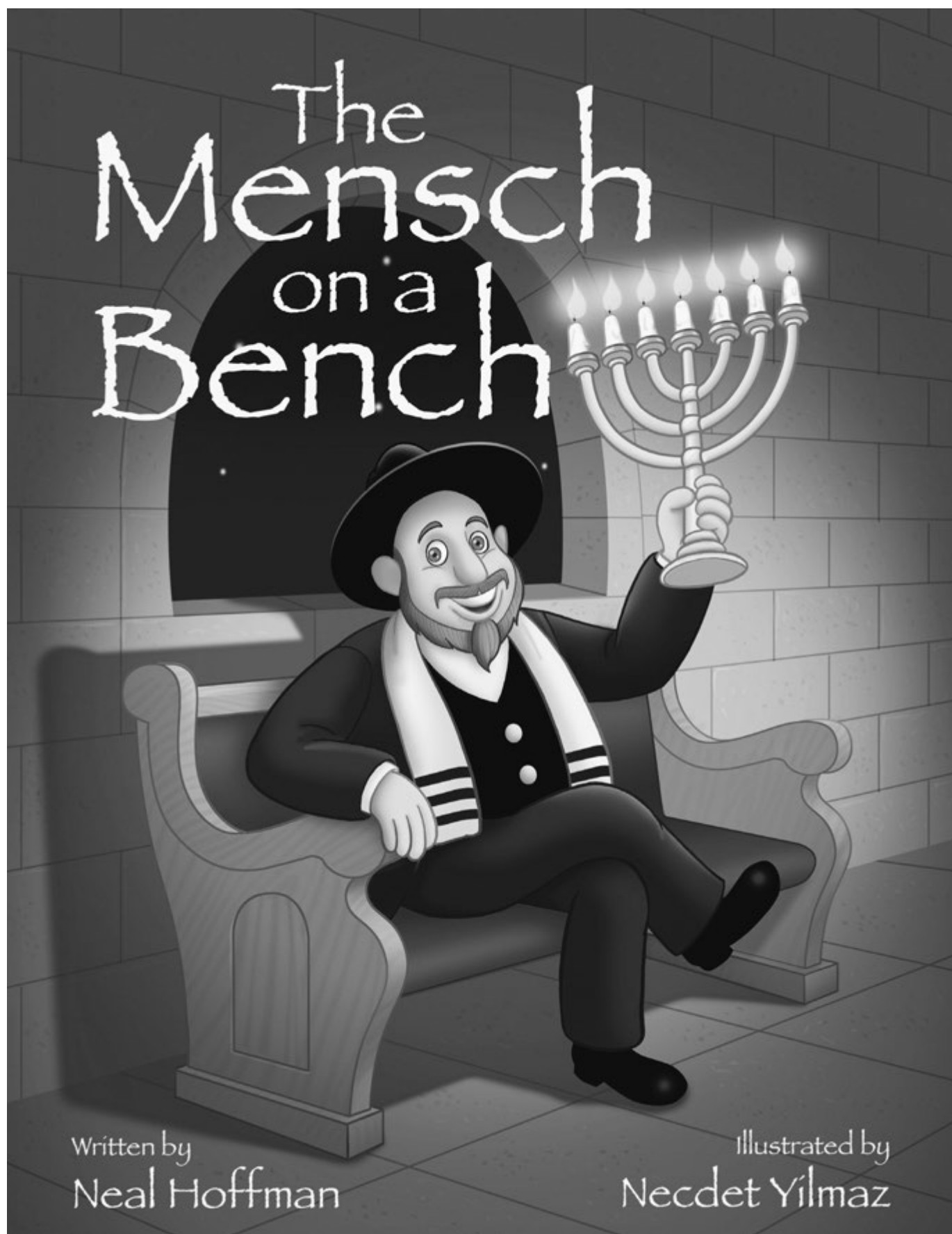


THE JEWISH STANDARD

CHANUKAH DECEMBER 2016

The Mensch on a Bench



Written by
Neal Hoffman

Illustrated by
Necdet Yilmaz

(Mensch On A Bench Story on page 6)

MICHAEL HAYMAN
PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

JULIUS HAYMAN
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
1937-2000



MANY OBSERVERS ARE CALLING THE RELATIONSHIP between Benjamin Netanyahu and President-elect Donald Trump a match "made in heaven". Photo IGPO

AN APPOINTMENT DONALD TRUMP SHOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE MADE

When attorney David M. Friedman was sitting *shiva* for his father one of the people who travelled through a blinding snowstorm to pay his respects was his client Donald Trump. "He spent about an hour with me", recalls Friedman. "And you know, there was nobody around. He wasn't trying to prove anything to anybody."

Donald Trump, despite being tone deaf to the racist views of some of his supporters, is neither anti-Semitic nor philo-Semitic. It's not simply that his daughter Ivanka is married to an Orthodox Jew and that he gave her his full support when she undertook the rigorous conversion process. Over the course of his career Trump has surrounded himself with Jewish advisors, virtually all of whom have praised him for his willingness to accommodate his business interests to their religious observances. "Deep down", says Jason Greenblatt, general counsel who has worked for Trump since the 1990s, "I think Donald has a Jewish heart". We doubt, moreover, that Sheldon Adelson would have

donated \$25 million to Trump's campaign if he believed that the candidate was, as one California high school teacher warned his students, America's version of Adolf Hitler.

Still Trump's reluctance to silence the true "deplorables" among his followers is a worrisome trend. The appointment of alt-right enthusiast Stephen Bannon to a major role in the White House, notwithstanding the vigorous defence of Bannon on CNN by Breitbart In-House-Counsel and Orthodox Jew Joel Pollak, further increases the anxiety felt by some Jews, and, perhaps especially, by visible minorities.

It may be that Trump's Jews, Greenblatt, Friedman, Michael Cohen, Jared Kushner, Steven Mnuchin, Charles Kushner and Sheldon Adelson rightly believe that Bannon is the victim of a witch hunt. Even so, we might have preferred someone with access to the Oval Office who does not provide a platform for the iconography of the followers of KKK Grand Wizard David Duke.

ANITA SURMAN
Editor
General News Section

THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

Missouri's First Jewish Governor

He was once a Democrat who "became a conservative because I believe that caring for people means more than just spreading taxpayer money; it means delivering results". Eric Greitens, 42, a former Navy SEAL, whose military awards include the Bronze Star, will become the first Jewish governor of Missouri. Greitens defeated his Democratic rival Chris Koster with 51% of the vote.

Greitens was raised in the Maryland suburb of St. Louis and grew up in a family of Reform Jews. In

Won Wisdom for Living a Better Life Greitens talked about his Jewish life. One of his role models at Temple B'nai El Sunday school convinced him to spend a night in a homeless shelter so that he could understand how some of his less fortunate neighbours were living. Meetings with Holocaust survivors at B'nai El led him to Bosnia at the height of the country's ethnic cleansing. In his book he quotes the Jewish scholar and poet Solomon Gabirol and he regards Hannah Senesh as a role model.

Earlier this year Greitens and his wife Sheena had their first child,



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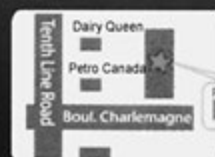


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AGONIZING DECISION

LOYAL REPUBLICAN STRUGGLED OVER VOTE

By ARI FLEISCHER

Ari Fleischer was White House press secretary for George W. Bush from 2001 to 2003, - The Editor

I'm a white, college-educated male. People like me typically vote Republican for president. In 2012, when Mitt Romney lost to Barack Obama by four percentage points, Romney won my demographic group by 21 points. I'm also married. Romney beat Obama by 22 points among married men.

This year, I'm struggling with how to vote.

I voted against Donald Trump in the GOP primary and regularly criticized him. But on May 3, when he secured the Republican presidential nomination, I tweeted: "There's a lot about Donald Trump that I don't like, but I'll vote for Trump over Hillary any day."

Since then, Trump has pretty much done every-
(Please turn to page 8)



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GRANDCHILD'S REVELATIONS

CURTIS ROOSEVELT EXPOSED HIS GRANDFATHER'S ANTI-SEMITIC "JOKES"

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

Dr. Rafael Medoff is founding director of the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies. - The Editor.

Children of presidents attract a lot of public and media attention; grandchildren, not so much. But there is one presidential grandchild who deserves special attention for exposing anti-Semitism - the anti-Semitism of the president of the United States.

Curtis Roosevelt, who passed away recently at age 86, was the son of Anna Roosevelt, daughter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In his later

years, Curtis gave a revealing interview to Geoffrey C. Ward, who was writing a biography of FDR (titled *A First-Class Temperament*, published in 1989). Curtis told Ward that he "recalled hearing the President tell mildly anti-Semitic stories in the White House." In FDR's stories, "the protagonists were always Lower East Side Jews with heavy accents..."

Curtis was deeply fond of his grandfather: (Please turn to page 10)



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A HANUKKAH GIFT FOR JEWISH CHILDREN

Press Release PRN/NEWSWIRE

What started as a small Kickstarter campaign based on the insight of a five-year-old Jewish child has become one of the "must-have" gifts for Jewish and interfaith families this holiday season.

THE MENSCH ON A BENCH, the brainchild of former toy marketing executive turned entrepreneur, Neal Hoffman, is ready to put more fun into Hanukkah for everyone during the holiday season. This Hanukkah, THE MENSCH ON A BENCH is available at retailers such as: Target, Bed Bath and Beyond, Michaels, Barnes & Noble, Toys"R"Us, and more.

THE MENSCH ON A BENCH doll and accompanying book introduce children to the story and traditions of Hanukkah, while emphasizing the fine characteristics of a Mensch - a good and honorable person.

"The success of THE MENSCH ON A BENCH is a dream come true for me and my family," said Hoffman. "So many Jewish and interfaith children and families love the holiday season and appreciate all of the wonderful traditions. We also know that so many Jewish families like ours have been eager to bring home a fun and warm character and

(Please turn to page 23)

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By MIKE COHEN

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AGONIZING DECISION

(Continued from page 4)

thing in his power to make me change my mind.

Although he did call me once to make his case and thank me.

In late May, I was on "Morning Joe," and Trump had been watching. I said on the show that Hillary Clinton was "unprincipled, reckless and dishonest" — a sentiment I increasingly believe having watched her in this race.

His staff had my cell number, and he called me. He was funny.

"You're 72.3 percent of the way there," Trump said, "and I'm going to get you to 100 percent." That's a good opening line. I told him I didn't care for his call for a ban on Muslims entering the country; he told me not to worry about it. I suggested that he cool his rhetoric and give more policy speeches. We spoke for 10 or 15 minutes. I should have told him he was wrong when he said that George W. Bush lied about Iraq, but I didn't get the chance.

I'm one of the few people from the Bush administration who stepped forward to support Trump. Even as an establishment

Republican, I know Washington needs a good shakeup now and then. After all, a lot of what the experts and insiders recommend hasn't worked out lately. Millions of working Americans are struggling to make ends meet, economic growth is weak, the Islamic State hasn't been destroyed, and U.S. influence is declining.

I knew Trump was too often offensive, boorish and simplistic. He doesn't have a good grasp of policy, but he did spend a career in the business sector, as opposed to the redistribution-of-income sector, and he is against the Iran nuclear deal, which Clinton favors. Clinton will nominate liberals for the Supreme Court. Trump won't. I said publicly I would hold my nose and vote for Trump and, if he won, I would hold my breath.

I was supposed to be a delegate to the GOP convention, but I decided not to go. I'd vote for Trump, but I wasn't going to sing his praises. It felt rude to go to Cleveland and say negative things about him on the air, I

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watched from home, and I said at the time that I still wanted him to win but doubted he could.

Then Trump lost control of himself and his message. He veered recklessly off track, attacking an American judge for his Mexican heritage, criticizing a war hero's family, questioning the legitimacy of the election and otherwise raising questions about his judgment. If this race were about change, Clinton or policy, Trump could win it. But he made it about himself. Because he is one of the most unpopular people ever to run for president, that was a big mistake.

But then there's the alternative. Nothing will change if Clinton is elected, and that's the problem.

Clinton ran to Sen. Bernie Sanders's left to win the Democratic primary, so

why trust her now to move to the more sensible center? Then again, because she is so unprincipled, that's probably exactly what she'll do. For the Iraq War. Against the surge. Open borders. Closed borders. Against trade deals she used to support. What difference does it make? This is who Clinton is. It's why she is also among the most unpopular people ever to run for president.

The numerous lies she told about her private email server and classified records are a window into how she operates. When she needs something to be true, she lies and says it. From her false claim that she had nothing to do with the travel office firings to landing under sniper fire in Bosnia to her statement suggesting that a YouTube video caused

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AGONIZING DECISION

(Continued from preceding page)

the attack on the U.S. diplomatic post in Libya, her pattern is to lie. Those lies were the warm-up act — get ready for really dishonest Clinton if she wins.

But Election Day is coming. I need to decide.

On Tuesday, if someone puts a gun to my head and tells me to make a choice, I'll say "shoot."

If my ballot contained a box for whom I was voting against, my choice would be easy. Never Clinton. But voting means deciding whom to vote for.

I will vote for Republicans up and down the ballot. But when it comes to the presidency, I'm going to leave my ballot blank.

REVELATIONS

(Continued from page 5)

his comments certainly were not motivated by any kind of malice. Moreover, he was a teenager during the 1940s, so he was old enough to have a reliable memory of the experiences he recounted. The fact that Curtis lived in the White House for a number of years also is significant; he was describing something that he himself heard, not just repeating rumors.

Meanwhile, a new book about the final months of President Roosevelt's life has provided additional evidence of FDR's private feelings about Jews. The book is *His Final Battle*, by former *New York Times* executive editor Joseph Lelyveld, and it cites a startling unpublished anecdote about Roosevelt from Charles "Chip" Bohlen, "who was a senior aide to FDR and served as his interpreter

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at the Yalta Conference and elsewhere.

Lelyveld reveals that in an unpublished draft of Bohlen's memoir, he made this comment to FDR in 1945, concerning the president's conversation with the king of Saudi Arabia: "If you put any more kikes in Palestine, he is going to kill them." According to Bohlen, "Roosevelt laughed" at that statement.

Curtis Roosevelt's revelation about FDR telling "anti-Semitic stories" and Bohlen's anecdote about the president laughing about "kikes" are consistent with other private "jokes" that FDR made about Jews. For example, Roosevelt once joked that relatives might suspect his fifth child was Jewish, in view of the baby's "slightly Hebraic nose."

FDR made another Jewish "joke" at the Yalta Conference. Soviet leader Josef Stalin asked Roosevelt if he intended to make any concessions to the king, and - according to the transcript - "the President replied that there was only one concession he thought he might offer and that was to give him the six million Jews

the United States." (It was decades before that "joke" became known, because the State Department censored it from the official transcript.)

The fact that President Roosevelt was at ease with the term "kikes" is evident from another source, as well: the minutes of a 1942 conversation at the White House between FDR, his adviser Harry Hopkins, and Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov. According to the minutes, Hopkins commented on the number of "distinctly unsympathetic Jews" in the Communist Party USA. Roosevelt replied that while he was "far from anti-Semitic," he felt that "there was a good deal in this point of view." The three of them then agreed that "there were [regular] Communists and [less desirable] Communists," which they compared to what they called "the distinction between 'Jews' and 'Kikes'."

Franklin Roosevelt is not the first president to have told bigoted jokes in private. Woodrow Wilson joked about "darkeys" and "coons"

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REVELATIONS

(Continued from preceding page)

sometimes with a faux accent. Lyndon Johnson indulged in harsh ethnic jokes, and so did Richard Nixon.

But those remarks were not known to the general public. Private racist humor by government officials that becomes public usually has consequences. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz was forced to resign in 1976 after it became known that he told a crude joke about African-Americans. In 1983, Interior Secretary James Watt was forced out of office after telling a harsh ethnic joke (about

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"a black, a woman, two Jews and a cripple").

What presidents say does matter. They set the tone for public discourse. Exposing and rejecting presidents' bigotry, even years after the fact, is necessary for delegitimizing racism. So

hats off to Curtis Roosevelt for having the courage to expose the truth about his grandfather's insensitive private remarks about Jews, and reminding the public that "jokes" about minorities are no laughing matter.

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 7)

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DINNER: We had the opportunity to enjoy two delightful meals at the Cape Resorts. We took a five minute walk to the Rusty Nail Bar and Grill, located at the Beach Shack, where we had a really fun dinner. It offered a fabulously relaxing backdrop during a warm summer evening.

The following even-

(Please turn to following page)

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

ing we returned to Congress Hall for dinner at the Blue Pig Tavern (<http://www.caperesorts.com/restaurants/capemay/bluepigtaVERN>). Executive Chef Jeremy Einhorn has implemented a delicious farm-to-table menu featuring fresh pro-

duce, herbs and eggs from the Beach Plum Farm. Jeremy, who is Jewish, has been in his position since 2010.

The Tavern has some excellent salads - a red and yellow endive and another called Beach plum

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THE 10TH ANNUAL AIFL ISRAEL DAY AT THE New York Stock Exchange took place on November 10, organized by the America-Israel Friendship League (AIFL). The annual event recognizes Israel's unparalleled advancements and the country's disproportionate prominence on Wall Street, now ranking as the largest foreign presence outside of just China and Canada. Well-known Israeli companies like Mobileye, Teva, CaesarStone and Check Point Software headline a list of cutting-edge IPOs. Today, there are over 80 Israeli equities currently listed on exchanges around the world in a vast array of industries, with more than 70 on Wall Street alone. "I can't tell you how good we feel when we walk down Broad Street in Lower Manhattan and see the Israel flag flying on top of the New York Stock Exchange for Israel Day," said Kenneth Bialkin, Chairman of the America Israel Friendship League. "Photo Shahar Azran

farm greens. For the main course consider the half roasted chicken. This comes with sides of beach plum farm seasonable vegetables and roasted potatoes. For dessert we shared a piece

of apple pie with ice cream.

There is free valet parking at the restaurant, located directly at the entrance to Congress Hall. For reservations call 609-884-8422.

JEWISH COMMUNITY: Some 12,500 Jews live in Atlantic and Cape May counties year round. This number triples during the summer months, as most of the communities along the

shore are resort areas.

Mike Cohen's e-mail address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow him on Twitter @mikecohencsl and at www.sandbox-world.com/travel.

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 4)

"I think for a lot of people," writes Greitens, "when you have a child it makes you think about your Judaism. Sheena and I try every weekend to observe the Sabbath. We're not perfect but we really try."

For the former Rhodes Scholar, who *Fortune* called one of the world's 50 greatest leaders, this was his first run for office.

The state of Missouri is home to roughly 100,000 Jews.

Anti-Semitic Prof Dismissed

Oberlin College Professor Joy D. Karega has been dismissed by the college board of trustees following anti-Semitic Facebook posts earlier this year.

Karega has accused Israel and "Rothschild-led bankers" of causing the downing of the Malaysian airliner over the Ukraine. She also posted a graphic of Jacob Rothschild which read "We own your news. The media, Your oil. And your government". ISIS, according to the professor, was not a "jihadist, Islamic organization" but rather the product of the CIA and the Mossad.

Karega had been on paid leave since August but the school released a statement explaining that "in the face of Dr. Karega's repeated refusal to acknowledge and remedy her misconduct... any sanction short of dismissal is insufficient."

Jewish students and alumni have become increasingly concerned over the increasing number of anti-Semitic incidents at the college. First the Kosher Halal co-op from the Oberlin Student Cooperation Association was told to leave the school. Then on Rosh Hashanah Jewish students had to

pass through protesters on their way to holiday services. In another incident African-American student activists issued a 14 page list of demands to president Marvin Krislov, one of which

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told the school to divest from companies doing business with Israel.

Meanwhile, the home of Oberlin professor Benjamin Kuperman was vandalized and a note left on his front door under the mezuzah read "Gas Jew Die".

French Parents Glorify Terrorists

Nice, France mayor Christian Estrosi has ordered prosecutors in his city to find a legal way to force a name change to a baby whose parents named him after the killer of four Jews in Toulouse in 2012.

The boy was given the name Mohammed Nizar Merah in honour of jihadist Mohammed Merah who killed Rabbi Jonathan Sandler and his two young sons as well as 8-year-old

Miriam Monsonogo. Days before Merah had killed three French soldiers.

Estrosi indicated he would contest the name on the grounds that regulations prohibit names that are deemed "detrimental to the interests of the infant" and on the basis that the name encourages violence and terrorism. "It is unacceptable in a city still reeling from a murderous terrorist attack this summer", the mayor wrote, "to name a baby after Merah". The name, the mayor continued, "is an attack on our values and republic."

Rob Reiner No Fan Of Jared Kushner

American filmmaker Rob Reiner has accused Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner of "turning his back on his religion and

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

heritage just so he can make money".

Reiner, like most Hollywood celebrities, Jewish and non-Jewish, is a Democrat and publicly declared his support for Hillary Clinton. The *All In The Family* star accused Kushner's brothers-in-law, Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr. of retweeting passages from anti-Semitic websites and welcoming support from avowed racists. "They're completely comfortable with the idea that anti-Semitic and racist groups are supporting them".

Reiner also had harsh words for the appointment of Stephen Bannon. The vast sums of money Bannon made from investing in the show "Seinfeld", which Reiner's production company was involved in, "makes me sick", Reiner told *The Daily Beast*.

for seven 30 to 40 year olds. There was challah, matzo ball soup, brussel sprouts, roasted potatoes and chicken. Cookies and ice cream followed the main course.

But this was no ordinary meal. All the items on the menu were infused with pot. Cannabis-oil was in the matzo balls; the other items on the menu were brushed with cannabis. Pot infused butter was in the dessert. Jeff called it "Pot Shabbat" and if he has his way such meals will become a feature of the Bay area social scene.

Jeff the 420 chef has had experience with pot meals, cooking non-Shabbat dinners in Colorado and for unnamed celebrities in Los Angeles. But the San Francisco event was his first Shabbat dinner. He's hopeful that there will be many more.

Mixed Signals From Norway

On the one hand, the Trondheim City of Norway Council has passed a resolution calling on its residents to boycott goods and services produced in Israeli settlements. The resolution also prohibits the

A New Kind of Potluck Shabbat Meal

Jeff the 420 Chef is a "God-loving Jew" who grew up in an Orthodox family. On a recent Friday night in the San Francisco Bay area he "catered" a meal

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municipality from purchasing goods and services from the "occupied territories". "Illegal settlements are expanding, the construction of the wall continues, Palestinians are subjected to daily harassment and face major obstacles in their daily lives", says the resolution. "This is a policy that Trondheim Municipality cannot support". The resolution flies in the face of the parliament of Norway's rejection in 2014 of a nationwide boycott of Israeli goods produced in the occupied territories.

On the other hand, the Lutheran Church of Norway has officially condemned church founder Martin Luther's anti-Jewish legacy. The Church of Norway's General Synod admitted that Luther's commentaries were used by the Nazis and were spread throughout Norway during the war. Luther called for the persecution of Jews in some of his later writings. *On the Jews and Their Lies* Luther set out the actions that should be taken against this "rejected and condemned people, the Jews." Synagogues should be set on fire, homes should be razed, prayer books confiscated, rabbis forbidden,

highways be off limits, and cash and treasure taken from them.

"In the Reformation anniversary year of 2017", said a statement, "we as a church must clearly distance ourselves from the anti-Judaism that Luther left behind."

Hamas Leader Says Trump Probably Jewish

Hamas leader and co-founder Mahmoud Al-Zahhar has told Al-Jazeera that he thinks Donald Trump may be Jewish. "Trump loves the Jews, and not only because he likes the Jewish religion. I do not rule out the possibility that he is a Jew. He loves the Jewish religion, and the most important thing in the Jewish religion is money", said Al-Zahhar.

The Hamas leader continued his absurdity: "In 1947, Harry Truman was a marginal candidate in the U.S. elections. He was approached by Jewish money - which is the Jewish religion - and was awarded two million dollars, which made his electoral campaign prosper, because in American society you hand out money, you hand out

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

pictures, posters, hats, and so on, and people who do not read at all are exposed to this. The outcome was that he won. Truman's first decision - driven by those two million dollars - was to recognize the Israeli entity in 1948. So the Jewish 'religion' - the Jewish dollar - is the real decisive factor."

Egyptian Movie Star Says He's Jewish

Attitudes towards Jews in Egypt "may" be undergoing a change. The two countries are working closely on security matters. More significant is the fact that the Egyptian TV show "Jewish Quarter", which is set in a Jewish neighbourhood in Cairo in 1948, was a smash hit last year. Levels of anti-Semitism among ordinary Egyptians

however, still remain high. Jews are often the subject of ridicule on TV shows.

And so it was somewhat surprising that Egyptian movie star Karim Kassem recently told a talk show that his mother was Jewish. He told the interviewer that he found out about his Jewish roots as a child after he joined friends in complaining about the Jews. "One day I came home from school and told my sister 'the Jews have done this and that, they have big noses and are stingy.'" His sister scolded him: "Your mom", she told Kassem, "is Jewish". "It was such a shock to me,"

Kassem grew up celebrating the holidays of all three major religions. *(Please turn to page 22)*

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CHANUKAH LAMP SELLS FOR \$440,000

A 270-year-old Chanukah lamp, which belonged to the family of a Dutch Jewish resistance fighter killed by the Nazis, was sold recently by the Venduehuis des Notarissen auction house in the Hague, for \$441,000. The menorah was sold to an unnamed Jewish collector.

The lamp, which was manufactured in Amsterdam in 1747, be-

longed to the family of George Maduro. During the war Maduro helped smuggle stranded British pilots from Europe back to Britain. In May of 1940, after the capitulation of the Dutch military, Maduro was captured by German troops and jailed in the Oranje Hotel in Scheveningen.

Maduro was released a half year later but when the Germans forced Jews to wear the Star of David, Maduro refused. He joined the Dutch resistance movement. Again he was captured by the Nazis and sent to prison but after a daring escape he rejoined the resistance. Maduro was then betrayed by a Belgian collaborator and was captured, this time by the Gestapo. He was jailed first at Saarbuckten and then transferred to Dachau, where he died of typhus three months before its liberation. He is presumed to be buried in the cemetery at the camp. A model of the 19th century birthplace of George Maduro is in Madurodam, the miniature city funded by his parents and built as a memorial to their only son.

The menorah was expected to sell for between \$10,000 and \$15,000. But once the bids started coming in

the auction house realized that it had grossly underestimated the interest. "We started it at 20,000 euros but the first bid was already

100,000," said the house's director Peter Meefout. "Then it went to 200,000 and kept on rising. We watched it all dumbfounded".

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 20)

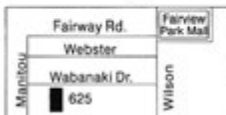
gions: Jewish, Muslim dad's mother was and Christian. His Christian and, as he dad's father was found out, his mother

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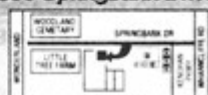
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Jewish. Ironically, it was his mother who taught him about the Quran.

Kassem may have acknowledged his religion. He may even feel good about disclosing his secret. But he is also careful to tell his fellow Egyptians that he is not a Zionist. His grandfather, Shehata Haroun, did not immigrate to Israel because, unlike many of his peers, he saw Zionism as a "racist" movement. Kassem's loyalty towards the Jews of Israel apparently has its limits.

Carter "Dumb", Says Dershowitz

Allan Dershowitz pulls no punches in a recent interview on *In The News*. While he spoke on a number of issues he reserved his venom for former president Jimmy Carter, whose recent Op Ed in the *New York Times* called on President Obama to recognize a Palestinian state.

"If there were a Nobel Prize for hypocrisy", says the renowned lawyer, "it would go to Jimmy Carter. He is the reason there is no peace between Israel and the Palestinians." Dershowitz called Carter's position, and indeed Carter

himself, "so naive and so dumb". Carter, adds Dershowitz, is "reviled and hated" by many Democrats, including Clinton and Obama. "He's a contemptuous person...He has in his soul deeply anti-Semitic views. He is not a good person."

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MENSCH ON A BENCH

(Continued from page 6)

story that can become their very own family tradition for many years to come."

THE MENSCH ON A BENCH is a 12" plush doll with an accompanying hardcover storybook that explains Hanukkah from the view of "Moshe" the Mensch. The book tells the story of Moshe the Mensch, who was in the temple when Judah and the Maccabees won an important war. With only enough oil for one

night, Moshe volunteered to watch over the Menorah while everyone else was sleeping, what a Mensch! THE MENSCH ON A BENCH doll holds the Shammash (leader) candle and is "magically" moved during each of the eight nights of Hanukkah to watch over the Menorah.

THE MENSCH ON A BENCH experience provides children with a fun yet tradition-filled doll and book that can be enjoyed for this and many more Hanukkahs to come.

"I'm thrilled with the reaction from the Kickstarter community, Jewish community, and now, from mass merchants as well," Hoffman said. "Equally satisfying is the joy that our family has experienced with THE MENSCH ON A BENCH, along with the letters, tweets and Facebook posts we have received from other Jewish and interfaith families. For me and my family, this is such a fun ride."

To place an online order, please visit the website, www.themenschonabench.com, and connect with The Mensch on a Bench on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

With the success of Moshe the Mensch, Neal Hoffman introduced 2 female characters to the line, Hannah the Hanukkah Hero and Ask Bubbe, both of which have officially hit store shelves!. (available only on Amazon in Canada). Hannah the Hanukkah Hero is a sequel to Mensch on a Bench and is a triumphant story of the girl who brings the oil back to

the temple, thus your female "mensch." Ask Bubbe is your 8-ball meets Jewish grandmother. She has over 12 hilarious phrases, sounds just like your Jewish grandmother, and is for anyone ages 3-99 with a sense of humour.

Moshe the Mensch has even become Team Israel's baseball mascot with plans to travel to the 2017 World Baseball Classic.

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