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THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

Non-Jews A Part Of Synagogue Life

Yaakov Ariel, a professor of religious studies at the University of North Carolina, has devoted considerable research to the make-up of synagogues in the American south. He has concluded that “sometimes as many as half the people in a synagogue are either non-Jews or married to non-Jews.” No longer, says Ariel, is the synagogue a place where the “tribe” can tell Jewish jokes about non-Jews. “You can’t even use Yiddish terms like *gut yontif* because half the people there for Rosh Hashanah might not know what it means.

Intermarriage is a major contributor to the presence of non-Jews at synagogue services. But “spiritual seekers” can also be found, drawn to Judaism’s “openness” on spiritual and cultural issues. Even Blacks, Asians and Latinos find comfort in the shul. This phenomenon, Ariel concludes, is the result of Jewish couples adopting Black, Asian and Latino babies.

Non Jewish synagogue members are not merely sitting in the back rows. They have become active members of the synagogue. They are presidents of synagogue boards and serve on any number of committees. Some non-Jewish spouses become so enthused about Judaism through their synagogue that they actually end up converting.

And there’s one more conclusion Ariel has

drawn from his research. He sees mixed couples who bring more than one religion into the house. “They go on Saturday to synagogue and on Sunday to the Episcopal church or the Presbyterian church” Ariel says. “If you think there’s no such thing as being a member of both a Jewish community and a non-Jewish community think again”.

It might be assumed that Reform congregations would be the only stream of Judaism accommodating non-Jews. But for the past few years Conservative rabbis have also wrestled with the issue of non-Jewish spouses in synagogue life. And while practices vary from synagogue to synagogue there is a general agreement that changes must be made. “My col-

leagues are being challenged to rethink positions that in the past we accepted almost as dogma,” says Rabbi Charles Simon, executive director of the Conservative movement’s Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs.

A War on Chanukah and Christmas?

The Montgomery County Board of Education for the suburban Washington D.C. school district has always closed for Jewish and Christian holidays. And that apparently is not about to change. But the school calendar will no longer mention Christmas or provide the dates for Easter, Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. After complaints from the growing local Muslim population

that holidays such as Eid al-Adha were nowhere to be seen, the Board voted to remove all religious designations.

The decision has sparked outrage from many on the right of the political spectrum. “School Dumps Christmas to Appease Muslims”, blared Tod Starnes of Fox News Radio. It’s “bad news for you Jews and Gentiles out there”.

Interestingly, the 7-1 board vote displeased some Muslims as well. One activist Muslim, Zainab Chaudry, told the *Washington Post* that the school board was willing to “go so far as to paint themselves as the Grinch who stole Christmas” to avoid giving equal treatment to Muslims. “They would remove the Christian holidays and they would remove the Jewish holidays from the calendar before they would consider adding the Muslim holiday to the calendar.”

Republican Victory Not All Positive

It is the prevailing opinion that the Republican victory in the November Congressional elections is “good for the Jews”. And while it is true that the increased Republican representation in Congress will be good for Israel, some Jewish organizations are much less enthusiastic about what will happen after the January 2015 swearing in.

Jewish activists, hoping for reforms in immigration laws, improved voting legislation, increased funding for social programs,

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Reflections on Chanukah

The story of Chanukah is, with that of Queen Esther of Purim fame, among the best-known legends of Jewish history. Judas Maccabee, his father Mattathias and the other stalwarts of the Maccabean line, have been celebrated in song and story for centuries and there are few Jewish children who have not been thrilled by the heroism of their ancestors.

Undoubtedly, a considerable share of the importance which has been attached to Chanukah is its chronological proximity to Christmas and the necessity of offering a Jewish counterpart to the influence which this Christian festival exerts upon Jewish children. Be that as it may, it is no more than fitting that we celebrate joyously this spiritual victory, ever-present testimony to the validity of a great religion and ethical system.

WHY MASTERMIND WENT FREE

LEON KLINGHOFFER'S MURDERER WAS NEVER PURSUED

By **STEPHEN M. FLATOW**

Amidst the controversy over the Metropolitan Opera's performance of "The Death of Klinghoffer," little has been said about the Palestinian leader who masterminded the attack in which Leon Klinghoffer was murdered.

The decision to hijack the cruise ship Achille Lauro, in 1985, was made by Muhammad Zaidan, also known as Muhammad Abbas or Abu Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front. (Not to be confused with his c o m r a d e - i n - a r m s Mahmoud Abbas, currently president of the Palestinian

Stephen M. Flatow lives in New Jersey. His daughter Alisa was murdered in an April 1995 terror attack at Kfar Darom. - The Editor

Authority.)

Four of Abu Abbas's agents seized the ship, terrorized the passengers, and murdered the wheelchair-bound, 69 year-old Klinghoffer. They also demanded the release of 50 Palestinian terrorists being held in Israeli prisons. When the Israelis refused to negotiate, Abbas's gang forced the ship to sail to Egypt. The Egyptian government arranged for them to flee by plane, but the U.S. air force intercepted the

plane and forced it to land in Italy. The Italians, however, refused to extradite the terrorists to America, and instead put them on trial. All four were convicted, but two were set free in just six years; the other two were released in 2008 and 2009.

What about Abbas, the man who was ultimately responsible for the hijacking and murder? The Palestinian leadership rallied around him. His Palestine Liberation Front remained part and parcel

of Yasir Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization. Arafat's foreign minister, Farouk Kaddoumi, accused Mrs. Marilyn Klinghoffer of murdering her husband for insurance money. Abbas himself offered an alternative explanation, at a press conference in Algeria in 1988: "Maybe he was trying to swim for it."

With Arafat's endorsement, Abbas and the PLF continued carrying out terrorist attacks. In fact, it was Arafat's refusal to condemn a PLF attack in 1990 that prompted President George H.W. Bush
(Please turn to page 9)

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A MATTER OF TIME

ISLAMISTS CLAIM ISRAEL'S DESTRUCTION IS INEVITABLE

By DR. MITCHELL BARD

The Obama Administration rejected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's comparison of ISIS and Hamas, a view that is both ignorant and dangerous, but consistent with the international tendency to treat the Palestinians as a unique class that deserves special treatment, including looking the other way when it comes to their ideology.

Hamas, however, does not conceal its intentions, publishing its covenant in 1988 with an explicit call for Israel's destruction. Notice also that Hamas does not distinguish between Jews and Israel: Here are a few excerpts:

Our struggle against

Dr. Mitchell Bard is the author/editor of 24 books including The Arab Lobby and Death to the Infidels: Radical Islam's War Against the Jews. - The Editor

the Jews is very great and very serious...It strives to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine...It is one of the links in the chain of the struggle against the Zionist invaders...

The Prophet, Allah bless him and grant him salvation, has said: "The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say, 'O Muslims, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him'....There is no solution

for the Palestine question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors. Palestine is an Islamic land.

The principles of the covenant, which Hamas officials and clerics publicly repeat without hesitation, are blatantly anti-Semitic, containing classic conspiracy theories straight out of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Jews are accused of "undermining societies, destroying values, corrupting consciences, deteriorating character and annihilating Islam." Jews are also

"behind the drug trade and alcoholism...to facilitate its control and expansion."

According to Hamas, Muslims must combat the threat posed by the Jews through jihad. And this is not just a Palestinian obligation; Hamas expects the entire Islamic world to join this holy war. The bottom line for Hamas – and all the Islamists – is that "no part of Palestine can be surrendered. No single Arab regime or number of regimes acting together has the right to break this trust and give up any of this land, not even the Palestinians themselves....reconquering the lands is considered a solemn religious duty."

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EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES IN THE NEWS IN OUR CITY

By **MIKE COHEN**

MEMORIES OF THE MAIN:

Frank Lemko (pictured below) has self published a new book called *Memories of The Main*. It echoes his childhood experiences of the social conditions and events of the ugly 1930s. Through 50 short stories he has tried to reflect Jewish resilience in the face of uncertainty and deprivation, yet embrace the differences in the New World, by demonstrating a talent for humour, which allowed Jewish people to survive the numerous indignities confronting them as immigrants. The selling price is \$20 and orders can be placed directly with Frank at lemcof@videotron.ca.

LE WALDORF IS WONDERFUL: Nestled in Côte-Saint-Luc, Le Waldorf Retirement Home is the premier choice of discerning seniors looking for a full continuum of care all in one location: Independent studios; one and two bedroom apartments; assisted living suites; long-term care suites (CHSLD); weekly visits by a doctor; therapeutic and leisure programs; a 24-hour nursing staff; state of the art security, fire and safety systems; and indoor parking.



Le Waldorf (see their full page ad on page 2) now offers a recovery service for patients that are soon to be discharged from the hospital. For a nominal fee, they can stay in a furnished apartment on a licensed care floor that is fully-staffed 24-hours a day. "We offer a safe and secure environment before the patients are ready to return to their home," says Director General Michael Goldwax. "Our team of professionals - consisting of a doctor, nurse, physiotherapist and social worker - also provide a free assessment through a full evaluation to determine what the next steps will be for the patient and their family.

For more information, please call 514-369-1000.

THE ROZENBLAT REALTY REPORT: Anita Benabou Rozenblat is not one of Montreal's most successful real estate agents for nothing. She and her team, which includes daughter Britt and son-on-law Jacob Strich, continue to evolve with the times. They are strong in social media circles and are about to launch their own newspaper called *The Rozenblat Realty Report*.

"We are constantly renewing our marketing strategies," says Anita. "Too many people are using social media as their only source of marketing. The saying 'new is always better' does not necessarily mean that we must forget about good old fashion print. No

((Please turn to page 11))

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

PARIS, FRANCE: In our last column we told you about where to stay and dine in Paris (<http://en.parisinfo.com/discovering-paris>), the capital of France with a large Jewish community of 350,000 people. If you are looking at a trip for next summer, start planning now. Here are some recommendations for your itinerary.

BATEAUX MOUCHES: The Bateaux-Mouches (<http://www.bateaux-mouches.fr/en>) offer daily departures throughout the day and in the evening. You can choose the dinner or simple tour options. The experience allows you to discover all of the magic of the banks of the River

Seine, which are enhanced, in no particular order, by the most prestigious monuments which have marked history.

BIG BUS TOUR: In the first day or two of your trip be sure to get tickets for the famous hop-on, hop-off bus tours (<http://eng.big-bustours.com/paris/home.html>). This allows you to explore the city's top tourist attractions at your own pace. Throughout the ticket validity period, you can hop-on and off the buses at any of the Big Bus stops.

NOTRE DAME: Notre-Dame de Paris (<http://www.notredamedeparis.fr/-English>), a masterpiece of faith, art and

and history, is the cathedral of the Catholic archdiocese of Paris. Access is free of charge every day of the year, during the opening hours.

ARC DE TRIOMPHE: Located at one end of Paris's most famous avenue, the Champs Elysees, the Arc de Triomphe Paris (<http://www.arcdetriompheparis.com>) triumphal arch is older than the Eiffel Tower, but is somewhat new in the tradition of building arches to celebrate victories. The Centre des monuments nationaux has almost 100 historical monuments all over France open to the public. Readers can log on to www.tourisme.monuments-nationaux.fr/en for full details.

THE WORLD FAMOUS OPERA HOUSE: The Palais Garnier (<http://visitepalaisgarnier.fr>), a magnificent 1,979-seat opera house, was built from 1861 to 1875 for the Paris Opera. The cost is 10 and six euros for adults and children/students respectively. You can also rent an audio guide, which comes on an Ipad and is good for two people. We were mesmerized by what we saw.

THE MUSEE D'ORSAY: Internationally renowned for its rich collection of impressionist art, the Musée d'Orsay (<http://www.musee-orsay.fr>) also displays all western artistic creations between 1848 and (Please turn to following page)

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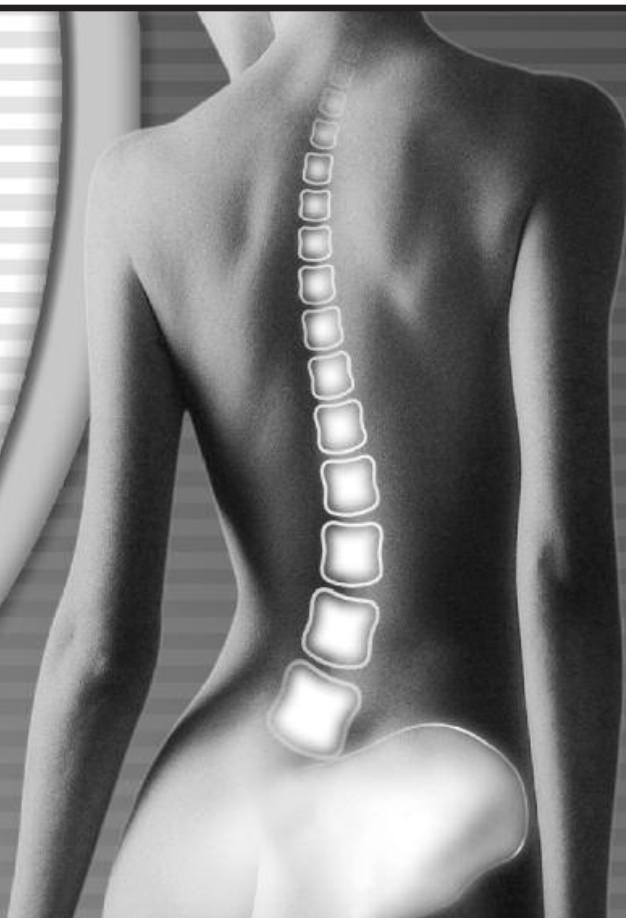
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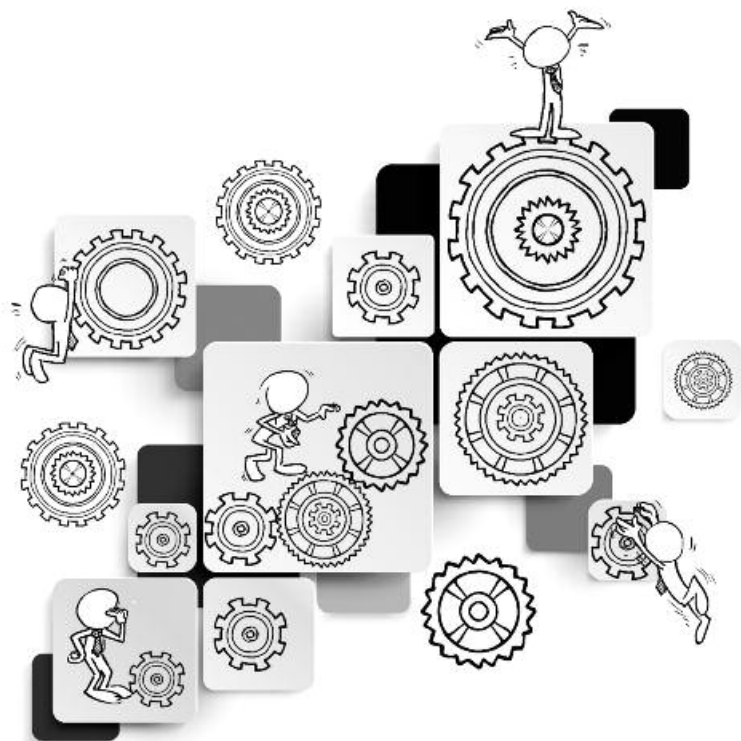
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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

1914. Its collections represent all expressive forms, from painting to architecture, not forgetting sculpting, decorative arts and photography. You're sure to be dazzled by the beauty of what you will see.

MOULIN ROUGE: The Moulin Rouge (www.moulinrouge.fr) is quite simply the most famous cabaret in the world! Located in the Monmartre District, there are dinner and show options. You will be entertained by a troupe of 80 artists, including 60 Doriss Girls recruited world-wide; a male and female acrobatic team; and a ventriloquist. This revue, called "Féerie," is performed twice a night.

LIVE MUSICAL THEATRE: I strongly recommend an evening at the Mogador Theatre (<http://www.stageentertainment.fr/theatre-mogador>). Founded in 1913, the Mogador is a performance venue of 1800 seats located a few steps from Paris's department stores and Palais Garnier Opera House. Since 2005, the venue has been run by the Stage Entertainment group and the eclectic program favours musicals: The Lion King (1,300,000 spectators), Mamma Mia! (2011 and 2012), Sister Act (2013) and most recently the French version of Beauty and the Beast (La Belle et La Bête).

THE ORIGINAL GRÉVIN: While there has been a Grévin Museum (www.grevin.com) at Montreal's Eaton Centre since April 2013, the one in Monmartre is the original. In fact, only one other exists in the world – in Prague, Czech Republic. This is a fabulous wax museum, with a specific French feel in terms of many of the actors and historical figures featured.

JEWISH MUSEUM: Located in the Marais dis-

trict, in one of the most beautiful mansions in Paris, the Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme (www.mahj.org) retraces the historical evolution of the Jewish community through their cultural heritage and traditions. It is specifically dedicated to the history of the Jews of France, while at the same time presenting the European and North African communities, which have shaped present day Jewish life in the country. As well as cultural art pieces, textiles and manuscripts, the museum showcases unique documents on intellectual movements, art and history, including the archives of the Dreyfus affair.

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

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MASTERMIND WENT FREE*(Continued from page 4)*

to rescind his earlier recognition of the PLO. After the 1990 attack, Abbas disappeared from public view. The U.S. government issued a warrant for his arrest and offered a \$250,000 reward for his capture. The hunt was on.

But then Bill Clinton was elected president in 1992, and the hunt was called off. The Oslo Accords between Israel and the PLO became the centerpiece of the Clinton administration's Mideast policy. Arafat, chairman of the new Palestinian Authority, was proclaimed to be a "moderate" and the leaders of various PLO factions, such as Abbas, tagged along. In early 1996, Abbas surfaced in PA-controlled Gaza - yet the Clinton administration did not ask the PA to extradite him to stand trial for the murder of Klinghoffer.

The U.S. Senate responded by voting, 99-0, for a resolution asking President Clinton to request Abbas's extradition. The administration declared that it was too late - the statute of limitations on extraditing him had expired. But the Congressional Research Service examined the law and concluded that, in fact, the statute had been suspended because Abbas was

a fugitive from justice.

The law didn't matter. President Clinton dug in his heels, refused to take action against Abbas, and hoped nobody would notice. And he was right. Journalists stopped asking about Abbas. Jewish leaders moved on to other issues. The senators who voted for the resolution were not prepared to take stronger action, such as cutting off U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority.

Abbas lived freely in Gaza, while traveling often to Baghdad, a longtime center of his terror activities. Then, in 2003, Abbas was captured by U.S. troops that were stationed in Iraq in the aftermath of the war there. The "moderate" Palestinian Authority was furious and demanded his release; PA spokesman Saeb Erakat said that the Oslo accords prohibited the prosecution of anyone involved in terrorism before 1993. (In fact, the U.S. is not a signatory on the Oslo accords and the accords say nothing about the U.S. prosecuting anybody.)

But Abbas managed to cheat justice yet again--eleven months after his capture, Abbas died of natural causes while still in American custody in Iraq.

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LE WALDORF DIRECTOR GENERAL MICHAEL Goldwax and some of his residents experience the joy of Chanukah.

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MASTERMIND*(Continued from preceding page)*

So, one might ask, why didn't President Clinton want to prosecute Abbas? For the same reason he never asked the Palestinian Authority to hand over the

terrorists involved in the murder of my daughter Alisa in 1995, or any other Palestinian killers of American citizens - because it would upset the "peace process."

Mr. Clinton never seemed to realize that peace negotiations have no meaning if the Palestinian side still regards terrorists as heroes and is angry if they are prosecuted. The Palestinian leadership always regarded Klinghoffer's killers - and Alisa's killers - as heroes. They never sincerely renounced terrorism and they never viewed terrorists as bad guys. And that's why the peace process - whether Bill Clinton's peace process, George W. Bush's peace process, or Barack Obama's peace process - has never resulted in peace.

On many occasions in recent years, Mr. Clinton has expressed regret that he refused to act against the genocide in Rwanda. One wonders how long it will take him to express some regret that he refused to act against Palestinian terrorists whose own genocidal campaign has claimed so many innocent victims.

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EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from page 6)

Britt and Jacob were married on September 7 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. They met in Miami five years ago, have been working together for three years and will continue to do so as a married couple. They love it!"

Anita recently had a huge celebrity seeking a home in Côte Saint-Luc – Montreal Canadiens defenceman PK Subban. "I only showed PK the house

once and he absolutely fell in love with it," she says. "Before he had a chance to even see it again, it sold! He loved CSL. He wanted a luxurious home in a low key quiet family oriented neighbourhood."

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EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from preceding page)

the SiriusXM Internet Radio App for smartphones and other connected devices and online at siriusxm.ca. This includes Radio Hanukkah (via satellite channel 68, via online 787), which will feature a wide variety of Hanukkah music including contemporary, traditional and children's Hanukkah classics. It begins airing on Tuesday, December 16 at Noon and wraps things up on Thursday, December 25 at 3 p.m.

SPORTS CELEBRITY BREAKFAST:

The 11th annual Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors Foundation Sports Celebrity Breakfast, benefitting seniors in crisis, will be held on Sunday, March 29 at the Gelber Conference Centre. This event is always sold out to the tune of some 600 people. Mitchell Garber, a lawyer who specializes in the gaming industry, will be the guest of honour. Mitch



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hosted his own very popular sports talk show for a number of years. Former Montreal Canadiens great Peter Mahovlich will be saluted as the Sports Personality of the Year. He is also close friends with Lazarus.

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

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A MATTER OF TIME

(Continued from page 5)

Contrary to administration claims that Hamas does not share the ISIS goal of world conquest, the group believes that, after liberating Palestine, it can create a model Islamic state, which will "become the vanguard of a larger Islamist movement that will embrace all Muslims, who will eventually shed their respective nationalist convictions and restore the universal Islamic polity and the glories of the past."

What makes negotiations with Hamas or any other Islamist group impossible is that they believe they are acting according to the immutable word of god. Israel cannot do anything to satisfy them, as Egyptian cleric Muhammad Hussein Ya'qub, said in a televised sermon in 2009. "If the Jews left Palestine to us, would we start loving them? Of course not," he explained. "The Jews are infidels not because I say so but because Allah does... They aren't our enemies because they occupy Palestine; they would be our enemies even if they had not occupied anything." This is one example of why State Department Arabists are delusional to believe that solving the conflict with the Palestinians will bring peace and tranquility to the Middle East.

(Please turn to following page)



**HAMAS SOCIAL MEDIA
glorifies attack on
Jerusalem synagogue.
The cartoon claims that
the killings of Jewish
worshippers were in
retaliation for attacks
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A MATTER OF TIME

(Continued from page 5)

The radical Islamic focus on Israel is partly a matter of convenience; it serves as an easy rallying point for the masses. Moreover, these Muslims have little doubt that Israel can be destroyed because time is on their side. Given the perspective of centuries, the current situation in which the U.S. is the global superpower and Israel is considered the region's dominant power is deemed a temporary phenomenon. Many Muslims believe that the Palestinians will outnumber the Jews in the area between the Mediterranean and Jordan River (not to mention the 300 million Muslims in surrounding countries) and will then overwhelm the Jews by the sheer force of their numbers. They also believe that it is just a matter of time before they acquire nuclear weapons, regardless of the outcome of the effort to halt Iran's nuclear program. At that point they will also have the military means to destroy Israel.

An Arab adage says, "A man who gains his revenge after 40 years is acting in haste." Muslims recognize it took 200 years to expel the Crusaders, but they did it and, though it may take 200 years to expel

the Zionists, they are confident they will do so. Ahmed Yousef, political adviser to then Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas, said it all in the title of his book, "The End of the Jewish State: Just a Matter of Time."

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

legislation to combat climate change, and the expanding of LGBT rights are now anything but enthusiastic. "It's going to be tough on the issues we care about," says Nancy Zirkin, director of policy for the Leadership Council of Civil and Human Rights. Added Rabbi David Saperstein, the outgoing director of the Religious Action center of Reform

(Please turn to page 16)

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 15)

Judaism: "It's hard to see how the LGBT rights issue will not hit a political plateau". And Jewish activists know they will have a difficult battle to get the new Congress to fix the Hobby Lobby Supreme Court ruling which allowed employees to refuse to provide contraceptives as part of their health care plan. Many see what is happening in the Republican dominated Pennsylvania state legislature as an ominous sign. "I'm not optimistic that much is going to get done in Pennsylvania in the next few years", says Brian Gralnick, director for

social responsibility at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. "Dollars for needy programmes will be even more difficult to come by".

Two French Politicians Jews Can Trust

With the wave of anti-Semitism that has spread across France recently, and the fear it has engendered among French Jews, it might be assumed that the Jewish community has no friends in high places. But two ministers in the current government have gone out of their way to express their friendship and respect for French Jewry.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told the French Jewish Radio J -

Station that "I feel more close to you than you can imagine...Also in my heart, through ties of affection and friendship and sentiment, but also, and this is almost more important to me through spirit". Cazeneuve expressed his concern over the spike in French anti-Semitism. "Every time you feel the violence exercised against you, when you are afraid for your children...remind yourselves that the republic protects you and an interior minister who loves you and who is your friend."

And then there's France's new prime minister Manuel Valls (Cazeneuve replaced Valls as Interior Minister). His long history of friendship towards French Jewry is well known. In 2002, during a wave of anti-Semitism, teenagers threw

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THE AKIVA GRADE 3 CLASSES SANG THIS YEAR at the Toy Tea event held on December 3rd at Ogilvy's. The children sang Chanukah songs in English, French and Hebrew in what was a wonderful opportunity to share the Festival of Lights holiday with the greater community. There were 14 Montreal area school choirs in total performing with Akiva School being the only Jewish day school participating. All attendees brought new, unwrapped toys which the 2014 Toy Tea event will be distributing to children living in 31 shelters for domestic abuse and violence, as well as to children at The Welcome Hall Mission, The Montreal Diet Dispensary, Tyndale St. Georges Parish, St. Willibrord's Parish and La Rue des Femmes.

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 15)

stones at Jews walking to a synagogue in Evry, a suburb of Paris. Valls, then the mayor, joined the weekly synagogue walk. As Interior Minister Valls went after the comedian Dieudonné M'bala M'bala, the creator of the quasi Nazi salute known as the quenelle. Valls described it as an "anti-Semitic gesture of hate". "Without Jews", says Valls.

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"France will no longer be France". The new prime minister's marriage to Jewish violist Anne Gravoin in 2011 "connected him in an eternal way" to Israel and the Jewish people.

The Conference of European Rabbis has announced it will award Valls with this year's Lord Jakobivitz Prize for European Jewry for his "exemplary determination in the fight against anti-Semitism."

Son of Jewish Father Dies for ISIS

Raphael Amar had a Catholic mother and a Jewish father. His father, Laurent, says that when Raphael was young he attended Passover Seders and Bar Mitzvahs. He studied computer science in Montpellier where he lived with his father.

Four years ago Amar converted to Islam and followed a childhood friend to Syria to fight for the forces of ISIS. According to Sammy Ghozlan, founder of the National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism (BNVCA), Amar is part of a pattern in which

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

Jewish Group Endorses Keystone

"some French Jews who were not brought up very Jewish are radicalized." Ghozlan says he met with a 16 year old Jewish girl in Paris who had converted to Islam and he knows of at least two other cases of similar conversions. "With a divided Jewish community and with Israel, once a source of pride for all French Jews, under constant vilification, some young Jews are seeking something to be proud of and some find that in Radical Islam," says Ghozlan. "It has the power of a cult,"

Reports indicate that Amar's mother was in the process of converting to Judaism but pretended to be converting to Islam in order to be closer to her son. Amar's relatives in Israel were told that he had died in a car accident.

It's not the sort of issue that one would expect Jewish organizations to take a stand on, but the American Jewish Committee has urged President Obama to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. "The Keystone XL pipeline," says Richard Foltin, AJC's direction of national and legislative affairs, "is critically important for U.S. energy security, our economy and relations with Canada, our neighbor and ally".

The AJC is the only Jewish group openly supporting Keystone. Left wing Jewish groups are not quite so keen. In fact, for four years the Shalom Center of Philadelphia. for whom the climate is a major concern

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has engaged in civil disobedience in rallies against Keystone.

"Zionists" Financed Hitler, Says Lawmaker

Congressman Adel El Zabayar, a member of Venezuela's National Assembly, recently told Hezbollah-sponsored Al Manar TV that "in order to understand what is happening in the Middle East and what happened in the world in the First and Second World Wars we must examine the original Zionist conspiracy. If we look into who financed Hitler before WW11 we will see that the main financiers were the Zionists". According to Zabayar, Hitler only killed Jews belonging to progressive organizations. He even issued a coin to express his admiration for Zionists.

El Zabayar is also a member of the Venezuelan Federation of Arab Associations and in a photo attached to his Twitter account appears with a rifle in hand.

Yemen Minister Shows Class

Fewer than 90 Jews still live in Yemen and life has not been easy for them. Radical Islamists have forced half of the remaining Jews to live in a guarded compound which protects the US Embassy in the capital of Sanaa.

But at least one government official had the courage to show her friendship towards the Jews of her country. Culture Minister Arwa Othman won Human Rights Watch's Alison Des Forges Award for her work in combatting extremism and discrimination against women. She announced that she is giving the award to her "brothers and friends from the Jewish community". She has repeatedly called for "tolerance", despite being constantly subjected to smear campaigns by hard-line Salafi groups for her support of the Jewish community and for her fight to end child marriage.



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