

# THE JEWISH STANDARD

APRIL 15, 2015



DOCTORS FROM ISRAEL'S RAMBAM HEALTH CARE CAMPUS, A 1,000 BED ACADEMIC Hospital serving over two million residents of Northern Israel, have just returned from a medical operation in Vietnam as part of the international initiative, 'Operation Smile'. bringing fresh hope to hundreds of children suffering with facial deformities such as cleft lip and cleft palate. Dr Omri Amudi(left) from the hospital's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dr. Zach Sharony, from its Department of Plastic Surgery, joined over 300 delegation members from 18 different countries to provide reconstructive surgery for children born with the conditions. Since 1982, Operation Smile has provided over 200,000 free surgical procedures to children and young adults around the world. Now in its 25th year of operating in Vietnam, the organization has targeted some of the most impoverished populations and communities, where facial birth defects are widespread. Helping children at six different sites throughout the country, delegation members operated 12 hours per day to ensure they touched the lives of as many young patients as possible. "The cliché that medicine is a bridge between cultures was more apparent than ever," said Dr. Sharony. Above Dr. Amudi is seen with colleagues and a young Vietnamese patient. Photo Courtesy Rambam Health Care Campus.

## *European Jewish Leaders Remain Defiant*

**MICHAEL HAYMAN**  
PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

**JULIUS HAYMAN**  
PUBLISHER AND EDITOR  
1937-2000

We will not, as some others have done, question Benjamin Netanyahu's sincerity when he told a beleaguered European Jewry that "the State of Israel is your home." We'll give him the benefit of the doubt that he was not engaged in crude electioneering, playing to a domestic audience in an election campaign that polls said was sputtering. The Israeli prime minister was, after all, not saying anything that hasn't been said before. In 2004 Ariel Sharon told French Jewry "to move to Israel as soon as possible." And David Ben Gurion continually belittled Diaspora Jewry for living a life of Jewish "Godlessness". We are pleased, however, that European Jewish leaders rejected Netanyahu's preaching of despair as a motive for making aliya and by implicitly suggesting that Jewish life in the Diaspora is less authentic than it is in Israel. "The Israel government" said Rabbi Menachim Margolin, the director of the European Jewish Association, "must stop this Pavlovian response every time there is an attack against Jews in Europe." "Terror", added Denmark's chief rabbi, Jair Melchior, "is not a reason to move to Israel".

No one will deny that European Jewish life and lives are facing an uncertain future. Community Centres and synagogues should not have to be turned into garrisons. And the resurgence of anti-Semitism *has* led to unprecedented numbers of Jews, especially French Jews, "not waiting around here to die". But half a million Jews in France, 30,000 in the Netherlands, 6400 in Denmark and thousands elsewhere are not going anywhere, even if they have to lower their Jewish profile. Many will stay put for practical reasons. There

are family ties to consider. There would be a new language to learn and new jobs to be found. Children would have to adjust to a strange academic environment. But even if these obstacles were not insurmountable most Jews would still tell Netanyahu to stop offering them unsolicited advice. Despite the current unrest, Jews take comfort in the fact that they face no religious persecution or social rejection. Europe is not about to spawn another monster. "Italy," says Alberto Saravelle, a lawyer in Milan, "is my home...My father and uncle were forced to leave this country in 1939 and I don't want to do that".

Ideally Jews and Muslims would be building bridges between their communities. But the streets of Bury Park in London, Kuregen and Molenbeek in Brussels, Kolenkit in Amsterdam and Trappes in Paris have no interest in dialogue. Jews will inevitably again be targeted by home grown terrorists confident they can be hidden in their "no-go" areas. Governments can order guards at synagogues, day schools and community centres. A policeman can't accompany every Jew wearing a kippa on his way to shul.

And yet European Jewry has no intention of submitting supinely to Islamist fanatics. Benjamin Netanyahu's comments, whatever their motive, denigrate the achievements of the Jews of the *golah* during their centuries of dispersion. They decry the whole of Jewish history which created the Talmud, the Golden Age in Moslem Spain, the Hassidic Movement, the Yiddish language, and other products of a living, dynamic people. "We are staying in Denmark", says spokesman Jeppe Juhl, defiantly. So, too, are most of his fellow Jews.

**ANITA SURMAN**  
Editor  
General News Section

# THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

## **Boris Nemtsov - Jewish By Birth Only**

Boris Nemtsov, the murdered Russian politician, was the son of a Jewish mother. But like many other Russian politicians of Jewish descent, Nemtsov spared no effort to hide his Jewish background. His rejection of Judaism occurred early in his career. When the Russian Jewish Congress was created in 1996 Nemtsov was asked to join. He refused, partly on the advice of his mother who was reluctant to admit that she was Jewish. He then converted to Russian Orthodoxy as a further means of distancing himself from his Jewish roots. And yet when Nemtsov was asked after his conversion why he was involved in the politics of dissent, he answered: "We are Jewish, we have to fight for truth and freedom".

Meanwhile the tension between Russian Jews and the Orthodox Church is reaching new heights. The church continues to approach Jews in government positions telling them that conversion will ensure their safety. Nemtsov's murder shows that conversion is anything but a guarantee of longevity.

## **Muslim Holidays Join Rosh Hashanah**

Starting next fall, New York City's biggest public school system will give its 1.1 million students the day off for the Muslim holidays of Eid-ak-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Some 12% the student body is Muslim.

Former mayor Michael Bloomberg opposed the closing of schools but current mayor Bill de Blasio had made it one of his campaign promises, trying to reach out to the estimated 600,000 Muslims living in New York. "This is a common sense change, and one that recognizes our growing Muslim community" said Mayor de Blasio.

Frederick County in Maryland and Waterbury, Connecticut were previously the only boards in the nation to close on Muslim holidays. The *New York Times* called it a "watershed moment". for a group that has endured so much since Sept. 11. Others, however, ask 2% of the population deserves special treatment.



*THE HONOURABLE ROB NICHOLSON, MINISTER of Foreign Affairs, visits the Great Synagogue of Paris during his recent trip to France, accompanied by Joël Merghi, Chair of the Central Consistory of France, and the synagogue's Rabbi Moshe Sebbag. As they toured the synagogue, they discussed the recent attacks against the Jewish communities in France and Denmark and the importance of continuing to denounce the old hatred that is anti-Semitism, and any of its modern incarnations.*

## **Not Specifically A Jewish Program...But**

The funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security has passed Congress. The bill allots \$13 million for security upgrades at religious and nonprofit institutions. And once again Jewish groups will be the big winners.

Since 2005, the Nonprofit Security Grant Program has provided \$118 million to organizations to improve security. From 2007 to 2010 some 73.7% of that money went to Jewish organizations. In 2011 81% of the money went to Jewish groups. There is every reason to believe that the bulk of this year's funding will also be ear-

marked for Jewish houses of worship, schools and community centers. "No one ever said that it was a bill for the Jewish community" said one official from the coalition lobbying for the program, "but the main push came from the community". The Jewish Federations of North America, the Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel of America led the Jewish lobbyists.

Despite the obvious security benefits from the funds not all Jewish organizations are happy with the concept of public funding. "You're endangering a fundamental principle of separating church and state in return for something that has very little impact on the community", says Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center. Saperstein's view was undoubtedly influenced by the fact that some two-thirds of the grants are going to Orthodox institutions, even though only about one out of every ten American Jew is Orthodox. "There will always be far more communal institutions that want or need security enhancements than government funds available", added Tod Gutnick of the Anti-Defamation League. "This inevitably leads to divisive intra-communal competition for these scarce resources, and a politicization of the grant-making process".

Still, new lights and state of the art surveillance systems at synagogues are evidence that the grants are being put to good use.

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# ECONOMIC TIES WITH TURKEY GROW

POLITICAL DISPUTES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND TURKEY NOT AFFECTING TRADE

By LINDA GRADSTEIN, MEDIA LINE

Israelis buying a Japanese car in Tel Aviv might be surprised to learn that the car was actually built in Turkey. Tourists buying dried figs in Israel's Machane Yehuda market probably also don't know that the figs are also imported.

These are just two of the examples of the burgeoning trade between

Israel and Turkey, trade that has more than doubled in the past five years, according to the Turkish Statistics Institute, and confirmed by Israeli officials, to \$5.6 billion. About half of that is exports from Israel to Turkey, and the other half, Turkish goods, like the cars, coming to Israel.

"The economies of

Turkey and Israel complement each other and the trade ties are flourishing," Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nachshon told The Media Line. "That's the good news. Unfortunately the political ties are not as good, and this is a consequence of the harsh attack by the Turkish leadership against Israel."

Ties between Israel and Turkey have foundered since Israeli naval commandos killed ten Turkish activists on a ship that was trying to break Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip. Three years later, President Obama brokered a telephone apology from Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for the deaths of the ten Turkish citizens, but relations have not returned to normal.

Israel and Turkey do not currently have ambassadors in each other's countries, but do have lower-level diplomatic representatives. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has consistently made anti-Israel comments including derogatory commenting on Netanyahu's trip to Paris after the killings at Charlie Hebdo and the kosher supermarket. Referring to last summer's fighting between Israel and the Islamist Hamas movement in the Gaza Strip, Erdogan said Netanyahu must "give an account for the children, women you massacred."

In response Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman called Erdogan an "anti-Semitic, neighbor-  
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# OBAMA'S RECIPE FOR FIGHTING TERROR

U.S. PRESIDENT FALLS BACK ON "ROOT CAUSES" TO EXPLAIN ISIS

By MOSHE PHILLIPS AND BENYAMIN KORN

So it turns out the Obama Administration does have a strategy for combating terrorists: give them jobs.

In a remarkable exchange with MSNBC's "Hardball" host Chris Matthews on February 16, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said: "We cannot kill our way out of this war. We need in the medium to longer term to go after the root causes that lead people to join these

*Moshe Phillips is president and Benjamin Korn is chairman of the Religious Zionists of America, Philadelphia, - The Editor*

groups, whether it's a lack of opportunity for jobs, whether we can work with countries around the world to help improve their governance. We can help them build their economies so they can have job opportunities for these people."

Yet study after study of the motives of Arab and Muslim terrorists during the past two decades has

found exactly the opposite.

Between 1996 and 1999, relief worker Nasra Hassan interviewed nearly 250 Palestinians who either attempted to carry out suicide bombings, or trained others for such attacks, or were related to deceased bombers. She reported (in The New Yorker): "None of [the bombers] were uneducated, desperately poor,

simple-minded, or depressed. Many were middle class and, unless they were fugitives, held paying jobs...Two were the sons of millionaires."

The attacks on September 11, 2001, focused new attention on the causes of terrorism. The *New York Times* reported that the personal details concerning the hijackers had "confounded the experts."

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# HAMAS OUTRAGED

EGYPTIAN COURT SAYS GROUP IS ILLEGAL

By RAMI AL-MAGHEIRI, MEDIA LINE

The Islamist Hamas party in Gaza is outraged over a recent Egyptian court's ruling that defined the party as a "terrorist and an "illegal organization".

The ruling comes a few weeks after the same court branded Hamas's military wing the Izz-al-Din Al-Qassem Brigades a terrorist group and deepens the rift between Egypt and Hamas.

The Egyptian court decided that Hamas is a terrorist organization, following a petition, submitted by two local Egyptian lawyers, who earlier accused Hamas of involvement in terrorist attacks in the nearby Egyptian Sinai peninsula.

The court's verdict comes on top of a long series of accusations by local Egyptian media outlets that Hamas, which has ruled the Gaza Strip since 2007, has been behind a series of attacks that have killed dozens of Egyptian soldiers since August 2012.

"The court's decision is quite dangerous and only  
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WHILE NO JEWS ARE left in the Kerala centers of Parur and Chennamangalam on the south west coast of India, and only a handful remain in Cochin, the Jewish historical presence in these communities is palpable to any visitor. In 2010 the Kerala government funded a project to restore the abandoned synagogue in Paravur, north of Kochi. Today the completed restoration is open to visitors. The synagogue was erected in 1164 and then rebuilt in 1616. Two stone pillars on the front signify the point beyond which the Maharajah forbid non-Jews to pass on the Sabbath.

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# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

LAS VEGAS – Would you believe that Las Vegas (www.lasvegastourism.com) is the fastest growing Jewish community in the United States? There are over 70,000 Jews and 19 synagogues and many Jewish organizations in the area, as well as Jewish delis and kosher restaurants. Many larger markets feature kosher fresh meats and kosher food sections. There are also two Las Vegas Jewish newspapers. Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman is Jewish. She succeeded her husband, Oscar. Thousands of Jews reportedly relocate to Las Vegas every year. There are many Jewish activities and social events that bind the Las Vegas Jewish com-

munity together. Last January, the 14th annual Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival took place, providing insight into Jewish identity, history, and culture, and promoting solidarity with Israel and the remembrance of the Holocaust.

EIFFEL TOWER EXPERIENCE: The Paris Hotel, right next to Planet Hollywood, is also a Caesar's property. Two members of our party had been to Paris, France and went to the top of the real Eiffel Tower. We just had to do the same in Las Vegas. An icon of the city skyline, the high-altitude Paris Hotel Eiffel Tower Experience attraction is located 46 stories up and is a half scale replica of the world-famous Paris landmark. The observation deck features 360 degree city views and knowledgeable ambassadors point out Las Vegas landmarks. Admission prices range from \$10 to \$19 depending on the day and time you visit. You can call 1-888- 266-5687 for more information or log on to <http://www.parislasvegas.com/things-to-do/eiffel-tower>.

HELICOPTER JUST MAVERICK: Here is an experience we strongly recommend. The Eiffel Tower is one way to see Las Vegas. Climbing aboard a helicopter is another. Maverick Helicopters (www.maverick-aviationgroup.com) offer an unforgettable 12 to 15 minute ride, departing from

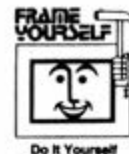
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## ECONOMIC TIES WITH TURKEY

(Continued from page 4)

hood bully.”

That rhetoric has been stepped up in advance of the June, 2015 election for 550 new members of the Grand National Assembly, the Turkish parliament.

“We’ve repeatedly seen that whenever there is

an election campaign there is an increase in anti-Israel rhetoric,” a senior Israeli official told The Media Line on condition of anonymity. “It’s almost part of the electoral campaign, and the more anti-Israel you are, the more popular you are.

That is something we can’t accept.”

Yet both Israel and Turkey seem happy to distinguish between their political and economic connections.

“Both countries have built a wall between their political and diplomatic relations, and their economic ties,” Alon Liel, a former director general of the Foreign Ministry told The Media Line. “Both economies are growing and their needs are growing. They decided that although they can fiercely quarrel on the diplomatic level, civilian trade has been almost unaffected.”

Turkey is Israel’s 7th or 8th largest trading partner, he said. Israel exports chemicals like potash to Turkey, and imports manufactured goods and food.

In the late 1990’s Israel also made extensive

arms deals with Turkey for upgrading its aircraft and tanks, and even selling it drones. Those deals have been put on hold based on the tense political situation.

Alon Liel says that both Israel and Turkey have become increasingly isolated in the Middle East, and if there was a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the two countries could reestablish their close political ties.

“Turkey didn’t do very well in the last five years in the region,” Liel said. “They ruined their relations with Syria and Egypt, and have problematic relations with Iraq and Iran. Turkey needs friends in the region.”

That last sentence could be said of Israel as well, and the economic ties could form the basis for a new regional alliance in the future.

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*FELIX & MEIRA, STARRING ISRAELI ACTRESS Hadas Yaron, is the story of a Hasidic woman with a family searching for something new. She falls in love with an eccentric, secular French Canadian. Her husband, played by Luzer Twersky, loves his community, faith and wife but struggles to keep them all. Twersky, born in Brooklyn, grew up in an Orthodox family but left the Hasidic community for a different lifestyle. Felix & Meira, which took home Best Canadian Film at the Toronto International Film Festival, and is currently playing in Canada, is the ultimate love story between two strangers from distinct communities.*



## RECIPE FOR FIGHTING TERROR

(Continued from page 5)

"They were adults with education and skill, not hopeless young zealots," the *Times* said of the attackers. "At least one left behind a wife and young children...They were not reckless young men facing dire economic conditions and dim prospects, but men as old as 41 enjoying middle class lives."

In 2002, Prof. Alan Krueger of Princeton and Prof. Jitka Maleckova of Prague's Charles University studied the lives of 129 Lebanese Hezbollah terrorists who were killed in attacks on Israel. They found that as compared to other Lebanese, the Hezbollah members "were less likely to come from poor families and were significantly more likely to have

completed secondary education."

That same year, the Muslim writer Hala Jaber spent four days with Fatah's Al Aksa Martyrs Brigade. She found that their members were "educated and middle class."

In 2004, Prof. Alberto Abadie of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government undertook a study of terrorists' motives. When he started, he thought that "it was a reasonable assumption that terrorism has its roots in poverty." By the time he was done, he had concluded that there is "no significant relationship" between the economic conditions in a given country and the rise of terrorists there.

So why is the State

Department spokeswoman presenting job creation in the Arab world as the centerpiece of the Administration's strategy for combating ISIS?

And why do President Obama and his aides still stubbornly cling to the utterly unscientific idea that poverty causes terrorism?

Because in their hearts, they want to believe

that we hold the key to ending terrorism in our own hands, so that ISIS can somehow be defeated non-violently. That if we just give them enough financial aid (over \$10 billion to the Palestinian Authority alone since 1994), they'll stop stoning and bombing and burning and beheading us.

That is what they think. But the evidence says otherwise.

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## TRAVEL TALES

*(Continued from page 7)*

the Las Vegas terminal. A complimentary shuttle provides transportation and from hotels within five miles of the Strip so that was incredibly convenient for our party. Make sure to bring a camera, photo ID (for anyone 18 years or older). The helicopters are equipped with seven leather passenger seats plus one for the pilot. The seating arrangement is determined by the pilot based on the passengers' weights. Maverick's VIP check-in lounges are located on the Strip, only minutes away from the hotels, and at the Henderson Executive Airport, just 15 minutes from the city. The cost is \$124 a person. Upon arrival you will enjoy a fabulous glass of champagne. Their big draws are trips to the Grand Canyon, something which is at the top of our "to do" list for any future visit. Our contact was Bryan Kroten, vice-president of marketing and a proud member of the Las Vegas Jewish community.

**BODIES AND TITANIC EXHIBITIONS:** We strongly recommend you take the time to visit two spectacular visits at the

Luxor in Las Vegas: Bodies and the Titanic. Experienced by more than 15 million people worldwide, Bodies...The Exhibition offers an intimate and informative view into the human body. Using an innovative preservation process, the Exhibition allows visitors to see the human body's inner beauty in educational and awe-inspiring ways. The Exhibition features over 200 actual human bodies and specimens meticulously dissected and respectfully displayed, offering an unprecedented and wholly unique view into the amazing body. Meanwhile, if you loved the 1997 movie "Titanic," then the Titanic exhibit at the Luxor will blow you away. Featuring more than 300 artifacts, as well as breathtaking replicas from the famous ship, the Titanic exhibit truly brings history to life. The exhibit features 20 never-before-seen artifacts including gaming chips, passenger papers and even decorative sections from Titanic's famous Grand Staircase. In addition to artifacts, the exhibit also features amazing replicas from the

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Titanic. Hours of operation for both exhibits are daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at a cost of \$32 per person. The last admission is sold at 9 p.m.

Mike Cohen's email address is [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). Follow his travels at [www.sandboxworld.com/travel](http://www.sandboxworld.com/travel) and on Twitter @mikecohencsl

Gaza-based Association of Muslim Scholars, says the ruling actually shows the strength of Hamas.

"The recent court's

ruling has provided a free advertising campaign on behalf of Hamas, as those who have not yet learned

(Please turn to page 13)

## HAMAS OUTRAGED

(Continued from page 6)

serves the interests of the Zionist entity (Israel)," Yehya Alabds, a local leading figure of Hamas told The Media Line. "The Zionists are surely happy for such a ruling and I believe that they now consider the leader of the coup in Egypt, Egyptian president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, as a national hero."

Alabds believed that though the ruling is "quite dangerous", Egypt's military will not take any action against Hamas. He said Hamas' main enemy remains Israel, after last summer's fighting between

the two left at least 2100 Palestinians dead, along with 72 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

"Our enemy remains the Zionist occupation and once the Zionists attempt to attack us, we will point our guns against the Zionists, themselves," he said. "I do believe that the Egyptian society cannot be misled by the court ruling and that the people there understand that our party is a national Palestinian movement that is only dedicated for the liberation of Palestine."

A leading imam in Gaza, Younis Alastal, of the

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## THE YASSIN FATHER AND SONS TEAM ENGRAVES JEWISH TOMBSTONES IN MUMBAI



FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS MUHAMMAD ABDUL Yassin(left) has come to the Bene Israel cemetery in Mumbai, India, every day except Friday, to engrave Jewish headstones. Yassin was raised in a poverty stricken area of Northern India but was determined to move away as soon as he could to seek a better life. By the age of 27 Yassin had begun developing his craft. He received word that the Jewish tombstone engraver in Mumbai, Aaron Menasse Navgavikar, was looking for an apprentice. Yassin became that apprentice, learning not only the craft but six new languages as well. In 1971 Navgavikar and his family moved to Israel and Yassin not only became the engraver for the Bene Israel but for the Baghdadis Jews as well. "They made me like their own", says Yassin. Today, Yassin, who suffered a heart attack several years ago, has given much of his work to his sons Islam(right) and Salam. Islam has been at his father's side for the past 34 years. Yassin says he is retired now but anyone who visits the Bene Israel cemetery will likely find Yassin helping his sons work on the roughly three tombstones a month that are needed. Yassin has had numerous invitations to make "aliya" but prefers to stay with his family in Mumbai.



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## HAMAS OUTRAGED

(Continued from page 11)

about the party, will start learning about it," he told The Media Line. "Whatever repercussions could emerge out of such a ruling, Hamas will win. It does mean that the party is a strong one that is feared even by nearby Egypt. How could a tiny coastal enclave pose a threat to a great country, like Egypt?"

He also said that Egypt has not provided any evidence that Hamas has been involved in hostile attacks across Egypt.

"I believe that the ruling would fuel tension in Egypt as many in Egypt love Hamas, for Hamas is working on behalf of the whole nation", he said.

Hamas is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, and under Egypt's former President Mohamed Morsi, ties were

close. Morsi was deposed in 2013 and is currently on trial.

Gaza-based political analyst, Naji Shurrab, believes that the court's ruling, will have an impact on the political scene in the region.

"The ruling will encourage Israel to further isolate the Islamist Hamas party, by possibly carrying out another attack against Gaza, like it did last summer. Yet, I would rather believe that Israel will exploit the ruling against Hamas in international courts, like the European or the International Court of Justice", Shurrab told The Media Line.

At the same time, he said, neither Hamas nor Egypt is interested in a military confrontation, and the ruling will have little

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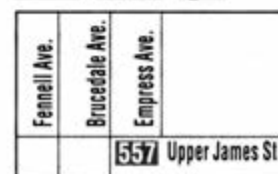
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practical significance.

Ibrahim Abrash, another political analyst in Gaza, told The Media Line that Palestinian parties such as the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) must intervene.

"If Hamas cannot assign lawyers in Egypt to appeal against the court's ruling, then I think the Palestine Liberation Organization should do that on behalf of Hamas," he told The Media Line. "I believe the ruling might lead some Arab countries like Saudi Arabia and UAE, which are connected closely with Egypt, to start dealing with the Islamist Hamas, quite differently."

**WORLD IN REVIEW**

(Continued from page 3)

**Forbes's Jewish  
Billionaires List**

Forbes has released its 29th annual list of the world's billionaires, of which there are 1826, 181 more than last year. And as usual Jews are well represented on the list.

Ten Jews are among the top 50. Larry Ellison, founder of the tech giant Oracle Corporation, is the

wealthiest Jew in the world, with a net worth of \$54.2 billion. He is also the fifth wealthiest person alive. In second place among Jews is former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg. His net worth is \$35.5 billion, which puts him in 14th place overall. Mark Zuckerberg's net worth grew to \$33.4 billion last year and he now sits 16th overall.

Other Jews in the top 50 include Sheldon Adelson at \$31.4 billion,  
(Please turn to page 16)

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## CHABAD CENTRE RE-OPENS IN MUMBAI, INDIA



THE CHABAD-LUBAVITCH CENTRE IN MUMBAI, India recently re-opened following the 2008 terrorist attack. The remnants of that attack are still very much in evidence (see page 16). There are bullet holes everywhere. The room where the little baby Moshe slept is a poignant reminder of what he unknowingly lived through. Pictured here is the monument which describes the events of November 26th which left Rabbi Holtzberg and his wife Rivka, Rabbis Aryeh Leibish Teitelbaum and Ben-Tzion Korman, and one guest from Israel and one from Mexico dead at the hands of the terrorists. The current rabbi, Israel Kozlovksy, and his wife Chaya have again made the Chabad Centre a welcome spot for Jewish travellers, even if security is incredibly tight. Good kosher meals can be eaten in the café. A kindergarten has been started for children. The Chabad Centre is currently trying to raise over \$2 million in order to establish a museum on two of the floors.

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## WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 14)

Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page at \$29.2 and \$29.7, investors George Soros at \$24.2, Carl Ichan at \$23.5, Len Blavatnik at \$20.2 and Dell Computer Founder Michael Dell at \$19.2.

New Jews on Forbes' list include Russ Weiner, founder and CEO of Rockstar energy drinks, Jerry Reinsdorf owner of the Chicago Bulls and White Sox and Ken Grossman, co-founder of the Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

Several women are also on the list. Shari Arison, owner of the Arison Group, is at \$4.4 billion, investor Karen Pritzker stands at \$4.3, Oil and gas magnate Lynn Shusterman has amassed a net fortune of \$3.7 and Gap Founder Doris Fisher is worth \$3.2. Philanthropy plays a major role in the lives and careers of all these women. With a net worth of \$1 billion Sheryl Sandberg of Facebook and "Lean In" fame just makes the list.

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## Charges Dropped At Ohio U

Four Jewish students at the University of Ohio, Jonah Yulish, Maxwell Peltz, Rebecca Sebo and Gabriel Sirkin, have had charges of disrupting a student senate meeting dropped. They faced up to 30 days in jail and a \$250 fine after being arrested by university police for staging a protest against senate president Megan Marzec's "blood bucket challenge" video calling for the university to support the BDS movement. The students turned down the offer of pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct and a \$100 fine.

A jury trial had been set to start on September 10th. The charges were dropped following motions filed by lawyers for the students claiming that their clients had not received a

"speedy trial" which under Ohio laws means within 60 days.

## Hain Celestial Buys Empire Foods

Irwin Simon, president and CEO of Hain Celestial Group, one of the largest sellers of natural and organic foods in the United States, has bought the 80 per cent of Empire Kosher Holdings that it did not own. Empire's sales in 2014 were an estimated \$100 million. Simon, who was born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia in 1958 and as a kid stocked shelves at his father's Simon Dairy, says that "Empire expands our Farm to Table product offerings, a growing category that appeals to those seeking 'the pure food trend', including our core natural and organic consumers." Simon plans on diversifying Empire's products.

## THE REMNANTS OF TERROR IN MUMBAI, INDIA



*THOUGH THE CHABAD CENTER IN MUMBAI HAS reopened, much of the building remains as it was following the four day terror attack committed by the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba.*



## **Jew vs Jew In Rockland County**

Rockland County, about 30 miles north of midtown Manhattan, has had a rough few years. It's been named New York's most fiscally stressed community and home values are down some 18 per cent.

Jews make up about one-third of the county's population of 320,000 but it's the rapidly growing Hasidic community that is causing friction, not only between the Orthodox and their non-Jewish neighbours but with Reform and Conservative Jews as well. The Hasidic have made life so uncomfortable for the non-Orthodox that many have moved away. Conservative and Reform synagogue membership is dwindling and the one non-Orthodox Jewish day school has seen its enrolment plummet.

But the Hasidic antics are not just causing

problems for Jews. The Orthodox have become a powerful political machine and the struggle over the funding decisions of East Ramapo Central School District has brought matters to a head.

The ultra-Orthodox control the majority of seats on the board. Somehow the local yeshivas are prospering while elementary schools don't have budgets for assistant principals, art classes, social workers or after school sports. And the community, Jew and Gentile, has had enough. While Reform and Conservative Jews, who for years stayed silent, may not support comments describing the Orthodox as "locust swarms of non tax paying looters", they do believe that the "financial abuse of Rockland by the Hasidic-Orthodox community", must stop.

Emboldened Reform and Conservative Jews have also decided that the time

has come to stop apologizing for all the "bad stuff" people read about Rockland County. The local Jewish Federation, along with Reform and Conservative

leaders, has launched a campaign to stop the exodus from Rockland and to convince Jews living elsewhere that their county is really "a beautiful place to live."

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