

THE JEWISH STANDARD

APRIL 2023 PASSOVER



HENRY (HANK) TOPAS IS THE NEW QUEBEC REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF B'NAI BRITH Canada in Quebec. Topas is also the cantor at Congregation Beth Tivkah in Dollard Des Ormeaux. "I have spent the majority of my life as part of Montreal's Jewish community," he said. "It is an honour to take on the important task of directing the Quebec region for B'nai Brith Canada."

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**PRESIDENTIAL MATZAH - THE BIGGEST MATZAH IN ISRAEL IS
DISPLAYED AT ISAAC HERZOG'S RESIDENCE**

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, getting to even 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 Pesach 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, knowing 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 after-

noon, 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, was the only

option Hunter had. "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's 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 organ-
(Please turn to page 16)



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.

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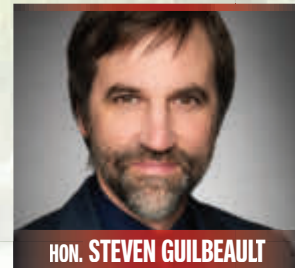
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WHY OHIO TOWN IS NAMED EAST PALESTINE

WHY 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

Dr. Rafael Medoff is the author of more than 20 books about Jewish history and Zionism, including The Historical Dictionary of Zionism with Chaim I. Waxman. The following article was published in the Jewish Journal of Los Angeles. - The Editor

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 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.

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

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COMMUNITY REPORT

KEEPING AN EYE ON MONTREAL AND OTTAWA

By MIKE COHEN

CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM: I recently visited the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa for the first time and spent three hours in awe of what I saw. The museum's exhibition galleries and public programs have been designed to emphasize the human experience of war. The Canadian Experience Galleries present the military history of Canada from earliest times to present day, as well as Canada's history of honoring and remembrance. Each gallery highlights defining moments in Canada's military history and the ways in which past events have shaped the nation. The museum's collections are among the finest military holdings in the world, including rare vehicles, artillery, uniforms, medals, per-

sonal memoirs and 14,000 works in the Beaverbrook Collection of War Art. In total, the collection comprises more than three million artifacts, specimens, works of art, written documents and sound and visual recordings. A visit here represents a true educational experience for people of all ages, most notably students.

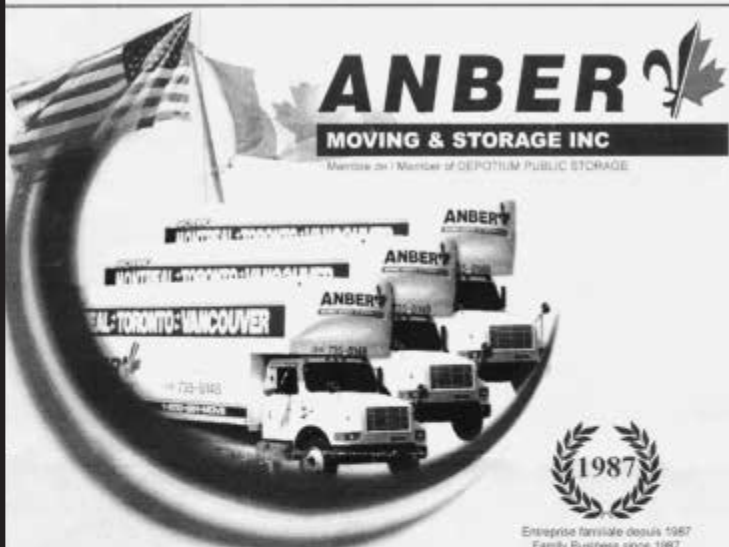
Info:
<https://www.warmuseum.ca>

NATIONAL HOLOCAUST MONUMENT: Located across the street from the Canadian War Museum (corner of Wellington and Booth streets), the National Holocaust Monument (<https://www.holocaust-monument.ca/index.php?lang=en#visit>), entitled Landscape of Loss, Memory and Survival, ensures that

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FOOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

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

By CHAIM BALINSKY

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 a major fear.

Alden Ehrenreich, who stars in the movie "Cocain 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...Comedian **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.

(Please turn to page 10)



The demand for food in our community over the last year has **increased by 11.5%**. Thanks to you, our food security relief efforts helped to deliver **over 8,200 food and basic essential packages to households**, easing the daily burden and ensuring families could celebrate the Jewish holidays with dignity.

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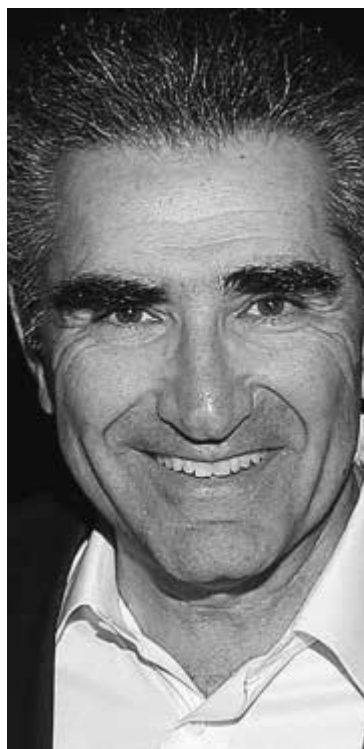
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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By ALEXANDRA COHEN

FORT LAUDERDALE: Last winter I was thrilled to make my escape for a winter getaway in the sunny state of Florida. For the first time, I had the opportunity to visit Fort Lauderdale, which was a real treat (<https://www.visitfortlauderdale.com>).

Fort Lauderdale is the largest municipality in Broward County, which encompasses 1,197 square miles with 24 miles of

Atlantic Ocean beach. It has a resident population of over 1.95 million people.

Fort Lauderdale is the home to about 24,000 Jews out of a population of 180,000. There are around 10 synagogues in the Fort Lauderdale area covering many different streams of Judaism. Of the 16 synagogues listed in the Fort Lauderdale Yellow Pages, four are in Plantation, four are listed in Sunrise, three in

Lauderdale, two in Miami Beach and one in Miami.

WHERE TO STAY: During my trip, I chose to stay at the B Ocean Resort (<https://www.boceanresort.com/>), which many people may remember as the former Sheraton Yankee Clipper.

The Jewish CEO and founder of B Hotels & Resorts is Ayelet Weinstein, who started working in multi-family and condo-conversions in 1996. In 2004, she became interested in a local building that she assumed to be an apartment building. After pursuing the building and learning it was, in fact, a hotel, she discovered a passion for the hospitality industry and has remained involved ever since.

The resort is conveniently located in the heart of the city, around 15 minutes from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Port Everglades, downtown Las Olas Boulevard and along the famed coastal highway A1A. The B Ocean Resort offers 481 spacious guest rooms and suites, ranging in size from 300 sq. ft. to a lavish 1,700 sq. ft. – all of which are inspired by the property's serene ocean-front location.

The hotel has five restaurants on site. The Salty Siren is the hotel's poolside restaurant. Otherwise, the hotel offers seafood and Mediterranean cuisine at the Naked Crab, drinks and brunch with mermaid shows and burlesque shows at the Wreck Bar, more drinks and cock-

tails at the Florida Bar in the lobby, and the grab and go Clipper Express, which includes offerings such as bagels, croissants, muffins, juice, coffee, and chips. Come by in the evening for grab and go sushi as well!

The B Hotel and Resort is located at 1140 Seabreeze Blvd. For more details go to www.boceanresort.com or call 1-954-524-5551. B Hotels also has locations in the Florida Keys and in the Disney Springs area in Lake Buena Vista. Visit <http://www.bhotelsandresorts.com>

A TRUE DELIGHT ON THE BEACH: We were thrilled to discover that The B Hotel & Resort partners with the award-winning Boucher Management (www.boucherbrothers.com) in order to pamper guests

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FOOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

(Continued from page 7)

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 son **Miles** told her that 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 responded but she asked her agent to pursue it anyway. "My kid was right", admits the host.

Mel Brooks' "History of the World Part 11", debuted on Hulu in March. He has not ruled out a sequel to "Blazing Saddles".

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.

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 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 film 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.

It was quite a performance by Orthodox Jewish pitcher **Jacob Steinmetz** at the recent World Baseball Classic. The 19-year old, the first Orthodox Jew to be drafted into Major League Baseball, started for Team Israel against the Dominican Republic, which is loaded with major league superstars. **Steinmetz** struck out Manny Machado, Gary Sanchez and Jeremy Peña.

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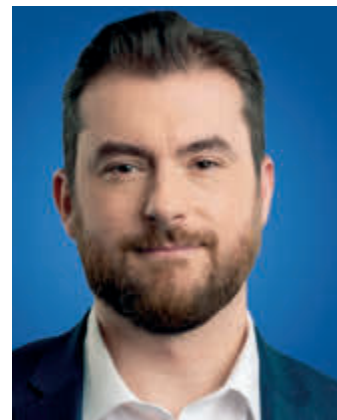
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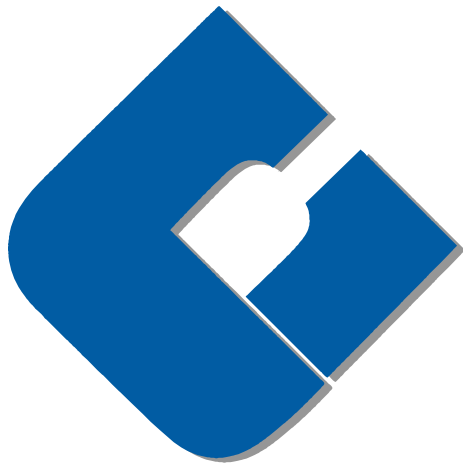


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ancient times, as well as the events surrounding the origins of Christianity in the Jewish town of Bethlehem. In their prayers, they prayed for the return of the Jews to the Holy Land, which they understood to be inextricably linked to the coming messianic 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 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

WHY EAST PALESTINE

(Continued from page 5)

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 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 unsettled, 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 en-



Stéphane Boyer
Mayor of Laval

Chag kasher v'sameach

Dear members of the Laval Jewish community,

On behalf of the members of the municipal council, and in my own name, I wish you all festive celebrations dedicated to the liberation of the Jewish people. Those happy days bring us back to the essence of our existence, that is the love of those around us, a profound faith, and the respect for traditions.

Spend happy holiday moments with your loved ones and your families during this time of hope and renewal. Peace, health, and joy to all!

Happy Pesach!



countered were “merchant-men 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 “Palesteen,” 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

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

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



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CHAG PESACH SAMEACH FROM PETER LIPARI AND STAFF

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

tion 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 presi-

dent 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 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 suggest 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 (Please turn to page 18)



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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 16)

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 acknowledged 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 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

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at Frankfurt, Germany's Festhalle. Festhalle was the site of the deportation of 3000 Jews to their deaths just 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."

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

Waters has now launched a lawsuit against the cities of Munich and Frankfurt for cancelling his shows. At press time Munich has relented..

Voters Support Corbyn Ban

British Labor party leader Keir Starmer has blocked former party leader Jeremy Corbyn from, stand-
(Please turn to page 25)

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Cummings Centre's spring season offers more opportunities and social connections. From creative arts and music to entertainment, global affairs, fitness and social groups, plus dozens of ways to volunteer, the Cummings Centre makes it fun and easy to connect and get involved. This spring and summer, even more opportunities are being offered, be it in person at our Westbury campus, at one of our off-site locations or online. For several years David Gencher has been volunteering at both the Cummings Centre's Woodshop and Stained Glass programs, and now he has taken the lead as a teacher for the upcoming season. His interest in stained glass started some 40 years ago by taking various courses in the Montreal area and he is eager to share his knowledge and enthusiasm for this popular craft with others.

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 8)

while they luxuriate at the beach. I have had the pleasure of experiencing their hospitality during previous stays at hotels in the Hollywood and St. Petersburg areas.

Boucher Brothers is a Hospitality Management Company that specializes in a variety of outlets including pool, beach, food and beverage, water sports and team building activities. They are a forward-thinking and proficient hospitality company expanding across North America. The company currently owns a portfolio of over 100 hotels and condominium properties, 45 blocks of public beach throughout Florida's east and west coasts and 50 blocks of public beach in Virginia Beach.

The Boucher Brothers know that when you come to the beach, you want to relax and feel pampered – their courteous and friendly staff does just that. The Boucher Brothers team provided excellent service during my stay. Upon your arrival at the beach, they

will set you up with your free beach chairs, as well as an umbrella if you wish. Further, you have the option to rent the more luxurious sun loungers, with comfortable cushioning and unobstructed views of the ocean. Servers from the hotel restaurant, The Salty Siren, come right to your seat to take your order, further enhancing your experience.

DINING OUT: On the famous Fort Lauderdale boulevard that leads to the beach, you will find the Friendship Café, which is situated right next to the Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center. Part of The Friendship Circle, a local non-profit here in Montreal, the kosher Mediterranean restaurant and coffee bar serves lunch and dinner options, from falafel hummus plates and salads to kebab pita sandwiches and vegetarian shawarma. They offer training and employment opportunities to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

The Naked Crab Seafood Kitchen + Cocktail Bar was conveniently located right in our hotel lobby at the B Ocean Hotel and Resort. It was a most convenient place to dine after checking in right at dinnertime. The Naked Crab embodies authentic, local dining on Fort Lauderdale Beach. Executive Chef David Morales conceptualizes slightly different menus every season and blends together fresh ingredients and spices in order to create contemporary Mediterranean dishes influenced by the flavors of Europe, North and South America. The menu is sourced locally using fresh seafood and produce from local farms.

We also experienced the Matchbox Restaurant (www.matchboxrestaurants.com).

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com), part of an American chain first opened in 2003. Matchbox currently has 15 locations, including Washington, Maryland, Virginia, and of course Florida. Matchbox is part of Thompson Hospitality, one of the largest retail food service management companies in the USA.

The Matchbox in Las Olas, Fort Lauderdale, opened in early 2022. It is located in a particularly trendy area which features dining and entertaining on the New River, with lovely water views. Since its debut, Matchbox has become known for brick oven pizzas, mini burgers, fresh

salads, and chef-inspired entrées, like Miso salmon and chimichurri steak frites. Diners can enjoy elevated American-bistro fare crafted from high quality ingredients. I particularly enjoyed their delicious cocktails, including the strawberry rose margarita and the peach lemon drop, as well as the spinach and artichoke dip, the aforementioned Miso salmon (a menu highlight!), as well as the chicken pesto pizza.

Matchbox is located at 221 SW 1st Avenue. Readers can call 954-751-5959 for a reservation. Visit <https://www.matchboxrestaurants.com/>.

COMMUNITY REPORT

(Continued from page 6)

the lessons of the Holocaust, as well as the remarkable contribution Holocaust survivors have made to Canada, remain within the national consciousness for generations

to come. Open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. I took a quick look, but will have to go back for a proper visit on my next trip.

CINESTARZ: I went to the CinéStarz theatre

complex at the St. Laurent Shopping Centre for the first time to see the motion picture *The Fablemans*. The CinéStarz movie theatre chain, owned by Jewish businessman Bruce Gurberg, also has facilities in nearby Orleans and others in Burlington, Ontario and three in the Montreal area – Côte Saint-Luc, Côte des Neiges and St. Leonard. Info: www.cinestarz.ca.

RABIN IS BACK: Federation CJA chose well when they hired Stephen Rabin last year as Director of Immersive Experiences and Missions for March of the Living (MOL), Birthright and more. A former director of the Y Country Camp, Stephen fits like a glove here. It all starts with the first MOL trip in four years later this month to Poland and Israel April 16 to 28. Bobby Titleman and Eva Cohen, who were selected as co-chairs three years ago for a trip that was cancelled

when the COVID-19 pandemic began, are back in the saddle. Meanwhile, present-day CEGEP students who missed their chance to experience an MOL will have the opportunity to do so on a second trip slated for May 28 to June 9. Stephen is the ideal person to be at the helm.

FEDERATION CJA PODCAST: The Federation CJA 360 Podcast: The Pulse of Montreal's Jewish Community, hosted by President and CEO Yair Szlak, is already a big hit. Each episode features a captivating guest—from community leaders and experts to influencers—sharing their unique perspectives and insight on topics such as Jewish identity, Israel, antisemitism, Holocaust education, and philanthropy. Log on to FederationCJA.org/Podcast.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca

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Looking to make a difference in the world? The Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal (JCF) has a solution for you. Introducing the Centre for Philanthropic Learning (CPL), the first of its kind in Canada, designed to educate, engage, and empower donors, professionals, and charities. The Centre for Philanthropic Learning is being launched by the JCF in March 2023. Our interviewer sat down with Kathy Assayag, President, and CEO of the JCF, to talk more about the CPL will offer:

Interviewer: Thanks for sitting down with me, Kathy. Can you tell me more about the CPL and why the JCF has started this program?

Kathy: My pleasure, it's great to talk about this initiative – we're very proud of it. The CPL is unique to Canada and aims to bring more people into the world of philanthropy and give charitable organizations the tools they need to be more effective and sustainable. We want to support and develop smart philanthropy and the CPL will be a key tool in achieving this.

Interviewer: When is the Centre launching?

Kathy: The CPL's launch event is on March 30. We're excited to have Scott Harrison, founder, and CEO of Charity:Water, and Anne-Marie Boucher, prominent philanthropist and Vice-President of the JCF, as our speakers. These leaders will share their knowledge and inspire attendees to think about the change they want to create in the world. We see the CPL as the place to provide our members with the tools to make this change happen.

Interviewer: Can you tell me more about the future plans for the CPL?

Kathy: Absolutely – the launch is just the beginning. Our goal is to share knowledge year-round. The CPL will offer educational resources, in-person and online seminars, and key networking events, and many of these resources will be available on our website for future reference. The variety of learning experiences we are offering through the CPL will, we hope, bring more people into the world of philanthropy, and help charitable organizations be more effective and sustainable. In the coming year, we have 9 other inspiring speakers, including Tal Ben-Shahar – on the science of happiness, Sarah Lomelin – on disrupting philanthropy and Dan Pallota – who will explain how restraints on charities undermine their potential.

Interviewer: Ok, so is the CPL just for philanthropists?

Kathy: Actually no, it's also for professionals and charities. We see the CPL has having major benefits for all those audiences.

Interviewer: Great! It seems like a clear fit for philanthropists, but for professionals and charities, what are the benefits of being involved with the CPL?

Kathy: Good question. For charities, we have designed the CPL and its resources to be an important tool they can use to be more effective in their planned giving and legacy campaigns, to help make them more sustainable in the long-term. By sharing our knowledge on smart giving tools that are tax effective and help donors maximize their philanthropy, we can leverage greater impact for the communities they serve.

For professionals, and by that we mean accountants, lawyers, investment or insurance brokers, the CPL will provide them with the resources they need to engage their clients in conversations about charitable giving. We want to increase the involvement of these trusted advisors in philanthropy and therefore help increase the overall impact of giving in the community.

Interviewer: Sounds really useful for those audiences. What type of topics will the upcoming resources and seminars cover?

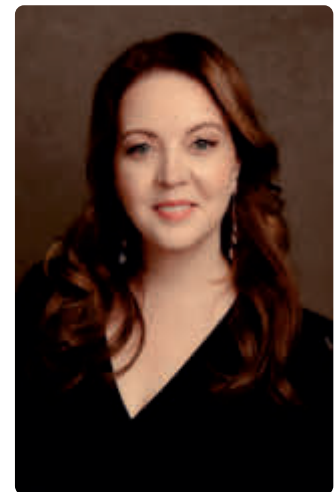
Kathy: Well, each speaker brings a unique perspective and their own experiences, so we will have some expert discussions on philanthropic topics like cross-border issues, ethics and stewardship, and effective uses of life insurance, among many others. We hope the varied topics will give attendees the chance to discuss new and innovative thinking, while expanding their knowledge and diversifying their understanding. We want the CPL to ultimately strengthen philanthropy and the giving we see in our community and society at large.

Interviewer: Are these topics areas that the JCF are expert in too?

Kathy: Yes, to some extent. The JCF is the home of smart philanthropy – we aim to inspire, enable, and optimize philanthropy to meet the growing needs of the Montreal Jewish Community and beyond. We offer a range of expert services, including endowment management, philanthropic planning, and tax planning. We have a highly experienced and professional team who can assist donors to fulfill their personal philanthropic goals in a tax-efficient manner.

Interviewer: Thank you so much for your time today, Kathy! The CPL sounds interesting. If our readers wanted to find out more about the CPL or the JCF, how can they get in touch with you?

Kathy: Thank you for giving me this opportunity to talk about the Centre for Philanthropic Learning! If donors, professionals or charities want to know more about the CPL, or if individuals would like to know more about the JCF and our services, they can visit www.jcfmontreal.org or contact us directly at info@jcfmontreal.org. We hope to hear from some of your readers and help make their philanthropic dreams a reality.



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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 19)

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 attempt 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 supported 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.

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 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."

(Please turn to following page)

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

ganda when they to hospital.”

Leslie Watts, the chief executive of the Chelsea and Westminster hospital admitted that the artwork, part of a collaboration between children and 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 nonsense in the Sunshine State. Bill H.B. 269 takes aim at Florida's anti-Semites. It would ban displays of “religious or ethnic animus” on private property, prevent the distribu-

tion of flyers with hate speech and outlaw the broadcasting of intimidating messages in public places.

Many of the anti-semitic activities at stadiums in Jacksonville, at Florida universities, at Walt Disney World and at a Chabad house in Orlando. have been led by the Goyim Defense League for whom “Ye Is Right”, Its founder Jon Minadeo relocated to Florida from Northern California because he expected Florida to be more hospitable to him and his views on Jews than he found in the Bay Area.

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

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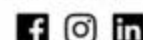


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gusting, are reprehensible, and we are going to make them felonies.”

Fine knows that holding Nazi views is not illegal and that his bill will be challenged. Indeed, an on-line petition against H.B. 269 has already attracted more than 2500 signatures decrying “The Jewish as-

sault on freedom of speech”. Another critic wrote that “No group, no matter how small their hats are, has the right to tell us what we can or can’t say”, the small hat an apparent reference to kippahs.

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.”

*Labour Councillor
Deselected*

A Labour councillor who demanded Jewish rabbinical leaders in Leicester sign statements condemning Israel has been dropped by the party’s national executive committee ahead of elect-

ions in May. Kirk Master, a former assistant mayor and deputy police and crime commissioner, is one of 19 sitting councillors dropped by Labour. In May 2021, *Jewish News* revealed how Master had issued a statement calling for Jewish faith leaders to sign a declaration to “condemn the killings of the innocent

Palestinian people” and to label Israel an apartheid state.

Labour leaders were concerned that Master’s comments would alienate “certain communities within our city.” Leicester has only about 200 Jews but Labour is continuing to try to shed its anti-Semitic past.

(Please turn to following page)

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

Britain's Jewish News Under Attack - By Some Jews

No one should question the loyalty to Israel of the

Anglo-Jewish press. But that does not mean that Israel should be free of criticism. And this is perhaps especially true in the current environment.

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Recently, sheets of paper(see below) have been seen on walls and stuck to the side of London's *Jewish News* street stands with the heading "THE ANTI ISRAEL JEWISH NEWS". It reads "Week after Week, sinister front page headlines attacking the democratically elected government in Israel, giving credence to Israel's enemies...Last week's front page headline 'Pogrom'

where ONE Palestinian was killed in a revenge attack for murdering 2 Jews was an absolute DISGRACE and an affront to REAL POGROMS that Jews have suffered... "The poster concludes: "Jewish communities all over London say Enough is Enough. Take it - Bin it. Do not support. Do not advertise...."

*Jewish News Editor
(Please turn to page 30)*



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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 28)

Richard Ferrer responded without apology. “The *Jewish News* reports Jewish news. Did we like reporting on what happened in Huwara? Of course not. Do we want to run endless reports and columns about crackpots being prime movers in the Knesset? Of course not....We would rather focus on all the good things Israel does. But is this kind of thing news? Of course. It always has been and always will be. An IDF commander calling the attack on Huwara a “pogrom” should be front page news in every Jewish newspaper. There is no sugar coating or rose tinting. There is just news. Book burners stick silly posters on newspaper bins. We report news.”

This is not the first time the *Jewish News* has faced a backlash from some Jews. A similar crusade against the newspaper took place at the start of COVID when the paper exposed widespread breaches of pan-

demic lockdown rules by Stamford Hill Jews.

Remains of Mikveh Found in Auschwitz

A mikvah dating back to the 17th or 18th century was discovered in the city of Oświęcim in southern Poland. The city is better known for its German name, Auschwitz. The mikveh was found several meters below a brick bathhouse.

Archaeologists said that when they initially dug up a few stairs leading down to a wooden floor, it seemed that it could be a fragment of a wooden hut. However, after removing layers of earth, it turned out to be a wooden mikveh.

At the turn of the 20th century Jews constituted more than half of the local population of Oświęcim. Very few, however, survived the Holocaust and the last Jewish

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resident, Shimon Kluger, died in 2000.

Jews Still Popular In the United States

Despite a record number of antisemitic incidents in the United States, public opinion appears to be moving in the opposite direction. According to a study released by the Pew Research Center Jews are the most favourably viewed ethnic group in the country.

The poll of 10,588 Americans found that 35% expressed very or somewhat favourable attitudes towards Jews while only 6% held negative opinions. Jews were regarded more favourably than Protestant Christians, Catholic Christians, atheists, Mormons and Muslims. The latter were the second most unfavourable ethnic group (behind only the Mormons) with only 22% of Americans holding favourable views towards them.

A Great Way to Deal With An Anti-Semite

Rafael Aronov is a police officer in Be'er Sheva. But he is also a mixed martial arts fighter who was scheduled to fight Ilyas Sadykov of Kazakhstan in a MNA Israel World Combat Championship.

While "trash talk" is part of the MNA schtick, Sadykov crossed the line. He sent threatening antisemitic messages to his Israeli opponent. First there was a message with a photo of Hitler which read "I will burn you like this guy." Another one read "I'm gonna kill you b***h and "do you like German music".

Aronov, who has family members that survived the Holocaust, did not respond to Sadykov's "crossing the line." He "preferred to express his displeasure in the arena". And that is what he did. He knocked out the antisemite in five minutes.



PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU AND his wife Sara pay a condolence call on the Yaniv family in the community of Har Bracha. Two of the Yaniv's sons – Hallel and Yigal – were murdered in the recent shooting attack in Hawara. "If they could, they would murder us all but they want to uproot us. I say that our answer is to strike at them and deepen our roots," Netanyahu told the family. Added the prime minister: "We have a mission, to increase security, to strike at the murderers. This is what we will do." Photo Kobi Gideon(GPO)

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