

# THE JEWISH STANDARD

JUNE 30, 2017



*OLYMBEC, THE JEWISH-OWNED MONTREAL based real estate giant with properties across North America, recently unveiled a beautifully refurbished Lac Carling Hotel in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge in the Laurentians. They did so with their partners Pava Corporation. Pictured above is the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the reopening last November with Richard Stern of Olymbec and Peter Triassi of Pava Corporation surrounded by local dignitaries. The Lac Carling Hotel is rapidly becoming the “go-to” destination for family vacations and business functions. See the story on page 5.*

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# Black Lives Matter Has Lost Its Way

**MICHAEL HAYMAN**  
PUBLISHER AND  
EDITOR

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

Hannah Jacobs is a sophomore at Boston University. "Growing up", she writes, "Judaism, Zionism and social justice complemented each other to create someone who loves Israel, is a strong Jew and cares deeply about the world around her". Her great grandfather, having lived through the obscenity of racism, boarded a bus to join the followers of Martin Luther King Jr. marching on the streets of Washington. Hannah, anxious to feel as her Black friends feel, and sickened by the repeated shooting of unarmed Black men, attended a demonstration in support of Black Lives Matter. But the vulgar, repugnant anti-Semitic activists who stood by her side at the event, and the subsequent release of the BLM Israel bashing platform, has left her, and other Jewish liberals and progressives, facing a painful dilemma. How can they continue to be full partners with those whose platforms are a travesty of political judgement and a disservice to the Blacks they purport to represent?

Black Lives Matter was created in 2012 following the shooting of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of George Zimmerman. The Movement is "a call to action and a response to the virulent anti-Black racism that permeates our society...It affirms the lives of Black queer and trans folks, disabled folks, Black-undocumented folks, folks with records, women and all Black lives along the gender spectrum...It is a tactic to (re)build the Black liberation movement."

Somehow, however, Black Lives Matter has concluded, as have groups such as MoveOn, Code Pink and Occupy Wall Street, that full and equal opportunity for all Americans can only be advanced if Israel stops its perpetuation of "genocide" and "apartheid" and pre-

ably is forced to hand over all of the West Bank. How events thousands of kilometers away can contribute to the helplessness felt by American Blacks defies all logic. But if BLM insists on singing "we shall overcome" with activists around the world, why not join those protesting the enslavement of the million Blacks in Mauritania, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan? Why not link arms with the dissidents being tortured in North Korea or the LGBT's being executed in Iran? Shouldn't BLM be building bridges with the muzzled women throughout the Islamic world? And is Syria such an oasis of tranquility that it merits not even a mention in BLM's literature?

We acknowledge that the Jewish-Black "alliance" has been more nuanced than some would acknowledge. Rabbi Joshua Heschel may have marched with Martin Luther King, and half the freedom riders were Jewish. But so, too, was the racist Solomon Blatt, speaker of the South Carolina House. Jews may have been more willing to rent to Blacks in Northern US cities. They were also more likely to be slum landlords, And Louis Farrakhan did, as he repeatedly told progressive Jews, hate "all white people"

We don't know whether the BLM's "genocide" accusation reflects the views of a few misguided zealots or is representative of the movement's general membership. What we do know for certain is that the legitimate aspirations of American Blacks won't be achieved by ending US funding and military aid to Israel. Nor will their grievances be addressed through marches in solidarity with Linda Sarsour or by linking its website to the rubbish being spewed out by the BDS movement.

**ANITA SURMAN**  
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General News Section

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# EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES IN THE NEWS IN OUR CITY

By MIKE COHEN

## LAC CARLING HOTEL:

There is a beautiful hotel just one hour from Montreal which is starting to get a lot of attention from people planning weddings, social functions, meetings and trade shows. Almost three years ago Jewish-owned real estate giant Olymbec, along with the Pava Corporation, purchased the Lac Carling Hotel in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge and went about refurbishing the property. It is located in the Laurentians, 20 minutes north of Lachute and popular year-round for rest and relaxation, sports and receptions of all kinds.

"The Lac Carling Hotel was a well-established property in the 1980s and

90s," said Robert Libman, speaking on behalf of Olymbec, where he works as an architect and on special projects. "With the vast improvements we have undertaken, the property is already doing very well simply by word of mouth."

Several million dollars has been spent to renovate the hotel rooms, the dining hall, bars and common areas. The three-storey complex has 100 hotel rooms, including 11 two storey suites and indoor parking. There is 17,000 square feet of interior space to host the biggest of weddings and conferences. At the moment, up to 300 people can be accommodated, but by converting space at

(Please turn to page 9)



*SINCE LAST DECEMBER THE JEWISH GENERAL Hospital has had a full kosher food court in its new Pavillion K. It replaces the longstanding cafeteria, Resto Carrefour HGJ is run by the team at Beso Catering. Pictured here is General Manager David DiRaddo. There are kiosks offering such eats as kabobs, breakfast, Italian dishes, Chinese, burgers, smoked meat and a convenient grab and go selection of sandwiches, muffins, cookies and fruits. In July, a sushi counter is expected to open. (Mike Cohen Photo)*



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# THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

## **Synagogues Try Something New**

With declining synagogue membership becoming an issue, some non-Orthodox synagogues in the United States are trying something new: "voluntary dues." Some 60 Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist synagogues have stopped charging mandatory dues and are telling congregants that they can pay what they want.

The pay what you can model appeals to those who may be strapped for cash and to those who want to feel that price should not be an object when joining a synagogue. "The process of asking for a dues adjustment becomes all about money," says Adina Frydman, executive director of Synergy, a division of the New York federation that advises synagogues on strategy, "as opposed to 'you are a member of this congregation and community.'"

The synagogues involved do suggest a "sustaining level" donation, the average amount the synagogue needs from each member to reach its goal but in general less than half the members actually pay dues at the sustaining level. This has created "challenges". More money may be coming in from more people but the average annual membership contribution has fallen.

It is hard to say whether "voluntary dues" is the wave of the future. So

far only 57 synagogues, less than 5 percent of the country's Conservative and Reform congregations, have adopted the concept. Still studies suggest that millennials are rejecting the old ways. Jack Wertheimer, a history professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary, says that programs like birthright get young Jews used to the idea of no cost or low cost Jewish services.

"We're living in a time today," says Wertheimer, *(Please turn to page 12)*

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# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

**TAMPA'S ICONIC JEWISH OWNED RESTAURANT:** While my family and I stayed in beautiful St. Petersburg on our most recent trip to Florida's Gulf Coast, we did make the 30 minute drive into Tampa a few times.

Prior to our trip I began to hear many excellent stories about Bern's Steak House ([www.bernsteakhouse.com](http://www.bernsteakhouse.com)) in Tampa. This is the spot known for perfectly aged steaks, one of the largest wine collections in the world and an internationally famous dessert room. These elements have combined since 1956 to provide guests with a unique culinary experience.

I must say I cannot recall a dining experience quite like this. The prime steaks are cut to order, vegetables are grown locally on the Bern's farm and sourced from the finest purveyors, and the menu includes 21 choices of caviar. Bern's Jewish founder, Bern Laxer, was born to a Romanian mother and Polish father on the Lower East Side of New York in 1923, and grew up in the Bronx. After serving in World War II, he returned to New York where he pursued a degree in advertising from New York University. He met his wife Gert in a copy-righting class and they married in 1950. To support them, Bern operated a one-man advertising agency in the city.

Following a number of ventures, Bern and Gert ended up in Tampa where Bern's Steak House was born. They grew from one to eight dining rooms and from 40 to 350 guest seats. Sadly, Bern passed away in 2002. Gert, now retired, visits occasionally while their son, David, carries on the tradition of running Bern's Steak House and Bern's Fine Wines and Spirits.

Bern's waiters train for approximately one year, working at every station in the restaurant. Our server reviewed the extensive menu for us and made some recommendations. We had some delicious appetizers and a 22 ounce cut of Chateaubriand as the main course. All entrees

(Please turn to following page)

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## TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

include French onion soup au gratin with garlic and spelt toasts, steak house salad, baked potato, steak house crispy fried onion rings and a vegetable tasting of the evening. After dinner, we went on the restaurant's famous kitchen and wine cellar tour. Then it was time to step inside the world famous Harry Waugh Dessert Room, built in 1985 using redwood wine casks, to create 48 private rooms

where guests to this day enjoy nearly 50 desserts, wines, ports, sherries, and madeiras. This represents a separate sitting. All desserts – ice creams, sherbets, pies, pastries, hot fudge, whipped cream, breads and crackers – are made by Bern's with the freshest and best ingredients available. What a truly amazing dining experience! If you are in the area of 1208 S. Howard Street then make a reservation by calling 813-251-2421. You can valet park for \$5.

**SMALLEST NOISE MACHINE:** Whenever my family travels, we make sure to have a white noise machine in each room. It is the only way we can guarantee a good night's sleep by cutting out any outside disturbances, such as noise from passing cars or people in the hallways. I just discovered the world's smallest noise machine, produced by Sound Oasis. The

machine fits into the palm of your hand and can be used anywhere – on planes or cars, in hotels, even at home. I took it with me on a recent business trip to Bromont and I was beyond impressed. Studies show that travellers can lose nearly eight hours of sleep by the time they return home from a trip – that's one full night's sleep. White noise is a natural, clinically proven sound that helps people sleep and concentrate. With today's airplanes more packed than ever, this tiny invention can be the solace you need from that noisy passenger across the aisle. Or when you get to your hotel room and that "quiet room" isn't quite as quiet as promised, this white noise miracle can save your trip. There are 10 different continuous tones with no loops, a built-in rechargeable battery with USB cable for up to 25 hours of

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*Mike Cohen can be reached at [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). Follow his travels at [www.sandboxworld.com/travel](http://www.sandboxworld.com/travel) and on Twitter and Instagram @mikecohencsl.*

easier access to and from the Montreal-Ottawa corridor.

The Lac Carling Hotel is located at 2255 Route 327 Nord, Grenville-sur-la-Rouge. For more information log on to <http://hotellaccarling.com> or call 450-533-5468 or 1-844-922-7546.

**HECHT SCHOLARSHIPS:** The Riva and Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship Program, Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators endeavours to promote Holocaust education for educators in Quebec. This scholarship program is designed to offer  
(Please turn to following page)

## EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from page 7)

the indoor tennis courts that capacity can be doubled. Full catering is available on site. Some functions with kosher catering have already been booked.

You can play golf at the property's Platinum rated 18-hole public course, take a swim in the lake or go canoeing, row boating, pedal boating, kayaking, hiking and fishing (permit required). There is also an indoor heated pool and a spa centre offering massages and a sauna

and hot tub. The Sports Centre offers racket sports like tennis or squash and a gym.

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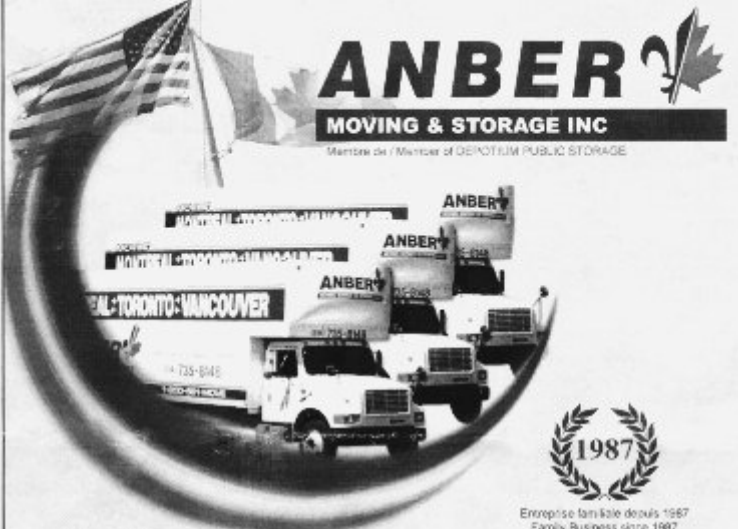
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### **EYE ON MONTREAL**

*(Continued from preceding page)*

professional development opportunities to educators through the Belfer National Conference for Educators at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

This year's recipients are Lev Berner from Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount of the English Montreal School Board; Anne-Marie Jacob of College Jesus-Marie de Sillery in Quebec City; and Stephanie Kessler from College Reine-Marie in Montreal. They will travel to Washington in July. The Hecht's also wish to congratulate Melanie Philip and Audrée Anne Dupont, teachers at the EMSB's Mackay Centre School in NDG and Merton Elementary School in Côte Saint-Luc respectively. They have been awarded a Hecht Scholarship to a professional development program in July under the direction of the Faculty of the Yad Vashem Seminars for Educators from Abroad, International School for Holocaust Studies. The goal of this program is to provide professional development

activities to teachers for teaching about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. Upon their return to Montreal, scholarship recipients will be asked to create at least one teaching unit or module developed

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within the context learned, appropriate for the régime pédagogique.

The Belfer National Conference for Educators presents Holocaust education for English Language Arts and Social Studies/History teachers from Grades 6 and up. The

goal of this three-day Conference is to give educators the tools for teaching about the Holocaust in their classrooms. Teachers will be introduced to information and teaching strategies using many Museum resources, with a focus on school systems in North America. The Conference will take place from July 19 to 21 for English Language Arts teachers and July 23 to 25 for Social Sciences and History teachers.

#### THE BEAUMONT:

Construction on the 142-unit Beaumont Condominium complex is well under way. It will be located at the corner of Clanranald Avenue and Côte St. Luc Road close to the heart of the Jewish community. The Beaumont will be the only high-end project in NDG offering a 360 degree view pool, a sun-soaked rooftop, a gym, an indoor parking, an IGA grocery store, and privileged services in a mature area distinguished by its stately centennial houses. Drop by their Monkland Avenue sales office, log on to

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## EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from preceding page)

<https://beaumontcondos.com/en/> and see their advertisement on the back cover of this edition of The Jewish Standard.

Mike Cohen can be reached at [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). Log on to his personal website at [www.mikecohen.ca](http://www.mikecohen.ca)

## WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 6)

“when institutions are held rather cold and distant. suspect and also seen as The whole idea of member-

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ship dues reinforces that point.”

## Orthodox Paramedic Sues NY Hospital

Hadas Goldfarb claims that she was offered a job as a paramedic at the New York Presbyterian Hospital in 2015 but was terminated during orientation for refusing to comply with the hospital's dress code. The 26-year-old Brooklyn resident is an orthodox Jew and only wears skirts. She argues that she has never had a problem in her previous jobs as a paramedic.

Following her termination, Goldfarb filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and she has now received notice of the right to sue. The suit alleges that the hospital failed to provide her with reasonable accommodation for her religious observance. Goldfarb is suing for damages, reinstatement and an order forcing the hospital and the city of New York to stop denying requests for

accommodation in relation to the pants policy.

Goldfarb has since found a job for an emergency telemedicine company, where her style of dress is not an issue.

Her lawyer, Joseph Aron, is himself an Orthodox Jew and the father of three daughters. He has taken the case in part because he does not want one of his young daughters to one day have to face the same dress code restrictions facing his client.

## San Antonio's New Mayor

Ron Nirenberg, son of a Jewish father, is the new mayor of San Antonio, Texas. Nirenberg celebrated his diverse background during the campaign. His parents met while his father was serving in the Peace Corps in Malaysia.

Dubbed “Liberal Ron”, Nirenberg opposes any discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. San Antonio, claimed, Nirenberg, “said yes to a bigger vision of diversity”.



*THE CANADIAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE RECENTLY held a panel discussion in Montreal composed of Jewish veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces who discussed their military experience as Jews. Pictured above, left to right, are Rick Garber, Dr Markus Martin, David Hart and Edward Fitch. Readers can go to [WWW.CJE2017.com](http://WWW.CJE2017.com) to learn more about this event and the exhibit in Ottawa.*



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The Riva and Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship Program, Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators endeavours to promote Holocaust education for educators in Quebec. This scholarship program is designed to offer professional development opportunities to educators through the Belfer National Conference for Educators at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

This year's recipients are Lev Berner from Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount of the English Montreal School Board; Anne-Marie Jacob of College Jesus-Marie de Sillery in Quebec City; and Stephanie Kessler from College Reine-Marie in Montreal.

The Hechts also wish to congratulate Melanie Philip and Audrée Anne Dupont, teachers at the EMSB's Mackay Centre School in NDG and Merton Elementary School in Côte Saint-Luc respectively. They have been awarded Hecht Scholarships to a professional development program in Israel in July under the direction of the Faculty of the Yad Vashem Seminars for Educators from Abroad, International School for Holocaust Studies.

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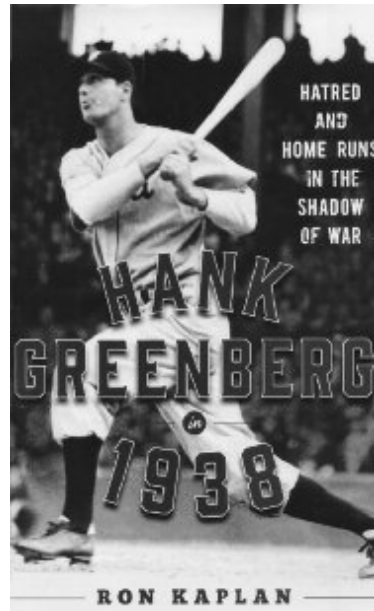
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record of 60 home runs while events in Europe were spiralling out of control. Hank Greenberg in 1938 is a fascinating look at the New York born and Detroit Tigers baseball legend.

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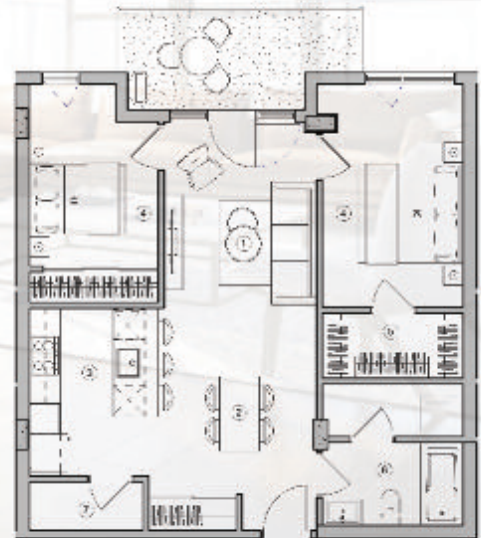
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