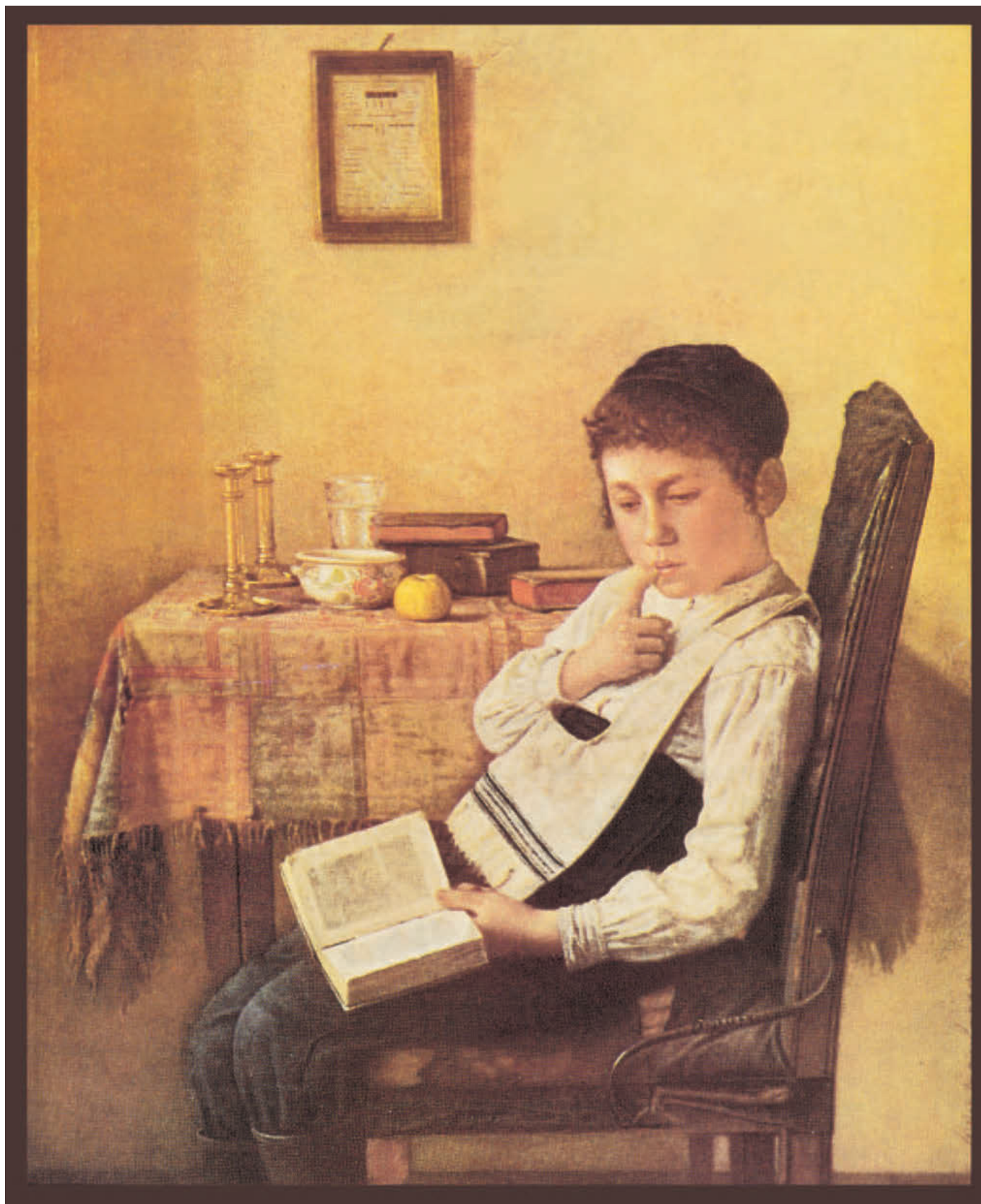


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APRIL 2026 PASSOVER



STUDYING THE HAGGADAH

ISIDOR KAUFMAN



Reflections on Passover

Passover, like most Jewish festivals, is a time for reflection as much as it is celebration. And, to be sure, this year's Passover will serve better than most. All of us must reassess the atavistic drives which motivate too many in this melancholy epoch in the history of mankind. Armed conflicts involving Israel and the inevitable loss of Israeli lives, proxy wars, insurgencies, religious wars, urban warfare and today cyber warfare continue to ravage the earth. The vast expanse of territory, rather than giving its inhabitants scope to tame the misadventures of soil and climate, has become the battleground for savage battles for power with the goal of obliterating surrounding neighbours. Peace has become a fantasy. Poisonous nationalism is subverting democracy. It seems mankind is, as the Book of Job expresses it, "born to sorrow as the sparks fly upward"?

Our ancient ancestors pondered similar problems. They found few definitive answers but they were, under the inspiration of Moses, enabled to take the first uncertain, faltering, tentative steps toward the fulfilment of a destiny which they have followed, not to be sure without uncertainty, for some three and a half millennia. They developed a new direction and a new drive in mankind's everlasting search for answers to those disturbing moral dilemmas which agitated our forefathers of the Exodus, as they agitate us today.

We observe the festival of Passover as the transcendent historic event in the life of the Jewish people. The figure of Moses, leading the Hebrew slaves and a "mixed multitude" out of the land of the Pharaohs, bestrode the ancient world of the Jews like the colossus that he was, the man who brought freedom to men and women and children who had almost forgotten what freedom could mean. The crossing of the Red Sea set the seal of finality on the escape of the Hebrews from the physical oppression of the Egyptians. However often they fell back into idolatry, the acceptance of the Law at Sinai also set the seal of finality on the escape of the Jews from the superstitions of their neighbours. There were historic decisions to be made and our ancestors had the courage to make them.

We observe the Passover as a historic event in the life of our ancient people. Perhaps we should also accept it as a symbol of psychological, spiritual and religious freedom, for indeed it signifies all three.

FROM AUSCHWITZ TO BONDI TO CANADA

WHY SILENCE IS NOT NEUTRAL

By RICHARD K. LOWRY

Every year on January 27, we mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Anniversaries invite reflection, but this one comes at an unsettling moment. We are no longer asking how intolerance begins. We are witnessing what happens when it is allowed to spread, normalize, and harden in real time.

Canada has long comforted itself with the belief that hatred belongs elsewhere — to other countries, other histories. Yet from Vancouver to Toronto, Montreal to Ottawa, Jewish communities have faced arson attempts, shootings at schools, vandalized synagogues, mezuzahs ripped from elderly doors, graffiti on homes, and attacks on people in the streets. These are not isolated incidents. They are warnings.

Hatred rarely announces itself as hatred. It arrives wrapped in grievance, political rhetoric, or claims of moral urgency. It appears in online chats as comments left unchallenged, in intimidation explained away, or in silence

Richard K. Lowry is the author of Kalman & Leopold: Surviving Mengele's Auschwitz and the son of Auschwitz survivor Leopold Lowy. Visit his website at www.kalmanandleopold.com - The Editor

justified as neutrality. Each time this happens, empathy narrows. Each time leaders hesitate to name what is happening clearly, the boundaries of what is acceptable quietly shift.

For many non-Jewish Canadians, this may still feel abstract — troubling, but distant. I know it is not. I know because of my father, Leopold Lowy, and a boy named Kalman.

My father was sixteen when he arrived at Auschwitz. Kalman was fourteen. Both were twins, selected for Josef Mengele's experiments, and forced to work inside the hospital camp's guard shack during the massive Hungarian deportations of 437,000 Jews in the summer of 1944. For six and a half months, Kalman & Leopold lived inside a system that functioned with chilling order — schedules, euphemisms, paperwork, obedience. From less than a hundred metres from

Crematorium IV and the open fire pit, they saw not chaos, but routine.

Auschwitz was not sudden. It was built step by step. Propaganda narrowed empathy. Laws included exclusion. Institutions adapted. Professionals complied. Political leaders delayed, calculated, or convinced themselves that restraint was prudence. In Europe, the good people who failed to act in the 1930s paid the ultimate price — millions of lives lost.

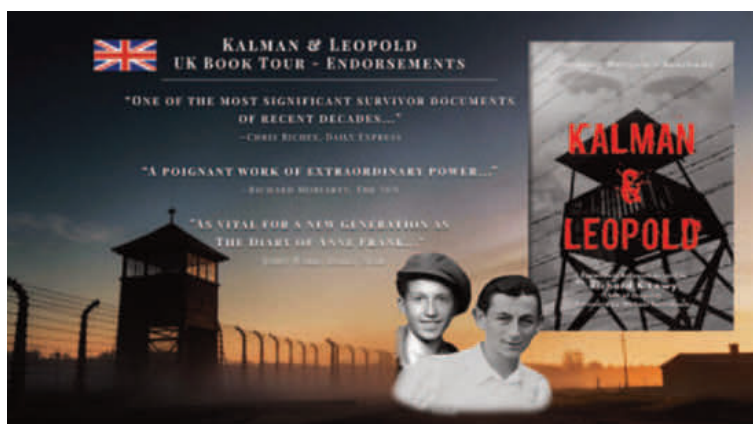
In recently writing my father's story alongside

Kalman's, what struck me most was not how different their world was from ours, but how eerily familiar parts of it feel. The language. The justifications. The way hostility is dismissed as debate, and moral clarity deferred in the name of "balance."


This is why testimony matters. Not as memory alone, but as instruction. Kalman and my father survived long enough to show us how ordinary choices — and ordinary refusals to choose — can construct a world where cruelty becomes administratively tidy and morally invisible.

This matters here, now. Antisemitism in Canada is not only rising in number; it is growing in con-

(Please turn to page 26)




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A MOTHER'S PRAYER ANSWERED

Submitted by EZER MIZION

When Daniel first became ill, his parents believed the nightmare would pass quickly. "Like every parent," his mother Irina recalls, "we thought maybe in one month, two months, it would be finished." Instead, the doctors delivered devastating news. Daniel was suffering from a life-threatening disease, and even one year of survival would be uncertain.

For Irina and her husband, the diagnosis changed everything. The hospital became their world. Their son endured endless injections and treatments while his parents struggled with the questions every parent asks in such moments. Why did this happen? What did we do wrong?

Daniel's first bone marrow transplant failed. Just forty days later his condition collapsed. His immune system was gone. His legs no longer worked. Doctors began preparing the family for the worst, explaining how Daniel's organs would gradually shut down.

Irina remembers driving home from the hospital in a haze. "For the doctors it is a patient," she says. "For me it is my life. It is my child."

That night she refused to give up. Desperate to save her son, Irina posted an SOS online,

sharing Daniel's blood work and pleading for help. Responses poured in from around the world. People from India, Switzerland, Israel and beyond sent advice, contacts and names of doctors who might offer another chance.

Soon a physician proposed one final option: an experimental second bone marrow transplant. But time was running out. Daniel might have only days to live. The treatment would require a perfect donor and immediate action.

Irina and her husband signed the papers without hesitation. Even if Daniel could never walk or breathe normally again, they wanted only one thing. "Just let him stay with us," she said.

Then the miracle came. A matching donor was found through Ezer Mizion's International

Bone Marrow Registry, based in Israel but saving lives around the world. The registry has become a lifeline for patients whose only hope is a genetic match, often found halfway across the globe. For families like Daniel's, it is not just a database, but a last chance when all other options are gone.

The transplant went forward.

Slowly, Daniel began to recover. What once seemed impossible began to unfold step by step. He regained strength. He stood. He walked. Today, the boy doctors feared would not survive is dancing, fencing, and living a full life. "They can't believe it," Irina says.

Two years later, the family was finally allowed to learn the identity of the donor who saved Daniel's life. Her

name is Meital, a young psychology student from Ashdod, Israel. Until that moment, she had been a stranger. Yet she carried within her the gift that would give Daniel a future.

When Meital called, Irina asked the question that had lived in her heart for years: Why did you do this?

Meital's answer was a very simple one. "I didn't do anything," she said.

But for Irina, everything had been done. A young woman she had never met made a decision that changed the course of their lives forever. In that moment, the distance between them disappeared. "You are my family now," Meital told them.

For Daniel's parents, the experience reshaped how they see the world. They had witnessed what happens when hope meets action, when a stranger chooses to help, and when one person's decision can save not just a life, but an entire family.

Today, Daniel's story is not only one of survival, but of connection. It is a reminder that behind every donor is a quiet hero, and behind every transplant is a family given another chance to dream.



Daniel and his mother, Irina, meet Meital, his lifesaver

PASSOVER SEDER IN A DP CAMP

JOURNALIST I F STONE SPENT PASSOVER IN 1947 IN A DETENTION CAMP ON CYPRUS

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

I.F. Stone, the famed investigative journalist, probably took part in some interesting Passover seders in his time, but he never spent one with Jews who felt personally connected to the events in ancient Egypt - until 1947, when he was a guest at a remarkable seder with Holocaust survivors in a detention camp on the island of Cyprus.

"This is being written 3,000 feet up over the blue Mediterranean," began Stone's dramatic account in the pages of the New York City daily newspaper PM. "I am in a tiny four-passenger two-motored mosquito plane bound for Haifa from Nicosia in Cyprus, where I have just spent the first two days of

Passover in camps established by the British to intern 'illegal' Jewish immigrants seized in Palestine."

Those were turbulent times. Hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors crowded the Displaced Persons camps in Allied-occupied Europe, waiting for British permission to immigrate to Palestine. The British, bowing to Arab opposition, had almost completely shut the gates to the Holy Land. Palestine itself was in flames, as Jewish underground forces waged guerrilla warfare against the British authorities. Meanwhile, in Washington, the Truman administration wobbled back and forth on the con-

troversial issues of Jewish immigration and statehood.

In a desperate race for the promised land, survivors were boarding aliyah beth (unauthorized immigration) ships bound for Palestine. More often than not, they were intercepted by British naval patrols and taken to Cyprus. That's where I.F. Stone's story began.

"There are two sets of camps on the sweet-smelling ancient Greek Isle of Cyprus for 11,300 refugees now held there," Stone explained. "Both are being enlarged to meet the expected Spring rush of Aliyah Beth boats which will probably boost the Jewish population to 20,000 before the end of June."

The detainees were living in Nissen huts, which Stone described as "the ugliest architecture known to mankind - a sort of tin igloo with cement flooring set in bleak rows on the level grassless plots near the sea, surrounded with barbed wire and a row of latrines." A typical hut housed three families in three rooms.

"Unexpected and unannounced," Stone and a friend, Alex Taylor of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, dropped in on the Efrati family on Passover eve. Moshe Efrati, 35, "a laundryman by trade"; his wife Rachel; and their children, 15 year-old Miriam and 12-year-old Eliezer. Despite the lack of an invitation, the

visitors "were at once made welcome."

"Father Efrati sat at the head of the table, reclining on a pillow as is customary for the seder," Stone's account continued. "On his right, sat his bright-eyed son of 12, already a student in the yeshivah organized by religious Jews in the camp." On the father's left sat his good wife and daughter. Alex and I were given haggadas (Passover service books) and the seder went on."

"It was no hop-skip-and-jump affair, as is customary in most American Jewish homes," Stone noted. "Efrati left nothing out. We rose to drink our wine with blessings, partook of the bitter herbs and first matzohs. Efrati sang the parts with relish and explained and translated as he went along ..."

Stone, himself a secular Jew, was deeply moved by the warmth and religious devotion of the family, especially in the midst of such difficult surroundings. "The mother looked on as if she didn't know how one man could be so bright," he wrote.

What struck Stone the most was the connection between past and present. "The Passover has a deep personal meaning for these Jews ... For them the ancient cruel taskmasters were no fable: they had been in slave labor camps under German occupation. For them, the God who

(Please turn to page 27)

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WAR IS A TURNING POINT IN THE WORLD

WRITER BELIEVES SIRENS IN ISRAEL ARE A SIGN OF HOPE NOT PANIC

By Dr. FLAMMA NIRENSTEIN

The Shabbat sirens sent Israelis into shelters again and again, yet the atmosphere remained composed, almost resolved. The Israeli public understands that history sometimes accelerates suddenly, and that when it does, hesitation becomes more dangerous than action.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu framed the moment in stark terms: Israel is confronting a regime that for decades has killed Americans, shed Jewish blood and brutalized its

Dr. Flamma Nirenstein, the Israel Foreign Ministry's Special Advisor for Combating Antisemitism, is a Senior Fellow of the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs. -This article appeared originally in JNS. The Editor

own citizens, while striving for nuclear capability. The objective of this war is therefore not tactical but historical. It aims to end a permanent threat.

This is what many observers fail to grasp. The American aircraft flying alongside Israeli jets above Tehran represent more than a military maneuver—they sketch a future Middle East

no longer dominated by Iranian imperial ambition. Remove the permanent menace and diplomacy becomes possible, because negotiation without coercion can finally exist.

U.S. President Donald Trump could have delayed, accepted another partial nuclear arrangement, or relied on the Iranian regime's promises re-

garding enriched uranium. Instead, he concluded that the danger had reached strategic clarity. The choice was not imposed by immediate necessity but by long-term responsibility: a decisive shift rather than endless postponement.

Iran's power rests on a web—Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis and other proxies—combined with missiles and nuclear ambition aimed far beyond Israel. Ending that network reshapes global security, not

(Please turn to page 29)

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Advertorial by Mike Cohen

Les Maisons Kehilla Expands Its Reach as Affordable Housing Needs Grow in Montreal

Through new developments, rental assistance, and senior programming, the Les Maisons Kehilla is helping hundreds of residents find stability and community.

As housing costs continue to rise across Quebec, access to safe and affordable homes has become one of the most pressing challenges facing Montreal families and seniors. Les Maisons Kehilla is working to change that.

A Mission Born from Community Need

Les Maisons Kehilla was created in response to a growing need for affordable housing within Montreal's community. Many families, seniors, and vulnerable individuals face increasing difficulty finding safe, stable homes they can afford.

Since its founding, Les Maisons Kehilla has worked to address this challenge by developing housing solutions that prioritize dignity, stability, and community. What began as a response to a pressing need has grown into a comprehensive housing network serving more than 1300 individuals across eight buildings.

Recently, Les Maisons Kehilla expanded its reach through an integration with B'nai Brith House, Château B'nai Brith, and Caldwell Residences; three residences dedicated to serving adults aged 65 and older. Combined with Kehilla's own properties, Kehilla I and Kehilla II, the organization now provides housing options for a wide range of residents including seniors, families, single parents, and newcomers to Canada.

Together, these residences form a supportive network designed to ensure that community members at different stages of life have access to safe and affordable housing.

Building for the Future: Kehilla III

Les Maisons Kehilla continues to grow in response to the ongoing housing crisis.

In November 2025, the organization broke ground on Kehilla III, a new residential development located on Robert Burns Avenue in Côte Saint-Luc. Construction is slated to begin in spring '26.

This unique building will expand affordable housing opportunities for 203 families and individuals while introducing an important new initiative: 10 percent of its apartments will be reserved for neurodivergent individuals. By intentionally designing inclusive housing, the project aims to create a supportive environment where residents of varying needs can live with independence and dignity.

The development of Kehilla III has been made possible thanks to the generosity of private donors alongside support from government partners. Continued philanthropic support will help ensure the project reaches its full potential and serves even more members of the community.

Supporting Families Through Rental Assistance

Beyond its residential buildings, Les Maisons Kehilla operates a vital Rental Assistance Program that currently supports 160 households representing 379 individuals across the community. In 2025 alone, more than \$700,000 in rental assistance was allo-

cated, helping families remain in their homes despite rising rents and the growing cost of living.

Many of the program's recipients are single parents who are working hard to support their families while facing increasing financial pressure. Too often, they must choose between paying rent and putting food on the table or purchasing necessary medications.

Kehilla's rental assistance provides critical relief, helping people remain safely in their homes and regain stability. For many recipients, the support has been life changing.

"We no longer live with the constant stress of wondering whether we'll be able to afford rent or groceries. Kehilla's support has allowed us to feel settled and safe. It has made a tremendous difference in our daily lives. We can focus on our health, our work, and our family instead of worrying about housing insecurity." – Ady, Rental Assistance Recipient. This program often becomes a crucial stepping stone toward long-term stability.



Residents at Chateau B'nai Brith enjoy lunch. A rendering of what the new Kehilla building will look like on Robert Burns Avenue.

LA MAISON KEHILLA EXPANDS

(Continued from preceding page)

Enriching the Lives of Seniors

Les Maisons Kehilla's commitment to community extends well beyond providing housing. Across B'nai Brith House, Château B'nai Brith, and Caldwell Residences, residents benefit from a wide range of recreational and social programs designed to keep seniors active in mind, body, and spirit.

Programs include yoga and exercise classes, memory-strengthening activities, choir programs, holiday celebrations, and special musical performances. These initiatives foster meaningful social connections and help combat isolation, ensuring residents remain engaged and supported within their community.

At both B'nai Brith House and Château B'nai Brith, residents also enjoy a hot kosher lunch served five days a week. These nutritious meals provide an important daily resource while encouraging residents to gather, socialize, and build friendships.

For many seniors, the residences offer not only housing but also a renewed sense of belonging.

"I had never lived in an apartment before. My husband and I lived in a house in Laval, but after he passed away it became impossible for me to afford and maintain it on my own. My sister had been living at B'nai Brith House for several years, so I decided to apply. It was a big change, but I love my apartment and I love my life here." – Bernice, 82.

Currently, one- and two-bedroom apartments are available at B'nai Brith House for adults aged 65 and older, offering affordable, safe housing within a warm and welcoming com-

munity environment. Building Community,

Building Home Today, Les Maisons Kehilla stands as a vital pillar of support for hundreds of individuals and families across Montreal. Through affordable housing developments, rental assistance, and enriching programs for seniors, the organization continues to address one of the community's most pressing needs.

As housing affordability remains a growing challenge, the work of Les Maisons Kehilla is more important than ever. With the support of donors, partners, and community members, the organization can continue expanding its reach and providing stability to those who need it most.

Community support plays a vital role in ensuring that more families and seniors can access safe, affordable housing and the stability that comes with it.

Together, we are building community, building stability, and building home.

For more information or to donate, readers can visit lesmaisonskehilla.org or call 438.798.3193



Chateau B'nai Brith residents with some Purim snacks.

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Sona Lakhoyan Olivier
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EYE ON MONTREAL

MIKE COHEN ON SPORTS

By MIKE COHEN

Over the years, I have enjoyed the privilege of watching many Montreal Canadiens games from the press box at the Bell Centre and, before that, at the Forum. It is a fabulous place to be. Besides the superb vantage point, you also get to mingle with other members of the media, players who are not in the lineup, scouts, NHL executives, Canadiens personnel, and more. It is definitely an experience I never grow tired of.

There is also a steady Jewish presence in the press box. Of course, looking over all of us is Saul "Red" Fisher, the legendary journalist who covered the Habs for decades for *The Montreal Star* and *The Gazette* and lived in Côte Saint-Luc. One of his protégés was Herb Zurkowsky, who, in addition to covering the Alouettes, is also on the Canadiens beat. Wherever Herb goes, he is never afraid to ask the tough questions. Given that his *Gazette* stories appear in print two days after each game, his recaps often blend analysis, commentary, and compelling mini-headlines.

Gideon Zelermyer from Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Westmount is among the rotation of national anthem singers for Habs home games. He has been part of that roster for well over a decade. A native of Rhode Island, he grew up in Hartford — home of the former Whalers — but since moving here in 2001 he has become a devoted Habs fan.

At one of the recent games I attended, the cantor was bantering with members of the media in the Jacques Beauchamp Press Lounge only 20 minutes before stepping onto the ice to sing before more than 20,000 fans in the building and millions watching on television. That night he brought

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Rabbi Lisa Grushkow from neighbouring Temple Emanu-El-Beth-Sholom as his guest, along with her wife. They all sat in the press box during the game. Cantor Zelermyer proudly steps onto the ice with a kippah on his head.

Eric Engels, born and raised in Montreal, is in his 16th season covering the Canadiens for Rogers Sportsnet. He is a multi-platform Canadiens and NHL insider who joined Sportsnet in the spring of 2015. In addition to his written work, Engels appears on Sportsnet radio stations across the country

and contributes regularly to the network's regional and national television broadcasts. I have watched him in action — notably in the dressing room after games — and he moves around like a bullet, peppering every player he can reach with thoughtful questions. He is a must-read on the Sportsnet website. The fact that he travels with the team also opens the door to compelling feature stories.

Next we come to Olivia Benaroché, a comedian, event host, and voice actor. She has been part of the Canadiens' in-game en-

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WHERE ARE THE REMAINS OF ELI COHEN, WRITER ASKS

AUTHOR WANTS ANSWERS EVEN AMIDST RETURN OF REMAINS OF RAN GVILE

By **MOSHE PHILLIPS**

In December 2025, many news outlets reported that, following the fall of Assad and the Ba'athist Party, Israel began searching for the remains of Mossad agent Eli Cohen, who was executed in Syria in 1965. Now with the recovery of Staff Sergeant Major Ran Gvili's remains, 843 days after the Hamas-led invasion of Israel, it is well past time to demand that Syria's leaders return Eli Cohen's body.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog tweeted on X, formerly Twitter: "Ran Gvili the hero, returns to his homeland ..." Eli Cohen is a hero too and more needs to be done to bring his body back from Syria and bury him in Israel where he belongs,

The story of Eli Cohen's life should be re-

Moshe Phillips is national chairman of Americans For A Safe Israel, AFSI (www.AFSI.org), a leading pro-Israel advocacy and education organization.

called today even if he had never gone undercover for Israel in Syria.

When Eli Cohen was publicly executed by the government of Syria on May 18, 1965, it was clear to Israelis and Syrians that he had succeeded in becoming a friend of the president of Syria, and had penetrated the innermost Syrian government circles. What was not yet known, however, was that he had gathered the intelligence that would later save the State of Israel from being destroyed.

More than any other one man, Eli Cohen, an Egyptian-born Jew, earned the Mossad its reputation as one of the best intelli-

gence services in the world, and paved the way for Israel to win on the Golan front in the Six-Day War in June 1967.

He was deeply moved as a young man in Cairo by the 1944 trial of two members of the Stern Group (the LEHI), Eliahu Bet-Zouri and Eliahu Hakim. Hakim and Bet-Zouri were the assassins of the anti-Semitic British High Commissioner of the Middle East, Lord Moyne.

The young Cohen helped to organize demonstrations in support of Bet-Zouri and Hakim. The demonstrations proved fruitless. The men were sentenced to hang, but on the scaffold they maintained

dignity and self respect, and sang Israel's national anthem, "Hatikvah." It has been said that thoughts of Bet-Zouri and Hakim bolstered Cohen as he himself was led to be executed,

Later, Cohen was instrumental in establishing an "Underground Railroad" that smuggled Egyptian Jews to Israel. In the early 1950s, Cohen was recruited by the Mossad to participate in an espionage operation that spied on Nasser's ex-Nazi scientists, who were attempting to build rockets; reportedly, Cohen also engaged in sabotage.

After the Mossad activities in Egypt were discovered and most members were rounded up, Cohen moved to Israel in 1956. After a brief time adjusting

(Please turn to page 27)



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MONTREAL NOSTALGIA

The Jewish Standard has been publishing since 1929. The following items appeared in the December 1st, 1933 edition. They are indicative of a community with a vibrant social life even in those relatively early days, - The Editor

Miss Natalie Jacobs, Dorchester Street West, has returned after spending a few days in New York.

The engagement is announced of Gladys Etta, elder daughter of Mr. Charles Samit and the late Mrs. Samit, to Mr. Louis M. Wiseman, son of Mrs. Rose Wiseman and the late E. Wiseman, of Brockville, Ontario.

Miss Sydel Radovsky, Wilson Avenue, entertained at bridge and tea, Sunday November 26th, in honor of Miss Sybil Jacobs, a bride of December.

A daughter was born

on November 22nd, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Leopold, at the Women's General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tarshis, Rosyln Avenue, will

be home Saturday afternoon, December 9th, from 4:30 until 10 o'clock, in honor of their son, Robert Paul, whose Bar-Mitzvah takes place Saturday morning, December 9th, at the Shaar Hashomayim Syna-

gogue. No cards.

A son was born on November 22nd at the Royal Victoria Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. Phil Copoloff.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wasserman an-
(Please turn to page 19)

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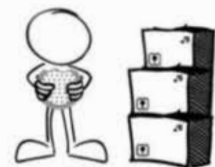


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NOSTALGIA

(Continued from page 15)

nounce the engagement of their daughter, Millie, to Peter Greenberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Greenberg, of Montreal.

Mrs. Milton R. Miller, of Brooklyn, N.Y., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Berlind, Elm Avenue.

Mrs. Isadore Glickman, Marcil Avenue, entertained twenty children in honor of her daughter Joan's birthday, on Sunday November 26th.

Mrs. S. Stotland, Maplewood Ave., entertained at a surprise birthday tea party on Sunday November 19th, in honor of her sister, Miss Ruth Weiss.

Mrs. H. Ressler entertained at dinner in honor of Miss C. C. Dash, a bride-elect of this month.

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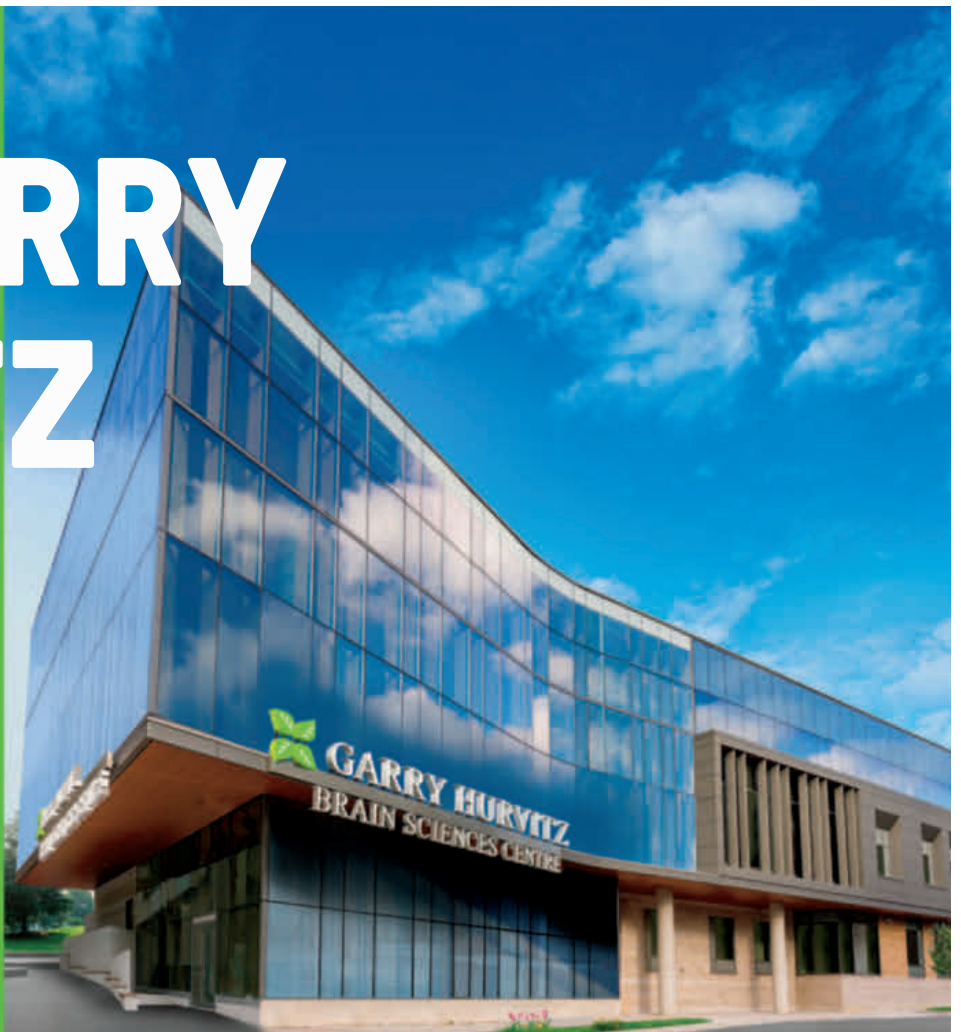
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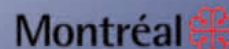


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THE JEWISH
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OF MONTREAL

A Smarter Way to Give This Passover

How donating appreciated marketable securities can increase the impact of your charitable giving.

At Passover, families gather around the Seder table to retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. We reflect on our shared history and pass our traditions from one generation to the next.

But Passover is not only about remembering the past. It is also a moment to think about the future and about the values we choose to carry forward.

Around the Seder table, when we speak to our children, we are not simply retelling a story. We are sharing a vision of a community that supports one another, builds together, and ensures no one is left behind.

Generosity: A Core Value of Our Community

In many Jewish families, generosity comes naturally.

We help our loved ones without hesitation. We support our schools, synagogues, and community programs. Giving is simply part of who we are.

But today, an important question arises: How can we transform this generosity into something that has a **lasting impact**?

How can we ensure that the success we achieve through our work and our investments also benefit generations to come?

Giving Differently: An Often Overlooked Approach

Many of us make charitable donations in cash. It is simple, meaningful, and immediate.

There is another highly effective, yet often overlooked, way to support the causes we care about: **donating investments that have appreciated in value**, such as publicly traded stocks, bonds, or mutual funds.

Why does this matter?

In Canada, when you sell an investment that has

increased in value, part of that gain is taxable.

However, if you donate that investment **directly** to a registered charity such as the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal (JCF):

- You receive a tax receipt for the full market value of the investment.
- The accrued capital gain is not subject to tax.
- The entire value supports the causes you care about.

In other words, more of what you have built can directly benefit the causes most important to you.

This approach allows individuals and families to combine philanthropy with thoughtful financial planning.

A Simple Illustration

Imagine that several years ago you bought stocks that grew significantly in value.

If you sell the stocks and then donate the proceeds, part of the gain will be taxable. That is simply how the tax system works.

But if you donate the stocks, its full value can go toward supporting the causes you care about.

In practical terms, that can mean:

- More resources for a school you value
- More support for a social service organization
- Greater stability for a community institution

Your generosity goes further and your impact is amplified.

For Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders

Our community includes many entrepreneurs and business leaders who have built and created lasting value.

For them, philanthropy can also be integrated at the corporate level.

In certain situations, donating appreciated securities through a corporation can create additional efficiencies. For example, the non-taxable portion of the capital gain (in this case, 100%) may be added to the company's capital dividend account, potentially allowing tax-free dividends to be paid to shareholders.

While the mechanisms may seem complex, the results can be highly efficient. Business owners interested in this approach should discuss these opportunities with their professional advisors.

The JCF: Supporting and Structuring Philanthropy

The Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal provides expertise and guidance to help donors give thoughtfully and effectively. Today, more than **3,000 philanthropists** place their trust in us, including families, entrepreneurs, and multiple generations committed to meaningful giving.

Our role is to listen, understand your values, and help you explore the options that best reflect **your goals**, including:

- Family philanthropic funds
- Long-term giving strategies
- Intergenerational engagement
- Structured philanthropic planning

Through various philanthropic options, it is possible to:

- Maximize the impact of your donation
- Ensure support continues over time
- Involve your children and grandchildren in philanthropy
- Build a legacy that reflects your values

We help simplify what may seem complex and turn a philanthropic intention into lasting commitment.

Passover: A Moment to Reflect on Our Legacy

The story of Exodus reminds us that freedom carries responsibility.

We have the freedom to succeed, to invest, and to give. The question is: **what will we choose to pass on?**

Creating your own philanthropic fund, structuring your giving, or supporting community institutions in a sustainable way are meaningful ways to transform success into continuity.

Giving Today, Building Tomorrow

In an uncertain world, strong community institutions matter more than ever.

At Passover, we symbolically open the door to welcome hope. Perhaps this is also a moment to open a new chapter of thoughtful, structured, and lasting generosity.

If you would like to explore how to organize your giving or maximize the impact of your philanthropy, our Philanthropic Advisors would be pleased to speak with you in confidence.

Chag Pesach Sameach.

May this holiday bring freedom, light and peace.



Lindsay Lubov, CPA, MFA-P
Philanthropic Advisor

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Following the deadly attack at Bondi Beach in Australia, CyberWell, a non-profit Trusted Partner of Meta (Facebook, Instagram and Threads), TikTok and YouTube to address online antisemitism, said online reactions to the attack followed a familiar global pattern. These included the glorification of violence, calls for further attacks against Jews, victim-blaming claims that Jews orchestrated the incident and conspiracy theories portraying it as a Jewish or Israeli “false flag” operation.

As part of its initial review, CyberWell analyzed a sample of 164 pieces of content, which together generated more than 8.1 million views and over 255,000 interactions, including likes, shares and comments. The organization said the sample represents only a partial snapshot of the broader online conversation but mirrors patterns it had docu-

CYBERWELL: ONLINE REACTION TO BONDI BEACH ATTACK GLORIFIED TERRORISTS, SPREAD “FALSE FLAG” CLAIMS & CALLED FOR FURTHER VIOLENCE AGAINST JEWS

mented and previously flagged to platforms, following other antisemitic attacks since Oct. 7, including synagogue arsons in Australia, organized violence in Europe and terrorist attacks and physical assaults in the United States,

CyberWell said that in those cases, online spaces often became arenas where violence was justified, normalized, or redirected toward victims through conspiracy narratives, including claims that Jews orchestrated attacks against themselves.

“We are deeply concerned by the nature and volume of this content. This discourse attempts to quickly erase any acknowledgment of Jews as victims of violence. This type of online antisemitism in the

wake of the horrific Bondi Beach terror attack, like other targeted attacks, has one dehumanizing message: that Jews are not worthy of empathy, protection, or sympathy. This purposeful dehumanization and open calls to additional violence we observed in our analysis, lays the groundwork for the next attack,” said CyberWell Founder & CEO Tal-Or Cohen Montemayor.

Many posts, the organization said, celebrated the deaths of Jewish victims, praised the attacker, and framed the violence as justified because of the victims’ Jewish identity.

In one example, a post written in Arabic compared the Bondi Beach attack to the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, in which intelligence involvement, assertions of Israeli “fore-

knowledge” based on misleading or fabricated Google Trends screenshots and posts claiming that victims’ injuries were staged or exaggerated. CyberWell also found a screenshot of a fake Facebook account under the name ‘David Cohen’ circulating across all major platforms with the image of one of terrorists on it. This was used to support the wild conspiracy claiming that the terrorist was a former IDF soldier.

“When violence against Jews is justified or re-framed through conspiracy narratives meant to shift the blame from perpetrators to victims, the harm does not end with the physical attack,” said Cohen Montemayor. “This discourse strips victims of empathy and accountability and helps normalize further violence against a minority group that is viciously under attack.”

CyberWell is an in-
(Please turn to page 30)



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LATEST BOOK RELEASE - NOTABLE CANADIAN JEWISH ROCK MUSICIANS

Rock Musicians Under The Radar - 18 Notable Canadian Jewish Performers, released in February, is the 5th volume in a series of music history books by David Eisenstadt.

Written from "an historic not music critique perspective," he said, "I continue to document their career lives that evokes 'I didn't know that' reactions to myriad interesting facts. The fuel that keeps me researching, interviewing, and writing is the frequent and encouraging responses from readers and many musicians too. Most gratifying are the messages from family members of the various musicians chaptered who have taken the time to let me know their appreciation," Eisenstadt added.

"There's a never-ending list of talented performers who have and still have had successful careers. But for various reasons many have been forgotten, or their lives and achievements have been buried in short encyclopedic paragraphs. Not a week goes by that I don't receive musician nominations to be considered. That outreach is of great help - and often a starting point to begin my research and confirm who in my mind's eye I choose

to profile. The most frequent reader reactions - 'I didn't know that' or 'You mean that musician is Canadian and Jewish?'"

The 18 Rock artists featured are: Josh Engel, *(Please turn to following page)*

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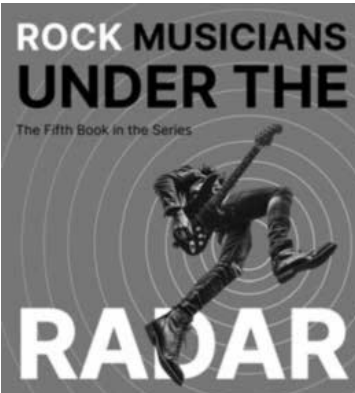
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NOTABLE JEWISH ROCK MUSICIANS

(Continued from preceding page)

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(The Lovin' Spoonful).

The 5 Musicians Under The Radar books are available in print and E-book formats from Amazon.ca and Amazon.com and select bookstores in the Greater Toronto Area. Print copies are \$20. each plus shipping/handling by contacting the author.

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FROM AUSCHWITZ TO BONDI TO CANADA

(Continued from page 3)

fidence. Yet too often, political responses feel cautious and procedural — statements carefully worded, incidents compartmentalized, responsibility diffused. Many Jewish Canadians feel something heavier: the absence of leadership we expected. The sense that safety is being managed rather than defended.

A pluralistic democracy does not maintain itself by instinct. It depends on leaders willing to speak plainly, act decisively, and understand that silence is never neutral. Hatred tolerated against one group signals that protections for all are conditional. Auschwitz stands not only as a record of what happened to Jews, but as a warning of how far a society can drift.

The danger is not only in words, but in the actions that follow— in neighbours who look away, schools that discriminate, businesses that decide who to serve, rallies that celebrate exclusion.

We cannot wait for tragedy to happen and then react. I know the stakes personally: first my father's family at Auschwitz, and now my second cousin, Edith, murdered at Bondi Beach.

Auschwitz, October

7th, Bondi Beach, the rising attacks in our cities — we react to these atrocities rather than responding to the warnings.

Hatred tolerated against one group soon becomes a threat to all. Canadians — politicians, communities, institutions, and citizens alike — must act now, loudly and decisively, making it impossible for hatred to hide behind silence. History has spoken. We are sounding the alarm. We cannot say we weren't warned. The choice is ours — we must act now or be complicit in silence.

AND ONE MORE OBSERVATION:

At one of the most-watched events in the world, Javier Bardem takes the stage and shouts "Free Palestine"—we know his position on Israel and his repeated accusations of genocide—and this happens just feet away from Steven Spielberg.

Spielberg, whose life's work has been devoted to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and combating antisemitism, remained silent—or at least, if he did respond, it was not heard beyond a limited audience and certainly not broadcast to the world in the way Bardem's

message was.

I would have hoped he would have said something afterward, even a few words to provide balance.

While Spielberg's support for his people, is well known, moments like this show how someone with his influence could help counter false narratives.

It's similar to when outlets like BBC or CBC air interviews framing Gaza as a "genocide" without offering a counterpoint.

This highlights how, even in moments where moral authority could be asserted, silence is complicity in the narratives we are fighting against.

PASSOVER IN A DP CAMP

(Continued from page 6)

smote the Egyptians was the same God who brought the Third Reich low."

As he strolled around the camp the next day, Stone was impressed by the vibrant life he encountered among the Cyprus exiles. "Life flows on strong, and vigorous babies are being born at the rate of 30 to 40 monthly," he reported. "There have been almost 600 weddings since the camps were established last August, and there were 135 nuptials during the two weeks before Passover."

"There are schools and synagogues, camp newspapers, an art exhibition, and workshops," not to mention "several soccer teams which often play the British guards and boast they have never been beaten".

What did the future hold? The seder with the Efratis offered a clue. "Were (the displaced persons in Cyprus) not like the Jews under Moses?" Stone asked. Moses went through one

kind of wilderness or another to the promised land. And as Efrati explained in his own running commentary to the service comfortingly, 'We had to go down into Egypt for 400 years, but we need only be six months or so in Cyprus.'

That autumn, in the face of the Jewish underground's military assaults and sharply escalating international pressure the British surrendered. Seven months after Stone's Passover with the Efratis, London accepted the United Nations vote on partitioning Palestine and announced it would withdraw. Four months later, the first British troops began leaving, and two months after that, on May 15, 1948, the British withdrawal was completed. For the Efratis and the thousands of other DPs whose plight I.F. Stone helped publicize with his impassioned prose, the exodus was over and homecoming was finally at hand.

RETRIEVING THE REMAINS OF ELI COHEN

(Continued from page 12)

to life in Israel and his service in the Israel Defense Forces, Cohen was approached to become an information analyst for the Mossad.

The Mossad eventually accepted Cohen's request for field duty.

Cohen adopted the persona of a rich Arab mer-

chant who had emigrated to Argentina and then returned to his Syrian homeland, calling himself Kamal Amin Taabes. Under this cover, Cohen gained access to the most influential sectors of Damascus society, and joined the revolutionary Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party.

(Please turn to following page)

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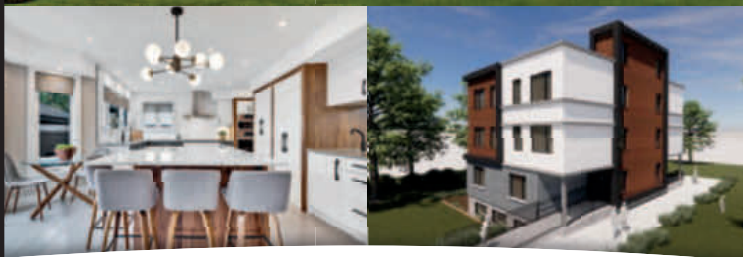
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RETRIEVING REMAINS OF ELI COHEN

(Continued from preceding page)

Cohen became very active in the party, and friendly with its leaders. After a coup d'etat, the Ba'ath Party came to power -- and remained in power until December 2024 when Bashar al-Assad fled Damascus. Among the men Cohen had befriended, many became officials in the new government and were high-ranking military officers -- including the head of intelligence, Colonel Ahmad Suweidani, and Syrian President Amin al-Hafiz.

Cohen was among the only civilians to ever inspect Syrian installations on the Golan Heights. He was able to send photographs and sketches of the entire Syrian front-lines back to the Mossad. In one case, he was able to warn Israel of an impending attempt by Syrian commandos

to cross the border.

In addition to his espionage work, Cohen was assigned to assassinate escaped Nazi war criminal Franz Rademacher, who was living in a Syrian colony of ex-Nazis. The 1962 attempt on Rademacher failed. Alois Brunner, Adolf Eichmann's right-hand man, was another Nazi who was offered refuge by Syria. Cohen participated in an attempt to target Brunner as well. This part of Syrian history is well worth reflecting on today: even before Assad came to power the Syrian government hated Jews so-much that it offered a haven to Nazi war criminals. Famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal labeled Brunner as "doubtless the worst...living criminal of the Third Reich" in 1988.

When Cohen was fi-

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nally discovered, quite by accident when his radio equipment was detected by KGB agents, he was being seriously considered to become either Syria's Minister of Defense or Assistant Foreign Minister.

After two lengthy trials, Eli Cohen was finally sentenced to death by hanging. Cohen was 40 years old, and left a widow, three daughters, and a son. In his final letter to his wife, he wrote "I beg of you not to waste time crying for me. Always think of the future."

Cohen left advice for future leaders of Israel. He once said, "Against the Arab you mustn't defend yourself. You must attack..."

Eli Cohen's advice was adhered to by the late Menachem Begin in 1981, when he was prime minister

and ordered the Israeli Air Force to destroy the Iraqi nuclear plant at Osirak. The strike on Osirak established the Begin Doctrine, which unconditionally declared that the surprise raid was not a one-time thing, but as Begin himself explained in a June 15 interview on CBS's Face the Nation "This attack will be a precedent for every future government in Israel. ... Every future Israeli prime minister will act, in similar circumstances, in the same way."

The doctrine could have just as easily been called the Eli Cohen Doctrine.

Let us hope that the doctrine is not ever forgotten. One way to make sure of that is for a sustained campaign to demand that Eli Cohen's remains be returned.

TURNING POINT FOR THE WORLD

(Continued from page 7)

merely regional stability. Israel functions as the forward shield, but the consequences reach Europe, the Gulf and beyond.

The reaction across the Middle East already reflects this. States long threatened by Tehran quietly align. A broader ar-

chitecture emerges—from the Gulf to India and the Eastern Mediterranean—built on shared interests rather than shared fear. Even global rivalries, including Russia's reliance on Iranian weapons, feel the tremor.

(Please turn to following page)



WHILE ISRAEL MAY HAVE INFLICTED ENORMOUS DAMAGE on Iran the country and its citizens have not been spared the ravages of war. Above, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visits So-Medical Center in Beersheba following an Iranian missile strike that directly hit the hospital and injured dozens. Photo IGPS

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TURNING POINT FOR THE WORLD

(Continued from preceding page)

Europe hesitates, speaking the language of concern rather than judgment. Yet history rarely offers moral symmetry.

The Iranian people themselves show the clearest understanding, risking their lives to celebrate blows against their oppressors. Their courage exposes the true dividing line.

They too applaud the Israeli strike at the start of the war that killed Iranian Supreme Leader Aya-

tollah Ali Khamenei, 86, the cruel leader of the fanatical Islamic Republic of Iran since 1989.

This moment is therefore exceptional: nations acting not merely for advantage but to dismantle a system of intimidation and fear. Recognition may come slowly. But the possibility of a freer Middle East and a new world has already appeared. Once visible, it cannot easily disappear.

CYBERWELL: COMBATting HATE

(continued from page 24)

dependent, tech-rooted nonprofit whose goal is combating the spiralling growth of anti-semitism on-line, operating globally. Its AI-technologies monitor social media in English and Arabic for posts that promulgate blatant antisemitism, Holocaust denial, and promote violence against Jews and their allies based on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. Its analyses reviews and re-

ports this content to platform moderators while indexing all verified posts in the first-ever open database of anti-semitic social media posts, democratically cataloging it for transparency at app.cyberwell.org

Through partnerships, education and real-time alerts, CyberWell partners with social media platforms and their moderators to help them enforce their policies more effectively, promoting proactive steps against online hatred of Jews.

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