

THE JEWISH STANDARD

APRIL 2023 PASSOVER



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**PRESIDENTIAL MATZAH - THE BIGGEST MATZA IN ISRAEL IS
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REFLECTIONS ON PASSOVER

The spirit of Passover is the spirit of optimism. It is our assurance that whatever Jewry may have suffered, whatever Jewry may suffer in the future, it has still the power to rise above the agony of the present and work towards a future in which not Jews alone but all peoples may share the four freedoms enunciated by President Roosevelt - freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

Passover does, indeed, mark a turning point in Jewish history. During the three hundred years in which the Israelites suffered the stinging lash of the Egyptian whip they were hammered on the anvil of oppression and suffering into a people. This people struggled, as so many peoples have struggled over the past centuries, for self-determination, for the right to satisfy its own spiritual and religious aspirations. Finally, under the guidance

of Moses, probably the greatest personality the world has ever known, our ancient ancestors emerged out of their Egyptian ghetto and began their first faltering steps towards the fulfillment of what has turned out to be a historic purpose.

But Passover has a meaning which goes beyond the historic and philosophical. Its observance creates a radiance and warmth which is unique in the Jewish tradition. Our recollections of Seders past are among the most tender and most heart-warming memories many of us have. The Passover ritual has meaning which even the most rationalistic secularists are able to grasp. It has a beauty which no other aspect of Jewish life, even a synagogue service, can begin to match. Jewish life is, indeed, seen at its finest and most beautiful from the vantage point of a seat at the Passover table and in the stirrings of memories, ancient and new.

THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

A Concession For Passover

Hunter College High School is a prestigious middle and high school in Manhattan. It is a coveted destination for many New York City students, including Jews.

But is also incredibly difficult to get into. Indeed, even to write its three-hour entrance exam is by invitation only and open only to students whose scores on state exams in English and math

exceed a high threshold. Nor can a student get into the school after the seventh grade.

This year's entrance exam was scheduled for April 5th, the morning of the first Seder. Erica Rahavy's son was invited to take the test but was dismayed that the school did not seem to understand that Jews travel to be with their families on the holidays. "I have no problem missing the day of school for my kids", she said. "We've done that before to celebrate holidays with our

families. It shouldn't be so high-stakes that it's just one day or nothing."

Rahavy sent an e-mail to the school asking if administrators would offer "alternate time for students celebrating the holiday."

Hunter College responded tersely: "The Entrance Exam will only be held on Wednesday April 5, 2023 in the morning and students will have about three hours to complete the exam. HCCS is unable to administer make-up exams."

But the school, aware "that New York city schools

are obliged to show sensitivity to religious observance, had a change of heart. Its website announced that "an alternate test date for religious observance on Tuesday afternoon, April 4, 2023, held at Hunter College, will be made available on request."

Rahavy believes that accommodating a widely observed Jewish holiday in New York, where Jews make up more than 10% of the population, left Hunter with little choice but to back down.

(Please turn to page 9)



AT THE HAMILTON HEBREW ACADEMY HASBARA'S HIGH SCHOOL ADVISOR Gabriela Rosenblum has been leading interactive presentations for Grade 8 students. Students learn about Israel as an integral part of Jewish experience and how to identify and respond to different manifestations of antisemitism.

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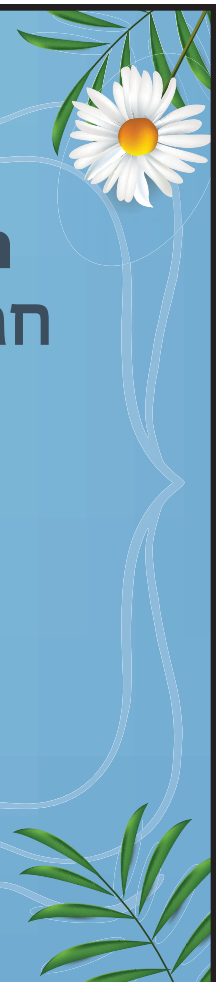
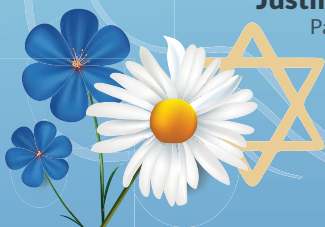
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WHY OHIO TOWN IS NAMED EAST PALESTINE

MANY AMERICAN TOWNS HAVE BIBLICAL NAMES

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

A toxic spill has drawn the nation's attention to the little town of East Palestine, Ohio, just as another tragedy, the explosion of the space shuttle

Columbia in 2003, turned the nation's gaze upon the town of Palestine, Texas, where much of the debris landed.

The tragic spotlight

now shining on Ohio's "East Palestine" naturally leaves some people curious as to why it has such an unusual name. The answer is that it's not a very unusual name at all.

Elsewhere in Ohio, there are towns named Hebron, Gilboa, Canaan, and Shiloh (two of them, in fact). There's even a Sodom, which

was given its name after a prohibition advocate, disappointed at the small turnout for his lecture in 1840, jokingly compared the locale to that infamous biblical center of sin.

In Texas, in addition to Palestine, there are towns named Hebronville and Joshua. There is a Hebron (Please turn to page 12)

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ANSHE SHOLOM NOSTALGIA

March 10, 1933

Dr. Arthur A. Feldman, rabbi. At the service this Friday morning at 8 o'clock, Council Sabbath will be celebrated. The service will be in charge of the local chapter of the Council of Jewish Women. Mrs. L. Florence will assist in reading the prayers, and Mrs. Ida L. Sigal, of Toronto, will deliver the message. After the service a reception will be held in the vesty room.

A Young People's League of the Anshe Sholom religious school was organ-

The Jewish Standard has been publishing regularly since 1929. The following items, taken from various 1933 editions, provide an insight into the vibrant life of Canada's first Reform Jewish congregation in the early years of the 20th century. - The Editor

ized by Mrs. Joseph A. Sweet and is being conducted under her leadership. The officers are: Malka Rose, President; Richard Gerofsky, Vice President; Bertram Kaplansky, Treasurer.

June 16, 1933

The closing exercises of the religious school of the Anshe Sholom Congregation were held on

Sunday, June 11th with the following program: Prayer, Miriam Kenter: "A Girl Who Was Kind to Strangers"; a playlet, Betty Lyons, Malka Minden, Sylvia Rose, Joyce Vineberg, Murray Goldblatt; recitations, Sonia Menchik, Wilfred Gerofsky; "Ruth and Naome", a playlet, Malka Rose, Rae Ella Berg, Ruth Goldberg; Richard Gerofsky in a speech ex-

pressed the thanks of the pupils to the Rabbi and teachers. Mr. Jacob Morris, President of the Congregation, presented books and certificates for proficiency and deportment. Prizes were donated by the Deborah Ladies Society and by the local chapter of the Council of Jewish Women.

March 31, 1933

Dr. Arthur A. Feldman, rabbi. The A.Z.A. junior organization of B'nai B'rith will be in charge of the Sabbath service, Friday evening at 8 o'clock. Morris
(Please turn to page 15)

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FOOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

NAMES IN THE NEWS FROM TV, STAGE, SCREEN AND SPORTS

By CHAIM BALINSKY

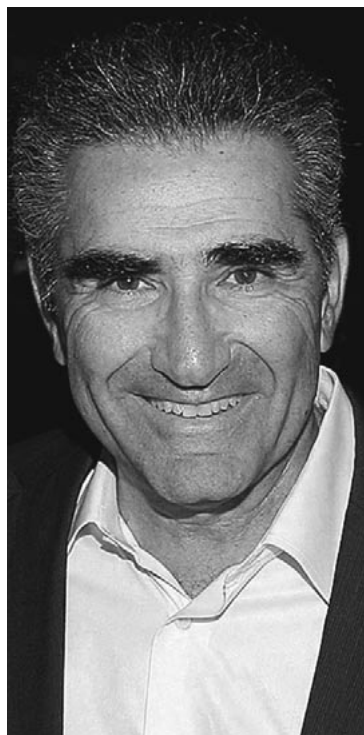
Alden Ehrenreich, who stars in the movie "Cocaine Bear", made a home movie that he and some friends showed at a bar mitzvah in Los Angeles in 2009. One of the guests at the event was **Steven Spielberg**. Spielberg introduced him to Francis Ford Coppola and **Ehrenreich** was on his way to acting fame...**Modi Rosenfeld's** target audience is mostly Orthodox Jews. Recently Rosenfeld came out as gay. But he has not lost his Orthodox audience. He is still getting plenty of gigs at Orthodox synagogues.

Joanie Leeds, a children's musician and Grammy winner, and **Mikey Pataker**, a "devoted rock artist" from California, are on a mission. There is a Grammy Award for just about every kind of music. But there's no specifically Jewish category. The two Jewish musicians are submitting a proposal to the Recording Academy to add "best Jewish music album" to the lists of awards...The late **Richard Belzer** may not have "worked Jewish". But his routines often included bits and pieces of Jewish material. Moreover, the role for which he was best known, Det. John Munch on "Homicide: Life on the Street" and "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit", identified as Jewish. Yet no mention was made in various obituaries that **Belzer** was Jewish.

Mayim Bialik owes her hosting gig on 'Jeopardy' to her son. Fifteen-year-old **Miles** told her he saw a post on social media that 'Jeopardy' was looking

for guest hosts. "Mama, you should be the host", he told Mayim. "That's not going to happen", she replied but she asked her agent anyway to pursue it. "My kid was right", admits the chosen host.

Eugene Levy's "The Reluctant Traveller" appeared on AppleTV+ - YouTube. **Levy** visits some of the world's most beautiful and intriguing destinations in Costa Rica, Finland, Italy, Japan, Maldives, Portugal, South Africa, and the United States, exploring hotels and places. While not strictly speaking a "funny travel show", **Levy** says that "humour comes through me and my reluctance to engage in things I would never normally engage in." In Costa Rica, for example, **Eugene** journeys into the jungle, where he sleeps among the trees, comes face-to-face with deadly wildlife, and conquers one of his major fears.



Mel Brooks' "History of the World Part 11", debuted on Hulu in March. He has not ruled out a sequel to "Blazing Saddles". When asked how the death of **Carl Reiner** affected him Brooks replied. "I can't tell

you how much I miss **Carl** but he would never want tragedy to stand in the way of comedy."

Lily Brasch became the first model with muscular dystrophy to walk the (Please turn to page 14)

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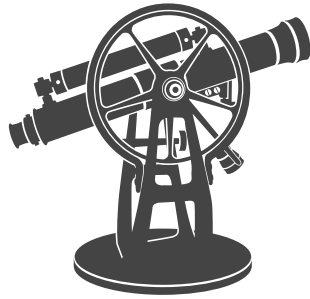
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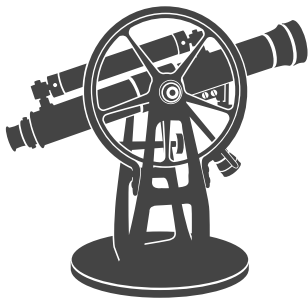
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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

"I can't imagine they would have planned this out on Christmas Eve when families travel to be with

each other for the holidays," she said.

Escaped Ukraine - Died in Turkey

Yulia Petrova and her two sons, 10-year-old Zachar and 5-year-old Matthew, managed to escape from war torn Ukraine less than a year ago. The Jewish family fled to Turkey.

The bodies of Petrova and her two sons were found buried under the ruins in Antakya, the southernmost province of Turkey. They were among the thousands of victims of the devastating earthquake which ravaged the country.

"We spoke for the last time on the evening of February 5th, and at 4am the disaster struck," Yulia's father, Sergey Petrov, said. "I lost touch with them then."

Yulia's husband is a soldier in the Ukrainian army and is in hospital recovering from wounds suffered during the fighting.

Estimates of the number of Jews in Ukraine vary but Hebrew demographer Sergio Della Pergola

says that Ukraine is home to between 56,000 and 140,000 Jews, making it the fourth largest Jewish community in Europe and the eleventh largest in the world.

Moroccan Textbooks Embrace Jewish Life

A report conducted by the Israeli-British organization IMPACT-se that analyzes schoolbooks and curricula for compliance

with UNESCO-defined standards on peace and tolerance, in collaboration with the Jeffrey M. Talpins Foundation and its president Oren Eisner, concluded that textbooks in Moroccan schools embrace Jewish life and that Jews are entwined in the national and cultural fabric of Morocco. The study examined 127 textbooks in state-run schools emphasizing social studies, history, Islamic (Please turn to following page)

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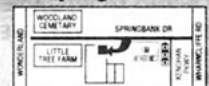
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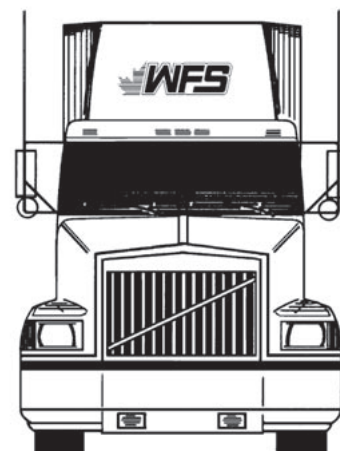
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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

studies, language and literature.

"We want to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for taking steps to improve its curriculum and spread tolerance and understanding throughout the Middle East", said Eisner. The report noted that reforms were meant to familiarize students with Jews and Judaism "to a far greater extent than other curricula we have reviewed.". Students now know that the Jewish community is an "inseparable part" of Morocco, it continued.

Added IMPACT-se CEO Marcus Sheff: "We are struck by this unique embrace of Jews and Judaism in the reformed Moroccan school curriculum. The affection through which Morocco's Jewish community and its customs are represented as well as the lives of individual Moroccan Jews is heart-warming."

The report did conclude that one area of the curriculum still needs attention. The Holocaust is not taught in schools and while a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is endorsed, there is a clear bias for the Palestinian side.

Morocco is home to some 2000 Jews.

Blaming Team Woes On Jewish CBO

Chaim Bloom is the Jewish Chief Baseball Officer of the Boston Red Sox. The team fan base is a rabid one and failure is not taken lightly.

Unfortunately for Bloom, his arrival in Boston in 2019 has coincided with two last place finishes and the departure of several high profile players to free agency. The successful playoff run in 2021 has long been forgotten by fans used to repeated winning seasons.

And so Red Sox fans need a scapegoat and Bloom has become that target. He told the *Boston Globe* that he has received death threats and anti-semitic slurs as the team has struggled. Last year, the team released a minor league player after a series of social media attacks against Bloom, including calling him "an embarrassment to any torah-following Jew."

Bloom maintains that he understands the frustration of the fans, especially with the Boston Bruins and Boston Celtics dominating hockey and basketball. He acknowledges that he is "suffering when we lose" just as much as his critics.

Bloom is a Jewish day school graduate, observes shabbat and keeps a kosher home. During his

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15 years with the Tampa Bay Rays prior to joining the Red Sox Bloom and his family lived close to Tropicana Field so he could walk to home games on Friday nights.

Saying "No" To Roger Waters

Roger Waters, the bassist for Pink Floyd, is a persistent critic of Israel. He is at the forefront of the BDS movement and is constantly spreading anti-Semites tropes.

Waters was scheduled to perform on May 28th at Frankfurt, Germany's Festhalle. Festhalle was the site of the deporta-

tion of 3000 Jews to their deaths after Kristallnacht.

The city of Frankfurt is part owner of the concert hall and recently announced that it was cancelling the planned concert. "The background to the cancellation is the persistent anti-Israel behaviour of the former Pink Floyd frontman, who is considered one of the most widely spread antisemites of the world," the city said in a statement. "He repeatedly called for a cultural boycott of Israel and drew comparisons to the apartheid regime of South Africa and put pressure on artists to cancel events in Israel."



FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN NIKKI Haley launched her presidential campaign by declaring that an administration under her leadership would "stand by our friends Israel and Ukraine against Iran and Russia." In a presidential launch video Haley is seen touring Israel's border with the Gaza Strip in a helicopter followed by a shot of her walking with Likud MK Danny Danon, Israel's former ambassador to the UN. "Nikki is a true friend of Israel", said Danon. "I have no doubt she will always stand by our side." "The better and stronger we make Israel, the safer we make the world," says Haley. Haley is seen here with Israeli-Canadian billionaire businessman and philanthropist Sylvan Adams.

Predictably, Waters reacted to the cancellation by retweeting messages of support from an author and editor at the *Palestine Chronicle* who denied that the singer is an antisemite

and an editor at the Delhi, India-based Marxist publishing house Leftword Books, who defended Waters' stance on Israel. "Love you my brother,"

(Please turn to following page)

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page preceding page)

Waters tweeted at Vijay Prashad, adding, "shoulder to shoulder. F-k em!"

Voters Support Corbyn Ban

British Labor party leader Keir Starmer has blocked former party leader Jeremy Corbyn from, stand-

ing as a candidate in the next election. It's just one more attempt on the part of Starmer to break with Labor's anti-Semitic past.

Corbyn says he will still seek the party nomination in a riding he has served since 1983 and where he still has considerable support. "Any at-

tempt to block my candidacy is a denial of due process, and should be opposed by anybody who believes in the value of democracy," he said. Rumours have it that he will run as an Independent if he fails to secure the nomination in Islington North.

British voters in general seem to support Starmer's decision. A poll by Savanta for the Politics Home website showed that 55 per cent of voters sup-

ported Starmer while only 23 per cent opposed it. Twenty-two percent of the 2144 people polled said they did not know what to make of the decision. Twenty-eight percent said the move would affect their vote in the next election, with 12 percent saying it would make them less likely to vote Labour and 16 percent saying it would make them more likely.

Starmer is not apologizing for his decision.

WHY EAST PALESTINE

(Continued from page 5)

in North Dakota and a Sinai in South Dakota, a Jerusalem in Arkansas, a Jericho in Vermont, a Bethlehem as well as a Nazareth in Pennsylvania, and a Zion in Maryland. Nearly every state has one or more towns named after biblical sites or individuals. Altogether, there are more than 1,000 biblically-named towns from coast to coast throughout the country.

Towns such as East Palestine, Ohio, were established by 19th-century religious Christian settlers; they chose those names to express their spiritual attachment to the land and

people of the Bible. When they thought of Palestine, they recalled the Jewish kingdoms and temples of ancient times, as well as the events surrounding the origins of Christianity in the Jewish town of Bethlehem. In their prayers, they prayed for the return of the Jews to the Holy Land, which they understood to be inextricably linked to the coming messianic age.

The area that became East Palestine was originally known as Mechanicsburg. There are a number of towns in the U.S. that were originally settled by mechanics of various

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types. But in the case of Ohio, "Mechanicsburg" was changed in 1836 because—according to an early history of the region—"the wife of Dr. Robert Chamberlin desired a more euphonious appellation and desired it [be] called 'Palestine,' the quiet beauty of the little town, and the earnest, virtuous, simple life of its people suggesting to her a name recalling holy memories."

Since there already was a town named "Palestine" in the western part of the state—likewise founded by religious Christians who wanted to infuse their town with "holy memories"—government officials, in assigning the new post office, added the prefix "East."

That early account of East Palestine's founding was published in 1905, when it was very common for a married woman's name to be hidden behind that of her husband. But a historical marker in front of the log house where the

Chamberlins once lived tells us that the name of the doctor's wife was Rebecca—an appropriately biblical name for a woman who took her Bible seriously.

Not surprisingly, numerous churches quickly sprung up in East Palestine and its environs. Lutheran and Reformed congregations established the Salem Church, choosing a name derived from "Jerusalem." Evangelical Lutherans founded the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, while Methodists originally held their services in a local school—the separation between church and state was still rather fuzzy in those days—before eventually erecting their Methodist Episcopal Church. East Palestine also had a United Presbyterian Church and, later, another house of worship with a biblically-inspired name, the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

When America's religious Christian settlers thought of the Holy Land, they thought of the Hebrew bible and the area's 3,000 years of Jewish inhabitation, not the Koran or the more recently-arrived Arab residents of the area. They thought of the many Jews who appear in the accounts of the birth of Christianity (including its founder), texts that do not mention any Palestinian Arabs.

Certainly Americans were aware that there were Arabs living in Palestine in the 19th century. Mark Twain, for example, had mentioned them in his account of his visit to the Holy Land, *The Innocents Abroad* (1869). So had Herman Melville in his famous *Clarel: A Poem and the Pilgrimage in the Holy Land* (1876).

But it was common knowledge that the Arab population of Palestine was relatively small and unset-

tled, and that the Arab residents of 19th-century Palestine regarded themselves as part of southern Syria, not as a separate nationality. H. Allen Tupper, Jr. wrote in the *New York Times* in 1896, after having "ridden on horseback more than four hundred miles through Palestine and Syria," that virtually the only local people he encountered were "merchantmen

with their long camel trains" and "wild Bedouin tribes" that "reside in one locality not more than two months."

Today's residents pronounce East Palestine "Palesteeen," but the original settlers undoubtedly pronounced it the more common way. Because it was the Holy Land, with its deep Jewish roots, that burned bright in the hearts and

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WHY EAST PALESTINE

(Continued from page 5)

prayers of the founders of the many biblically-named towns across America. And it is for the same reason that Bible-believing Christians today—probably in-

cluding more than a few residents of East Palestine, Ohio—constitute one of the major sources of pro-Israel sentiment in the United States.

FOOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

(Continued from page 7)

runway unassisted at New York Fashion Week. **Brasch**, who is an Orthodox Jew, and goes by the stage name Lily B, walked the catwalk at 5 p.m. in order to have time to prepare for Shabbat. After the event she walked to a nearby hotel to welcome the Sabbath with her sisters.

Walter Mirisch, together with his two brothers, **Harold** and **Marvin**, founded Mirisch Co. in 1967. The independent production company produced many classics over the years, including *Some Like It Hot*, *West Side Story*, *The Apartment* and *In The Heat of the Night*. Mirisch died recently at 102...**Gene Simmons**, born **Chaim Witz** in Haifa and former lead singer of the rock band KISS, has announced the band's farewell tour. It will start in Austin, Texas and go on to locations across the United States and Canada.

Jews are having a successful year in golf. **Ben Silverman** and **Max Homa** both won tournaments within days of each other. In fact the two Jewish golfers recently won big competitions in a single week: Canadian **Ben Silverman** won on the Korn Ferry Tour and rising star **Max Homa** earned his sixth victory on the PGA Tour. Meanwhile **Daniel Berger** has won four PGA titles. Unfortunately, a back injury has kept him sidelined this year and his return is uncertain...**Herman Barron** was the first Jew to win a PGA event which he did in 1942.

More Jews in the world of sports: Duke University men's basketball coach **Jon Scheyer** had a tall task this year, stepping into the role after Duke legend Mike Krzyzewski, who led the team for 42 years. Turns out, **Scheyer** was up for it: he made history recently as the first head coach in the ACC to go undefeated at home in his first season...Milwaukee Bucks co-owner **Marc Lasry** has sold his stake in the team to the owners of the Cleveland Browns for a reported \$3.5 billion. **Lasry** joined the ownership group in 2014. His son **Alex Lasry**, a Bucks executive, briefly ran for the U.S. Senate in 2021... After weeks of rumors, the Arizona Coyotes finally traded **Jakob Chychrun**, sending the defenseman to the Ottawa Senators.

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ANSHE SHOLOM NOSTALGIA

(Continued from page 6)

Silvert will read the service, and Sam Smerlick, chairman of the local chapter of A.Z.A., will speak. Rabbi A. Feldman will also give a short message. After the service the boys will hold a reception in the vestry room, at which refreshments will be served. All local youth organizations have been invited to attend the service.

November 17, 1933

The 60th anniversary of the Anshe Sholom Religious School was celebrated at last Friday evening's service. Mr. Edmund Scheuer, of Toronto, founder of the School, was present. The service was conducted by the following pupils: Walter Lyons and Charlie Dubin, prayers; Richard Gerofsky, sermon; Bertram Kaplansky and Stanley Sachs, ushers. Following the service, the unveiling of a portrait of Mr. Scheuer took place in the Vestry Rooms, Paul Kenter acting as master of ceremonies. Other children who spoke were: Adele Minden, Joyce Vineberg and Sonia Mentchik, who unveiled the portrait.

Council of Jewish Women

Under the auspices of the Council of Jewish Women a clothing and sewing centre is being maintained in conjunction with the work of the Jewish Social Service Association at 14 Merrick Street. Mrs. Sam Pollock is convenor of the collection of clothing and Mrs. I. Segel and Mrs. I. Menschik, convenor of the sewing. the Deborah Sisterhood of the Anshe Sholom Temple has been rendering invaluable assistance. Blankets, winter underwear, coats and a variety of useful clothing are being supplied through these sources.

Hamilton Misc.

Oct. 15th, 1933: A daughter, Barbara Sheila, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Pasis (née Sarah Raphael).

Jan. 19th, 1934: Mr. and Mrs. Harris Siderski have left for Miami Beach.

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YA'ARA SAKS, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Member of Parliament for York Centre; Dara Solomon, Executive Director, Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre; and the Honourable Filomena Tassi, Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDevOntario) are shown at the announcement that the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation of Greater Toronto is receiving an investment of \$500,000 to launch the revitalized Toronto Holocaust Museum, set to open in June 2023.

Palestinian Artwork Removed

Artwork at the entrance to the children's outpatient's department at the Chelsea and Westminster hospital in London, designed by children at two United Nations schools in Gaza, has been removed after Jewish patients complained that it was making them feel uncomfortable. The artwork included plates showing the Dome of the Rock with a Palestinian flag and artwork suggesting that the Palestinian shoreline stretches for 224 km from Rafah in the south to Ra'as al-Naqoura in the North, contrary to the borders of Israel since 1948.

United Kingdom Lawyers For Israel told hospital officials that the display made Jewish patients feel "vulnerable, harassed and victimized." "We asked

that the artwork to be removed", said Jonathan Turner, the chief executive of UKLFI," because of the propaganda, not because it was by children from Gaza." Added Turner: "We are pleased that it was taken down; Jewish patients should not have to face a wall of anti-Israel propaganda when they have to go to a hospital".

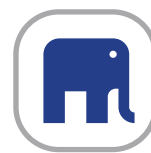
Leslie Watts, the chief executive of the Chelsea and Westminster hospital admitted that the artwork, part of a collaboration between children of Gaza and the hospital's own school, had "offended some communities".

Banning Ethnic Intimidation Flyers

Florida Rep Randy Fine has had enough of the recent rise in neo-Nazi non-
(Please turn to following page)

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sense in the Sunshine State. Bill H.B. 269 takes aim at Florida's anti-Semitism. It would ban displays of "religious or ethnic animus" on private property, prevent the distribution of flyers with hate speech and outlaw the broadcasting of intimidating messages in public places.

Many of the anti-semitic activities at stadiums, Florida universities and public places such as Walt Disney World have been led by the Goyim Defense League for whom "Ye Is Right".

Says Fine: "We have Nazis who have proudly taken up residence in Florida. The things they are doing, all of which I find

disgusting, are reprehensible and we are going to make them felonies."

Fine knows that holding Nazi views is not illegal and that his bill will be challenged. Indeed, an online petition against H.B. 269 has already attracted more than 2500 signatures decrying "The Jewish assault on freedom of speech". But the Florida Rep maintains that the bill simply builds on existing criminal codes. "It is illegal to trespass. It is illegal to litter. It is illegal to assault people", he said. "And we need to say that, when your stupid Nazism moves from words to action, we're going to hold you accountable."

A JEWISH WEDDING IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



THE FIRST JEWISH WEDDING WAS HELD RECENTLY in the newly inaugurated Abraham Family House in the UAE. Avi Berkowitz, a former assistant to U.S. President Donald Trump, was married at the Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue, one of three houses of worship in the interfaith complex which opened in 2022. The Abraham Family House, with its synagogue, church and mosque, is the first of its kind in the Middle East and was designed by British architect Sir David Adjaye. "Essentially, the inspiration was to understand that the three religions really emanate from this extraordinary region," Adjaye said. The synagogue has a main sanctuary, two mikvot, beit midrash and a residence for a young rabbinical couple who will live on site.

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