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Pictured are teachers Itta Selwyn, Shaina Bryski, Gitel Raskin, Mushy Herzog and Goldie Traurig before a lesson with some of their Willingdon students.

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Three Congresswomen Jews Can Live Without

MICHAEL HAYMAN
PUBLISHER AND
EDITOR

JULIUS HAYMAN
PUBLISHER
AND EDITOR
1937-2000

They are the darlings of the mainstream liberal media. They are fawned over by talk show hosts Stephen Colbert, Seth Meyers and Trevor Noah. It may be true that unlike white supremacists they do not pose a physical threat to Jews attending synagogue services or families enjoying leisure time at a community center. But the three freshmen Democratic congresswomen, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, are a menace that Jews best not ignore. All three falsify history, smear Israel and unapologetically promote the all too familiar anti-Semitic tropes.

Tlaib's imaginary version of history reveals her ignorance of the land she calls her ancestral homeland. It was the Palestinians who lost their homes in the "name of trying to create a safe haven for Jews, post Holocaust", she laments. Pro Israel lawmakers, she claims, "forget what country they represent". Tlaib undoubtedly shares the Palestinian Authority view that the recent decision of the German parliament to label the BDS movement as anti-Semitic is the result of Israel's invoking the Holocaust to "blackmail" European countries. And at a swearing in celebration she proudly poses for a photo-op with the extremist Abbas Hamideh, who has equated Zionism to Nazism and called Israel a "terrorist entity".

And then there are the Jew baiting rantings of Ilhan Omar who tells a podcast host that "It's all about the Benjamins, baby!" and that she "wants to talk about the political influence in this country that says it's ok to push allegiance to a foreign country that has hypnotized the world".

And who stands shoulder to shoulder with her? The anti-Semitic Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakham, who urges Omar to keep reminding Americans that "Israel and AIPAC pays off senators and congressmen to do their bidding."

Joining Omar and Tlaib in their anti-Israel vendetta is Ocasio-Cortez, her Jewish heritage and her tepid support for a two state solution notwithstanding. The attacks from Gaza are nothing more than adolescents making a nuisance of themselves and Israel's response is nothing short of a "massacre. She implies that American Jews are overly sensitive and asks why Congress doesn't condemn bigotry when other minority groups are targeted. The congresswoman also has a new pen pal. It's that paragon of virtue Jeremy Corbyn.

We acknowledge the right of the three amigos to promote their progressive agenda. But that agenda, which includes transforming the United States into a socialist entity, makes Jews and Israel one of its prime victims. Halie Soifer, Executive Director of the Democratic Council of America, is of course correct when she says that it is "ridiculous to argue that Democrats hate Jewish people". But the reverential treatment these squadmates are receiving among the progressive wing of her party should make every Jew feel uncomfortable. We can only hope that when Democrats meet at their convention in 2020 they choose a candidate who will give Tlaib, Omar and Octavia-Cortez an extended time-

ANITA SURMAN
Editor
General News Section

THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

British Jewry Loses a Friend

For Theresa May's enemies her departure could not have come soon enough. But for British Jewry, whether supporters of Brexit or among those who want a second referendum, her exit is being greeted with considerable sadness. "Prime Minister May", says Jonathan Arkush, the former president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, "followed a line of what you might consider leaders who are attentive to the Jewish community, as well as to Israel". The Board's current president, Marie van der Zyl, called May a "true friend" of the Jewish community.

May's government adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Agency's definition of anti-Semitism. It blacklisted all of Hezbollah, not just its military wing. The United Kingdom led Europe in voting against a permanent article against Israel in the United National Human Rights Council. Her government also helped facilitate Prince William's visit to Israel, ending an unofficial boycott of Israel by senior members of the Royal Family. And she made it quite clear that she would reject any attempt by the Foreign Office to appear impartial on the historical significance of the Balfour Declaration.

But what British Jewry most appreciated was May's refusal to use the anti-Semitism crisis within the Labour Party for the benefit of the Conservatives. "It would have been very harmful had the fight against

anti-Semitism become some sort of pawn," said Arkush. "We felt May had our back without leveraging the issue".

First Ever Orthodox Jew Elected in Belgium

Michael Freilich, who edited the Antwerp Joods Actueel monthly for 12 years before entering politics, has become the first Orthodox Jew to be elected to the Belgium federal parliament. Freilich was number 5 on the list of the center-right New Flemish Alliance and received 13,000 votes from Jews and non Jews in Antwerp. Freilich, 38, has set his sights on getting parliament to reverse this year's de facto ban on producing halal and kosher meat in two of Belgium's

three states. He also wants to do "do something about things that concern me, including immigration, terrorism and extremism". "It is not normal", he says "that heavily armed soldiers still have to guard our schools and streets."

Despite Freilich's victory, the New Flemish Alliance lost eight seats, even though it remains the largest party with 25 seats. Of concern is that the real winner in the election was the Flemish Interest party, whose founders included collaborators with Nazi Germany and whose lawmakers are known for their blatant anti-Semitism. Vlaams Blok, who founded its predecessor the Finish Black in 1979, was convicted of being a racist. The New Flemish alliance won 15% of the vote, after receiving only 4 percent in

2016. It elected 18 seats up from three.

Jerusalem Rabbi Ordains Gay Student

Daniel Atwood a gay 27-year-old rabbinical student at New York's Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, was initially told that the school would ordain him after he completed his studies. But the liberal Orthodox seminary reversed its decision forcing Atwood to look elsewhere. Rabbi Dov Linzer, the school's president, said that the decision was due to something that happened some six months ago. He would not be specific but it is generally agreed that the school drew the line when Atwood and his partner got engaged on the stage of a concert in New York and kissed after making the announcement.

Jerusalem rabbi Daniel Landes, former longtime head of the co-ed, non-denominational Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, announced that he would ordain Atwood during a semichah ceremony for a group of his students. Landes has previously rocked the boat by granting ordination to Orthodox women.

"I wouldn't have done it", said Landes, "unless he took a thorough test and I had heard from others that he knew his stuff". Landes described Atwood as a "gift" who would provide guidance to the Orthodox gay community which currently is "underserved". "He's who we want out there...You need somebody on your side sometimes."

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Olymbec has been a driving force in the Eastern Canada real estate market for more than four decades and in 2020, the company will celebrate 45 years of growth and success. A family-run business, Olymbec was founded by the late Edward Stern who was very fortunate to have been joined by his sons, Derek and Richard, who now run the operation.

Olymbec owns, operates and manages a diverse portfolio of industrial, office, retail and residential properties located in Canada and the United States. Headquartered in Montreal, Olymbec is now one of the largest private industrial real estate holders in Eastern Canada with branch offices located in key markets across Québec and the United States including; Trois-Rivières, Sherbrooke, Québec City, Dallas, Columbus, Atlanta, Las Vegas, St. Louis, Memphis, Hartford, Indianapolis and West Virginia.

Olymbec USA's Growth

Olymbec USA's growth in the past years has been accelerated and this is largely due to the firm's focus on expanding

on its existing markets. For example, the recent acquisition of the East Market Portfolio in Connecticut consists of three large Class A office buildings, two of which are in East Hartford and one in Glastonbury. This brings their total ownership in Connecticut to over 1.2 million rentable square feet.

In the past year, the total square footage owned in the USA has surpassed that of Canada after more than 40 years in business. This is a

large indicator for the business and market trends that their focus is pointing towards the American border, while re-

maining aware of investment opportunities in Canada.

Olymbec acquires a combination of industrial, office, commercial and residential properties. This allows them to have a wide range of availabilities for all individuals or companies. Their approach has always been to add value to their investments. Through various improvement projects to a recently acquired building including the installation of new parking and surveillance systems, security systems, emergency services for tenants, undertaking complex construction projects and more. These are greatly appreciated by tenants who can then benefit from the added security and esthetic of their workspaces.

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EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES IN THE NEWS IN OUR CITY

By MIKE COHEN

LUFTHANSA'S MAN FROM ISRAEL: Before sitting down with Tal Muscal and Esther Buchsbaum for breakfast recently at the Snowdon Deli, I must confess to not knowing a lot about The Lufthansa Group (<https://www.lufthansa-group.com>). Buchsbaum's agency, energi PR, was recently awarded the Canadian mandate for the Lufthansa Group and its Canadian portfolio of brands which includes Lufthansa, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines and Swiss Airlines. Muscal is Lufthansa's charismatic Israeli-born director of group communications for the Americas, with an interesting background

in journalism with the Jerusalem Post.

Muscal recently located from the Middle East where he held a similar position as director of communications responsible for the Middle East and Africa. Young, progressive, and very well respected within the industry he was in Montreal to be part of history as Austrian Airlines, officially introduced year-round flight service to and from Montreal – Vienna. The long-haul flights will operate with a Boeing 767 aircraft. Service will occur daily throughout the summer schedule and five times per week during the winter season.

Muscal was proud

to tell me how Lufthansa, Germany's national airline, continues to be the largest foreign carrier serving Israel with 14 weekly flights. The group itself accounts for over 70 weekly flights. They started flying to the Jewish State more than 40 years ago. "We've stayed in Israel during difficult times," he said. "A lot of foreign carriers had cut their frequencies to Israel. Lufthansa took a calculated risk that it needed to remain in the market and serve its customers."

Muscal was born in Israel, but raised in the United States. He found his way back to Israel when he decided to study at Hebrew University. From 2000 to

2005 he worked for the Jerusalem Post, where his beat was macroeconomics, aviation, infrastructure and tourism. It served as the natural jumpstart to the airline industry.

Muscal assumed his present role in April 2017 and settled with his wife and three children in Long Island, New York. "It was a great opportunity," he says. As for Montreal, he said "it is a very strong market for us. Montreal is a melting pot with people from all over the world."

HECHT SHARES HIS STORY: Seventy eight years ago Thomas O. Hecht arrived in Montreal with his family at the age of 12, with

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A VERY SPECIAL CAMP

HERMAN WOUK'S SPECIAL ZIONIST CAMP AND THE CANADIANS WHO COMPRISED IT

By **AMY NEUSTEIN**

My mother, Shirley Friedberg Neustein, became friends with Herman Wouk as a child and kept up her friendship with him until she died in 2001. They met as children at a very special Zionist camp in the 1920s and 30s situated on the picturesque Lake Champlain in Milton, Vermont. The boy's division was called "Keeyuma," and the girl's division was known as "Carmelia." The camp was comprised of hand-selected campers coming from very prominent Jewish homes both in the US and Canada.

Sam Bronfman would

send his children there, soon becoming an ardent supporter of this Zionist camp. He teamed up with Louis Lipsky and Meyer W. Weisgal, whose children likewise attended the camp. My mother shared a bunk with a very special girl, Miriam Wolofsky, the daughter of Montreal publisher Hirsch (Harry) Wolofsky. When I visited Montreal as a youth in the summer of 1976, I had the great pleasure of meeting with Miriam Wolofsky Cooperberg who gave me a tour of the city. I will never forget how she proudly

pointed to the bust of her father at the entrance to the Jewish museum, regaling me with stories of his amazing efforts to form the first Yiddish weekly in Montreal.

Every morning at 6am the campers awakened to "Oh, say can you see," and "O Canada," broadcast over the camp loud speakers. My mother never forgot those wake-up calls: she found it jarring to awaken to the chilly New England weather, and admired her Canadian bunkmates for being able to handle the cold. She would describe, perhaps with a tinge of envy,

the supple woolen blankets brought by the Canadians campers, claiming at the beginning of every camp session she would know right away who were the Canadians by simply looking at their beds.

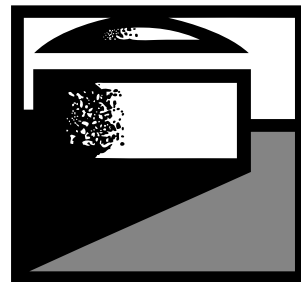
In May of 1962 my mother made a monumental camp reunion in midtown Manhattan bringing together the Zionist youths that had now become household names in literary, operatic, theatrical, political, business, and philanthropic circles: Arthur Miller, Moss Hart, George London, Joel

(Please turn to page 8)

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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

BURLINGTON OVER HAMILTON: We had a family function to attend in Hamilton recently and after failing to find accommodations there that met with our approval, we turned to the neighbouring city of Burlington (<http://www.tourismburlington.com>).

Burlington is conveniently located between Toronto and Niagara Falls, at the centre of southern Ontario's "Golden Horseshoe" and has a population of 175,000.

JEWISH COMMUNITY: Burlington has a small Jewish community. The closest synagogues are in Hamilton and Oakville. In 1982, the Jewish community of Burlington merged with the Beth El congregation of Oakville. This amalgamation changed its name to Shaarei-Beth El. By 1986

the original Oakville synagogue proved to be too small and so new additions were added to the original building. The congregation became affiliated with the Reform movement in 1988. The synagogue continues to grow every year and has services on Shabbat and holidays, monthly Friday night services, and a comprehensive supplementary school for children from pre-school to Grade 10. Congregants at Shaarei-Beth El form a very active group with a strong sense of their Jewish identity. Congregants feel that simply being Jewish is not good enough, so they are constantly reaffirming their Judaism through synagogue activities and programs.

There is also Temple
(Please turn to page 10)



TAL MUSCAL (MIDDLE) LUFTHANSA'S CHARISMATIC Israeli-born director of group communications for the Americas, greets a passenger in Montreal. See item in Eye on Montreal, page 5.

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A VERY SPECIAL CAMP

(Continued from page 6)

Carmichael, Michael Wager ("Mendy" Weisgal), Norman Lear, Paul Goodman, Bob Treuhaft, Andrew Goodman (founder of Bergdorf Goodman), Edgar Bronfman, just to name a few.

My mother would describe the reunion to me years later as an "alchemy in the air." Having all these special people in one room was "a force greater than life." She told me of Mendy Weisgal, who came to the reunion with a full face of makeup. He was performing in a Sunday matinee. He came across town to the reunion and dashed back to Broadway for a later performance that day.

George London, a Montreal native who migrated to California as an older child, made a point of coming to my mother's camp reunion as well. When he got up to say a few words, his fellow campers were quick to ask him to sing a few lines from one of his operas. By this time he was a celebrated bass-baritone operatic singer, having already made his debut at the New York Metropolitan Opera as Amonasro in Aida.

Herman Wouk, who at the time of the reunion was immersed in Youngblood Hawke, secluding himself in the Virgin Islands so as to devote full concentration to his novel, sent my mother a tape to be played in his absence. My mother brought a scissors with her, and out of respect for Herman's sensitivity she cut the cassette tape immediately after it was played.

The room stood still, as the former campers listened closely to Herman's reflections on his camp days: stories, commentaries, and humor about life among an oasis trees for a Jewish boy growing up in the Bronx.

I've never stopped hearing my mother's stories about her camp days. She would say "Amy, this was one camp that didn't stress athletics, they stressed lectures instead." Sam Bronfman helped to pay the travel expenses of speakers who would come every weekend to talk to the young campers, instilling in them the importance of forming a Jewish state. They were encouraged to keep their heads high during an era when Jewish identity was kept safely (or cravenly) in the closet. This common interest brought the children from different backgrounds, Canadians and Americans, together. And they kept up with each other throughout their adulthood as a result of the mooring of the camp. In remembering Herman Wouk and how he made every Jew feel comfortable in their skins (Inside, Outside, This is My God, The Will to Live On), the effect of this very special Zionist camp, fostered by Canadians and Americans, must not be forgotten either.

Amy Neustein, Ph.D.

Editor, *Tempest in the Temple* (Brandeis University Press) Author, *From Madness to Mutiny* (Northeastern University Press)

EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from page 5)

no money and without knowing a living soul or one word of English. He was enrolled as a student at the High School of Montreal on University Street and went

on to become a very successful businessman and community leader.

Mr. Hecht, about to turn 90 years young, returned to that same High

School of Montreal building recently to talk to Grade 6 and 7 students at FACE School about his experience as a child survivor of the Holocaust, his adjustment to life in their very same building and how he went on to achieve such success. His visit was very well received and covered quite extensively by Bill Brownstein in The Gazette.

Thomas Hecht was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, in 1929. His childhood came to an abrupt end when Germany occupied Czechoslovakia, as Jews were subject to increasing deprivations. The family escaped to Paris in December 1939, only to have the Germans reach there in June 1940. To avoid being caught, the Hecht family joined millions of refugees on France's roads, trying to stay one step ahead of the advancing Nazis. Tom's family reached Lisbon, Portugal, in January 1941.

In 1942, Tom, then 12, along with his sister and parents, arrived in Montreal. After graduating from the High School of Montreal, he pursued undergraduate and graduate studies at Concordia and McGill universities, all the while working to pay his way. He eventually became the president of Continental Pharma Canada, a pharmaceutical distribution company started by his father. Under his leadership, the company became the world's largest independent supplier of human blood plasma derivatives. Hecht has been a dedicated volunteer for many Jewish charitable organizations, serving as Chair of the Montreal Combined Jewish Appeal, President of the United Israel Appeal of Canada, and President of the State of Israel Bonds Canada.

In 1993, he founded the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University. He was also
(Please turn to following page)

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EYE ON MONTREAL*(Continued from preceding page)*

president of the Canada-Israel Committee-Quebec Region for over 15 years and was heavily involved in the rapprochement of cultural communities in Quebec

and Israel. He is perfectly bilingual and the worthy recipient of a number of prestigious awards for his community work and support of Israel, and of two

honorary doctorates.

Mr. Hecht and his wife, Riva established the Riva and Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship Program Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators (t-h-e-pro-

gram.org) 14 years ago as a way to promote Holocaust education for educators in Quebec.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca.

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TRAVEL TALES*(Continued from page 5)*

Anshe Sholom Temple, another reform congregation and B'nai Shalom Congregation (Conservative) in Oakville. B'nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel is a newly formed egalitarian Conservative shul serving Oakville, Burlington, Brampton and nearby Mississauga. The congregation currently consists of approximately 70 families and meets for monthly services in a local hall.

WHERE TO STAY:
The Hilton Garden Inn (www.torontoburlington.gardeninn.com) was indeed the deciding factor in our decision to base ourselves in Burlington, even though it meant a somewhat tiring 20 to 30 minute commute each day. Parking is free and the

hotel is located very close to a number of fun restaurants (Denny's, Milestones, Swiss Chalet, Harvey's, Kelseys and Montanas.) The hotel also has a good restaurant, the Garden Grille & Bar, which serves three meals a day and provides room service. There is a fitness center, pool and whirlpool as well. Each room has a mini-fridge, a microwave and a Keurig coffee-maker. A large Longo's supermarket is a few minutes away so we purchased a small order and had many of the essentials available. The rooms are spacious with nice comfortable sitting chairs, a fabulously comfortable working desk, plenty of light, a 37-inch

(Please turn to page 12)



Guy Ouellette

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 10)

flat-screen television, free Wi-Fi and generous drawer space. King suites are available for those who seek more space and you can also request connecting

rooms. The prices are more than reasonable, significantly lower than what certain two star hotels in Hamilton charge.

WHAT TO DO: Spring, summer, fall, winter, Burlington is a city for all seasons with plenty to see and do.

The Royal Botanical Gardens are a draw, so is hiking on the nature trails, bird watching, museums, and the galleries at the Burlington Art Centre and presentations at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Spencer Smith Park is the large waterfront park where the pier, discovery landing (pond, rink, and restaurant) and major festivals are held.

In the summer the waterfront and downtown come to life with the annual Sound of Music Festival. Canada's largest free music festival kicks off summer festivities the week leading up to Father's Day. Stroll the downtown streets, lake-side boardwalk or Waterfront Trail; enjoy an invigorating mix of acclaimed Canadian and international performers, and emerging performers on bistro patios and the waterfront stages. There is also rock, jazz, folk, roots, pop, blues, Celtic, country and children's entertainment – musically something for everyone. Watersports, boating, golf and outdoor activities to enjoy at local parks and beaches add to the enjoyment. Burlington also has a swimmable and sandy beach, something which really intrigues me for a future summer visit. The Beachway Park Pavilion provides change rooms, outdoor showers, seasonal concession facilities featuring the snack shack and year round washrooms.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca. Follow his travels at www.sandboxworld.com/travel.

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In 2005 *The Riva and Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship: Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators* was initiated for the express purpose of giving classroom teachers the opportunity to receive the tools, resources, skills and knowledge necessary for teaching about the Holocaust in their classrooms. After many successful years of activity and the awarding of 38 scholarships to teachers working in the Quebec public school system, we are now moving forward in new directions in support of Holocaust Education.

To this end, *The Riva and Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship: Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators* will exist in a new format. We will continue our ongoing and successful partnership with the Montreal Holocaust Museum and provide learning opportunities for teachers. In addition, we are planning to send eligible teachers to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D. C where the Belfer Conference takes place each summer. This is a unique opportunity for teachers to advance their knowledge about Holocaust education.

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the following for their continued and unwavering support throughout the years: the administration of the English Montreal School Board and the Lester B. Pearson School Board, College Laflèche, the Montreal Holocaust Museum, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, our treasured scholarship winners, the students who gained so much knowledge from these teachers, and the community at large for their participation. *The success of The Riva and Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship: Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators is your success.*

For more information please log on to

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

Uber Driver Kicks Jews Out

Dayna and Rachel were returning home after having attended an Israel Independence day celebration in Los Angeles. Uber driver Mustafa picked them up.

Mustafa asked the two women where they were coming from. He refused to start the car until they answered.

So Dayna and Rachel told him and the Palestinian driver “started laughing”. “You need to get out of the car”, Mustafa told them.

“I could see his eyes in the wing mirror and he

just spun around...his eyes were wild...raged...and that’s what frightened me”, said Rachel.

The women e-mailed Uber and received an automatic reply. “Sorry you had that experience”, it said. “You won’t be charged for the ride.” But the women never got a ride so they were hardly placated by the automatic reply.

Uber was contacted about the incident by the Los Angeles Jewish Journal and an Uber representative told the newspaper that the driver had been banned from the app. “Uber does not tolerate any form of discrimination. What’s been

described is horrible”, said an Uber spokesperson.

Neo Nazi Running for President

Alejandro Biondini, a far right ultranationalist leader, is the presidential candidate for the Patriotic Front party in the October elections in Argentina. One of his first campaign promises after being nominated is to expel the Israel Ambassador (along with the British one). “I define myself as a clear defender of the Palestinian State. I repudiate the colonialist genocidal Zionism. Argentina is not Israel”. Biondini’s previous party New Triumph was banned

by Argentina’s electoral court in 2009 but a federal judge in Buenos Aires granted approval to Biondini’s new Patriotic Front party.

The Nazi sympathizer told a TV audience in 1991 that “we vindicate Adolf Hitler” and has led chants of “Death to traitors, cowards and Jews” before adoring crowds.

Biondini will not win but given the rise of far right parties in elections elsewhere it would be foolish not to take him seriously.

The First Jewish Mayor

It’s a tiny Jewish community in northwestern Greece, numbering no more than about 50. But one Jewish resident, Moses Elisaf, has been elected mayor of the city of 57,000. Elisaf, a professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Ioannina, Medical School, won a close vote in the second round. He received 50.33 percent of the vote. Elisaf has been head of the Jewish community for almost two decades.



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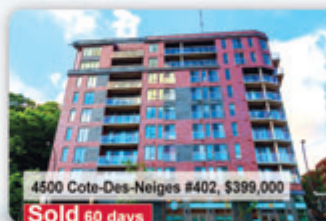
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