

# THE JEWISH STANDARD

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 ROSH HASHANAH 5778



*CITY OF CÔTE SAINT-LUC DISTRICT 2 COUNCILLOR MIKE COHEN will be seeking his fourth mandate on November 5. Here he joins Beth Chabad's Rabbi Mendel Raskin, as he prepares to blow the shofar for Rosh Hashanah at the Kildare Road synagogue.*

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General News  
Section



*THE JUDAH HYAM SYNAGOGUE IN NEW Delhi, India serves the tiny Jewish community of Delhi, where Jews have been living for over 2000 years. Today, there are only some 10 families remaining in Delhi. During Rosh Hashanah and other holidays the synagogue is home for expatriates working in Delhi, Israeli diplomats and tourists.*

## **Reflections on the New Year**

The New Year is traditionally a time of self-assessment. The successes and failures, the hopes and disappointments, the achievements and the shortcomings of a lifetime are measured against one's expectations and a balance is struck.

Jews are especially subject to the impulse towards stock-taking at the High Holy Day season. The entire Rosh Hashanah spirit leads inevitably to a *cheshbon ha'nefesh* and there are probably few Jews whose attachment to the faith of their ancestors is so tenuous as to leave them unaffected by an urge, in these solemn days, to analyze themselves and to challenge the ultimate validity of the drives to which they have subjected themselves.

If a sense of uneasiness is understandable in our personal lives, it is also reflected in our response to the dark blots which affect our fellow Jews and, indeed, harass all of mankind. The

psychoses which plagued humanity during the past twelve months have hardly been relieved. Deprivation and want have killed hundreds of thousands. The scourge of terrorism can appear at any given moment, anywhere. There are diabolical men, removed from complete sanity, who appear to relish the prospect of a nuclear holocaust. We are, indeed marching into a New Year with danger piling upon danger and far from the ideal of the great religions of the past to "tame the savageness of man and make more gentle the life of the world."

As Jews, and as Canadians, we cannot escape the truth that our fate is bound up inseparably with the fate of every single human being in the world. Perhaps our prayers on this Rosh Hashanah should not be for divine intervention but rather for the strength we require to face life's perils and the courage we must summon to confront our many enemies.

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# THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

## Barcelona's Jews Reject Rabbi's Pessimism

Barcelona Chief Rabbi Meir Bar-Hen has come under fire from local Jewish community leaders for suggesting that the Jewish community in Barcelona is "doomed" because Spanish authorities refuse to counter radical Islam. "I tell my congregants", Bar-Hen said, "Don't think we're here for good. And I encourage them to buy property in Israel. This place is lost...Better get out early than late".

Community spokesperson Victor Sorensen was quick to reject the Rabbi's gloomy assessment. "Barcelona is a city where Jews have been living for one hundred years and

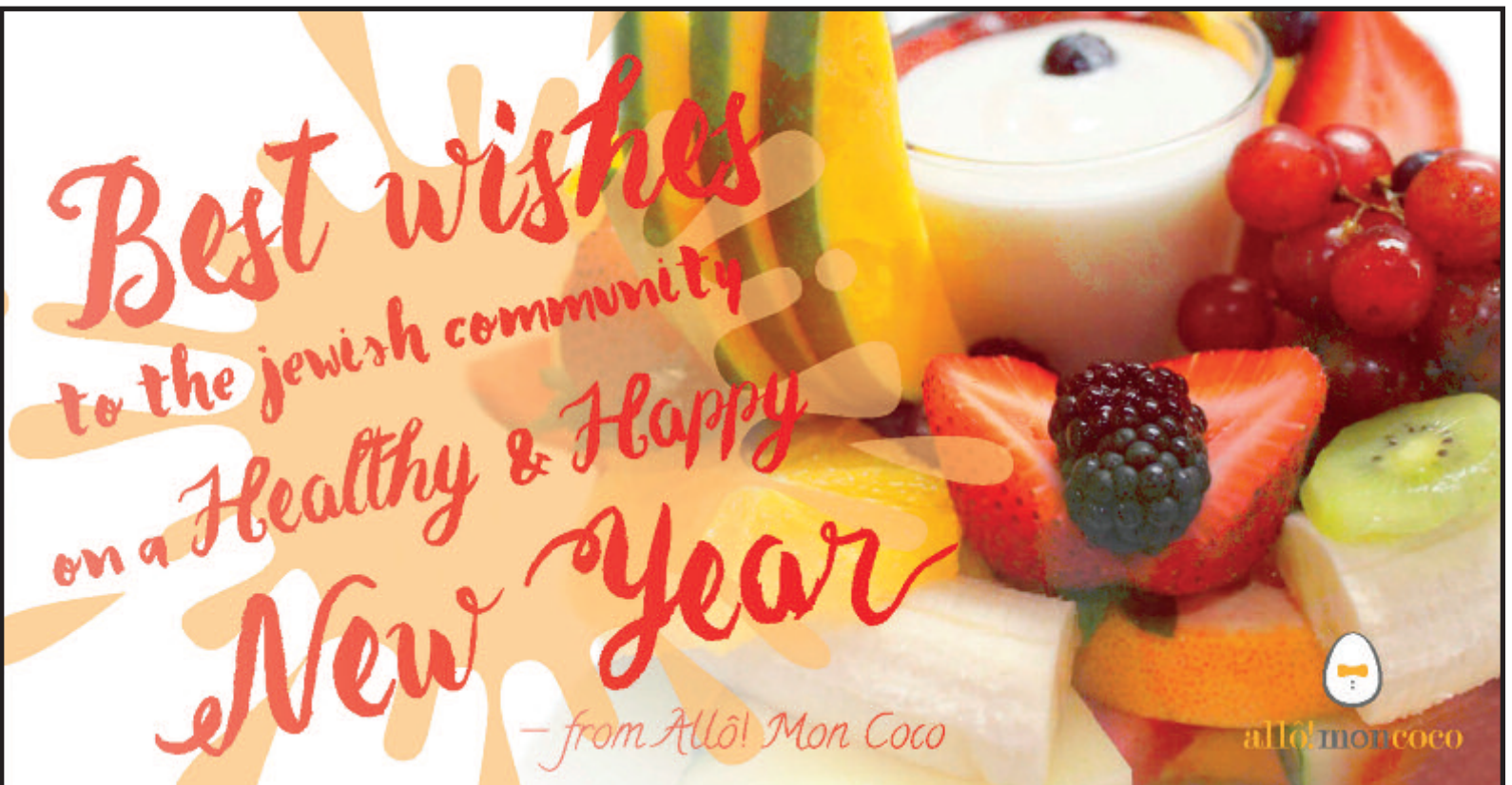
of which they are proud," said Sorensen. "We Jews will not leave our city".

Rabbi Bar-Hen stressed that he was speaking only for himself and he did later backtrack from his original comments. "Our community", he said, responding to the criticism, "is organized and expanding." But he emphasized that he will continue to tell his congregants to move to Israel although not because Spain is, as he said in his initial comments, the "hub of Islamist terror for all of Europe," but rather because of the genuine threat of assimilation.

Rachel Said, a member of the Muslim-Jewish Salam Shalom Barcelona initiative, was particularly

(Please turn to page 16)

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# A CLASS ACT

COLORADO BEAN FARMER WAS A TRUE HERO

By **RAFAEL MEDOFF**

*(Dr. Rafael Medoff is founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies and author of 16 books about Jewish history.) - The Editor*

In April 1944, a bean farmer in Colorado sent a check for \$100 to the Washington, D.C. headquarters of the War Refugee Board. He explained that the donation was intended to help the Board stop the Germans "from exterminating the Jews" and to "feed, clothe, and share with them an earthly home." In fact, the farmer wrote, he was ready to share his own home. He offered to personally take in five Jewish refugee families. One hundred dollars was not a small sum in those days. Adjusted for inflation, it's the

*(Please turn to page 19)*



AT THEIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS HELD in June, the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors (Cummings Centre) and the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors (CJCS) Foundation announced new slates of officers to serve on their respective Boards of Directors for 2017 - 2019. From left to right, CJCS Foundation Executive Director Cathy Simons, recently appointed CJCS Foundation President Philip Abbey, newly named Cummings Centre President Roz Wiener and Cummings Centre Executive Director Pauline Grunberg. (Photo by Rina Friedman)

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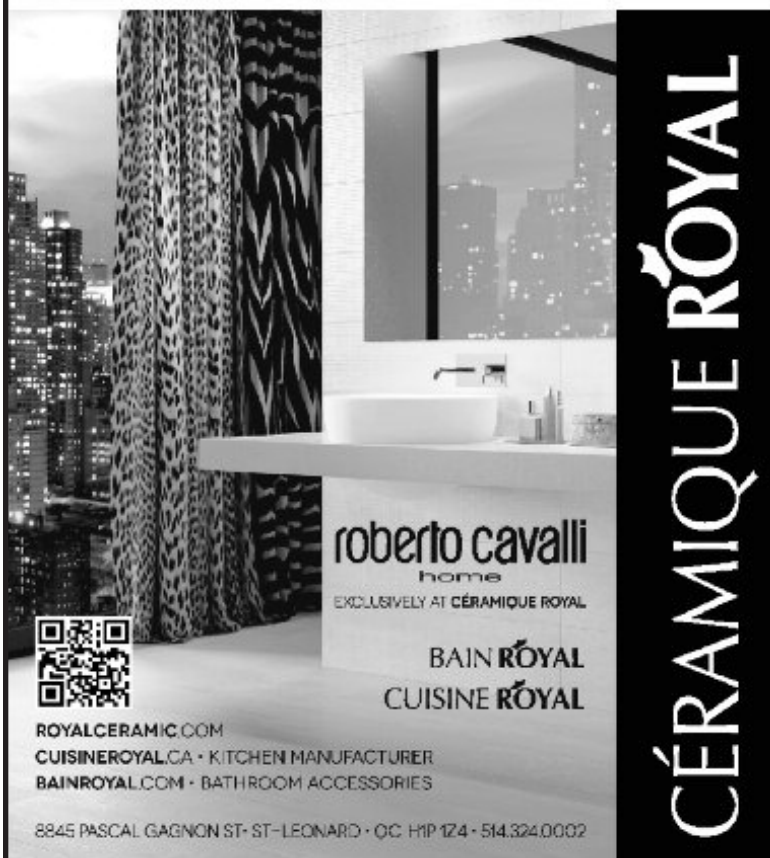


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# EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES IN THE NEWS IN OUR CITY

By **MIKE COHEN**

**A REMARKABLE ARTIST:** Nelly Leitner is one remarkable lady. At 85 years young she continues to work as a professional art teacher, drives a car, takes daily walks and keeps up her home of 46 years in immaculate condition. In fact, walking through her town house is like being at a high-end art gallery with beautiful paintings hanging at all levels. Born in Romania, she speaks English, French,

Spanish and some German. At the age of 12 she began to paint. "One day in art class the teacher told me that I had a lot of talent and I should learn to draw," she said. "I ended up taking private lessons for piano and painting."

In 1952 Nelly moved to Israel, where her brothers had settled. She worked in the Air Force as a radar operator, but left after year after

(Please turn to page 10)

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# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

SAN FRANCISCO- According to recent figures, the Bay Area is home to the fourth largest Jewish community in North America. San Francisco, the East Bay and San Jose are listed separately, but their combined Jewish population is 391,500, according to the list put out by the Jewish Federations of North America. The breakdown looks as follows: San Francisco (227,800), the East Bay (100,750) and San Jose (63,000).

The community is very proud of The Contemporary Jewish Museum (<https://www.the.cjm.org>), which since 1984 has distinguished itself as a welcoming place where visitors can

connect with one another through dialogue and shared experiences with the arts. Ever changing, The CJM is a non-collecting institution that partners with national and international cultural institutions to present exhibitions that are both timely and relevant and represent the highest level of artistic achievement and scholarship. It is located at 736 Mission Street in the downtown area.

WELCOMING TO ALL TOURISTS: San Francisco ([www.sftrael.com](http://www.sftrael.com)) is often called "Everybody's Favorite City," a title earned by its scenic beauty, cultural attractions, diverse communities, and world-class cuisine. Measuring 49 square miles, this very walkable city is dotted with landmarks like the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, Alcatraz and the largest Chinatown in the United States. A stroll down the city's streets can lead from Union Square to North Beach to Fisherman's Wharf, with intriguing neighborhoods to explore at every turn. Views of the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay are often laced with fog, creating a romantic mood in this most European of American cities.

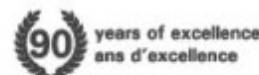
WHERE TO VISIT: It is easy to spend weeks in San Francisco and still not experience everything the city has to offer. The

(Please turn to following page)



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## TRAVEL TALES

*Continued from preceding page)*

Golden Gate Bridge, the most famous bridge in the world, manages to impress even the most experienced travelers with its stunning 1.7-mile span. Approximately 120,000 automobiles drive across it every day. A pedestrian walkway also allows for crossing on foot, and bikes are allowed on the western side. The Golden Gate Bridge is said to be one of the most photographed things on Earth.

Cable cars have been transporting people around San Francisco since the late 19th century. The cars run on tracks and are moved by an underground cable on three routes. Their familiar bells can be heard ringing from blocks away. Tickets (\$7) may be purchased at the cable car turnarounds at

the end destination of each route. Each one-way ride will provide spectacular views of the city's celebrated hills as well as exhilarating transportation.

Alcatraz, the notorious former prison, is located on an island of the same name in the middle of San Francisco Bay. Some of the United States' most well-known criminals were incarcerated there. We booked our trip via Alcatraz Cruises ([www.alcatrazcruises.com](http://www.alcatrazcruises.com)) and this is something you absolutely cannot leave the city without experiencing.

Fisherman's Wharf is also home to Pier 39, a festive waterfront marketplace that is one of the city's most popular attractions. A community of California sea lions has taken up residence



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on the floats in the Pier 39 Marina and visitors line the nearby railing to watch their antics. Union Square is the place for serious shoppers. Major department stores and the most exclusive designer boutiques line streets like Post, Sutter, Geary, Grant, Stockton and Powell. The Westfield San Francisco Shopping Centre houses the largest Bloomingdale's outside of New York and the second largest Nordstrom in the U.S.

The entrance to Chinatown at Grant Avenue and Bush Street is called the "Dragon's Gate." Inside are 24 blocks of hustle and bustle, most of it taking place along Grant Avenue, the oldest street in San Francisco. This city within a city is best explored on foot: exotic shops, renowned restaurants, food markets, temples and small museums comprise its boundaries. Visitors can buy ancient potions from herb shops, relax and enjoy a "dim sum" lunch or witness the making of fortune of

cookies.

San Francisco is home to internationally recognized symphony, opera and ballet companies, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Asian Art Museum, the de Young Museum, the Legion of Honor and the California Academy of Sciences - the only place on the planet with an aquarium, a planetarium, a natural history museum, and a four-story rainforest all under one roof.

Do consider purchasing the San Francisco CityPASS, which saves travellers up to 42 percent off combined admission to top attractions. Visit CityPASS.com.

MUIR WOODS AND ITS JEWISH CONNECTION: I must make special mention of Jewish businessman Alan Rosenzweig, who moved to San Francisco 30 years ago from Brooklyn to go to university and never left. He owns Best Bay Tours (<https://bestbayareatours>) (Please turn to following page)

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## TRAVEL TALES

*(Continued from preceding page)*

tours.com), which we used to enjoy the incredible Muir Woods and Sausalito tour. A comfortable van picked us up in front of our hotel and what an incredible chauffeur/tour guide we had in charismatic Paul Berman, a Jewish native of Scotland. He moved here 27 years ago with his wife and never left. The Muir Woods tour took us across the Golden Gate Bridge, past the Marin Headlands, and into a magical Redwood forest known as Muir Woods. It's an incredible sight. The Coastal Sequoias (Redwoods)

in Muir Woods are the tallest trees in the world, found only along the Northern California coast, and after decades of logging only five percent of these old growth trees remain. Tour prices are \$45 for children and \$60 for adults. This does not include the \$10 entrance fee to the Muir Woods National Park.

Mike Cohen's email address is [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). Follow him on Twitter @mikecohencsl and read his detailed overview of San Francisco at [www.sandboxworld.com/travel](http://www.sandboxworld.com/travel).

## EYE ON MONTREAL

*(Continued from page 6)*

meeting and marrying Joseph Leitner in 1954. The couple had two children, a boy Amy and a girl, Orly. The family moved to Montreal in 1960. Joseph found work in the antique business while Nelly raised the children. She would ultimately go on to study at l'École des Beaux Arts de Montréal, the l'Université de Québec à Montréal and obtained a certificate

in sculpturing from the then Loyola College. Her passion became plastic arts. One day Nelly wound up at an art gallery at Place Bonaventure with one of her paintings. It turned out that the manager had previously worked for the city of Montreal. He thought she'd be a good teacher. That was 1973 and she has been doing so, in French, ever since.

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"At the start I was working seven days a week and people stood in line for my classes," said Nelly.

Two years ago Nelly scaled back and went into semi-retirement. She now only teaches Monday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Over

her career she has had dozens of exhibitions across the island. "I am a self-made woman," says Nelly, whose husband passed away nearly 30 years ago. "Nobody was helping me. I worked for everything myself."

(Please turn to following page)



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## EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from preceding page)

**CHOMEDEY CONGREGATIONS:** The difficult and unsure future of the Ashkenazi Jewish Orthodox community is again alive and well in Chomedey. The merger between the Chevra

Mishnayis Congregation and the Young Israel of Chomedey has created a larger Ashkenazi Orthodox Congregation.

When the Orthodox Young Israel of Chomedey Congregation sold its historic building last year and decided to take part in an eight month cohabitation trial with the nearby Conservative Shaar Shalom, neither side knew if this partnership would work. But as members tell me, this "marriage" has been a blessing to both sides who have been working in close harmony ever since. The Young Israel had already merged with the Chevra Mishnayis Congregation and could have taken over their empty building. Instead, the membership voted overwhelming to remain

with the Shaar Shalom.

Since the move, and the decision to stay in the Shaar Shalom building, a new slate of executives has been elected: President Issie Baum, First Vice President David Green, Second Vice-President Fred Rudy and Vice Presidents Stan Plant, Robert Bergson and Carl Wooden. Rabbi Avrum Bannon remains the spiritual leader.

The two congregations hold joint holiday celebrations, breakfasts after services and just regular chit chats "and we all are enjoying each other's company," says Rudy. "Since the elections, the new executive has undertaken to complete the projects that were started previously under the past executive in order to prepare the Shaar Shalom building to accommodate a larger amount of people for the upcoming Jewish new year high holidays."

Many more new projects that are required to give the new premises more of the old Young

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Israel feeling are also President David Green. of these projects jointly, stalling a fire escape  
 being attended to under Both congrega- and others by the Young from the top floor, and a  
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## EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from preceding page)

stair lift since many of the congregation are elderly and have problems with the stairs," says Rudy. "The large Menorah which was in the front of the Young Israel building is being installed on the front lawn of the building, the names of Young Israel and Chevra Mishmayis are being installed on the front of the building, the stained glass windows from the Young Israel building are being prepared for hanging in the main sanctuary. The large Memorial Boards are also being prepared for mounting and our 'Tree of Life' will be installed on the entrance wall as well. The building has wheelchair access

through a ground level side door from the parking lot, which is very convenient. As well Young Israel has updated its website to allow the entire Jewish community to hear, read and see the new happenings in what we are hoping to be the start of a new beginning in Chomedey."

### SOUSSANA ON

**RADIO:** On October 16 (7 pm) Victor Soussana, who operates the very successful Intercoûpe Le Spa on Decarie Boulevard with Georges Ouaknine, will be a special guest on Today's Entrepreneur. That is the Monday night CJAD program, sponsored by the accounting firm of Fuller Landau.

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**PHIL ON PIANO:**

The wonderful and talented Phil Matlin continues to entertain folks in the Harold Greenspon Auditorium of the CSL Public Library Sundays at 2 pm. His upcoming shows are October 1 November 19 and December 3.

**LITERARY CLUB:**

The Mount Sinai Hospital Literary Breakfast Club celebrated its 13th season in June with a festive breakfast buffet! The Literary Club has hosted the reviews for many years to an enthusiastic 250 plus membership, five Wednesday mornings

each year, at the Beth El Synagogues in TMR. After enjoying a mini breakfast the members proceed to the plush sanctuary to engage in a professional and stimulating book review by distinguished reviewers. The co-chairpersons are Ellen Fabian and Sheila Lackman.

**GOOD LUCK:**

Congratulations to Maurice Cohen, who is retiring as a St. Laurent city councillor after several decades on the job.

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)

Avec les hommages de David Birnbaum, député de D'Arcy-McGee et adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation et de la ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur

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Best wishes from David Birnbaum, MNA for D'Arcy-McGee and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Higher Education

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## WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 4)

disturbed by the Rabbi's comments. "I am a Jewish woman who is living in Barcelona and saw an Orthodox couple walking down Les Ramblas today, in solidarity with thousands of others. I even said 'Shalom haverim and the woman replied 'Shabbat Shalom'"

**Steve Bannon  
Takes Aim at Kushner**

A recent article in *Vanity Fair* reveals the extent of the conflict between Steve Bannon and Jared Kushner, wife Ivanka and Gary Cohn (who has since left the White House). Two issues helped fuel the already simmering animosity.

According to the article Bannon urged Donald Trump to carry through on his campaign promise to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and to adopt a much tougher line with Mahmoud Abbas. When Abbas met with Trump at the White House Bannon was nowhere to be seen. "I'm not going to breathe the same air as that terrorist", he is reported to have said. Kushner has taken a much

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different position on both issues. He does not support the embassy move at this point and also sees Abbas as someone with whom the United States, and Israel, can work.

The response to events in Charlottesville drove the wedge even deeper between the two camps. Bannon supported Trump's response to the violence, agreeing with the president that the anti-racism protesters were just as much to blame as the neo-Nazis and white supremacists. Jared and Ivanka, on the

other hand, both urged Trump to speak out more forcefully against the KKK and the neo-Nazis.

"Steve Bannon reads his revenge" screamed the headline in *Vanity Fair*. "He wants to beat their ideas into submission", said Breitbart News Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow.

"Jared and Ivanka helped push him out", ran a story in the *Daily Mail*. "They were concerned about how they were being viewed by the Jewish community".

For his part Bannon has downplayed the dispute and insists he will now concentrate on waging war on Trump's opponents.

### **Beer Pong, Jews vs Nazis Style**

"Character education is at the heart of all we do at Lovett," says a spokesperson for The Lovett School in Atlanta, Georgia. If that's the case, the private high school still has a bit of work to achieve its goal.

School authorities were forced to expel one student, suspend four others and ban two more from extra curricular activities for two weeks after a photo on social media showed them playing a game of Jews vs Nazis beer pong. The photo depicts large red

beer cups laid out on a table in the shape of a swastika and a Star of David.

Local Atlanta Rabbi Peter Berg informed the

headmaster about the party after receiving the photo in an e-mail. "The fact that someone could even con-  
(Please turn to following page)

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## WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

ceive of such a game and then think it's funny is beyond words", the Rabbi told WSB-TV.

Despite his concerns Rabbi Berg did acknowledge that the school, whose website says its philosophy is based on the Judeo-Christian tradition, did a "phenomenal job" of responding to the matter.

### No Pork Options Back on Table

In 2014 French National Front Party leader Marine Le Pen told an interviewer that no pork options for Jewish and Muslim students would not be offered in school menus in the nearly dozen towns where the National Front won local elections.

Now, however, a French court has ruled that schools must provide alternatives to lunches containing pork for Muslim and Jewish students. The judge did not base his decision on religious considerations. He maintained that due to the lack of any alternative, local Muslim and Jewish children were going without lunch which is "not in keeping with the spirit of the

international convention on the rights of children" and "not in the interests of the children". Added Nicolas Gardères, lawyer for the Muslim Legal Defense League which mounted the challenge: "Secular principles come second to children's rights,"

### Remove the Statute Says Shurat HaDin

These are sensitive times in the United States, especially since the events at Charlottesville, Virginia and the tepid response of President Donald Trump. to the actions of the KKK and the White Supremacists. Increasingly there are calls to remove the statues of Civil War southerners like Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and Andrew Jackson which memorialize leaders of the Confederacy.

Now Shurat HaDin, the Israel Law Centre, is calling on New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio to remove all memorials to Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch director-general of New Amsterdam, and a blatant anti-Semite. "Peter Stuyvesant," reads a state-  
(Please turn to page 23)

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**CLASS ACT***(Continued from page 5)*

equivalent of \$1,359 today. What would motivate a Baptist farmer in the Rocky Mountains to take such a strong interest in the plight of Jews in Nazi Europe? The answer to that question reveals a great deal about the complexities surrounding America's response to the Holocaust.

Throughout the 1930s, the height of the Great Depression, polls consistently found an overwhelming majority of Americans opposed to any increase in immigra-

tion. There was a widespread fear of foreigners taking away jobs from Americans.

During the early years of World War II, opposition to immigration remained high; many Americans feared that Nazi spies might infiltrate the United States, disguised as refugees. When Jewish leaders appealed to the White House to try to save at least some Jews from annihilation, Roosevelt administration officials insisted their hands were tied because of the widespread anti-immigration sentiment. The president preferred to follow public opinion rather than lead it.

But not everyone agreed with the White House's approach. After all, by the autumn of 1943, many things had changed. The war had put an end to unemployment. Italy had been defeated, and the Germans and Japanese were in retreat. The Jewish activists known as the Bergson Group began arguing that the American public would now be more receptive to appeals to rescue Jewish refugees.

*(Please turn to following page)*

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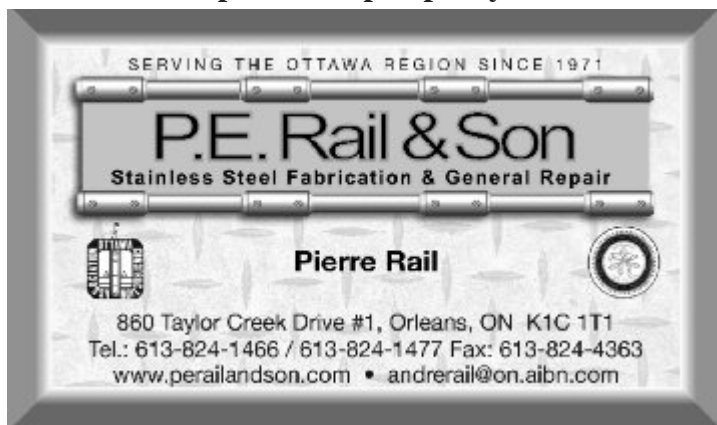
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## CLASS ACT

(Continued from preceding page)

In its public rallies, lobbying missions to Capitol Hill, and more than two hundred full-page newspaper ads, the Bergsonites contended that there was a substantial reservoir of untapped public sympathy for helping Jewish refugees. The activists began pushing for a Congressional resolution urging President Roosevelt to establish a rescue agency.

FDR opposed the resolution, and even sent Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long to testify against it before a congressional committee. But the growing controversy on Capitol Hill, combined with behind-the-scenes pressure from the Treasury Department, finally forced Roosevelt to establish the War Refugee Board.

Although the Board



A LOUIS RASMINSKY MEMORIAL LECTURE organized by the Canadian Jewish Experience took place recently in Ottawa with over 80 participants. Charles Freedman, the Former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada, was the main speaker. He spoke of Rasminsky as a Jewish icon, as the Governor of the Bank of Canada. and as the chair of the Drafting Committee at the Breton Woods conference, which laid the groundwork for the post World War II international financial arrangement. From left to right: Tova Lynch, Chair of the Canadian Jewish Experience now on display in Ottawa, Gordon Thiessen, Charles Freedman, Dr. Michael Rasminsky and Rabbi Reuven Bulka. The CJE panel Remembering Louis Rasminsky is currently on display at the Bank of Canada Atrium and at the Solway JCC in Ottawa.



received almost no federal funding and very little cooperation from the State and War departments, it energetically promoted rescue initiatives, including the idea of granting haven in the U.S. for refugees until the end of the war.

It was against this background that the White House, in April 1944, commissioned Gallup to carry out a poll concerning the idea of temporary havens. The results were astounding. Asked if the U.S. should provide "temporary protection and refugee to the people in Europe who

have been persecuted by the Nazis...for the duration of the war," fully 70% of Americans said yes; significantly only 23% said no.

Colorado bean farmer, Harry Rogers, was part of the 70% - the large but silent majority of Americans who wanted to help the desperate Jews. After a local newspaper mentioned that Rogers had offered to take in five Jewish families, the managing editor of the *Intermountain Jewish News*, Robert S. Gamzey, decided to find out more. Gamzey's article, "Farmer Rogers, His Brother's Keeper," was distributed by the Independent Jewish Press Service.

When Gamzey arrived at the 981-acre Rogers property, he found the farmer "rushing plans to build a new house for 'my refugees', and his neighbors are preparing to follow suit." One of the neighbors has agreed "to take in two refugee children," and another "said that he will take in two families." Rogers' sister and brother-in-law had made similar offers. Rogers himself, having just sent \$100 to the War Refugee Board, was now busy "raising \$100 for the Emergency Committee to

Save the Jewish People of Europe (the Bergson Group), whose publicity efforts have strongly impressed him."

"What prompted this obscure farmer to do what he is doing?," Gamzey wondered aloud. "It is all very simple,"

Rogers explained. "I was raised by Christian parents and all my life I have tried to live close to my Maker...When we hear this cry of the dying, it becomes a part of our duties, both Christian and American, to share (Please turn to following page)

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## A TRUE HERO

(Continued from preceding page)

with them our providential blessings.”

Rogers told Gamzey that he is urging his fellow-Christians to remember that “God, looking from the windows of Heaven, is making a record of individual conduct,” including how people respond to “our unfortunate brothers’ welfare, regardless of race, color, class or blood.”

The farmer, who “specializes in growing superb beans and has 140 head of cattle, 30 hogs, and a large number of chickens,” is situated

“in one of the most inaccessible sections of the Colorado Rockies,” but he “keeps up with world events by reading widely and traveling,” wrote Gamzey.

The *Intermountain Jewish News* editor concluded his interview with these words: “Oh, Lord, pray give us more Harry Rogers, and we will make a better world!”

Sadly, the Roosevelt administration rejected the War Refugee Board’s pleas to grant temporary haven to a substantial number of Jewish refugees



SODASTREAM INTERNATIONAL, THE WORLD’S number 1 sparkling water brand, has launched its new global campaign, entitled “The Homoschlepiens.” The video features Mayim Bialik, AKA Dr. Amy Farrah Fowler from the hit TV series *The Big Bang Theory*, and Kristian Nairn, AKA Hodor of the legendary *Game of Thrones*. Set in the future, the campaign features Bialik as an anthropologist, recalling her first encounter with a Homoschlepien played by Nairn. The story moves backwards and forwards in time to reflect the harmful reality of plastic bottle consumption, a habit that is hazardous to the planet and does not exist in the future. As a real-world neuroscientist and environmentalist, Mayim Bialik understands the importance of staying hydrated in an eco-friendly way.



despite the fact that most Americans would have supported such a move. President Roosevelt agreed to admit just one group of 982 refugees, who were housed in an

abandoned army camp in upstate New York. Farmer Rogers and his neighbors were never given the opportunity to act on their remarkable and generous offer.

## WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 18)

ment released by Shurat HaDin president Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, "was an extreme racist who targeted Jews and other minorities including Catholics and energetically tried to prohibit them from settling in New York." When he could not bar Jews, he slapped them with special taxes, and refused permission to build a synagogue, On Shurat HaDin's chopping block are the elite Stuyvesant High School, the Bedford Stuyvesant, neighbourhood and the Stuyvesant statute in Manhattan's Stuyvesant Square.

Not all Jews, however, are joining the movement to have the memory of Stuyvesant erased from view. Nearby Congregation Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue and the first Jewish congregation to be established in North America, has not joined the protest. And at least one Jewish writer believes that "our country is on the verge of going insane over this newly defined extreme version of political correctness."

### Orthodox Woman Can Wear Skirt

Yosefa Jalal Wood-Isenberg had joined a Lucille Roberts health club in Manhattan in 2011. She had worked out in her skirt at various clubs in the area without any problem until she was accused by a branch manager of "trespassing" because she was not wearing the appropriate

attire." She was then banned from all Lucille Roberts clubs.

Wood-Isenberg took the fitness chain to court, alleging the woman-only club of religious discrimination in violation of federal, state and city law.

Now the Orthodox woman has been vindicated. The company has reinstated her membership and paid her an undisclosed amount of money as part of a settlement.

### British Jews Feeling Uncomfortable

The Campaign Against Antisemitism watchdog group, together with the British research company YouGov, interviewed more than 10,000 British Jews in 2015 and 2016. It found that a third of those interviewed have thought about leaving the country, 17% feel unwelcome in the country and 37% often conceal their Jewish identity in public.

**Happy New Year to All Our Jewish Friends in Ottawa**

**May the year 5778 be blessed with peace and prosperity.**



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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 were 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 received 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.



*Lev Berner*



*Melanie at Massada*



*Audrée Anne  
at the Sea of Galilee*

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