



**JT**  
NEWS

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# JEWISH

WASHINGTON

## ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE

How Life is Growing More Difficult  
for Europe's Jews  
Begins on page 5

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS AND SHUTTERSTOCK  
GRAPHIC DESIGN: ANDREA ROULEAU

**DECRYING ANTI-SEMITIC SLOGANS PAGE 7**

**LOCAL TEENS WHO JOINED THE IDF PAGE 11**

**IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS PAGE 16**



## Unusual careers

DIANA BREMENT JTNews Columnist

**1** What's a nice Jewish girl doing in a place like Pakistan?

If you're Edmonds native **Margaret O'Connor**, you are working with the Fulbright program as an "academic exchange specialist in the South and Central Asia branch for the office of academic exchanges in the bureau of education and cultural affairs at the U.S. Department of State." (There goes my word count.)

Interested in international relations and foreign policy, Margaret majored in poli-sci and Jewish studies at Indiana University. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict was at the root of her interest. She was "really intrigued by how those negotiations happen and how policy decisions are made," she says. (We had our interview very early in the current conflict.) She was also inspired by her mother's family, refugees from Nazi Germany.

After college, Margaret volunteered with Avodah, a service corps based in Washington, D.C., where she now lives. She also returned to Israel to study at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, where Israelis and Palestinians work side by side.

"I find grassroots peace very impor-



**M.O.T.**  
Member of  
the Tribe

tant," she says, and wanted to link that to her interest in policy.

She went to Johns Hopkins for a master's in conflict management and international economics, focusing on "what brings people to the table instead of fighting." The Fulbright program "really aligned with my values [and] provides tangible benefits for people," she says.

The program arranges international student and teacher exchanges with U.S. citizens, and brings overseas students to study in the U.S., particularly in graduate schools.

Margaret first worked in Afghanistan and says "there's a real need to provide quality education" for the people of both countries. Currently, the U.S. sends very few students to Pakistan because of safety concerns, but Pakistanis make up the organization's largest group of students coming here. Recruiting women is an important part of her job, which comes with its own set of challenges, she says.

Traveling to Pakistan about once a year, she works closely with local partners to recruit participants and run pre-departure orientations to prepare them for travel and "what culture shock really means."

Margaret calls the Fulbright program "a really important way for the U.S. government to engage," a "big part of public diplomacy" that builds good will and mutual understanding.

Security is always an issue in Pakistan. "There are a lot of places that, as a foreigner, I can't go," she says. She does not wear a headscarf, although she brings one with her, and doesn't discuss her religion.

Margaret grew up at Seattle's Temple Beth Am and graduated from Edmonds-Woodway High School. She is a triathlete and met her husband, **Christian Richards**, at a running store in D.C.

"He asked me to go on a bike ride and then insisted we get bagels," she says.

**2** **Mary Lynne and Marvin Reiner** were at a family camp at Seabeck when I called. It was just after dinner and they were nice enough to take time to talk to me. They've been attending this camp with their four children, 14 grandchildren and now one great-grandchild, for many years.

Marv grew up in Aberdeen, where his mother and father, a watchmaker, had moved during the 1920s. With the Depression, he opened a general store which Marv turned into a sporting goods business. (He had a Honda motorcycle dealership, too.)

In the 1970s the couple bought some



COURTESY MARGARET O'CONNOR

**Margaret O'Connor with her husband Christian Richards.**

land near Olympia for reforestation. From the act of planting trees came the idea of a Christmas tree farm, and Marv launched another business, one that is still going strong as he moves into his ninth decade.

"It's been good exercise for me...I enjoy getting out," he says. He also enjoys the quiet. "The trees don't talk back."

It takes seven to 10 years for a tree to mature, so the business didn't start overnight. Once they began selling, they "found they had a commercially viable corner for you-cut trees."

Marv retired from the Aberdeen store in the '90s, turning it over to his son. The couple had moved to Olympia around the time they opened the farm, becoming active at Temple Beth Hatfiloh. Before moving, they were also active at Temple Beth Israel in Aberdeen, where Marvin served as president for 10 years.

At Black Lake Trees, "you cut or we assist," says Marvin, who enjoys interacting with customers. Folks are "happy when they're out buying trees," he says. "They smile, they bring the kids."

Even without a gift shop or horse rides, they continue to be popular.

"We're down to third-generation customers," Marvin says, calling it "a labor of love" and "not a way to get rich."

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ALL IN A WEEK'S NEWS

■ **Make Yom Kippur a U.N. holiday**

In May, Israel launched a campaign to make Yom Kippur a U.N. holiday by 2015, and it just might get its wish. Thirty-two countries recently wrote to a United Nations General Assembly committee asking the U.N. to recognize Judaism's holiest day. The letter notes that the U.N. "recognizes the major festivals of many of the world's main religions, yet Judaism is not represented." The petition now rests with the General Assembly's 193 member states, which will make a final decision by October.

Source: ABC News

■ **What about the animals?**

During the Israel-Hamas conflict, five dogs from the IDF's "Oketz" canine unit were killed, and many dogs are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Hundreds of animals in Gaza have run away or died, not to mention a donkey that Hamas militants strapped with explosives. However, a long-eared owl injured by mortar shrapnel in Gaza was rescued by a veterinary student at a kibbutz near the Gaza border.

Sources: Haaretz, Times of Israel

■ **Indiegogo and the Temple Institute**

The Jerusalem-based Temple Institute launched an Indiegogo campaign on July 27 to build the third Temple by crowdfunding \$100,000 by Rosh Hashanah.

The temple would stand in the present location of the Dome of the Rock, a Muslim shrine. This will be done with "the acquiescence of the Moslem world," and Muslim structures will be disassembled and reassembled elsewhere.

The campaign has raised more than \$15,000.

Source: Israel National News

■ **Europe vs. America**

From Antwerp to London to Berlin, the majority of Europeans view Israel as the aggressor in the Gaza conflict while Americans overwhelmingly empathize with Israelis more than with Palestinians. The New York Times' Roger Cohen notes that Americans — war-weary themselves — by and large continue to support Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas; however, younger Americans are becoming less supportive of Israel's actions.

Source: The New York Times

— Boris Kurbanov

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editor's Note: In the shadow of the now-ended war in Gaza, we have created two special sections: One that focuses on solidarity with Israel, and another that centers upon the growing problem of anti-Semitism in Europe. We hope the multiple articles on both subjects give you insight into what's happening overseas.

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Rabbi Berele Paltiel of Chabad of Snohomish County writes about how as the nights begin to grow longer, so should our engagement in Torah study.

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Rivy Poupko Kletenik, our columnist and Seattle Hebrew Academy's head of school, went with her daughter to Russia and Belarus to trace her family's history. What they found both saddened and heartened them.

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JTNews is the Voice of Jewish Washington. Our mission is to meet the interests of our Jewish community through fair and accurate coverage of local, national and international news, opinion and information. We seek to expose our readers to diverse viewpoints and vibrant debate on many fronts, including the news and events in Israel. We strive to contribute to the continued growth of our local Jewish community as we carry out our mission.

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# THE CALENDAR to Jewish Washington



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For a complete listing of events, or to add your event to the JTNews calendar, visit [jewishsound.com/calendar](http://jewishsound.com/calendar). Calendar events must be submitted no later than 10 days before publication.

### Candlelighting times

August 8.....8:13 p.m.

August 15.....8:02 p.m.

August 22.....7:49 p.m.

August 29.....7:36 p.m.

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## FRIDAY 8 AUGUST

11:15 a.m.–12 p.m. — *Tots Welcoming Shabbat*

☎ Irit Eliav Levin at 425-603-9677, ext. 209 or [ILEVIN@templebnaitorah.org](mailto:ILEVIN@templebnaitorah.org) or [www.templebnaitorah.org/SECC](http://www.templebnaitorah.org/SECC)

Singing, prayer, challah and grape juice for children 5 and under, led by Cantor David Serkin-Poole and Chava Mirel. Every Friday. Free. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

## SATURDAY 9 AUGUST

4–8 p.m. — *Havdallah BBQ*

☎ Congregation Kol Ami at 425-844-1604 or [admin@kolaminw.org](mailto:admin@kolaminw.org) or [www.kolaminw.org](http://www.kolaminw.org)  
Meet new rabbi Yohanna Kinberg and members of the friendly community. Contact the temple for more information and address. Free. At a member's home, Woodinville.

## SUNDAY 10 AUGUST

8–10:30 p.m. — *Outdoor Movie: "Frozen"*

☎ Stroum Jewish Community Center at 206-232-7115 or [saraht@sjcc.org](mailto:saraht@sjcc.org) or [www.sjcc.org](http://www.sjcc.org)  
Movie night in the Keshet Community Garden. S'mores at 8 p.m., movie starts approximately at 8:30 p.m. Free. At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

## TUESDAY 12 AUGUST

7:15–9 p.m. — *Religious School Curriculum Night at Congregation Kol Ami*

☎ Congregation Kol Ami at 425-844-1604 or [admin@kolaminw.org](mailto:admin@kolaminw.org) or [www.kolaminw.org](http://www.kolaminw.org)  
Rita Izhaky, religious school director, and Rabbi Yohanna Kinberg will answer all of your questions. Free. At Congregation Kol Ami, 16530 Avondale Rd. NE, Woodinville.

## THURSDAY 14 AUGUST

10–11 a.m. — *PJ Library Neighborhood Song and Story Time at Temple Beth Am*

☎ Alexis Kort at 206-525-0915 or [alexis@templebetham.org](mailto:alexis@templebetham.org) or [www.templebetham.org/community/families](http://www.templebetham.org/community/families)

Jewish songs and stories with Betsy Dischel from PJ Library for toddlers and preschoolers and their favorite grown-ups. With snacks and an art project. Free. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

## SATURDAY 16 AUGUST

10–11:30 a.m. — *Family Shabbat Morning*

☎ Kate Speizer at 206-384-6020 or [kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org) or [www.tdhs-nw.org/index.php/learning/early-childhood-education/kiddish-club](http://www.tdhs-nw.org/index.php/learning/early-childhood-education/kiddish-club)

Short and interactive Shabbat morning service with Kiddush, challah, snacks, play and crafts led by Rabbi Kate Speizer for children 5 and under. Every third Saturday of the month and always free. No membership or experience required. At Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1441 16th Ave., Seattle.

## SUNDAY 17 AUGUST

1–3 p.m. — *BCMh Camps End of Summer Bash*

☎ Julie Greene, BCMh Program Director at 206-721-0970 or [juliebcmhseattle@gmail.com](mailto:juliebcmhseattle@gmail.com)  
BCMh youth programs and camps Yavneh Kitan, Yavneh and Gan Shalom host a Kid Fun Fest to celebrate the end of summer. Moon bounce, gaming truck, an activity with Cub Scouts Troop 613, and BBQ. Open to all kids in the Seattle Jewish Community. \$10. At Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath, 5145 S Morgan Street.

3–5 p.m. — *Film and Panel: "A Place At The Table"*

☎ Stroum Jewish Community Center at 206-232-7115 or [saraht@sjcc.org](mailto:saraht@sjcc.org) or [www.sjcc.org](http://www.sjcc.org)  
Documentary film "A Place at the Table" shows how the issue of hunger could be solved forever, once the American public decides that ending hunger is in its best interest. Panel discussion to follow. Doors open at 2:30. Suggested donation \$5; reserve free tickets online. At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

## TUESDAY 19 AUGUST

9 a.m.–3 p.m. — *Hebrew Hoops Basketball Camp*

☎ Samuel Fein at 206-856-2528 or [Sam.Fein@HebrewHoops.org](mailto:Sam.Fein@HebrewHoops.org) or [www.HebrewHoops.org](http://www.HebrewHoops.org)

Hebrew Hoops combines high level basketball skill instruction with a Jewish curriculum that steers Jewish youth toward a lifelong connection to the Jewish community. Grades 4-9. \$200. At the Jewish Day School of Metropolitan Seattle, 15749 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

## THURSDAY 21 AUGUST

*Sage-ing International Conference*

☎ Carol Scott-Kassner at [carolkassner@comcast.net](mailto:carolkassner@comcast.net)

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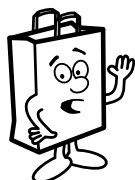
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## THE RABBI'S TURN

## As night falls, Torah illuminates us

RABBI BERELE PALTIEL Chabad of Snohomish County

Just over two years ago, my wife Goldie and I with our two little girls moved from New York City to Edmonds, Wash. to run the Chabad of Snohomish County. It has been an exciting two years, meeting many wonderful people while learning to adjust to the Pacific Northwest. One lesson we learned early on was that outside the city that never sleeps, most people have a bedtime.

And they should. Sleep is crucial to our health and well-being, which as Maimonides famously writes, is “integral to Divine service.”

That being said, there is an interesting Talmud regarding nighttime and the current month of Av. The Talmud in tractate Taanis (31a) teaches that beginning on the 15th of Av, one should increase in the study of Torah, since at this time of the year the nights begin to grow longer and “the night was created for study.” Maimonides (Talmud Torah) explains that although the mitzvah is to learn Torah both day and night, the bulk of one’s wisdom is acquired at night.

Perhaps the most radical reference in this regard is the Talmud in tractate Eruvin (65b) where the Talmud proclaims that night was “created solely for Torah study.”

What is clear is that night has a unique relationship with Torah study. So much so, that according to the Talmud in Eruvin, if not for Torah, there would be no need for night! With the autumn on the horizon, the rabbis saw the added hours of darkness as an opportunity for additional Torah study.

The question that begs to be asked, then, is what is the unique characteristic of night that makes it the ideal time for Torah? Wouldn’t morning, with its bright and beautiful sunshine, be a better fit for Torah study? After all, does it not say in Proverbs (6:23) “For the commandment is a candle, and the Torah is light”? The Talmud seems to get excited with a few additional hours of darkness. Is it not easier, perhaps even

more appropriate, to study Torah during the day?

There are many scholarly answers given to the above question. Allow me to share with you a thought that is uniquely relevant today.

What is Torah?

“If someone tells you there is wisdom among other peoples, believe him... If someone tells you there is Torah among other peoples, do not believe him” (Eichah Rabbah 2:13). Torah, it seems, is distinct from what we generally call wisdom. Our sages go so far as to say that Torah precedes all existence (Pesachim 54a), that it contains the blueprint for the cosmos (Jerusalem Talmud, Berachot 9a), and that the very existence of the cosmos is contingent upon Torah.

Torah is not simply a brilliant ancient text. Torah is God’s wisdom and is the bond that unites the created with the Creator. When you study Torah, you rise above, you connect, and you illuminate yourself and the world around you. When you immerse yourself in Torah, your goal is not simply to amass information, but to gain a sense of how the Creator of the universe relates to His creations. Torah lets you tap into God’s “way of thinking” and imbue its message in your life and environment.

This helps us understand what the Talmud means when it says, “I created an evil inclination, and created the Torah as a spice to it” (Kiddushin 30b). We struggle with darkness, internal or external, whether it’s dealing with the yetzer hara — evil inclination — which tries to pull us down and depress us, or a polluted environment of a world seemingly gone mad. For this, the Talmud says, God gave us a unique gift, a piece of divinity, a gift which allows us to connect and put on His glasses, to live within but stay above.

So when the sages of the Talmud saw increased darkness, in times of old and new, when dealing with ancient Rome,

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## THE WHAT-IFS

I find it highly offensive that the Jewish Federation demanded that an NRA lobbyist be fired because he voiced his opinion that Jews should be against restrictive gun laws (“On anniversary of shooting, Jewish Federation tells NRA spokesman to step down,” page 18).

The idea that the Holocaust could not have been prevented if Jews had guns is mere conjecture. However, it was not just gun laws in Germany that mattered, but those in Poland, Hungary, Romania, and the other European countries in which Jews were rounded up and slaughtered like animals without resistance (since without weapons, any such resistance would have been futile).

As a Jew and a Federation member and long-time supporter of the Jewish Federation, I am aghast that you think we own the Holocaust. One of the major reasons we have Holocaust education is to teach Jews and non-Jews the ramifications of this unthinkable event. That people may draw conclusions different from yours is to be expected and even encouraged — it is certainly no reason to demand they be fired!

Of all organizations, I would have thought that the Federation would be more tolerant of the views of others. I am not speaking to the merits of the current initiative, yet I think you would agree that if Israeli Jews did not have guns we would be experiencing another Holocaust right now.

Since Federation is the “umbrella organization” or “big tent” of Jews in the Seattle region, I would greatly appreciate it if you did not speak for me and my fellow Jews on this topic — or any other, in advocating for the suppression of those views that differ from your own individual outlook.

Cliff Godwin, Seattle

## WE MUST STAND TOGETHER

I am writing about my dismay over the fact that recently there were two separate solidarity events for Israel; the first taking place in Pioneer Square and the second at Congregation Beth Shalom. One was co-sponsored by the Orthodox congregations and the other co-sponsored by the Conservative, Reform and other congregations. On its face, the separation by levels of observance implies that the community is divisive.

I understand that there was a mix of timing issues with a bit of politics that resulted in two events instead of one. Without going into the details as to how this came about or placing blame, as a member of our larger Seattle community, I am truly disappointed.

Although I am a member of an Orthodox congregation, I feel that we are all Jews and need to symbolically and literally stand together on such issues. If there is one concern that virtually all of us can and should agree upon, it is the defense of the State of Israel and the safety of its citizens. For reasons that should be apparent, Seattle needs to appear unified about our solidarity with Israel.

I have written this letter in hopes that this letter will stir greater effort to bond our community by having such events sponsored jointly by all of Seattle’s congregations and organizations.

Ralph Maimon, Seattle

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:** We would love to hear from you! You may submit your letters to [editor@jtnews.net](mailto:editor@jtnews.net). Please limit your letters to approximately 350 words. Letters guidelines can be found at [www.jewishsound.org/letters-guidelines](http://www.jewishsound.org/letters-guidelines). The deadline for the next issue is August 12. Future deadlines may be found online. The opinions of our columnists and advertisers do not necessarily reflect the views of JTNews or the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.

modern personal matters, or a terrorist organization that has no moral compass, they understood that in addition to doing everything possible to tackle the threat and issue at hand, the circumstance calls for

increased Torah study. For night was “created solely for Torah study” — night’s mission is to challenge us to illuminate the darkness.

## Erdogan’s ‘reassuring’ words to Turkey’s Jews are anything but

ABRAHAM FOXMAN Special to JTNews

When it comes to the safety of the Jewish community in Turkey, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan seems to think he can have it both ways.

On one hand, he makes clear that the Jewish community should feel safe in their own country as passions have erupted into street demonstrations and violence over the Gaza conflict.

“Jews in Turkey are our citizens,” he

told the Turkish daily newspaper Sabah recently. “We are responsible for their security of life and property.”

On the other hand, Erdogan believes the Turkish Jewish community has an obligation to toe the government’s hostile line toward Israel, and has urged them to issue a statement condemning the Jewish state’s military action in Gaza.

“I talked to our Jewish citizens’ leaders

on Thursday, and I stated that they should adopt a firm stance and release a statement against the Israeli government. I will contact them again, but whether or not they release a statement, we will never let Jewish people in Turkey get hurt,” he said.

Implied in his words, and those of other government leaders, is that the Jewish community would be better off — and safer in their own country — if they

condemned Israel’s actions outright.

This is where things get dicey. Asking the Jewish community to speak up about Israel reeks of anti-Semitism.

Erdogan’s recent comments about the Jewish community of Turkey conveyed a dangerous double message. First he reiterated the historical stance of Turkey’s

► PAGE 8

“Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all bias-motivated speech have no place in our political discourse.”

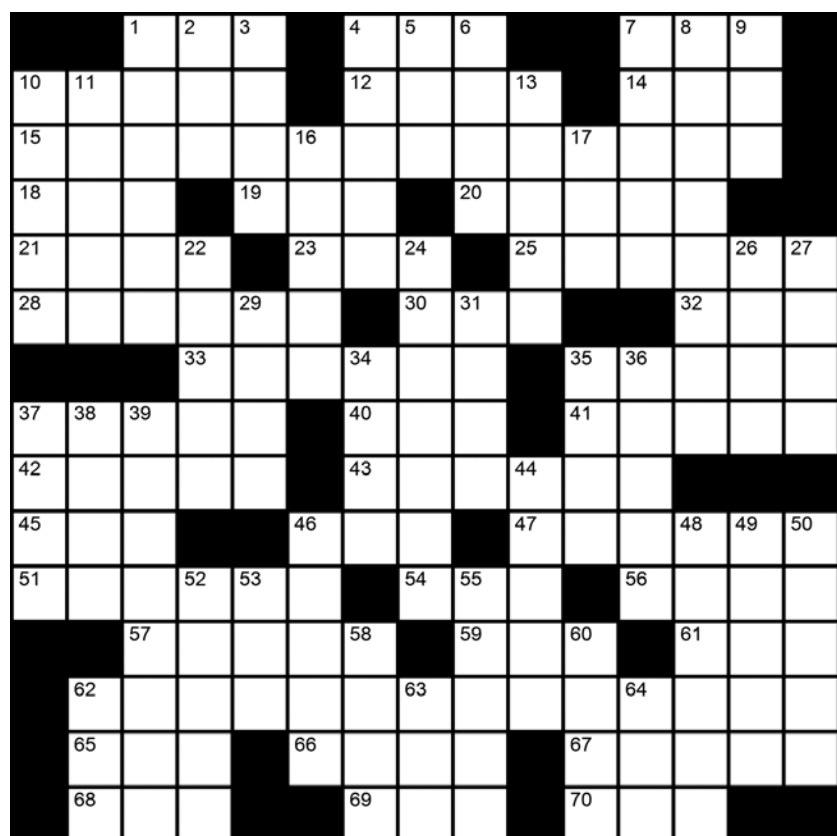
— Keith Dvorchik, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, on anti-Semitic speech that has been seeping into signs protesting the recent war in Gaza.





## Breathe

by Mike Selinker



*The Jerusalem Talmud notes, "As long as a man breathes he should not lose hope." We get enmeshed in our daily hustle and bustle, but rarely take time to just breathe in and appreciate the wonder of things. In this puzzle, you'll take ten short breaths. When you're done, you can finally exhale.*

### ACROSS

- 1 Its motto: "Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity"
- 4 Buenos \_\_\_\_
- 7 One who's busy on Apr. 15
- 10 "A Mighty Fortress \_\_\_\_ God"
- 12 Vault
- 14 Thug employed by Saruman
- 15 Lottery winner, perhaps
- 18 Greek letters
- 19 Bear, to Kate Winslet
- 20 Oldest of its island chain
- 21 Like some plane-launched missiles
- 23 Poetic contraction
- 25 Hawks' division rival
- 28 "\_\_\_\_ Fi"
- 30 Self-image
- 32 National stock average, for short
- 33 Take too far
- 35 Kenyan metropolis
- 37 "\_\_\_\_ bleu!"
- 40 "Well now!"
- 41 Precious brick
- 42 Track races
- 43 Ford model that gave its name to an Andrew Dice Clay "comedy"
- 45 Bobby of hockey
- 46 Consumed
- 47 They may itch
- 51 Market values
- 54 Way to catch a program later
- 56 Religious group
- 57 Online announcement site
- 59 Debtor letters
- 61 In the manner of
- 62 1970s BBC series revived in 2010
- 65 African nation from 1971 to 1997
- 66 British rank
- 67 Newcomer to college, familiarly
- 68 Ending for harp or humor
- 69 \_\_\_\_ .gov
- 70 Have as a broadcast site

### DOWN

- 1 Prison in a Johnny Cash song
- 2 Nonetheless
- 3 Part of the eye
- 4 Virgin, e.g.
- 5 Wiggly sort
- 6 Virologist Jonas
- 7 Robert E. Howard's barbarian
- 8 What explorer Meriwether Lewis called a "barking squirrel"
- 9 Part of a royal flush
- 10 Affects negatively
- 11 Ramada offering
- 13 Instrument for 16-Down
- 16 Actor/musician Dudley
- 17 European word of approval
- 22 Base station for Apple computers
- 24 Like the object of Charlie Brown's affection
- 26 Prefix denoting mechanical construction
- 27 *M\*A\*S\*H* star Loretta
- 29 Christmas and New Year's, e.g.
- 31 What a netminder does not want to give up
- 34 Whitewater need
- 35 Transport of 1492
- 36 His \_\_\_\_ (Michael Jordan)
- 37 Display
- 38 Dynamic opening?
- 39 Garage's works
- 44 Series based on a DC Comics archer
- 46 Dancing legend
- 48 *The Middle* star Patricia
- 49 Parisian baked goods
- 50 Store in a secret location
- 52 Best Buy purchase
- 53 What a pitcher does not want to give up
- 55 Jimi Hendrix's first instrument
- 58 Jacob's brother
- 60 Discriminatory
- 62 Israeli gun
- 63 AMA members
- 64 Broadway acronym

Answers on page 16

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Edited by Mike Selinker and Gaby Weidling. Crosswords of Wisdom, 1538 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

# Au revoir, France: French anti-Semitism is fueling unprecedented emigration

DAVID CHIVO Special to JTNews



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Worshippers at the Don Isaac Abravanel synagogue in Paris were trapped inside as anti-Jewish rioters attacked the building with chairs and bats on July 13.

What if every family attending Bellevue's Jewish Day School hastily packed up and left Seattle by year's end? Would our community take notice?

What if campers attending the Stroum Jewish Community Center's summer programs begged their parents to stay home, fearing verbal and physical attacks during the morning commute? Would our community be worried?

What if members of our synagogues and patrons of Island Crust Café risked being severely beaten by gangs as they visited these facilities? Would our community be concerned?

These scenarios are not unthinkable situations: They are being lived out by France's Jewish community right now. In 2014, over 5,000 French Jews will be making aliyah, representing over 1 percent of France's Jewish population (not counting thousands more leaving for other destinations) to escape the deteriorating conditions facing the French Jewish community. In Seattle terms, those making aliyah is roughly proportional to all of those JDS families leaving our community.

The flight of French Jews comes against the backdrop of a recent ADL study about global anti-Semitism in which France ranked highest among western European countries (37 percent harbor anti-Semitic attitudes), greater than in developing countries such as Nigeria (16 percent) and Kenya (35 percent) and nearly double that of Asia — less the Middle East — where the mean is 22 percent. Yet, other statistics about France make the surge in anti-Semitism even more puzzling: It is home to the world's fifth largest economy and is the wealthiest nation in Europe.

The component ingredients fueling 21st-century French anti-Semitism consist of a particularly noxious, yet contradictory mix. Ultra-right parties such as France's National Front (which recently finished first in the 2014 EU elections) continually stoke anti-Jewish sentiments; unlikely bedfellows are ultra-left wing parties

courting support via the Palestinian cause as well as radical Islam whose adherents have carried out dozens of violent — even fatal — attacks, including the 2012 shooting at a Jewish day school in Toulouse that left a rabbi and three children dead.

Even stranger is the poster-child of French anti-Semitism: The wildly popular Dieudonné, a comedian who initially achieved fame via a duo act with his now-estranged childhood friend, Jewish humorist Elie Semoun. Along with his anti-Semitic slurs for which he has been criminally convicted, Dieudonné's infamous interpretation of the Nazi salute, coined the "quenelle," has gone viral throughout France, being gestured by French politicians, media figures, celebrities and athletes.

In contrast, Seattle's Jewish community is fortunate to be situated in one of the most welcoming and tolerant places in the world. True, we must vigilantly deal with boycott and divestment campaigns, but for the most part our institutions and our community at large does not regularly encounter anti-Semitism. That said, our own margins of safety compel us to draw our attention to Jews in danger and to act on their behalf.

As we enjoy the splendor of life in the Pacific Northwest this summer, we should be mindful of a Jewish community not so unlike ours and the tremendous challenges it presently endures.

Through our voices we can make known to the world the schande facing French Jewry in 2014. Through our support, we can ensure that those who migrate to Israel will have what they need to rebuild their lives. And through actions of our hearts, we can ensure that "never again" is not simply a refrain but our promise to take care of our Jewish brothers and sisters, wherever they may be.

David Chivo is the North American director of the Tel Aviv-based Beit Hatfutsot: The Museum of the Jewish People.



## Jewish leaders, Democratic senators meet about European anti-Semitism

**RON KAMPEAS** JTA World News Service

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Talk at the annual meeting between Democratic senators and Jewish groups kept coming back to anti-Semitism in Europe.

The recurring theme, which the 24 senators who attended and the Jewish leaders both raised, was a measure of the anxiety aroused by recent reports of attacks on European Jews, according to participants at the meeting, held on July 23.

“There was almost more energy around anti-Semitism than around Gaza,” said a participant who spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting in the Capitol’s stately Mansfield Room was off the record.

JTA spoke to eight meeting participants from Jewish groups. Some spoke on the record to describe their own statements, which was allowed under the meeting’s rules.

Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the majority leader who convened the meeting, set the tone with his opening remarks, which referred to a return to “old-fashioned anti-Semitism” on the continent. He specifically mentioned anxieties in Hungary.

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) also spoke at length about the topic, with Cardin noting that he had this week convened a hearing on the issue as the chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

Participants said such awareness was important because of the influence that senators have both within the United

States and overseas.

The Orthodox Union delegation attending the meeting with Democratic senators also met that day with GOP lawmakers, including Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), as well as administration officials. In all the meetings, the outbreak of anti-Semitism was a lead issue, said Nathan Diament, the Washington director of the O.U.

“There are things that senators can do to shine a light on how unacceptable it is,” in meetings with constituents, diplomats and when they travel abroad, he said. “We talked about how disturbing it is and how the anti-Semitic feature seems to be getting obscured by virtue of the conflict between Israel and Hamas.”

Leaders from another Orthodox group, Agudath Israel of America, also attended the meeting. Additionally, a delegation of 30 Agudath Israel activists held meetings the same day with lawmakers of both parties.

“There is obviously reason for concern that a vicious storm is brewing for acheinu b’nei Yisroel, one that poses more than just an imminent physical threat — but a threat to the long-term stability of Jewish communities across the globe,” said a statement from the Agudah, using the Hebrew for “our Jewish brethren.”

At the session with the senators, Daniel Mariaschin, the executive vice president of B’nai B’rith International, outlined a litany of recent events including the firebomb-

## Anti-Semitic signs spur reaction by Federation, ADL

**JOEL MAGALNICK** Editor, JTNews

One compared Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler. Another showed what looked like a Jewish person eating a baby. These signs and others being carried at weekly rallies in Seattle’s Westlake Center protesting the now-ended war in Gaza spurred the local chapter of the Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle to release a joint statement decrying the imagery.

“We are deeply troubled by the need to put out a second statement denouncing anti-Semitism here in Washington State. Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all bias-motivated speech have no place in our political discourse,” said Keith Dvorchik,

ing of a synagogue in Sarcelles in France, German and Dutch pro-Palestinian demonstrations where protesters shouted threats against Jews, and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s likening of Israel to the Nazis.

“We asked them to use diplomatic and parliamentary contacts to raise the issue and urge European officials to crack down on anti-Semitic incidents,” he said.

Jewish leaders who had other agenda items departed from prepared remarks to

refer to the phenomenon.

“I raised the issue of anti-Semitism in Europe, as well as religious freedom issues for Christians in the Middle East who have been under attack,” said Rabbi David Saperstein, the director of the Reform movement’s Religious Action Center. “There was a good deal of discussion; a couple of senators came back on that issue who were deeply concerned about the anti-Semitism.”

Such language and imagery “has no place in our public debate,” they added.

president and CEO of the Federation.

refer to the phenomenon.

“There was a good deal of discussion; a couple of senators came back on that issue who were deeply concerned about the anti-Semitism.”

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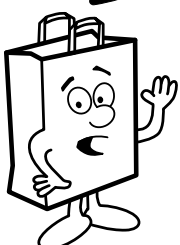


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## In Turkey and North Africa, cause not for alarm, but for 'extreme caution'

EMILY K. ALHADEFF Associate Editor,  
JTNews



EMILY K. ALHADEFF

The news out of Turkey, when it comes to politics and Jewish life, is bleak.

The positive relationship between Turkey and Israel has been deteriorating at least since Turkey began showing support for Hamas during Israel's 2008-09 war in Gaza, and it only worsened after the deadly altercation between the Turkish flotilla *Mavi Marmara* and the Israeli navy in 2010. Turkey's rightward shift and support for the Palestinians has become a cause for concern.

Yet Jewish life there is still vibrant, if only a shadow of its former self. That was the subject of Sam Amiel's July 23 talk, "A Night in Istanbul." Amiel, senior program director for Europe and the North Africa region at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, met with a small group to dis-

cuss the countries he works with, particularly Turkey.

"It's an opportunity to share with them from a personal standpoint and a professional standpoint what is happening in the Jewish world," Amiel told JTNews before the event.

Amiel, a Seattle native whose work with the JDC has taken him around the world, now lives in Israel with his wife and their three kids. During his whirlwind tour, he was able to log just a couple of days with his family here before moving on.

Amiel considers himself a liaison to the Turkish Jewish community, helping them when they need help, usually with technical issues like the merging of two half-empty Jewish nursing homes. The JDC has no office there.

"The Jewish community there is highly self-reliant," he said. "They've lived there for centuries. This isn't the first cycle of tension."

For Amiel, whose mother's side of the family originally hails from Turkey, working with the Turkish community is a closing of the circle.

"I think it's a positive definition of assimilation," Amiel said of Turkish Jews' proud identification with their country. "They have a very rich history; they have a very, very proud history."

Despite the political tensions, the Turkish community is vibrant, Amiel said, with an annual Limmud conference, a new com-

munity center in Istanbul, a strong Jewish day school, and good lay leadership.

"The darker lining around that cloud is that it's in demographic decline," he said.

The aging community of less than 20,000 faces the same threats as every Jewish community, like intermarriage.

"Given that it's a very traditional Sephardic community, it has a little more difficulty coming to terms with those kids of issues," he said.

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responsibility for their safety and security. But in calling on them to publicly stand against Israel at a time when that is Turkey's policy, he conveyed to the people of Turkey that if the Jews in Turkey do not do this, they are not being "good Turks."

The result, ironically, is to signal yet another longstanding anti-Semitic stereotype that "Jews are not loyal" to the countries where they live. And it puts the Jewish community in a terrible position of having to choose between the official hostile anti-Israel posture of their country and their own personal feelings on a difficult situation.

So, we do not believe Prime Minister Erdogan has provided much reassurance to the Turkish Jewish community in these trying times.

His comments suggest, among other things, that the Jewish community is a monolith when it comes to Israel, when in fact there is a diversity of views within the community, including some who do, and some who do not, support the military campaign to root out Hamas rockets and terrorism.

No Jewish community anywhere should be asked to pick sides in this political conflict. Asking them to do so, in an environment where passions are already inflamed over the conflict in Gaza and where street protests have turned violent, with expressions of anti-Semitism and attacks on Israeli embassy and consulate buildings, is enough to suggest to some that the community itself is another potential target. In Turkey, there are historical precedents for such beliefs taking hold among the populace, and they have not ended well.

Making matters worse, Mr. Erdogan's hostile views of Israel and Israelis, and his support for the Hamas terror organization in Gaza, are well known and shocking.

By providing financial and diplomatic support to Hamas, a terror organization committed to the elimination of Israel's existence and whose essential political philosophy actions are deeply anti-Semitic, Erdogan has placed Turkey squarely on the side of terror and violence.

Mr. Erdogan's aid and comfort to Hamas terrorists serves to prolong the hostilities and is counterproductive to the efforts of others seeking to end the current round of fighting.

In recent years expressions of anti-Semitism in Turkey have significantly

And anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment does affect the community, which Amiel notes is not necessarily a cause for alarm, but for "extreme caution." Particularly since the bombing of the Neve Shalom Synagogue in 2003, the community has increased security and kept a lower profile.

"They're very careful in terms of how they react," Amiel said. "But at the same time

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increased. This is particularly troubling and dangerous because we know, based on the results of ADL polling on anti-Semitism in Turkey, that anti-Jewish attitudes and beliefs are, sadly, held by fully 69 percent of the adult Turkish population.

This increase is fueled, in part, by harsh comments about Jews and Israel made by Erdogan, other officials in his government and influential journalists. ADL has publicly criticized those comments and called on the prime minister to refrain from making references invoking anti-Semitic conspiracies and statements, which amount to scapegoating the Jews of Turkey by suggesting they have some responsibility for actions of Israel that Mr. Erdogan opposes.

Such comments legitimize anti-Jewish stereotypes and reinforce prejudiced beliefs about Jews held by so many people in Turkey. This is a truly sad turn of events for a country that has in fact served as a safe haven for Jews fleeing persecution through the centuries, including the Spanish and Portuguese Jews expelled from Spain who were welcomed into the Ottoman Empire in the late 15th century.

In 2005, ADL recognized the efforts of various Turkish diplomats to protect and save the lives of Jews from persecution and death at the hands of the Nazis. The award was presented on behalf of the courageous Turkish diplomats to Prime Minister Erdogan during his visit to New York.

It was their courage, their humanity, their display of the best the Turkish people are capable of doing that we honored. At the time the award was presented, Mr. Erdogan spoke out forcefully against anti-Semitism and clearly stated anti-Semitism had no place in Turkey.

Recently there have been calls by some for us to rescind the honor based on Erdogan's recent positions toward Israel and his Jewish community. But we believe it would be wrong for ADL to withdraw its recognition of those diplomats today because the current leader of Turkey is fanning the flames of anti-Semitism and supporting a terrorist organization whose essential ideology is anti-Semitic and which seeks to eliminate Israel, the national homeland of the Jewish people.

Abraham H. Foxman is the national director of the Anti-Defamation League. This article first appeared on the Huffington Post.

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# European governments must act to stem rising anti-Semitism

**ROBERT SINGER** JTA World News Service

NEW YORK (JTA) — The conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has spilled over into Europe, where in the past several weeks, Jewish communities have witnessed a chilling display of anti-Semitism, the likes of which have not been seen in many years.

European governments need to act decisively to stem this tide of hatred.

No longer content with cloaking hatred of Jews in the garb of anti-Zionism or opposition to Israel, demonstrators have marched through the streets of Berlin, Brussels and other European cities to the cry of “death to the Jews” and “gas the Jews.” In Paris and its suburbs, wild mobs bent on destruction have run amok, attacking synagogues and the Jewish worshippers in them. They’ve burned cars, looted shops, and smashed store windows.

It wasn’t that many years ago when legions of storm troopers paraded through German streets chanting, “Sharpen the long knives on the pavement; let the knives slip into the Jews’ bodies.”

The irony that most of today’s demonstrators are themselves recent migrants to Europe or descendants of newcomers cannot be lost on anyone. Sadly, however, this pathology is not only confined to European Muslims but to a whole host of

rancorous elements in European society.

Of course, there is another side of the coin that is cause for cheer. Remarkably, all 28 foreign ministers of the European Union member states have called for the disarmament of Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza. Moreover, some Arab countries, most notably Egypt, were quietly rooting for Israel on the sidelines in the hope that it would eventually succeed in neutralizing Hamas.

But that still does not diminish the gravity of the terrible scenes being played out across Europe. As much as we can draw attention to this worrisome phenomenon, at the end of the day it is the European governments, along with the people of Europe, that must take a stand. Some of the governments have already begun to do so, but one can only hope that more will follow and act with vigor.

The World Jewish Congress has called on European governments to strengthen police protection of Jewish sites and to ban or disband violent rallies. Governments must stop the agitation and protect their Jewish populations or Jews will ultimately turn their backs on those countries.

Jews live in Europe by right, not suffering. Their manifold contributions to the development of what we call European

civilization are too numerous to recall, even if they are not always recognized, and certainly not by those who have an anti-European agenda.

Given the present ambiance in Europe, it is understandable that some of them will eventually decide to leave the continent. Thousands of French Jews have already done so, and more are on the way. We certainly respect their decision and will aid our brethren however we can.

Beginning at the end of the 1980s, with the fall of communism, Jewish life has been revitalized in many cities in which no one would have believed there was a Jewish future — places such as Warsaw and Vilnius, Bucharest and Sofia. At that time, no one questioned why Jews in Paris or elsewhere in Western Europe were living where they were. That we have to do so today is a sad commentary on where we have come since then — 70 years since the embers of the ovens of Auschwitz went cold. But we will never award Hitler and his modern-day disciples a posthumous victory by acquiescing to a Judenrein Europe.

Today’s fight is between supporters of



A sign found last month in a Belgian café, since removed by threat of prosecution, read, “Dogs are allowed but Jews are not under any circumstances” in Turkish. Jews was changed to Zionists in French.

Hamas and people who believe in decency, mutual respect and liberalism — all the best in European traditions. But Europeans will have to reach that conclusion themselves. The most thoughtful among them already understand that a continent in which Jews do not feel comfortable is not a healthy place for anyone.

Robert Singer is the CEO of the World Jewish Congress, which represents Jewish communities in 100 countries to governments, parliaments and international organizations.

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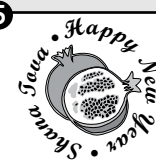
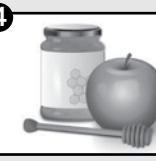
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# When the blood-brain barrier gets breached

**JANIS SIEGEL** JTNews Columnist

*This is the second of a two-part column on "BRAINS@BGU," featuring some of the latest brain research from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel.*

Last year, BGU toured President Obama through its brain research labs after the president launched his BRAIN initiative, Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies, aimed at mapping the nerve cell network and nerve pathways in the brain to find therapies for diseases like Alzheimer's, epilepsy, autism, traumatic brain injury and schizophrenia.

In 2014, three BGU doctors, Israel Sekler, Ilya Fleidervish, and Michael Herzhfinkel from the department of physiology and cell biology, won a grant from the German-Israel Project Cooperation to research the connection between mitochondria, memory and brain disorders in a joint project with scientists in Germany.

•••

When the blood-brain barrier was discovered more than 100 years ago, researchers began to understand how it protects the human brain and spinal cord by filtering out many foreign substances from the blood that could disrupt the brain's balance.

Today, however, as chronic neurodegenerative and brain diseases rob more and more patients of their mental health and motor skills, scientists like Prof. Alon



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Friedman in Ben-Gurion University's department of physiology and neurobiology and the Ziotowski Center for Neuroscience there are looking for breaches in the barrier that may be the direct cause of many debilitating conditions.

"Dysfunction of the BBB occurs during numerous common neurological diseases, including stroke, epilepsy, trauma, tumors, and infectious and degenerative diseases," wrote Friedman in the article "Blood-Brain Barrier Breakdown and Blood-Brain Communication in Neurological and Psychiatric Diseases."

"Transport across the blood-brain barrier is tightly regulated by at least four different cells that comprise the brain microvasculature....Thusly, essential nutrients are delivered, waste products removed, and entry of potentially toxic or neuro-active agents and pathogens is severely restricted."

Through his experiments, Friedman has been searching for clues to the onset of epilepsy after brain trauma, focusing on how the brain's electrical activity, structure and function changes.

"The brain and spinal cord, the central nervous system, are the control centers of the body generating central programs and strategies, processing sensory input, regulating motor output, and coordinating many of the individual and concerted

activities of tissues," Friedman wrote.

Friedman was a member of the group of doctors that used MRI technology to test former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's brain responses during his eight-year, medically induced coma.

Today, Friedman's team uses neurophysiological recordings of brain activity and MRIs to study a patient's brain function and structure. What they found is that while blood-brain barrier dysfunction has long been associated with brain diseases, this recent research suggests that dysfunction also plays a role in the development of those diseases.

In another BGU department, Dr. Golan Shahar investigates the connection between stress, the onset and progression of chronic disease, and self-limiting behaviors.

Shahar is the director of the Center for the Advancement of Research on Stress Related Disorders in the department of psychology. In his Stress, Self, and Health Lab, researchers observe the effects of self-regulated patient strategies on physical and mental illness, particularly depression.

"Over the last 50 years, chronic diseases have steadily overtaken acute medical conditions as the primary cause of disability and use of health services in the United States," writes Shahar in "The Handbook of Behavioral Medicine" (Makovsky, 2014, Wiley & Sons).

Although much of his latest research, including a 2014 study, looks at the effects of war, terrorism, and violence on Israeli

citizens, two of Shahar's 2012 studies look specifically at chronic pain and coping strategies.

In "Does War Hurt? Effects of Media Exposure After Missile Attacks on Chronic Pain," published in the Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings, Shahar and colleague Dr. Sheera Lerman found that exposure to media coverage of terrorist missile attacks increased pain levels in subjects already having chronic pain.

In another study that same year, "The Personification of Chronic Physical Illness: Its Role in Adjustment and Implications for Psychotherapy Integration," Shahar and Lerman found that chronic pain patients who assigned human characteristics to their physical illnesses were better at managing illness-related emotional distress and disability.

They recommended that the technique be added to pain treatment plans.

"Stress is thought to influence health indirectly by both promoting behavioral coping responses detrimental to health and by activating physiological symptoms," wrote Shahar. "Prolonged or repeated activation of these symptoms is thought to place a person at risk for a range of physical and psychiatric disorders."

Longtime JTNews correspondent and freelance journalist Janis Siegel has covered international health research for SELF magazine and campaigns for Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

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## Despite parents' fears, local lone soldiers hear the call of duty

**EMILY K. ALHADEFF** Associate Editor,  
JTNews

Two weeks after Kayla Mogil arrived in Israel to volunteer with the Israel Defense Forces, she experienced her first major challenge.

She got lost in Tel Aviv. And her cell phone service got cut off, because she didn't realize she needed twice the money in her account to pay the bill. She ended up being three hours late to her first lone soldiers meeting.

"Who could take me seriously with the IDF if I can't even figure out the bus system?" she asked in the first post to her blog.

Kayla, who is almost 19, graduated from Mercer Island High School in 2013.

Instead of shipping off to college, last October she joined Mahal, a Hebrew acronym for foreign volunteers doing Israeli army service.

Kayla is not the only local teen to push off college for this path. Nathan Luper, a graduate of Issaquah High School, also joined Mahal last year. Both serve in combat units — Kayla in search and rescue, and Nathan in anti-terrorism.

Why would two kids from Washington pick up and join the IDF — in combat, no less?

For Kayla, it might go back to middle school, when she did a school project on her grandfather, a World War II veteran. It was then, her mother recalls, that Kayla began looking to the military as a future.



COURTESY DENISE BROWN-MOGIL

Kayla Mogil overlooks Jerusalem.

As a high school freshman, she worked out with Marines a few times a week.

"The whole time my husband and I were a nervous wreck," said Denise Brown-Mogil, Kayla's mother. "As a young woman, she has other opportunities."

Kayla's interest in the military collided with an unlikely force: Hebrew school. She began attending Hebrew High at the Stroum Jewish Community Center during her sophomore year, which led her to the high school youth group NCSY. Without alerting her parents, she got a job at Outback Steakhouse and saved enough money to go on an Israel trip. Soon Kayla began to set her

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# Seattle solidarity events find various ways to support Israel

**EMILY K. ALHADEFF** Associate Editor, JTNews

One week after approximately 600 people turned out for a peaceful demonstration in solidarity with Israel in Pioneer Square on July 20, a second event, termed a community gathering, brought around 300 people to the sanctuary of Congregation Beth Shalom to hear from an array of community leaders on the situation in Israel.

The two events, a week apart and with almost no sponsoring organization overlap, prompted some community members to ask if Seattle is divided on Israel.

The July 20 rally was put together by Israel advocacy organization StandWithUs Northwest and co-sponsored by several local Orthodox congregations, as well as Hadassah and the American Jewish Committee. The July 27 gathering at Beth Shalom was sponsored by nearly two dozen organizations, including AIPAC, the Anti-Defamation League, Hillel at the University of Washington, J Street, New Israel Fund, the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, and a number of Conservative and Reform synagogues. It emphasized solidarity with Israel, plus a mourning of the loss of all human life and prayers for a lasting and sustainable end to the conflict.

Speakers included Dr. Andy David, Consul General of Israel, U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-6th), Federation CEO and president Keith Dvorchik, and several rabbis and

community leaders.

According to Dvorchik, the Federation was invited to co-sponsor the July 20 rally on Thursday the 17th, at which time Rob Jacobs, director of StandWithUs Northwest, had not yet secured the permits for the rally. Jacobs obtained the permits Friday morning.

“From a timing perspective, it just didn’t work, not just for the Federation but for many communities,” Dvorchik said.

Jacobs concurred.

“We had three days before the rally date, and many of them felt that was not enough time to adequately plan a rally,” he said. They “didn’t feel comfortable signing on unless they knew it would be planned thoroughly.”

Others, like Ben Murane, New Israel Fund’s director of outreach for the western United States, were concerned about the message of the rally and preferred the later gathering for ideological reasons.

“New Israel Fund will always be part of Israel gatherings that include multiple views,” said Murane. “NIF — and many others in the community — felt that the type of rally organized the previous weekend did not convey the sadness we [felt] with increasing civilian deaths and vigilante murders of Jewish and Palestinian teenagers.”

Jacobs acknowledged that different



Yael Dayan

Israel supporters at a flash mob rally in Bellevue Square on July 31.

groups have different ideas of supporting Israel. StandWithUs joined the list of sponsors at Beth Shalom only after Jacobs was sure the message would align with his organization’s mission.

“They wanted more conversation, more of a traditional Jewish community event,” Jacobs said.

According to one rabbi, who spoke with JTNews anonymously, a vibrant discussion has been taking place among Seattle’s liberal-leaning rabbis about which rallies and

events to take part in.

“The fears that go along with some of the rallies include oversimplification of a complex issue, the tendency of rallies to attract fringe people/positions that we wouldn’t want to be associated with on the 6 O’clock News, the dehumanization of Palestinians, [and] any appearance that we’re cheering/happy about the fact that Israel is at war,” she said.

► PAGE 14



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## ◀ IN TURKEY PAGE 8

they are an extremely legitimate, sometimes public, minority. They're quick to respond [to anti-Semitism].

"Many in the community find it unfortunate that the rhetoric of the ruling party resonates with a part of the country that doesn't understand a difference between anti-Israel and anti-Semitism," Amiel continued. "That line is very blurred and spills over."

Amiel's work in Turkey is quite different from his work in North Africa, where just a remnant of the former Jewish communities exists. In Egypt, the JDC provides cash stipends, medicine, and food at holiday times to the 25 or so remaining Jews.

"There is an attempt by those who are left to say, 'We are Egyptian and always have been Egyptian,'" he said. "The concern is that they'll be able to make it through and die with dignity."

Working with the Egyptian community has also been a full-circle experience for Amiel, since his father was born in Alexandria.

There are no JDC country representatives in Egypt, Tunisia, or Morocco, but Amiel stays in touch with the community leaders to keep a finger on the pulse of the community, particularly when it comes to anti-Semitic rhetoric or political riots that could spill over into the community.

"They're the ones who say to us either we need help [or we don't]," said Amiel. "They're mature communities that know what to do during difficult times."

## ◀ LOCAL LONE SOLDIERS PAGE 11

sights on the IDF. And she wouldn't settle for anything less than combat.

"I did everything I could to change her mind," said Denise. "We visited colleges. She'd say, 'That college is nice, but I'll go to college when I'm done with the IDF.'"

Denise found out through Facebook that her daughter had registered for Mahal.

"She was going to be 18, and there wasn't much we could do about it at that point except support her, which we did," she said.

Brenda Luper, Nathan's mom, traces her son's interest back to his Bar Mitzvah trip in Israel, an emotional time following her mother's sudden passing from pancreatic cancer. Fast-forward to his junior year of high school, when Nathan attended Alexander Muss High School in Israel for eight weeks.

"Nathan is an engineer at heart," his mother said. "He came back and said, 'I want to go to Israel and I want to work on the Iron Dome,'" Israel's defense system against rockets.

"Probably half way through his senior year, we said, 'What are you going to do after high school, kiddo? He wasn't ready for college. He said, 'I think I want to join the Israeli army.' We said, 'Okay, how?'"

After talking with Kayla, with whom he worked at Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative



COURTESY BRENDA LUPER

Nathan Luper poses with his friends and freshly dug vegetables during some volunteer farm service.

Congregation, Nathan had made up his mind to join the IDF, too.

Both are thriving. At her swearing-in ceremony, Kayla's commander honored her out of the entire battalion as the best soldier — an enormous honor, both in spite of and due to her struggle to pick up Hebrew. Nathan is still in training, and according to his mother he met another lone soldier, and they have been dating for the past nine months.

It didn't occur to anyone, however, that they would be serving in a war, one that claimed three lone soldiers' lives.

"I am so proud of my son, and [my husband] Steve feels the same, for the really brave and committed choice this 18-year-old made last year," Brenda said. "But I

worry about him every day. Even before [the war, when your children aren't near you and you can't make sure they're safe, as a parent you worry. Any overprotective Jewish mom will tell you the same. I am an 'O.P.J.M.' and I have the t-shirt to prove it."

"Thank God for social media and texts," said Denise, Kayla's mom. "I live for her texts and her phone calls. I can't imagine what people did a long time ago without that connection."

The Mogil family recently visited Kayla in Israel, where they experienced firsthand the sirens and 15-second bolt to the bomb shelter.

"Before all of this happened I really didn't pay attention to everything going on there like I do now," Denise said. "Because of this experience I'm changed forever."

"I would almost call it a new level of relationship with your child," said Brenda. "Sometimes when they're here...you still have the same day-to-day fights. You don't appreciate what an amazing human being they are and they've become."

*To our Seattle Jewish Community,*

*Thank you for the love, care, and support you have shown our injured Israeli combat soldiers during this difficult time. Knowing they have a community of brothers and sisters across the world who would do anything to help them put their lives back together means more than words can convey. We are One People.*

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## Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant's letter to the president

On Monday, Aug. 4, Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant read the draft letter she plans to send to elected leaders in Washington, D.C., regarding what she called a blackout of dissent in Congress and from the Obama administration. Sawant has asked all members of the council to sign the letter, and is accepting comment from Seattle residents

before she sends the final draft. You can constructively and courteously suggest amendments to the letter by contacting Councilwoman Sawant at [kshama.sawant@seattle.gov](mailto:kshama.sawant@seattle.gov) or 206-684-8016 before Monday, Aug. 11.

Dear President Obama, Members of the House of Representatives, and Members of the Senate,

As the most recent wave of Israeli bombardment of Gaza enters its 28th day, many of us globally watch in horror as the death toll soars. News reports indicate that more than 1,888 Palestinians have been killed, while more than 9,400 have been injured. Hundreds of Palestinian children and civilians are counted among the dead in this humanitarian catastrophe. Sixty-three Israeli soldiers have also died, along with two Israeli civilians and a Thai worker.

Yesterday, Israel attacked a United Nations school sheltering some 3,000 displaced people in Rafah, in Southern Gaza, killing 10 people and prompting United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon to declare the attack "a moral outrage and a criminal act." The U.S. State Department also issued a denunciation saying, "The United States is appalled by today's disgraceful shelling outside an UNRWA school."

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza is reaching a critical breaking point. The 139 square mile territory contains 1.8 million people who literally have nowhere to go and no place to hide from Israeli attacks. The UN reports that medical facilities are "on the verge of collapse." An attack on a Gaza power plant has left more than half the population without electricity, and more than 270,000 people are reportedly crammed into 90 UN shelters. Without an immediate end to all hostilities, the Palestinian death toll will continue to rise rapidly.

We also condemn the indiscriminate rocket attacks by Hamas against the civilian population living in Israel. We stand in solidarity with the ordinary people of Israel and their desire for security, and in particular with the Israeli anti-war movement.

Security and peace will never be achieved on the basis of the current occupation and blockades. The path to protecting the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people as well as the ordinary people of Israel lies first and foremost in ending the illegal building of settlements in the Palestinian territories and an end to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.

We call on President Obama, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate to issue a formal statement denouncing Israel's siege and blockade of Gaza and the occupation of the West Bank. We also call for an immediate end to all U.S. government military aid for Israel.

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### ◀ SEATTLE SOLIDARITY PAGE 12

The Orthodox synagogues that cosponsored the rally and encouraged members at short notice to attend were absent from the list of sponsors of the gathering a week later. According to Sephardic Bikur Holim's Rabbi Ben Hassan, who spoke at the rally, this was purely due to a scheduling conflict, at least on his congregation's part. He added that some SBH members did attend the Beth Shalom event.

Hassan downplayed critiques about community division and encourages the Jewish community to find common ground.

"We all show support for Israel, and that support can be manifested in different ways," he said. "Some people want to do a

rally and some people want to do a gathering. They're both fair ways to show solidarity and support."

Meanwhile, activists for the Palestinian cause have held regular, weekly demonstrations in Westlake Plaza. A handful of pro-Palestinian activists demonstrated quietly at both the rally and outside Beth Shalom.

Since the gathering on July 27, two more pro-Israel demonstrations have sprung up, including a flash mob rally in Bellevue Square at rush hour on July 31. And this Sunday, Aug. 10 at 1 p.m., multiple organizations will sponsor a rally at Westlake Center to express their solidarity with Israel.

Dikla Tuchman contributed to this story.

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# Yes, we still went through with making aliyah

**MICOL BAYER** Special to JTNews

"Are you still going?"

"Are you sure you don't want to change your mind?"

Even if my friends and family did not voice these questions, I knew what was on their minds throughout the past month. My answer never changed: "Yes, we are still making aliyah."

In the middle of a war. And no, we are not are not changing our plans. On July 21, 2014, four days after the Israel Defense Forces entered into a ground operation phase of "Tzuk Eitan," Operation Protective Edge, my husband and I moved our family from Seattle to Israel. We boarded a Nefesh B'Nefesh charter flight from New York with 220 other people: An entire airplane full of families, singles entering the army, a Holocaust survivor celebrating his 88th birthday, and a bride carrying her wedding gown whose fiancé was fighting in Gaza. Not one person on that flight changed his or her plans.

As hard as it was to leave our family and friends in Seattle, we felt we were doing something important for our family and for the Jewish people. All I kept thinking was: After months and years of planning for this, how could I jump ship at a time when my family and friends in Israel are under fire? So, yes, we are still going. Now more than ever! Plenty of pictures on Facebook, memes, and hashtags encouraged us that we were doing the right thing. Even now. Especially now!

We are living our personal dream of 13 years, our national dream of thousands of years. With the help of Nefesh B'Nefesh, we are making this dream a reality. From the moment my husband and I decided that now is the right time in our lives to "live the dream," Nefesh B'Nefesh walked us through every step of the process. An organization, started 12 years ago by two people with the idea of making it easier for North American Jews to make aliyah, has now become a professional organization that stream-

lines the aliyah process for thousands of new olim.

During the flight our aliyah documentation was processed by Nefesh B'Nefesh professionals. We made new friends on the plane while our paperwork was being processed so that by the time we landed we would already be new Israeli citizens. We arrived the next morning on the 51st NBN flight, welcomed to Israel by an amazing group of NBN staff.

On every previous NBN charter flight, there had been a huge welcome ceremony at Ben Gurion Airport. This year, things were different. Because of security measures, family and friends were not permitted to greet us. Instead, enthusiastic members of the Nefesh B'Nefesh family escorted us into the airport waving flags and singing. We felt like rock stars!

As a Tel Aviv Crossfit team organized our luggage, we listened to speeches by Israel's leaders telling us ours would be the most historic NBN flight to date. They thanked us for coming especially now, at this incredibly difficult time. Natan Sharansky, a true Jewish hero, told my kids and me how important we are for the Jewish people and that our coming on aliyah now is the perfect answer to our enemies. That is a moment I will treasure forever!

At the same time, my mind raced. Yes, of course we worry about the war as any parents would. We prepared our children for the possibility of a siren while we were in the airport. Yet, somehow, the fear of that reality turned into pride that we are actually, finally here. There's nowhere else I'd rather be.

At the very moment I feel the strength of the Israeli people, they tell me how I strengthen them. Every person here, from the banker who opened our account to the taxi driver who drove us to the Kotel to the man who sold us



COURTESY NEFESH B'NEFESH

Micol and Rabbi Aaron Bayer with their three children at Ben Gurion Airport, shortly after landing, as they celebrate their first time on Israeli soil as citizens.

our first appliances, every person told us how much it means to them that we made aliyah now. Many thanks to everyone who has welcomed us home with open arms and to Nefesh B'Nefesh for making our dream a reality. Keep those hashtags coming!

Micol Bayer is a third-generation Seattle native. She is a papercut artist voted Best Ketubah Artist by JTNews readers and will reopen her Micol Designs studio in Israel. Her husband, Rabbi Aaron Bayer, served as Judaic principal at Seattle Hebrew Academy for the past two years. They will be living in Efrat with their three children.

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# Following in my father's footsteps

RIVY POUPKO KLETENIK JTNews Columnist



COURTESY RIVY POUPKO KLETENIK

Rivy, age 5, with her twin brother.

Here I am in June of 1964, about to turn 6, holding my first Matryoshka doll. I am standing next to my twin, who is proudly displaying his cosmonaut. That wooden "little matron," a gift from my parents' trip to Russia, kicked off a lifetime curiosity — the third-grade country project on Russia, the piano pounding of "Volga Boat Man." Then the books: "Nicholas and Alexandra," "Doctor Zhivago," "Anna Karenina," "War and Peace," Chekhov, Turgenev. And of course the food: Borscht, pirog, herring, black bread. So the Pale, the Tsar's conscriptions, the pogroms, Siberia and the communist-era plight of Soviet Jews were not so wonderful. Still, the Motherland!

This summer? The pilgrimage. My daughter Gilah, determined to fulfill her mother's lifelong dream, set out to orchestrate and plan a mother-daughter roots trip back to the "alter heim," to the long lost shtetlach from where her ancestors hailed.

Russia and Belarus are not your simple hop-on-the-plane destinations; there are the matters of visas, translators and drivers, along with the challenge of multi-city hotel reservations and kosher food in preparation to visit places that have heretofore been the fodder of tales from long ago: Minsk, Mir, Radun, Narvarduk, Velizh, Vitebsk, and the big cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Fast forward to July. It is hot. We are traveling in a minivan with no air conditioning along a two-lane highway through Belarus. On either side we alternately pass fields of rye and corn. Soon we are weaving our way through villages with tiny wooden homes that evoke childhood memories of a Grimm fairytale book. We go from Minsk to Mir to Lida, and now to Radun.

Arriving here and walking on these pebbled paths is surreal. A hint, a mere vestige, an inkling is all that is left of what was once a Jewish center with shuls, markets and of course the renowned yeshiva of the Chafetz Chaim. In my mind's eye I picture

those who had once been here: The scurrying yeshiva students, the bustling women, the children at play. I close my eyes and I see my Bar Mitzvah-aged father, in this town where his father was born, where his extended family lived, and where they had come as a family to stay with the Chafetz Chaim on their way to America. I turn quickly and there he is, rushing to catch an afternoon prayer with his brothers.

The building that once housed the yeshiva still stands. It is now a cultural center. We are greeted with something less than enthusiasm when we ask to take a look around. While the woman who has been washing the floor argues with our guide, I sneak up the wooden staircase. A few sitting rooms, an accordion, bookshelves; not even a hint or smell of sefarim, siddurim or taleisim of years ago. Its Jewishness has been rigorously scrubbed clean, though the main room downstairs still has a Jewish feel; its rectangular shape has a definite layout of a shul and beit midrash.

If you have ever visited a childhood home where others now live, you know the particular ache of longing felt as we turn to leave. It is hard to pinpoint the pain. An overwhelming blend of seeing the hollowness of the buildings once hallowed, the total evaporation of the life that was once here, and the utter rootlessness of our people seemingly connected yet so

seamlessly erased.

In 1931 my father and his family escaped to this town of Radun. Back then it was Poland, and free of Stalin's severe and repressive anti-religious policies. We stand in quiet thought outside the yeshiva — they had all once stood here, that we know, rushing hurriedly with anticipation before Shabbos. Grandparents, uncles, aunts, many a relative through marriage. I am tempted to drop down and beg the pebbles and rocks to speak, to tell me everything they know.

Instead, we follow the road out of town to the Jewish cemetery. The few headstones left are worn beyond readability. The exception is the tomb of the Chafetz Chaim, which stands surrounded by pillars and is appropriately bedecked with stones, notes and candles; pilgrimages have been made here. Radunites are proud of their holy

rabbi, preventing the Jewish community from ever removing his remains. The Chafetz Chaim, a champion of pure speech, would always explain his utter lack of material goods by reminding his followers that "we are only passing through."

We make our way back to the far end of the cemetery, to the fenced-off mass grave. There is a trench and a raised area. It runs about half of the length of the Jewish cem-



COURTESY RIVY POUPKO KLETENIK

Rivy stands at the doorway of the Chafetz Chaim yeshiva in Radun, which has since been scrubbed of any Jewish identity and serves as a cultural center.

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etery. A monument stands and tells the tale of that summer of 1942; Radun's Jews had been marched through the city then out here and shot, one by one.

Every town has its pit. The story ends here for the Jews even as life goes on in the town of Radun. No sign identifies the once-grand yeshiva and no markers tell of the life that was once here — save this memorial buried back beyond the town limits. Today, the story of Radun will have to be told by those who are only passing through.

The next day we drive four-and-a-half hours from Minsk to Velizh. Minsk is in Belarus, Velizh is in Russia. There is no official border crossing. We know we've crossed only because the road suddenly deteriorates. Belorussians pride themselves on their well-maintained infrastructure; dictatorship can have its benefits.

A few minutes later our guide, Irina, says, "Okay, we are in Velizh."

Velizh. Velizh. It is our family's Oz. What week of my childhood did not pass without a mention of Velizh? The black bread of Velizh. The herring of Velizh. The snow on the sgach of the sukkah in Velizh. The shammas of Velizh. Making matzoh in Velizh. The communists of Velizh. The school bullies of Velizh. The Dzvina River of Velizh. And finally, the escape from Velizh. We unceremoniously cross

over, pull to the side and ask a passerby for directions. No response. Irina sardonically remarks, "Welcome to Russia." As if to say, are you crazy Americans happy now? You are in Velizh. Now, deal with it.

We pull into a parking lot behind a small apartment building. Our guide runs out, shouting behind her not to leave the car. We watch the comings and goings of apartment dwellers. It is almost noon. Cars from assorted eras pull in and out. It's steamy. I bravely open the van door and get out. I imagine word spreading through the town: Strangers have just arrived by van, pass it on.

Irina returns. Bad news. The person in charge of the town museum is undergoing surgery. But good news. They gave us the name of a man who can answer our questions. We drive to his home and with one step enter a bygone era.

The man looks at us with doubt. Through Irina we explain that my father was born in this town. My grandfather, Rabbi Eliezer Poupko, was the rabbi of this town. Might we ask you some questions about the community, the Jewish community? Awkwardness, hesitancy. Then I see a picture pinned to the wall. It looks so familiar. I have one just like it. We pull out my iPad to show him. His family, his photo. My family, my photo. Same background. Same studio, from a Jewish pho-

tographer in town. We are in. He tells us we look like Jews from Velizh.

I have never felt so alive. I am a Jew from Velizh.

Our new friend is a remarkable man. A hero of memories. He has determinedly set out to record the town's most terrifying years under Nazi occupation. He may not remember my father's era, but he tells excitedly of how the town was good with the Jews until the invasion. He tells of how as a 10-year-old boy he witnessed the shootings, and then the burning, of the Jews who had been gathered in a pigsty. He saw the most gruesome of scenes and was determined that the town never forget. He designed Velizh's monument in memory of the murdered Jews: A grey monolith with a hand carved out, depicting the hands of those murdered struggling to get free — a scene he will never forget.

We drive past where the synagogue once stood, then visit the old Jewish cemetery off to the side of the road. No fence. No marker. Stones are scattered here and there. Grass is overgrown. Life pushes on. The one remaining Jew of Velizh died last



COURTESY RIVY POUPKO KLETENIK

Rivy and Gilah with the man who has spent his life chronicling and commemorating the history of the Jews of Velizh.

year. Here we are, we have not forgotten you, Velizh. A Jew may leave Velizh, but Velizh does not leave the Jew.

Why do we visit? The essence of knowledge, says Plato, is self-knowledge. As we stood on the bridge over the Dzvina River, I pictured my father on its banks. Then I saw him sitting by Lake Washington. I finally understand my father's insatiable appetite for sitting by the water. That love was born here. This spot, this place, I now understand, never left my father. Every now and then we need to reconnect. Those steps backward? They give us just the right amount of soul and spirit to move ahead.

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## On anniversary of shooting, Jewish Federation tells NRA spokesman to step down

JOEL MAGALNICK Editor, JTNews

Eight years to the day after a man burst into the offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle and shot six women, killing one, the Federation called for the resignation of the National Rifle Association's top lobbyist in Washington State following controversial comments he made at a recent political rally.

As the HorsesAss.org website reported on July 28, the NRA's Brian Judy spoke at a rally in Silverdale on July 23, taking local billionaire Nick Hanauer to task for his support and contribution to Initiative 594, which seeks to require universal background checks on firearm purchases.

Referring to an article Hanauer wrote for Politico.com in which he notes how his family "got chased out of Germany by Hitler and ended up in Seattle," Judy suggested that Jews who believe in gun safety are acting against their own interests.

"Any Jewish people I meet who are anti-gun, I think, 'Are you serious? Did you not remember what happened?'" he said in a video clip posted by HorsesAss. "You come to this country and you support gun control? Why did you have to flee to this country in the first place? Hello! Is anybody home here?"

Keith Dvorchik, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation, called the linking of gun violence prevention and the Holocaust, or the idea that had Jews possessed guns at that time they might have stopped the genocide against them, "an insulting and extreme notion that does a disservice to everyone in our state" at a press conference held the following day.

"The Holocaust happened because of governmental policies. The Holocaust happened because of a culture of hate. The Holocaust happened because of a culture of intolerance," Dvorchik said. "To think that if Jews only had guns they would have stopped it is inane, is idiotic, is simplistic, and simply wrong."

He called on Judy to resign, saying the NRA should reject his "ignorant and unproductive dialogue."

According to State Rep. Reuven Carlyle (D-36th), Judy's comments "carry dark and ugly and sober undertones of anti-Semitism that are very troubling," he said. "The direct linkage to a modest gun safety initiative of the people of Washington State, signed by hundreds of thousands of people, and the financing by Mr. Hanauer and so many other contributors — the insinuation, the

linkage, the undertone, is all directed at this core idea, this core concept, that Nazi-era Germany policies are directly linked to an initiative in 2014 in Washington State. That is preposterous."

Alan Gottlieb, president of the Second Amendment Foundation who is running the Initiative 591 campaign, which would eliminate all background checks in Washington State, told KING-5 News on July 28 that Judy's statements are factual. However,



JOEL MAGALNICK

State Rep. Reuven Carlyle (D-36th), right, speaks out against comments by NRA spokesman Brian Judy as Keith Dvorchik, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, looks on.

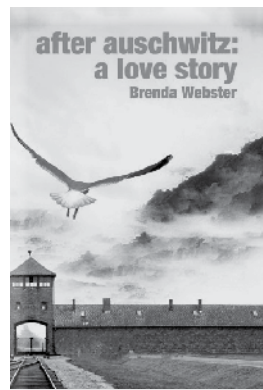
a study published by Prof. Bernard E. Harcourt of the University of Chicago School of Law in the Fordham Law Review in 2004 shows that when Hitler came to power, the Nazi party actually relaxed gun restrictions from what had been a complete ban on guns enacted in 1919. New laws passed in 1928 allowed ownership only through a strict permitting process. Gun laws in 1938 further removed restrictions on all but Germany's Jewish population, which later was restricted from possession of any type of weapon. As Harcourt noted, "The Nazis were intent on killing Jewish persons and used the gun laws and regulations to further the genocide."

The Federation may find that its call for the NRA to disavow any comparisons between gun control and the Holocaust falls on deaf ears: As Harcourt also wrote, the gun rights organization has made such comparisons for decades, dating at least as far back as 1968.

But the Federation's Dvorchik issued a challenge to the NRA: "We now ask whether the National Rifle Association agrees with these views. If not, the senior leadership of the NRA must make that clear publicly, loudly and immediately. If they make no such statement and take no such action, then we can only assume that these ignorant, destructive falsehoods continue to be embraced."

As of Aug. 6, Judy had not responded or resigned his position.





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 Underscoring education's crucial role in alleviating poverty and conflict, "A Small Act," about a Swedish Holocaust survivor who sponsored a young Kenyan man's education, shows that no gesture is too small to effect tremendous change. After visiting a school in Tanzania, Micah Tratt, of Seattle, decided to raise money to sponsor a child's education fund. This screening supports Micah's Bar Mitzvah project and the Hilde Back Education Fund. Doors open 30 minutes prior to film. At the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island. The SJCC is handicap and hearing loop accessible. SJCC members/seniors/students \$5; guests \$8. For more information contact 206-232-7115 or saraht@sjcc.org or visit www.sjcc.org.



**Through August 15**  
**Renate Dollinger: Laughing at the Darkness Art exhibit**  
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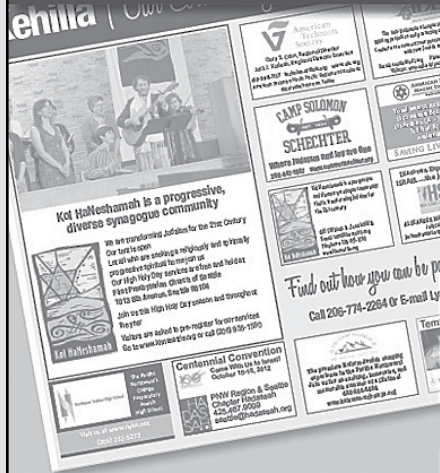


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## On display at MOHAI: Jewish merchants' impact on Washington State

By Boris Kurbanov

The history and tales of Jewish immigration to Washington is documented in an exhibit now on display at Seattle's Museum of History and Industry.

"Shalom! Open for Business: Tales of Jewish Merchants in Washington State" is a joint project of the Washington State Jewish Historical Society and MOHAI, and will be on display through January 15, 2015.

Representing more than 100 families, the exhibit, which opened July 27, chronicles the story of Washington's Jewish pioneers through first-person accounts, historic photos, and artifacts from family collections, as well as captivating vignettes and interactive displays. The body of research mostly came from the Jewish archives at the University of Washington; nearly 500 oral histories are included.

Lisa Kranseler, executive director of the WSJHS, first approached MOHAI years ago to find a home for a Jewish history exhibit.

"We don't have a Jewish history museum in our state, and we are one of the only cities [in the United States] of Seattle's size without a Jewish history museum," Kranseler said. "I have not let that be an obstacle, and made my case to MOHAI that there's no better exhibit that meets both our mission and their mission."

The original exhibit this one is based upon was open for one day at Congregation Ezra Bessaroth in 2009. Titled "Who's Minding the Store?" it featured 170 stories of early Jewish businesses, including first-person accounts and family interviews. The exhibit then briefly toured at Temple De Hirsch Sinai, as well as synagogues in Tacoma, Whidbey Island and Spokane.

Still, the questions and demands for a place to tell this important story in Seattle came often. Kranseler decided the exhibit needed to be re-curated.

"People called — and continue to call — our office all the time and ask, 'Where can we see or learn about the Jewish history of Washington?' Kranseler said. "We have extensive archives available at the University of Washington, but you're just not getting an exhibit-type of experience."

Curated by Stuart Ezkenazi with a thematic approach, the exhibit's centerpiece is a canvas painting depicting a collage of early Jewish business owners, the work of Seattle-based artist Joanne Shellan, whose parents fled Hitler's Germany and immigrated to New York before heading west and settling in Washington State in 1949. They would later open a jewelry store in

the Skagit Valley. The painting can be seen on the cover of this year's Guide to Jewish Washington.

"Joanne did a beautiful interpretation of what the exhibit is about," Eskenazi said. "History museums don't necessarily have original artwork that is part of the display, but we're really happy this is the first thing people see when they walk through the door."

The goal is to highlight the vibrant traditions and history of Seattle's original Jewish community, while tracing their history and describing the difference between the four waves of immigration, including those who made their way from Eastern Europe, Central Europe, the Ladino-speaking Jews of Rhodes and Turkey and those who escaped Nazi Germany, ultimately making a name for themselves and earning a living as butchers, jewelers, bakers and luggage makers, among many other professions.

"I empathize with what it took for my parents and other Jewish immigrants to rise above their circumstances," Shellan wrote in her artist statement. "Most arrived in the U.S. with few connections. A couple of battered suitcases and their wits were about all they had. In every single one of their faces, I see pride in overcoming that struggle — and in becoming a merchant within the promising democracy of America."

In addition to facing language barriers, most early settlers had little to no education,

and were viewed as outsiders, Eskenazi said.

"That's often the immigrant experience. America is, for the most part, a country of immigrants," he said. "Apart from the Native Americans, we are all immigrants, and hopefully people — whether they're Jewish, Catholic, Muslim — will relate to these stories. We want it to resonate with everybody."

Merchants, many of whom were denied citizenship in New York City and other cities on the East Coast who were no longer accepting immigrants, headed west. For them, Washington State was full of promise because of the Klondike gold rush in Alaska, as well as the construction of a new railroad.

"There was certainly a lot of opportunity here. Seattle was a young city, Washington was still a fairly young state, and they came here to build their businesses



BRICK HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Guests mingle at the opening night of Shalom! Open for Business at MOHAI Sunday, July 27.

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## ◀ MOHAI PAGE 21

around a set of values: Integrity, compassion, hard work, enterprise and family," Eskenazi said.

The settlers created businesses that reflected the trades and professions they knew from back home, but also to specifically to serve the Jewish immigrant community.

"What I really want is for people to see themselves within those stories of the merchants that are told in the gallery," Eskenazi said. "I would hope those who visit understand that not all Jews are from New York, and that there was a vibrant Jewish community here in Seattle consisting of four different groups of immigrants, who, in spite of their differences, were able to create this thriving community."

"This is a universal immigrant story that is not only relevant to the Jewish people, but one that could be applied to almost any immigrant group," Kranseler said. "All these groups have a similar story to tell — we are telling the Jews' story. To get an understanding of what our ancestors went through — with all the obstacles they had — is an incredible lesson for us all."

**If you go:** MOHAI is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and until 8 p.m. Thursdays. Admission is free on the first Thursday of every month, and is free for children under 14. Prices range from \$14 to \$17. For more information, call 206-324-1126 or visit [www.mohai.org](http://www.mohai.org).

## Insights form a new guide for senior living

By Rabbi Jack Riemer, JNS.org

Sara Davidson's "The December Project" is a new book that should be read by all senior citizens, and by those who hope to live a long life, for it raises a question that most of us have not been taught how to answer: What should we do in that final stage of our lives?

Many of us continue working past the age of 65, simply because it is the only thing we know how to do, and we are afraid of the emptiness we may experience if we stop. Life expectancy is rising, more and more of us are growing older, and yet most of us have no one to turn to who can teach us how to prepare for this last stage of life. That is why "The December Project" is so important.

Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, a founder of the Jewish Renewal movement who died last month at age 89, was in his mid-80s when he decided to meet once a week with Davidson to explore this topic. He answered her questions in a stream-of-consciousness kind of way, in which every question led to a story, and every story led to another one. After circling from memory to insight to story to song, he came back to the question that Davidson had raised, the central question of "The December Project." Here are some of Schachter-Shalomi's suggestions I found especially worth thinking about:

**Make a life review:** Count up all the things that you have accomplished that give you pride, and all the mistakes you have made that cause you regret. Forgive those who have hurt you over the years, and see how often the "harm" they caused you actually ended up leading to a blessing.

**Get ready for your end:** This means more than just arranging your financial affairs and telling your loved ones what they mean to you, which most of us know to do. It means being inwardly prepared so that you will not be angry or surprised when the time comes. Schachter-Shalomi recalls that when he was a shochet (kosher slaughterer) years ago, he would comfort the chickens that he slaughtered by whispering to them that he was not there to hurt them, and that he was not their enemy, but that he was there to help them climb to a higher level by becoming food for human beings.

**Start disengaging from your body:** Reb Zalman says that we and our bodies are bound together during life, and that old age is the time to start loosening the strings.

**Learn to let go:** Knowing that the power you have must eventually be surrendered, and that the status you possess is not permanent, is not an easy reality to come to terms with. But unless you can do that, your old age will be spoiled by efforts to clutch onto what cannot be held forever.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

■ **10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. — Investigate and Protect: The Role of the Secret Service**

Ellen Hendin at 206-461-3240 or [endlessopps@jfsseattle.org](mailto:endlessopps@jfsseattle.org)

**Michael Germain, agent for the Secret Service, will share the history of the law enforcement organization and information about its missions, investigations, protection duties, and protection from credit card scams and frauds. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.**

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

■ **7-9 p.m. — "Ac-cen-tuate the Positive": An Evening of Song**

Endless Opportunities at 206-461-3240 or [endlessopps@jfsseattle.org](mailto:endlessopps@jfsseattle.org) or [www.jfsseattle.org](http://www.jfsseattle.org)

**"Come Rain or Come Shine," for a jazz duo, dancing and dessert. "Anything Goes" when Julie Olson, 34-year veteran of JFS, and Michael Biller, director of the Seattle Jazz Guitar Society, entertain with jazz favorites from The Great American Songbook. At Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1441 16th Ave., Seattle.**

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 21-SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

■ **Sage-ing International Conference**

Carol Scott-Kassner at [carolkassner@comcast.net](mailto:carolkassner@comcast.net) or [www.sage-ing.org](http://www.sage-ing.org)

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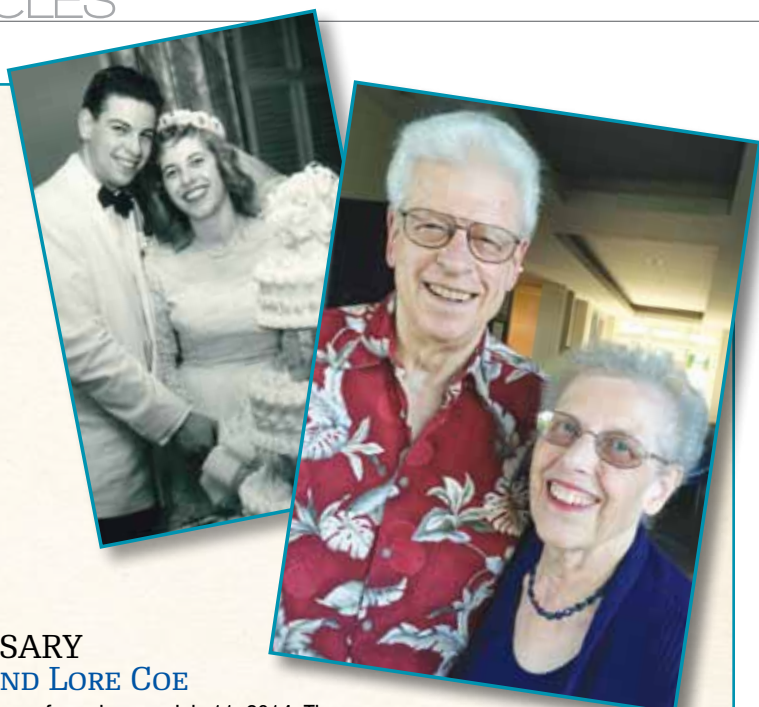
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**ANNIVERSARY**  
**MARVIN AND LORE COE**

celebrated 60 years of marriage on July 11, 2014. They celebrated with a family Shabbat dinner at the home of Ronald and Barbara Coe, followed by services on Sat., July 12 at Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation with a Kiddush luncheon sponsored by their children, Greg Coe, Robert Coe and Nina Barnett. Marvin and Lore were married in Boise, Idaho and currently reside in Bellevue.

**WEDDING**  
**EPSTEIN-LIEBERMAN**

Jessica Epstein and Chaya Lieberman will be married August 10, 2014, at Roswell River Landing in Roswell, Ga. Rabbi H. David Rose will officiate.

Jessica is the daughter of Laurence and Valerie Epstein of Mercer Island. She graduated from Northwest Yeshiva High School on Mercer Island and American Jewish University in Los Angeles, and from the University of Southern California with an MPP and the University of Illinois with an MSLIS. She is a librarian at American InterContinental University.

Chaya is the daughter of Marilyn Lieberman of Atlanta, Ga., and the late Jack Lieberman. She holds a BA from the Yeshiva of Los Angeles and works as a teacher at The Weber School.

The couple resides in Atlanta.



**EDITH MORGAN**  
**1920-2014**

Edith Morgan, a resilient woman of glamour and warmth, died on July 20 at Mills-Peninsula Hospital in Burlingame after a brief illness. She was 93.

The youngest of five children born to Rose and Bernard Herskovits in Szomotor, Czechoslovakia, Edith, like many of her generation, had her youth ripped away as the Nazis marched through Europe. Staying one step ahead of them, she escaped in 1941 in a harrowing journey through occupied France, Spain and finally Portugal, where she sailed for the United States. Her parents and two of her sisters also emigrated, but her older sister died in the Holocaust and her brother was killed in the chaos following the war.

Settling in Chicago, she met fellow Czech Morrie Morgan. They married in 1944 and moved to Modesto, Calif., where Morrie entered the produce business and where their two sons, Richard, now a physician in Burlingame, and Michael, a Seattle attorney, were born. In 1955, the family moved to Beverly Hills.

Edith's full-time career was mother, homemaker and hostess, and she excelled at all three — no one could make a more delicate blintz or a more robust chicken paprikash. After Morrie died in 1973, she continued an active social life and volunteered for a number of causes.

Seven years ago, she moved to a senior residence in San Mateo to be closer to family. They remained her main interest, especially her four grandchildren — Melissa (Marty) of Mercer Island; Todd (Wendy) of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Daniel of Tel Aviv; and Joanna of San Francisco. They survive her, as do her sons and her daughters-in-law Miriam (Richard) and Linda (Michael) and her great-grandchildren Ariella, Sasha, Oliver and Jacob.

Funeral services were held on July 24 in Los Angeles. Donations in Edith's memory can be made to The Kline Galland Home, the Stroum Jewish Community Center, or a charity of your choice.



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Please submit images in jpg format, 400 KB or larger.

**Thank you!**



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