful than last year."

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from several composers and the iconic music for Kol Nidre, the ancient prayer in Aramaic which opens the Yom Kippur evening service.

The High Holy Day Experience follows the release of The Music of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim: Volume 1 – Shehecheyanu (2011) and Volume II – The Shabbat Experience (2012).

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CRYING RACISM*(Continued from page 7)*

al - proof that Hamas is using the hospital as a shield. But that article, too, was deleted from the Liberation web site after a short time.

But the story come out, and there was nothing that the Palestinian truth-deniers could do but yell "racist."

Sreenivasan Jain, a courageous reporter for New Delhi Television (NDTV), posted a detailed expose on August 5, showing Hamas terrorists assembling, and then firing, a rocket right in the middle of a neighborhood filled with residential buildings and hotels. His amazing report can be seen on the NDTV website at <http://www.ndtv.com/video/player/news/watch-ndtv-exclusive-how-hamas-assembles-and-fires-rockets/332910>. It's the most graphic evidence yet of Hamas deliberately acting in, and from, civilian areas - in the hope of drawing

ing Israeli fire that will cause civilian casualties and increase international criticism of Israel.

But then came the most damning evidence of all -- in Hamas's own handwriting.

On August 5, the Israeli Army released copies of an official Hamas manual that it discovered in the Shuja'iya neighborhood of Gaza, where one of the fiercest battles of the war was fought.

It's titled "Urban Warfare," and it was produced by Hamas's Shuja'iya Brigade. The manual includes detailed instructions on how to use the civilians of Gaza against Israel. It explains how because of Israel's concern about civilian casualties, Hamas can use the "presence of civilians" to its military advantage. Having civilians nearby causes the Israelis "(1) Problems with opening fire; (2) Problems in

controlling the civilian population during operations and afterward; (3) Assurance of supplying medical care to civilians who need it."

The "Urban Warfare" manual also emphasizes the benefits of damage to

civilian property: "The destruction of civilian homes: This increases the hatred of the citizens towards the attackers [the IDF] and increases their gathering [support] around the city defenders (resistance)." *(Please turn to following page)*

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CRYING RACISM

(Continued from preceding page)

tance forces[i.e. Hamas])."

Lesson twenty of the Gaza war: The "racism" lie spouted by the likes of Diana Buttu and Yousef Munayyer cannot change

the fact that Hamas deliberately uses Palestinian civilians as human shields, and therefore bears complete responsibility for the harm that has come to them.

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 8)

It is open for lunch and dinner and offers a Sunday brunch. I must say that I very much enjoyed the pastрами club sandwich, accompanied by delicious hash browns. Koff is just one minute's walk from Abbesses métro station (line 12).

Breakfast in America (<http://www.breakfast-in-america.com>) is another unique place to check out. There are two locations: in the heart of the historic Latin Quarter, not far from the Sorbonne and Notre Dame and in the Marais district. Breakfast in America is famous for breakfast, but also known for being one of the best places in Paris for burgers!

What dishes are the most popular? At BIA, some favorites include: blueberry pancakes with real maple syrup, the Connecticut omelet, two by two, locally-baked bagels, their own "BIA Burger" and "Super BIA Burger," California chicken wrap, vegetarian wrap, home-made chili con carne, club sandwich, cheesecake, real milkshakes and much, much more! There are toasters at each booth.

And here is one final tip which relates to sight-seeing and fine dining. We desperately wanted to get to the top of the Eiffel Tower (www.eiffel.fr), but it was clear that without reserving tickets online at least six

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months in advance for the peak period we were visiting we'd be facing at least a two hour wait. We did find a way to reach the second level quickly and enjoy a memorable dining experience with the view of a lifetime. This was all made possible by securing reservations at The Jules Verne Restaurant (<http://www.lejulesverne-paris.com>). This is part of the Alain Ducasse culinary empire (<http://www.alainducasse.com>). Not only did we enjoy a five course meal, but we had a private door to enter and exit the viewing platform whenever we wished. Upon arrival at the South Pillar, we gave our names to the host who sent us up on a private elevator 125 metres above. While regular patrons had to wait seemingly endlessly to go

back down at the end of the night, we did so in minutes. In order to get the window table we had, one needs to reserve at least three months in advance. We could have bought tickets from there to go to the very top, but frankly it is really not worth the long wait. There is now a "tasting" menu, allowing you to experience the full Jules Verne sensation. Dinner is 185 euros for five courses (meat or fish) or 230 euros for six.

In my next article on Paris, I will cover many of the historic sites tourists should visit,

Mike Cohen's email address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow him on Twitter @mikecohencl and see his many travel stories at www.sandboxworld.com/travel.



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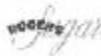
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EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from page 10)

Parc) in support of the Gloria Shapiro Endowment Fund for Ovarian Cancer Research. As the event enters its 10th year, the Jewish General Hospital Foundation and Gloria's Girls continue to work tirelessly to plan, coordinate, and execute events aimed at raising critically needed funds for Ovarian Cancer Research and Awareness. To date, they have raised over \$1 million. The event will begin at 6 p.m., with cocktails and small plates offered by five of Montreal's finest chefs followed by a delicious dessert bar. They

will then show a Tribute Video and welcome guest entertainers, The Edwards Twins, direct from Las Vegas. Anthony handles all the male impersonators including Stevie Wonder and Neil Diamond, while Eddie impersonates all the divas including Cher, Bette Midler and Barbra Streisand. There will also be a Live Auction Tickets are available through the Jewish General Hospital Foundation Office, 514-340-8222 extension 3986 or on the hospital's website <https://www.jghfoundation.org/event/GGT2014/>



THE CUMMINGS CENTRE RECENTLY LAUNCHED its newly renovated facility at a ribbon cutting ceremony held at its main campus that included from left to right Maxine Bloom, Cummings Centre President; Cathy Simons, Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors (CJCS) Foundation Director; Barbara Solomon, Co-Chair Cummings Centre Building Committee; Hy Beraznik, Co-Chair Cummings Centre Building Committee; Mike Wagen CJCS Foundation Immediate Past President; Bram Besner, CJCS Foundation President and Herb Finkelberg, Cummings Centre Executive Director. The occasion showcased many new areas of the Centre including a new Tech Lounge, state-of-the-art adapted program areas and a bistro style cafeteria. The Cummings Centre, is a non-profit community centre of excellence that connects people 50 years of age and older to the arts, education, health and wellness. (Photo: George Liberman)

tickets.html

General admission is \$136 with a partial tax receipt. Proceeds from this event will go towards supporting the gynecologic oncology unit of the Jewish General Hospital and the work of Dr. Walter Gotlieb, Director of Gynecologic

Oncology. Through the combined efforts of their sponsors, donors and guests, Gloria's Girls continues to make a difference in the lives of so many.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca. Follow him on Twitter @mikecohencsl.

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 4)

Bacall.

According to some reports Peres and Bacall actually met in New York in the early 1950s and only then discovered that they were related. "We're from the same family", said Peres. "It was she who later said that she was my cousin, I didn't say that."

The two again met in Israel in 1987 when Bacall was there filming a movie.

Not a Good Choice of Name or Food

The luxury condo is the first to be built in south Florida since the 2008 financial crisis. One and two bedroom apartments start at more than \$300,000. But the original name was a bit of a problem. Developers called the West Palm Beach develop-

(Please turn to following page)



THE KAREM SHALOM BRODER CROSSING AT the southern end of the Gaza Strip was initially designed as a secondary transit point for goods entering Gaza. But after Hamas took over in 2007, the northern crossing of Karni and a number of smaller crossings were closed for security reasons. Karem Shalom is removed from populated areas and became the sole entry point for commercial goods. There are only two other ways in and out of Gaza - the Rafah crossing along the Egyptian border and the Erez crossing into Israel. Both have been used for limited pedestrian traffic only.

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

ment ISIS Downtown. True the name was chosen long before the Islamist terror group came on the scene but prospective buyers were happy that the building is now called 3 Thirty Three Downtown.

Meanwhile many miles away, in New Taipei City, Taiwan, an Italian restaurant decided to name a sausage and pasta dish "Long Live the Nazis". When an outcry ensued, Chao Ya-hsin, the manager of the Rockmill restaurant apologized immediately, saying that "it never occurred to us that the word Nazi would stir up such controversy." The name, he explained, was chosen to help patrons understand the German origins of the dish. The dish now has a new name: Long Live Purity".

Six Jews, including Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg and his wife Rivkah, who ran the house, were killed. At the hotels and railway station 166 people were murdered in the three day attack.

The refurbished cultural center has a synagogue, kitchen and security rooms. Plans have also been announced for a \$2.5million museum in the building. "We're not moving into a new building - we are returning to our original building", says Rabbi Israel Kozlovsky, new co-ordinator

**We Wish the
Jewish Community
A happy, healthy and
prosperous New Year
for all your
family and friends.**

Mumbai Jewish Center Re-Opens

Twenty five rabbis from across Asia gathered recently for the re-opening of the Jewish Center in Mumbai, almost six years after it was attacked by gunmen in a terror attack on the center, the railway station and luxury hotels.

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of the center.

In 2012 India executed Mohammed Ajmal Amir Qasab, the sole surviving gunman of the ten terrorists. Qasab and his nine terrorists arrived in Mumbai by sea and split into groups to carry out their attacks. Their assault on the Jewish center, the Taj Mahal Hotel, the Oberoi Trident Hotel and the railway station lasted for two days before Indian forces regained control.

Where Were Dearborn's Muslims?

Muslim leaders, both Sunni and Shi'ite called ISIS "crazy animals". "You're a bunch of gangsters...you're not Islam", said Imam Mohammed Elahi of the Islamic House of Wisdom in Dearborn, Michigan. "The beheading James Foley", added

Mustapha Elturk, co-chairman of the Imams Council of the Council, "is a clear violation of the holy Quran and the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed".

It all sounds good. The problem is that only 50 Muslims bothered to show up at the protest. That's an estimated .02 percent of the states estimated Muslim population. Not exactly a "crowd".

Rabbi Robin Williams?

He wasn't actually Jewish, having been born and raised Episcopalian. But the late Robin Williams always regarded himself as a 'honorary Jew'. He played Jewish characters in Jakob the Liar, The Birdcage, and in an adaptation of Saul Bellow's *Seize the day*. He was one of the keynote

entertainers at Steven Spielberg's annual USC Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in 2005 and last March tweeted a photo of himself on the set of *The Crazy Ones* wearing a yarmulke. He asked whether it was too late for a career change".

Perhaps Williams most memorable exchange came in 2008 on a German TV show. He was asked if he could explain why there was so little humour in Germany. "Did you ever think", he told the interviewer, "it's because you killed all the funny people"

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