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'I Stayed Alive to Tell' - Auschwitz's Dwindling Survivors Recount Horrors



Holocaust survivor Artemis Miron, 91, in Kfar Saba, Israel, Jan. 5, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Nir Elias.

Top Netanyahu Rival Gantz Expresses Support for Annexation of Jordan Valley

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

The head of Israel's centrist Blue and White party, Benny Gantz, expressed support on Tuesday for annexing the Jordan Valley, calling the strategically-situated region the Jewish state's "eastern defensive wall."

The Jordan Valley has long been viewed by a wide swathe of the Israeli populace as a part of the West Bank that should be retained in any future peace agreement with the Palestinians. Israel took control of it, along with the rest of



Blue and White leader Benny Gantz addresses reporters during a visit to the northern Dead Sea area, Jan. 21, 2020. Photo: Gantz's Facebook account.

the West Bank and East Jerusalem, from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to annex the Jordan Valley during the run-up to last September's Knesset elections, but the inconclusive outcome put off the plan indefinitely. The proposal was generally considered a sop to right-wing voters whose support Netanyahu wished to retain in a tough election fight.

The *Mako* news site reported that, while visiting the northern Dead Sea area on Tuesday, Gantz — an ex-IDF

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BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

A strip of skin tattooed with the Auschwitz death camp number 99288 sits in a silver frame on a shelf in Avraham Harshalom's living room. It is his prisoner number, etched on to his forearm in 1943.

As the 75th anniversary of the camp's liberation on Jan 27, 1945, nears, Harshalom, 95, is very clear

about why he kept it.

"For history. To tell it to the next generations," he said.

"In Auschwitz nobody knew names. The German SS (officer), when he was talking to you, he was talking to a number."

Harshalom is one of some 200,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel today. But with every passing year, fewer remain to provide first-hand testimony to the atrocities committed by the Nazis

in World War Two.

Six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

"The Second World War is no longer a family story that you hear at home. For many it has become a history textbook story," said Pawel Sawicki, press officer at the Auschwitz Memorial, at the site of the camp built in Nazi-occupied Poland.

"The biggest challenge is how to tell this story in a way relevant to

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Israel Will Miss Sultan Qaboos

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat VAEIRA
פרשת וארא

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 4:45pm | Shabbat Ends: 5:48pm



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Opinion.

The West Mourns the Jewish Dead. But What About the Living?



MELANIE PHILLIPS
/JNS.org

At Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on Jan. 23, some 46 political leaders and royals, including Britain's Prince Charles, will be attending the fifth World Holocaust Forum to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

At this and doubtless other such memorial events, many eloquent, important, and heartfelt observations will be made about the evils of Nazism and Jew-hatred. In today's climate, however, there's something disquieting about such memorializing.

Given the eruption of physical and verbal attacks on Jews in Britain, America, and Europe, it might be said that it's never been so important to remember the horrors of the Holocaust.

But the West is now teeming with Holocaust memorials and museums, while schools have been imparting Holocaust education since the 1980s. And yet never since the defeat of Nazism has there been such an epidemic of Jew-hatred in Western society.

Moreover, some of the countries that will be represented at Yad Vashem support people who want to kill Jews. They fund the Palestinians, who pump out murderous anti-Jewish and anti-Israel incitement.

Some of these countries have also turned a blind eye for years to the Iranian regime's

genocidal agenda towards Israel and the Jewish diaspora, and have even been trying to continue to funnel billions of dollars into Iran in defiance of US sanctions.

To put it bluntly, it might appear that while the West beats its collective breast over dead Jews, it is largely indifferent to the mortal threats currently posed to the living ones.

At the very least, it's clear that all this Holocaust memorializing and education hasn't put antisemitism back in its putrid box.

Indeed, such Jew-hatred is propagated most perversely among liberals, who constantly flaunt their anti-racist and anti-Nazi credentials.

Without wishing to exaggerate one factor behind a complex phenomenon, this points at least in part to profound flaws in the way the West has talked to itself about the Holocaust.

In 2016, University College London's Centre for Holocaust Education concluded a three-year study of high-school students in England, where the Holocaust is the only compulsory subject on the national history curriculum. Although the vast majority of students said they wanted to learn about it to stop something similar happening again, there were disturbing gaps in their knowledge.

Many didn't understand who the Nazis were or that they had collaborators in other regimes, or had any idea how many Jews were murdered.

While the majority knew that Jews were the primary victims, they had little understanding of why they were persecuted. Worse, they

themselves came up with anti-Jewish stereotypes, with a number of them referring to the Jews as a single group, being "rich" or "having power," and therefore being perceived as a threat.

Such disturbing findings are not merely due to inadequacies in the way the issue is taught, but result from more fundamental flaws. For the history of the Holocaust has been appropriated to service a number of different agendas.

In Poland, politicians and other authorities present the indigenous Poles as equal victims of the Holocaust, ignoring or denying the part played by Poles in atrocities against the Jews before, during, and after the Nazi period.

In Britain, researchers say the Holocaust is often taught in a self-congratulatory way that focuses on the country's role in defeating Nazism, while failing to mention that it also barred the Jews in Nazi Europe from taking refuge in Palestine — a policy running counter to Britain's legal obligations at the time.

Holocaust education has also been used to promote a dangerous moral and cultural relativism. It is credited with sensitizing children to harmful cultural stereotypes, intolerance, and dehumanization. But its implicit message is that anyone is capable of such evil.

As a result, the Holocaust tends to be bracketed with other mass slaughters. According to Mike Levy, a Holocaust educator in Cambridge, England, there is "an atmosphere of fatigue in the air when it comes to talking about the Holocaust," with students and teachers wanting to "learn more about other



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres (c) and Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon (r) visiting the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem in August 2017.
Photo: Reuters/Ronen Zvulun

genocides" and thus contextualize it. He wrote, "Children need to be taught that there is not a competition about which genocide is worse."

As the eminent Holocaust scholar Professor Yehuda Bauer has said, "The Holocaust is too often turned into vague lessons of the danger of hatred or prejudice at the expense of really trying to understand the reasons and motivations for the genocide."

Consequently, the view developed that anyone can be a Nazi, and that there was nothing special about Jewish victimization. And from that point, it's been but a short step to the false and malevolent view — heard over and over again — that the Jews of Israel have ended up doing to the Palestinians what was done to them.

It's not just Israel that's falling foul of this false equivalence. Anyone who contradicts received liberal wisdom is likely to be called a fascist or Nazi. These have become casual terms of abuse—weapons of character assass-

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Mideast History Does Not Begin When Journalists Arrive



MITCHELL BARD
NEW YORK

One reason that journalists often get stories wrong and mislead their audiences is because they often behave as if history begins when they arrive in the Middle East. By failing to be aware of or account for prior events, reporters fail to provide necessary context and relevant information to understand contemporary issues. Often, ignorance results in stories that are inaccurate.

One article that caught my attention in this regard was when *New York Times* Jerusalem bureau chief Steven Erlanger wrote a story in 2007 about Gaza that said:

Palestinians never used to do these things to one another. Putting bullets in the back of the heads of men on their knees. Shooting up hospitals. Killing patients. Knee-capping doctors. Executing clerics. Throwing handcuffed prisoners to their deaths from Gaza's highest (and most expensive) apartment buildings.

If Erlanger knew anything about Palestinian history and society, he would know Palestinians have been killing each other for decades. By the end of the First Intifada, for example, the fighting had turned into an *intrafada*, as nearly 1,000 Palestinians were killed by their fellow Palestinians, more than were killed in confrontations with the Israelis.

More recently, a new staff writer reporting on foreign news from Washington,

DC, Miriam Berger, co-authored a story in *The Washington Post* about the deprivations of Palestinians in Gaza: "The UN once predicted Gaza would be 'uninhabitable' by 2020. Two million people still live there."

The story quotes a Palestinian living in a refugee camp who describes the terrible conditions there, which he blames on "the various Palestinian parties" and the Israeli blockade. Another Gazan said, "Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Hamas, the Arabs, and the United States are responsible for what is happening in Gaza, and they must work to help some people here in Gaza."

One of the main reasons for the description of Gaza as "unlivable" is that 97% of the coastal aquifer's water is undrinkable.

One other statement worth noting is that "of Gaza's 1.9 million residents, 1.4 million are refugees."

Let's examine the history and context missing from this story.



Palestinian rioters shout during clashes with IDF troops on the Israel-Gaza border, April 6, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Mohammed Salem.

In 2005, Israel did what Palestinians and the international community had long demanded — they ended the "occupation" of Gaza by withdrawing every soldier and citizen. The Palestinians that were interviewed in the *Post* story are under the direct control of their fellow Palestinians.

The authors are apparently unaware that billions of dollars of international aid have been sent to Gaza since the Israeli withdrawal. Qatar alone has provided more than \$1 billion since 2012. Did they ask where the money was spent? Did they ask whether a single house was built for a single refugee?

Could the habitability of Gaza have anything to do with Hamas siphoning off the aid for its own members and purposes?

A simple search of the *Post's* archive would have revealed that Hamas spends an estimated \$1 million for each terror tunnel it builds. Another *Post* article, for example, quoted *Al-Monitor's* Shlomi Eldar, "Much to the misfortune of the people of Gaza, Hamas has invested far more resources in 'underground Gaza' than in 'upper Gaza.'"

Why didn't the authors mention how many houses could be built for refugees with the money spent on tunnels?

How about the money that Hamas gets from other corrupt activities? For example, Gaza imports more than \$45 million worth of products from Egypt each month, from which they siphon off approximately \$15 million in commissions. Where does that money go?

In 2015, Hamas passed the National Solidarity Tax law on "non-basic" goods such

Continued on Page A7

World News.

Israeli Hotel Chain Buys Iconic Tel Aviv Building to Restore Its Old Glory as a Luxury Hotel

BY NAVIT ZOMER/CTech

Israeli hotel chain Fattal Hotels aims to restore Tel Aviv's first luxury hotel to its former glory. On Sunday, the company announced it was setting up an ultra-luxury hotel in the iconically pink building in central Tel Aviv that once housed the Palatin Hotel.

Fattal acquired the historic building on the corner of Ahad Ha'am St. and Nachalat Binyamin St. and will invest NIS 150 million (approximately \$43.4 million) in renovating the building and intends to launch the new hotel late this year, under a separate brand.

Fattal recently launched another boutique hotel in nearby landmark building Bachar House, also on Nachalat Binyamin St. Fattal, however, did not acquire this property and has instead leased it for a 25-year period.

Fattal, a subsidiary of Tel Aviv-listed Fattal Holdings, operates 42 hotels in Israel — 10 of them in Tel Aviv — and 213 hotels in Europe. The company has previously announced plans for two additional boutique hotels in central Tel Aviv, both scheduled for launch in 2021 — one on Liliensblum St., bordering the



The Palatin Hotel in Tel Aviv. Photo: Alex Jilitsky via Wikimedia.

city's picturesque Neve Tzedek neighborhood and another at the former Kabbalah Centre, adjacent to Dizengoff Square.

The Palatin Hotel was first erected in 1926 as Tel Aviv's first luxury hotel, complete with wood flooring, a concert hall, a ballroom, and one of the city's first elevators.

The local hospitality industry suffered a significant blow during the Arab revolt in Palestine between 1936 and 1939 and the Palatin Hotel was shut down in 1938. In 1942, it resumed operation as a guest house for allied soldiers during World War II. Following the foundation of Israel later in the decade, the building was converted to house offices.

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The West Mourns

sination to silence people with dissenting views by labeling them falsely not just as wrong-headed, but as evil.

In 2018, Edna Friedberg of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC cited troubling examples of such "sloppy analogizing." Conservative media figures had likened students to the Hitler Youth for advocating tightened gun control, splicing images of these students into historical film footage of Nazi rallies.

On the other side of the political spectrum, accusations of "Nazism" and "fascism" have abounded against federal authorities for their treatment of children separated from their parents at the US border with Mexico.

"Remember, other governments put kids in camps," is a typical rallying cry from such quarters. A former head of the CIA, tweeting criticism of policies towards illegal migrants, even used a historical photo of the train tracks leading to Auschwitz.

Such morally bankrupt relativism is bound up with a failure to understand the uniqueness both of the Jewish people and the antisemitism that has dogged them since the earliest times.

It's clear that the educational focus should not have been on the Holocaust, but on the culture it set out to exterminate. The West should have taught itself about the Jewish people and their history. That would have been the correct way to contextualize the Holocaust.

Of course, it's unarguable that all kinds of

Continued from Page A1
Annexation

Most countries consider the Jordan Valley occupied territory, and Jordan itself has threatened to abrogate its 1994 peace treaty with Israel if it was annexed.

Netanyahu quickly replied to Gantz's remarks, saying, "Why wait until after the elections if sovereignty can already be applied to the Jordan Valley with a broad consensus in the Knesset?" Gantz shot back with snide reference to Netanyahu's ongoing legal woes, saying, "We'll

people are capable of doing terrible things to others. History gives us innumerable examples, and there is no shortage of these today.

But the Nazi genocide of the Jews was unique because German Nazism was unique. Its main driver was not racism, as people call it today, nor hatred of "the other," nor its dehumanizing view of certain groups in society — a view the Nazis shared with much progressive Western opinion in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The core of German Nazism was instead its antisemitism — its paranoid and deranged view of the Jewish people as an evil conspiracy of positively supernatural proportions, which therefore had to be wiped off the face of the earth.

This is not replicable or recognizable in any other form of prejudice, bigotry, or hatred. It was, and is, reserved for the Jews alone.

Unless Jew-hatred is recognized for the unique phenomenon that it is — and unless the West's children are taught the history of the Jewish people and its contribution to civilization — neither Holocaust memorials, museums, or education materials will teach them the true meaning of "never again."

Melanie Phillips, a British journalist, broadcaster and author, writes a weekly column for JNS. Currently a columnist for The Times of London, her personal and political memoir, Guardian Angel, has been published by Bombardier, which also published her first novel, The Legacy, in 2018. Her work can be found at www.melaniephillips.com.

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Explosives-Rigged Balloons, Likely Launched From Gaza, Found Next to Central Israel Moshav



Palestinians in the Gaza Strip launch balloons loaded with flammable material toward Israel. Photo: Reuters / Ibraheem Abu Mustafa.

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

A group of balloons rigged with explosives — likely flown into Israel from the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip — was found near the moshav of Mesilat Zion, next to Beit Shemesh in central Israel, on Monday.

The Israeli daily Yediot Achronot reported that police sappers were summoned to an open area where balloons had landed and defused them.

The incident came after similar balloons touched down in the vicinity of the southern cities of Ashdod and Sderot.

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Stayed Alive

them today and in the future."

More than a million people, nearly all of them Jews, died at Auschwitz, whose name has become synonymous with the industrial-scale killings carried out at the Nazi death camps.

Harshalom, who was born in a small Polish village, was 17 when he arrived at Auschwitz.

Harshalom, born Avraham Frydberg, was selected by the SS for work at the camp. It saved his life: those deemed unfit for labor were sent to immediate death in the camp's gas chambers.

Among those killed were his parents and his brother.

Harshalom had his tattoo removed soon after moving to the newly-founded state of Israel in 1949, where he started a family and built a career as a businessman.

In the years immediately following the war the tattoo kept inviting questions; people simply didn't know what it meant, even in

On Thursday, residents of a town in the northern Negev Desert called police after a suspicious balloon was found in an open area. An explosive device attached to the balloon detonated at the scene. No one was injured.

Flying bomb-rigged balloons and kites from Gaza into Israel has become a common tactic used by Palestinian terrorists over the past two years, though the frequency had tapered off recently.

Israeli authorities are now concerned that the recent spurt of balloon launches represents a renewal of the use of the tactic.

Israel, he said.

"At first, say 20 years after the war, all Holocaust survivors and especially prisoners of Auschwitz were not talking at all (of their experiences)," he said.

"We were not talking because people didn't believe ... that what we are telling is true."

Saved by a fur coat

Artemis Meron, from a small Jewish community in Greece, was 15 when in 1944 she was transported to Auschwitz with her mother and nine-year-old brother.

She and other Jews rounded up in Greece were packed by the hundreds into freight carts with hardly any room to move. One bucket held water to drink, another served as the only toilet. Many died on the journey, their bodies slung into one of the train-cars.

Upon arrival at Auschwitz they were lined up into rows — young men on one side and young women on the other. In the middle the elderly, mothers and children were shoved

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discuss immunity first, afterwards we'll deal with applying sovereignty."

Moshe Ya'alon — No. 3 on the Blue and White list — also took a swipe at the prime minister, saying, "Bibi, enough with the spin. For the past 10 years you didn't think it was right to annex the valley unilaterally."

Ya'alon — a former defense minister and IDF chief of staff — also claimed that Netanyahu himself was willing to cede the Jordan Valley during talks with ex-US Secretary of State John Kerry half a decade ago.

Israel's left-wing parties criticized Gantz, with Ayman Odeh, leader of the mostly-Arab Joint List party saying that Gantz was simply

imitating Netanyahu.

"Annexation is the elimination of any chance of democracy and peace," Odeh charged. "This pathetic attempt to scramble a few votes from the right is not worth the destruction of our future."

Amir Peretz, head of the Labor-Gesher-Meretz list, called Gantz's remarks "hollow."

"The IDF must remain in the field as long as needed," he said, "but Israel's hand should be outstretched for peace and a political solution."

On the other hand, Transportation Minister Bezalel Smotrich — head of the right-wing National Union party — praised Gantz, saying, "Benny, get moving!"

World News.



An Italian flag on display in Rome. Photo: Reuters / Guglielmo Mangiapane.

Italian Jews Praise Appointment of Expert Milena Santerini to Combat Rising Antisemitism

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Jewish leaders in Italy have warmly welcomed the appointment by the government of a national coordinator against antisemitism, Prof. Milena Santerini.

The appointment of the Milan-based academic to the new post by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte last Friday was praised by the head of the Italian Jewish community for bringing Italy into line with other European countries such as Germany and the United Kingdom — both of whom have appointed senior officials to combat rising antisemi-

tism in the last two years, along with formally adopting of the definition of antisemitism endorsed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

“In the fight against this growing threat... we need to send a strong signal,” Noemi di Segni — president of UCEI, Italian Jewry’s communal representative body — said in a statement on Monday. “The choice of Professor Santerini, an authoritative figure who has been engaged in this field for years, is an important step in the right direction.”

The 66-year-old Santerini spent much of her career as a professor in the Education

New York Organization Seeks to Empower Jews Through Self-defense

BY JNS.org

In the aftermath of the growing number of anti-Semitic attacks in the United States in recent years, a fledgling organization is focused on empowering Jews to defend themselves through a course of self-defense training taught by Special Forces experts, combat medics, Krav Maga instructors and others.

Founded in 2014, Legion currently offers its training class in six cities, primarily in the New York metro area, but is looking to expand.

Members say it is high time for Jews to stop relying on others to help with their own protection.

Lance Drucker, one of Legion’s leaders, said during an informational webinar, “We are about creating the new Jew, the fighting Jew.”

Legion is about “restoring deterrence,” he said, noting that the ultimate goal is that when “evil looks at us, they will not see a victim, but an opponent and walk on by.”

The organization’s founder, Jon Loew, said Jews are not the most hated group in the United States, but they are the most often attacked because people see them as easy targets.

There hasn’t been adequate focus on training us,” he added, asserting that Jews will only be safe when their instinct isn’t to call upon someone else for help.

Participants in Legion, who are referred to as “trainees,” undergo a rigorous application process. If accepted, trainees commit to the nine-month learning scheduling and to taking several classes in skills like Krav Maga, mixed martial arts and responding to disaster scenarios.

Department of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan. As an academic, her research interests included Holocaust education in public schools. In 2013, Santerini was elected to the Italian Parliament on the ticket of the centrist Civic Choice party.

Both Santerini’s appointment and Italy’s adoption of the IHRA definition were welcomed by US Jewish leaders as well.

“We salute Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and the Italian government for adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, and for appointing Professor Milena Santerini

as national coordinator for the fight against antisemitism,” Arthur Stark, chairman, and Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman and CEO, of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said in a statement on Monday.

The statement further noted that “Italy joins a growing list of other countries in Europe and elsewhere which have committed to combatting Jew-hatred by adopting this important standard. It is encouraging to see this increasingly urgent issue being met with appropriate action by so many nations, and we hope to see more governments act in the days ahead.”

BETH SHIFRA

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20 Adar I, 5779/ February 25, 2019

In years past, Beth Shifra maintained a Free Soup Kitchen all year round, open seven days a week, serving free meals three times a day, without charge. During the week of Pesach, Beth Shifra sponsored free Kosher for Pesach Sedorim and daily meals around the city for thousands of people. We are personally familiar with the outstanding work that they do under the leadership of Rabbi Chaim Prussman, and urge you to help Beth Shifra with any support that you can, including publicizing their inspiring work in your Shul or organization. This year, 2019/5779, Beth Shifra is sponsoring free Kosher for Pesach Seders and meals daily from Friday, April 19, through Saturday (Shabbat), April 27, at The White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21 in Brooklyn. Free Kosher for Passover food packages will be offered on Thursday, April 18, at the White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21 in Brooklyn from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. We proudly invite you to join us in making this year a memory of a lifetime for those in need. Take the time now to have the merit and joy of helping a hungry family celebrate Passover. Please help Beth Shifra with any assistance that you can, including publicizing their good work in your Shul or organization. May all those that participate in this holy effort be blessed from Heaven. On behalf of the Igud/RAA Presidium and of the Beth Din, I extend greetings of Torah.

Rabbi Mendy Mirocznik Executive Vice - President, Rabbinical Alliance of America

These are some of the FREE programs Beth Shifra ran for the Poor and Russian Families.

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- Chess Tournament • Free Bar Mitzvahs and Mezuzas by Rabbi Zalmen
- Several English Classes (Green Cards)
- Work Release Programs • Release Hours
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“We urge you to do whatever you can do to help Beth Shifra, תבא עליהם ברכה, רבבי אביגדור מילר ז”ל”

Published in Jewish Press '84

Meir Kahane speaks The Summer of 84'

GREETINGS FROM RABBI MEIR KAHANE BETH SHIFRA

I have always said that in Heaven there is a great Synagogue. And as with all synagogues there is an East wall at which, like in all synagogues, sit the truly distinguished. But, unlike all synagogues where the truly distinguished are distinguished for their money and external attributes, in this great synagogue, we will be stunned to see whom the Almighty - the great Gabbai, warder, of Heaven - seats at the East Wall and who is relegated to the “ordinary” rows.

In every generation there walk in our midst the greatly simple, whose quiet task in life is to be simply great. They are famous in their anonymity. No reporters know their names and no television or cameras record their faces and words. They walk in the streets in perfect tranquility for no one knows that they are people to be touched. They are touched only by the greatness of their deeds.

I rarely use this column to specifically praise someone and urge their support time and space are too precious. But I stand in tribute and ask you to do the same even as you write a generous check, for a simple tzadik (and are there any other?).

His name is Chaim Prussman and no one at Time magazine has ever heard of him. But I tell you that he is famous in the streets of Heaven. Daily, he walks and talks and worries and lives the pain of Jews. In the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn, where he lives, he sees the talons and fangs of the missionaries ripping away the souls of Jews, simple Jews, mostly from the Soviet Union. With meals and gifts and money they buy and destroy Jewish souls. There are synagogues and organizations and rabbis and leaders but no one stood up to cry out and do, except a little Jew named Chaim Prussman.

With no funding from government or any group Chaim Prussman manages through sacrifice and G-d's help to give the poor Jews:

- a) The only traditional Talmud Torah and nursery school programs offered FREE to underprivileged families, including transportation.
- b) Special religious classes held in local public high schools.
- c) Free Bar Mitzvah lessons.
- d) Assistance for Bar Mitzvah celebrations.
- e) Shabbaton activities.
- f) Trips and rallies celebrating Jewish holidays.

Without your generous support, Beth Shifra cannot compete with the \$0.5 breakfasts and \$0.10 chicken dinners of the missionaries.

Chaim Prussman is the kind of Jew for whom I stand daily and salute. I urge you to stand, salute and then sit. And write a check. Make it out to Beth Shifra and Save a Jew. And then, in the Great Synagogue of Heaven, you may - as a reward - sit close to Chaim Prussman at the East Wall. Beth Shifra. A monument to simple greatness. Support it. Today.

לשנה טובה

July 17, 2018

For almost 50 years, the Beth Shifra organization, located in Brooklyn, NY, has provided year round daily free meals to those who are most needy in the New York Jewish community. I am personally familiar with the outstanding work that they do under the leadership of Rabbi Chaim Prussman, and urge you to help Beth Shifra in any manner possible, including publicizing their work in your shul or organization. During the Pesach holiday, the organization sponsors Kosher for Passover sedorim, food packages, lectures and programs to hundreds of people who would otherwise be unable to celebrate the holiday. In 2019, they will be sponsoring free kosher for Passover Seders and daily meals from Friday. Pesach food packages will be distributed on Thursday, April 18 at the synagogue between the hours of 12:00-2:00 PM. In the merit of helping the hungry and poor, may you only receive the choicest blessings from Heaven.

Dov Hikind
Member of Assembly

Bogus Purim Service Broken Up

A group of missionaries in Brighton Beach who rented Public School 225 on the premise they were holding a social,” attempted to hold a bogus “Purim Megilla” reading. The missionaries widely advertised their program in Russian as well as English throughout the Manhattan Beach and Brighton Beach area in an effort to entice young people to their service. However, when the real purpose of the “service” was discovered, groups from Boro Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights and Monsey descended on the area to help the staff of the Beth Shifra Institutions break up the rally. Since many of the protesters missed the Megilla reading, the staff of Beth Shifra held to Megilla readings, so those who were instrumental in breaking up the rally could observe the Mitzva properly. The Beth Shifra rally, held at the Jewish Center of Ocean Parkway, was termed a huge success by the children and parents who attended. There was a live band and a puppet show to entertain the children.

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Tzedaka Donations: : Beth Shifra P.O. Box 700 Bklyn, NY 11229 (718) 449- 1397

U.S. News.

Did Changes to New York Bail Reform Tackle Too Much Too Quickly?

BY FAYGIE HOLT/ JNS.org

Slated to be the cornerstone of New York State's social-justice reform in 2020, a new law that eliminates bail for misdemeanors and some felony crimes has come under increasing scrutiny, in part because of the uptick in antisemitic attacks.

Proponents of the new bail-reform law, which went into effect on Jan. 1, say it will address racial and economic imbalances in the justice system throughout the state. They maintain that an overwhelming number of those incarcerated are poor individuals or African-Americans who cannot afford bail. Others note the high cost to taxpayers for housing and caring for those incarcerated as they wait for their day in court.

As New York Civil Liberties executive director Donna Lieberman said in a press release at the end of December, "The end of this decade marks a new dawn for justice in New York. The bail, speedy trials and discovery reforms set to take effect this year will mean that thousands of New Yorkers who are presumed innocent of the misdemeanor and nonviolent felony charges they face will no longer be forced to sit in jail awaiting trial."

Critics, however, say that the pendulum has swung too wide, and individuals are being released despite posing a danger to others, including some who have been accused of committing antisemitic crimes. In one case, a woman was arrested in late December for allegedly assaulting and cursing at three Jewish women in the borough of Brooklyn. As the bail-reform law was just about to go into effect, Tiffany Harris was released without bail. She was rearrested days later after allegedly attacking another woman, released again without bail, and then arrested again for another crime.

Harris isn't the only one who has already been back and forth to court. Others include a burglary suspect in New York City and a drunk driver in Upstate New York.

According to an analysis by the Center for Court Innovation, of the 200,000-plus criminal cases arraigned in New York City in 2018, only 10 percent would have been eligible for money bail under the new law.

"The recent bail-reform law passed by the New York State Senate is a legislative package that was passed in dark of night without any consultation on a meaningful level with prosecutors, judges, police [and] sheriffs across the state," New York Deputy Police Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller said last week during a congressional hearing on federal security funding. "What it means for us in New York City is that an entire laundry list of serious crimes has become expressly prohibited by law for a judge to remand someone or set bail."

"Cynics have long talked about the revolving door of justice," continued Miller. "This is no longer cynicism; this has become a reality."

Given the rise of antisemitism in Greater New York and around the country, the fear that assailants will be released remains of significant concern to members of the Jewish community. Indeed, in the hours after the Dec. 28 machete attack on Jews at a rabbi's house in Monsey, NY, Twitter was filled with people denouncing the bail-reform law.

While criminal-justice reform is laudable, former New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind told JNS, "the issue is that we've created a revolving door of justice. It's an absolute farce."

"And the bad guys know it," continued Hikind, also the founder of Americans Against Antisemitism. "They know that they can get away with so much in terms of committing these crimes that have put the Jewish community in a state of—I've never seen anything like it to be honest—where people are afraid. People are concerned."

"What's going on in the streets is absolute havoc," he said.

The American Jewish Committee sent a letter to New York lawmakers urging them to revise the law so that judges can set bail in hate-crime cases, the organization's chief legal officer, Marc Stern, told JNS.

"Judges ought to have the discretion depending on the facts of the case, to set bail, to ensure ... and to signal these are not sort of administrative offenses that aren't all that serious," he said. "Bail today is only available in the most serious crimes. We think hate crimes ought to be in that category."

A multi-pronged approach to combat hate

Given the new scrutiny being given to the law, Albany's lawmakers are listening.

"As a Jewish political refugee, to see such an uptick of antisemitism in this country, in this state, is really heartbreaking," State Sen. Anna Kaplan, who was born in Iran and came to the United States as a child, told JNS last week during an interview. "I think antisemitism has been a plague for generations as far back as we can go, but it is this generation that needs to take a stand and do more than just speak about it."

Kaplan said she's heard from her constituents on Long Island, NY, who have expressed concerns about the bail-reform law and the steady increase in hate and bias crimes. She's taking a multi-pronged approach to combat hate, introducing four bills that she hopes will

mitigate the levels of bias incidents in the state. Among the legislation she's proposing is an educational curriculum on discrimination and the prevention of antisemitism, in addition to a law that, if passed, would allow a defendant's previous declarations or statements to show they intentionally committed a hate crime.

She has also introduced legislation that would require the department to provide for pretrial mental-health and substance-abuse screening for those who qualify for release without bail. "In a lot of these incidents, like the one in Brooklyn, this is a woman suffering from mental illness," said Kaplan, "and if we try and tackle that, we will get much further with this and our public safety."

Also working to address the problem is Democratic Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein, who represents the heavily Jewish neighborhoods of Borough Park and Midwood in Brooklyn, NY. Earlier this month, he introduced an amendment to bail reform that would classify hate crimes as a "qualifying

offense," giving the courts leeway to affix bail or keep in custody people charged with such incidents. (Kaplan is one of the co-sponsors of the bill in the State Senate.)

State Sen. Andrew Gounardes, who also represents parts of Brooklyn, is the bill's lead sponsor in the state senate and thinks that it's an easy fix to the bail-reform law.

"I believe that an exemption for hate crimes to bail-reform laws is a common-sense fix that should have been included in the original negotiations last year. Especially given the recent spate of anti-Semitic crimes, this is an important change," said Gounardes, noting that he also co-sponsored Kaplan's bill.

Such measures, he said, "would divert people to the mental-health services they need, ensuring they get treatment instead of worsening behind bars."

"Our communities are wonderfully diverse, with people of all races, religions and walks of life," he added, "and we must safeguard that."

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Opinion.

Is Israel Snubbing Poland to Placate Putin?

SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

Forty-five heads of state are expected to gather at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem this week for International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which this year marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. It is a solemn and historic commemoration, and the eyes of the world will be upon the Jewish state as it pays homage to the martyred six million.

Amazingly, President Andrzej Duda of Poland will not be attending. This is despite the fact that, considering Auschwitz is located on his soil, he would be one of the most relevant world leaders in the room.

"How is it possible that the ones who speak are the presidents of Germany, Russia, and France — whose government back then sent people, Jews, to concentration camps — whereas the President of Poland is not allowed to speak?" President Duda asked at a belated Hanukkah event last week in Warsaw.

Although his government opposed the Nazis all throughout the war and never once collaborated, Duda wasn't offered the podium.

His sense of bewilderment is justified.

Consider some of the other heads of state invited to speak. The French president represents a country that collaborated with the Nazis and sent some 80,000 Jews to their deaths. When I visited Vichy last summer to write about the wartime French capital for my upcoming book, *Holocaust Holiday: One Family's Descent into Genocide Memory Hell*, I was dumbstruck by the near total absence of historical monuments to the atrocities that the Vichy regime participated in against the Jews.

The Russian leader represents a country responsible for outrages during and after the war. And nothing needs to be said about Germany.

Poland, by contrast, at all times resisted the Nazis and Warsaw was flattened utterly by Hitler. While there can be no doubt that a not insignificant number of Poles were complicit in the Holocaust, the death camps were created and operated by the German Nazis while occupying Poland.

Is there anyone that seriously believes that the President of Poland should be punished, embarrassed, and marginalized during a commemoration of the Holocaust and the 75th anniversary of the liberation

of Auschwitz? Let's remember that Poland could have chosen to erase the evidence and destroy Auschwitz. They could have paved it over to put up a parking lot and a shopping mall, especially during Communist rule when the government would not have cared about the international reaction. Instead, the Polish government has done a remarkable job of preserving the sites of the German extermination camps of the Jews, and Polish schoolchildren are taken to visit the camp and the museum to educate them.

US Vice President Mike Pence and Prince Charles of England are appropriate speakers. And I understand that Putin should speak as well, given that it was the Russians who actually liberated Auschwitz and 20 million Russians died fighting Hitler. Still, Putin has become wildly unpopular in Israel ever since his regime took a young Israeli woman prisoner in a brazen act of political hostage-taking (Putin was allegedly trying to prevent Israel's extradition of a Russian Hacker to the United States when he slapped seven years on an offense for which others received only a fine).

Considering the history, it's difficult to even imagine how the President of Poland could not be brought to the stage to commemorate the liberation of a camp his government has preserved. The Polish people, moreover, suffered terribly at the hands of the Nazis, whom they actively resisted with their Home Army and government-in-exile.

That's not to say that many Poles weren't complicit in the Holocaust. Centuries of poisonous rhetoric from the Catholic Church led tens of thousands of Poles to abet the Nazi slaughter of their nation's three million Jews, with Holocaust researchers having collected significant evidence of large swaths of Polish villagers who murdered Jews fleeing the Nazis or exploited their situation for financial gain. The Poles' very own Underground State's wartime Special Courts investigated 17,000 Poles who collaborated with the Germans, sentencing about 3,500 to death.

At the same time, the Holocaust was orchestrated by the Germans along with their multi-national collaborators — not by Poles; and camps like Auschwitz, while located within Poland, can only be accurately referred to as "German." More importantly, the Poles never established a collaborative government with the Nazis in the way that France, Hungary, Norway, and even Belgium did. The Soviets, who actually liberated Auschwitz, willingly cooperated with Hitler far more than Poland did, the invasion of Poland being the best example.

So what could have caused the snub?

Some trace it back to a dispute that erupted between Poland and Israel in early 2018, when the Polish parliament passed legislation criminalizing allegations of Polish collaboration with the Nazis, a move many Jews saw as a whitewashing of even undisputed Polish crimes. I personally flew to Warsaw with another Jewish leader at the height of the controversy to meet with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, whom we adjured to repeal the law and to whom I remain grateful for his warm and dignified engagement, even as there remained areas of disagreement.

Months of diplomacy and dialogue would bring Poland to defang the Holocaust law, and the dispute seemed ripe to subside by mid-2018. Poland would go on to host a global summit in Warsaw to advance the Trump administration's policies on countering Iran in early 2019, which I attended, and made plans for a summit of Israel's key Eastern European powers allies in Jerusalem, known as the Visegrad group. It would be harsh comments by Israel's acting foreign minister Israel Katz that exposed the rift again in early 2019, which led Poland to cancel the Visegrad summit it had planned.

Since then, ties between the two natural allies do not seem to have improved, and Duda's cancellation due to the unfortunate snub will not help matters.

What makes this whole episode especially unfortunate is the fact that Holocaust commemoration has a pragmatic element, in the form of genocide prevention.

Today, the Jews face another genocidal threat in the form of Iran, which is unapologetic about its plans to annihilate Israel. England, France, Germany, and Russia have been Iran's greatest international advocates, and together served as the diplomatic bulwark of the JCPOA agreement that enriched and legitimized its leadership in Tehran. At every turn, these countries have tossed the Ayatollah diplomatic lifelines and obstructed President Trump's sanctions regime.

Poland, in stark contrast, stood by Israel's side by hosting a summit to advance President Trump's Iran policies.

Just one week before the conference, Iranian generals threatened to flatten Tel Aviv and Haifa — each of which contain more Jews than pre-war Warsaw. This time around, the world — gathered in the very city where the wholesale slaughter of Jews had already occurred — seemed poised to stop them.

President Trump's elimination of terror



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on April 4, 2019. Photo: Kobi Gideon/GPO.

mastermind Qassem Suleimani, along with popular unrest and the reimposition of key sanctions have brought the popularity of the Iranian regime to a record low. As this occurs, the UK, France, and Germany continue to support normalization with Iran and a return to a deal which threatens millions of Jewish lives. Europe's promised "snap-back" mechanisms seem to have collected rust.

As we commemorate a genocide actually carried out, Israel should not make the mistake of honoring Iran's defenders while snubbing its opponents.

Some, like former Israeli ambassador to Poland Shevach Weiss, have reportedly expressed that Duda was not permitted to speak over objections from a Putin ally who helped organized the event. There seems to be some merit to this claim. Recently, Putin has launched public tirades trashing Poland's wartime reputation, with his government accusing the Polish resistance army of "destroying Jews." Needless to say, his outbursts have elicited a fierce public response from Poland's leaders, considering that the Nazi-Soviet partition of their country initiated World War II and decades of oppressive Communist rule.

Given a choice between having Putin or Duda speak — and the possibility of a fallout with a minor superpower — Israel seems to have chosen Putin over his Polish counterpart.

If this is true, it is terribly ironic. On the theme of Genocide Prevention, Putin has not only supported Iran's nuclear ambitions and distorted Holocaust memory, he's actually abetted a genocide on Israel's northern doorstep in Syria.

I understand the need for realpolitik as well as the fact that Israel can little afford a public rift with Moscow. But given a choice between an amoral dictator who assisted in the slaughter of 500,000 Syrians and an allied democracy helping rein in the genocidal mullahs of Iran, Israel can still tell Putin that he and Duda will indeed share the same stage.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, whom The Washington Post calls "the most famous Rabbi in America," is the international best-selling author of 33 books, including the upcoming Holocaust Holiday: One Family's Descent into Genocide Memory Hell. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

Holocaust Politics Is Bad for the Jews

JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.org

anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz at the Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem. Yet the controversy over the speakers list at the World Holocaust Forum it is sponsoring on Jan. 23 is no trivial matter.

It's likely that most Israelis and Jews regard Yad Vashem's decision to deny Polish President Andrzej Duda a speaker's slot at their Auschwitz ceremony with indifference. But the snub of Duda ought to worry even those who don't care much about Polish sensibilities, let alone the minutiae of

Holocaust remembrance.

The backstory to this dispute stems from the Israeli museum and research center's decision to try to seize the spotlight during the Auschwitz anniversary that falls on Jan. 27. Since 1959, the State of Israel and the organized Jewish world has observed Yom Hashoah on the 27th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which this year falls on April 21. That places the memory of the Holocaust squarely within the context of Jewish history, falling as it does the week after Passover, and a week before Israel's Yom Hazikaron Memorial Day and its Yom Haatzmaut Independence Day.

Ever since the UN General Assembly's 2005 vote to establish an International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27 — the date that Soviet forces liberated the Auschwitz death camp — that date has grown in importance.

Yad Vashem's ceremony will provide



The "Hall of Names" commemorating victims of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Photo: David Shankbone via Wikimedia Commons.

competition for the event held at the site of Auschwitz in Poland the next week. The list of leaders who will speak at the Israeli observance is impressive and will include Great Britain's Prince Charles, Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Emmanuel Macron, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, US Vice President Mike Pence, and

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Opinion.

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a feather. On the other, was placed the heart. If the heart was as light as the feather, the dead could continue to Aaru, but if it was heavier, it was devoured by the goddess Ammit (a combination of lion, hippopotamus and crocodile), and its owner was condemned to live in Duat, the underworld. An illustration, on papyrus, in *The Book of the Dead* shows the ceremony, undertaken in the Hall of Two Truths, overseen by Anubis, the Egyptian God of the dead.

It follows that the root *k-v-d*, “to make heavy,” would have had a highly specific meaning for the Egyptians of that time. It would imply that Pharaoh’s heart had become heavier than a feather. He would fail the heart weighing ceremony and therefore be denied what was most important to him – the prospect of joining the gods in the afterlife.

No one would have been in any doubt as to why this was so. The feather represented *Ma’at*, the central Egyptian value that included the concepts of truth, balance, order, harmony, justice, morality, and law. Not only was this fundamental to Egyptian culture. It was the task of the Pharaoh to ensure that it prevailed. This had been an Egyptian principle since a thousand years before the Exodus, found in Pyramid texts dating from the third millennium BCE. *Ma’at* meant cosmic order.

Continued from Page A2 Mideast History

as meats, fruits, electronics, and clothing being imported into Gaza. The revenue was to pay the salaries of Hamas employees.

And why was the person the *Post* authors interviewed living in a refugee camp? The Israelis left 14 years ago; nothing prevents the Palestinians from closing the refugee camps and moving the people into permanent housing. When Israeli settlers left, the Palestinians were supposed to tear down those homes and build apartment buildings. They never did.

With hundreds of millions of dollars in international assistance, UNRWA provides housing, education, health, and other services for the Palestinians. The article says UNRWA was created in the 1950s, but it was established in 1949 and began operations in 1950, which could have been easily verified if the authors bothered to check UNRWA’s website. More important, they left out the fact that UNRWA was never meant to provide indefinite assistance to people it defines as refugees, and that the Palestinians are the only refugee population that has its own separate UN welfare agency.

And what about that figure of 1.4 million refugees? The authors do not question how that figure was determined or ask how there could be that many refugees in 2020, when the total number of Palestinians who left, fled, or were expelled in 1947-49 was 600,000 (UN and CIA estimates were less than 400,000).

The economy in Gaza is dreadful. Are the authors aware that Israel left Gaza a multi-million dollar export economy when settlers gave up their greenhouses? Do they

Continued from Page A6 Holocaust Politics

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But Yad Vashem didn’t offer Duda the opportunity for a speech, and as a result, Poland is boycotting the ceremony.

Should anyone care about the Poles being slighted?

A lot of Jews won’t care because of the hard feelings caused by the Polish parliament’s passage in January 2018 of a foolish law that made it a crime for anyone to allege that Poles collaborated with the Germans during the Holocaust. The Poles were sick of

Its absence invited chaos. A Pharaoh whose heart had become heavier than the *Ma’at* feather was not only endangering his own afterlife, but threatening the entire people over whom he ruled with turmoil and disarray.

One of the things the deceased were supposed to do as part of the trial was to make a series of negative confessions, 42 in all, declaring themselves innocent of the kind of sin that would exclude them from paradise. These are some of them:

I have not done injury to men.

I have not oppressed those beneath me.

I have not murdered.

I have not commanded murder.

I have not caused suffering to men.

If the “heaving” of Pharaoh’s heart is an allusion to the Weighing of the Heart ceremony, it allows us to read the story in a completely new way.

First, it suggests that it is directed to *Egyptians* as well as *Israelites*; to humanity as a whole. The Torah tells us three times that the purpose of the signs and wonders was “so that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord” (Ex. 7:5; 14:4; 14:18). This is the core of monotheism. It is not that the Israelites have their God, and the Egyptians their pantheon, but rather that there is one sovereign power in the universe.

That is the point of at least three of the plagues: the first, directed against Hapfi, the

know those greenhouses were destroyed or converted to Hamas training camps?

The article mentions the serious water problems in Gaza and the polluted aquifer: “It’s been so heavily pumped that saltwater and other pollutants have poured in where groundwater was taken out.” Put plainly, the Palestinians’ drinking water issue is a result of them polluting their most important natural resource. That, however, is not the impression given by the story.

Gaza waste also affects Israel. The authors don’t mention that Israel announced plans to build a pipeline to reroute the waste.

The authors do acknowledge that Egypt has imposed a land and sea blockade on Gaza, but inaccurately report that only “Israel flexes control via policies on who and what can enter and leave Gaza.” They do not mention that Israel permits tons of supplies to enter Gaza, that it increased the supply of electricity, or that thousands of Gazans are now being allowed into Israel to work.

The authors also don’t consider that the habitability of Gaza might be related to the Palestinian decision to launch 10,000 rockets at Israel instead of focusing on state-building, and that those attacks provoke Israeli retaliation that affects living conditions.

I emailed Miriam Berger to point out the story’s omissions and lack of context. I have not heard from her. In the future maybe she can learn the relevant history or stick to stories on American policy — especially if she is going to report from Washington.

Mitchell Bard is Executive Director of AICE and Jewish Virtual Library.

Auschwitz being inaccurately described as a “Polish death camp.” Auschwitz was situated in Poland but run by the Germans, not the Poles, who were among the chief victims of the Nazis. Polish resistance to the Germans was heroic both during the 1939 invasion and the occupation, as well as during their tragic uprising in the summer of 1944. That revolt was crushed with indiscriminate Nazi slaughter because of the acquiescence of the Soviet Union, which preferred to see Polish freedom extinguished before the Red Army occupied the country.

Still, there is also no denying that

god of the Nile; the second, frogs, directed against Heqet, the Egyptian goddess of fertility and childbirth, represented in the form of a frog; and the ninth, the plague of darkness, directed against Ra, the sun god. The message of these plagues would have been clear to the Egyptians: there is a power greater than those they have worshipped until now. The God of Israel is the God of the world and of all humanity.

The religion of Israel is not intended to be the religion of all humanity. Nowhere in the narrative does God imply that He wants the Egyptians to adopt Israelite religious practices. The point is quite different. *Religion is particular. Morality is universal.* If the story of the “heaving” of Pharaoh’s heart does allude to the Book of the Dead, then the story of the Exodus is not simply a partisan account from an Israelite point of view. It is telling us that *certain things are wrong, whoever does them and whoever they are done against.* They are wrong by Egyptian standards too. That was true of Pharaoh’s decision to kill all male Israelite children. That was an unforgivable sin against *Ma’at*.

Justice is universal. That is the point made plainly by the Torah’s three stories of Moses’ early life. He sees an Egyptian hitting an Israelite and intervenes. He sees Israelites hitting one another and intervenes. He sees Gentile shepherds behaving roughly to Jethro’s daughters and intervenes. The first was a case of non-Israelite against Israelite, the second was Israelite against Israelite, the third was non-Israelite against non-Israelite. This is the simplest way of telling us that Moses’ sense of justice was impartial and universal.

Finally, and most deeply, the Torah is hinting at a self-contradiction at the heart of the Egyptian concept of *Ma’at*. The most generous interpretation of Pharaoh’s refusal to let the people go is that he was charged with maintaining order in the Empire. A successful minority like the Israelites could be seen as a threat to such order. If they stayed and thrived, they might take over the country as the Hyksos had done several centuries earlier. If they were

antisemitism was endemic in Poland before, during, and after the war, and that there are documented instances of Poles betraying and killing Jews. By labeling truth-telling about Polish antisemitism a crime, the country brought down on itself the opprobrium of the Jewish world.

Thanks to Netanyahu’s diplomacy, the Poles amended the law. But the controversy was revived when Israeli Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz foolishly insulted the Poles. The slight to Duda from Yad Vashem has now exacerbated the ongoing dispute.

Poles suffered more cruelly at the hands of the Nazis than any other occupied country, save the Soviet Union. But while the Poles were horribly persecuted, the fate of the Jews was far worse. Approximately 18 percent of all Poles were killed during the war compared with a mind-boggling 90 percent of all Polish Jews.

But there’s more at stake here than a natural desire on the part of many Jews to express anger about revisionist history. As is true of other Eastern European governments, Poland does not share the antipathy towards Israel that is so common in Western Europe. Promoting warm relations between Israel and Poland isn’t so much a matter of Netanyahu practicing realpolitik but a policy based in the realization that the conflicts of the past should not doom Jews and Poles to conflict in the present and future.

Moreover, the politics behind the decision to exclude the Polish president from the list of Yad Vashem speakers is particularly troubling.

Moshe Kantor, head of the European

allowed to leave, other enslaved groups might be tempted to do likewise. Emigration is a bad sign when the place people are trying to leave is a superpower. That is why, for many years, the Soviet Union forbade Jews to leave the country.

Pharaoh, in his repeated refusal to let the people go, doubtless justified his decision in each case on the grounds that he was securing *Ma’at*, order. Meanwhile however, with each plague the country was reduced to ever greater chaos. That is because oppressing people, which is what Pharaoh was doing, was a fundamental offence against *Ma’at*.

On this reading, the whole issue of Pharaoh hardening his heart was not so much psychological as political. In his position as semi-divine head of state of an empire that practised forced labour on a massive scale, Pharaoh could not let the Israelites go free without creating the risk that other groups would also challenge the *Corvée*, the unpaid, conscripted semi-slave labour that was part of Egyptian society from the building of the pyramids and abolished only in 1882.

For the first five plagues, Pharaoh could tell himself that he was enduring minor inconvenience to protect a major principle. But as the plagues became more serious, reducing Egypt to chaos, Pharaoh’s room for manoeuvre grew ever less. Having five times said “No” to the Israelites, he could not now back down without making himself look ridiculous, forfeiting his authority and damaging his standing. *Pharaoh was a prisoner of his own system*, held captive by his own decisions.

Seeking to protect order, he created chaos. That is because the order he was seeking to protect was built on a foundation of injustice: the enslavement of the many for the benefit of the few. The more he tried to defend it, the heavier his heart grew.

I believe that justice is universal. The Exodus story of how the supreme Power entered history to liberate the supremely powerless, is not just for Jews. It is the world’s greatest metanarrative of hope.

Shabbat Shalom

Jewish Congress, chairs the Yad Vashem event. Kantor is a Jewish philanthropist. But he’s also a Russian business oligarch who is close to Putin. That authoritarian leader is clearly interested in undermining Poland and separating it from allies like Israel. It’s likely that the insult to Poland was orchestrated by Moscow.

Russia is also guilty of its own outrageous revisionism. The invasion of Poland and the start of World War II were made possible by the Soviet-Nazi pact of August 1939, in which the two totalitarian governments divided up their neighbor. But Putin’s foreign ministry has the chutzpah to claim it was the Poles’ fault, and that Stalin was justified in collaborating with the Nazis.

Kantor could have been overruled by Israel’s President Reuven Rivlin, but he failed to heed Netanyahu’s plea to avoid the dispute. The only explanation for that is that Rivlin’s antipathy for Netanyahu and a desire to thwart the prime minister’s policy goal prevailed over common sense. And it has created an incident that hurts Israel and helps no one but Putin. Indeed, the absurdity of the decision is one that has created a rare agreement between columnists from the right-wing Israel Hayom and the left-wing Haaretz.

Poles and Jews shouldn’t be doomed to continued enmity by a shared tragic history. Nor should the interests of Putin or the absurd rivalries of Israeli politics determine how the Holocaust is remembered.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS-Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter @jonathans_tobin.

Impressions.

Israel Will Sorely Miss Sultan Qaboos of Oman

BY EDY COHEN

Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman sadly passed away on January 10, 2020. He was 79, childless, and considered to be the longest-ruling Arab leader in modern history.

Sultan Qaboos rose to power in 1970 at the age of 29, the only child of his father, Sultan Said bin Taimur. He deposed his father with the help of the British after attending the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

He was known as a tolerant and peace-loving ruler who successfully mediated disputes between neighboring Arab states. He refused to be drawn into the Arab-Israeli conflict; nor would he get involved in disputes between Iran and its Arab neighbors. While the rest of the

official mission in Muscat, the capital of Oman.

The mission operated for only a few years, closing in 2000 with the outbreak of the so-called "Al-Aqsa Intifada." Reports and images of Palestinian suffering caused the Gulf states to sever relations with Israel so as not to be accused of betraying fellow Muslims.

However, the breach with Oman did not last long. Omani Foreign Minister Imad Ben-Aloi visited Israel in 2008, and then publicly met with Israeli FM Tzipi Livni in Qatar. The two countries continued talking behind the scenes until Benjamin Netanyahu surprised the world by visiting the Gulf state together with his wife Sarah and the head of the Mossad in October 2018. The Sultan claimed the meeting was intended to help negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.



Oman's former leader Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said attends the opening of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Doha December 3, 2007. Photo: REUTERS/Fadi Al-Assaad/File Photo

region squabbled and took sides, he maintained neutrality.

He did not try to protect the Palestinians or join the war against Israel. Instead, he engaged in long-term relationships with senior officials and even encouraged Israeli representation in his country for a time.

During his reign, Qaboos used Oman's oil resources to transform it into a modern state. He had no heir and never named a successor, so as not to rouse conflict between rival tribes.

There are still no official diplomatic relations between Oman and Israel. But talks continue behind the scenes, as is the case with most Gulf states.

A main reason for the lack of official ties is the Palestinian issue. Most Arabs want to avoid being perceived as traitors on this matter. But when the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993, the Gulf states felt they were now able to warm up to the Jewish state.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited Oman in 1994, and two years later, the soft-spoken Sultan met with Shimon Peres. Immediately after that meeting, Israel opened an

In recent months, the head of the Mossad announced that Israel would reopen the Israeli mission to Oman, but the future of that plan is uncertain in light of Qaboos' death. It is not clear how the new Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq, will act towards Israel. Will he try to normalize relations with Israel in the mold of his predecessor, or will he support the Palestinians? Will he cozy up to Iran or stay on the fence?

History teaches that any country that supports the Palestinian cause and sides with Tehran is likely to become an Iranian vassal inundated with radical Shiite militias. Examples are plentiful. Take Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. All three were once wealthy nations, but are now failed states thanks to Iran's interference.

In order to maintain the welfare of his country and the legacy of Qaboos, the new Sultan would be wise to follow the path of his predecessor.

*Dr. Edy Cohen is a researcher at the BESA Center and author of the book *The Holocaust in the Eyes of Mahmoud Abbas* (Hebrew).*

A version of this article was originally published by Israel Today and The BESA Center.

*Continued from Page A3
Stayed alive*

into military vehicles.

"We wanted to stay together. We held each other tight. It was snowing heavily and my mother gave me her black fur coat, so I must have looked older than I was," Meron said.

She was singled out for labor. As they headed to the vehicles, an SS guard struck her down, separating her from her family.

"He put my brother and mother into the vehicle, shut it and off it drove. I didn't have time to say goodbye," she recalled, her eyes filling with tears.

"I hoped we'd see each other later in the evening. What was I to think? That all those put in the vehicles were taken that evening to the gas chambers, to the crematorium? We knew nothing," she said.

"The worst was when we heard the rumors ... and then we knew the truth. We were told 'don't you see the smoke rising up?'"

'Angel of death'

Another Auschwitz survivor, Vera Grossman Kriegel, 81, said she was pained by the rise of antisemitism in recent years and feared that history might repeat itself.

"It can happen anywhere," she said. "Hate is born of ignorance. No one is learning from the past, no one wants to learn."

Aged six, Vera and her twin sister were subjected to the pseudo-medical experiments of doctor Josef Mengele, who used prisoners at Auschwitz as research subjects, earning him the name "Angel of Death."

Vera and her sister were two of the few children to survive his cruelty. She tells of how she was kept naked in a cage, given painful injections directly into her spine, and beaten if she cried as she saw many other children suffer and die.

"Why did I stay alive? It was for a reason. Did I stay alive to keep silent? No — to tell."

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



Public Notice: The Original Golden Coffee LLC Arts of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11.12.2019. Office: King County. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to Attn: Henrik Friedman, 416 Mayfair Dr. S., Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: any lawful activity.

AJ; 12/20/27; 1/3/10/17/24

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name : NORTH KEERAGOOARCHITECTURE PLLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 11/15/2019 Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC 69 Halsey Street, 3RD floor Brooklyn, NY 11216 purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 12/27; 1/3/10/17/24/31

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC AUCTION Supreme Court of New York, KINGS County. FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, -against- LEAH DEMBITZER INDIVIDUALLY AND AS TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST OF LEAH DEMBITZER UNDER AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 4, 2001; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; BANK OF AMERICA N.A. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO FLEET NATIONAL BANK; YISROEL JAKOBOVITS; MR. BARBER (FIRST NAME REFUSED); FAIGY "DOE" (LAST NAME REFUSED); DAVID DEMBITZER; ABRAHIM "DOE" (LAST NAME REFUSED); MATI JAKOBOVITS; JOE "DOE" (LAST NAME REFUSED); ESTI DEMBITZER; DEBBIE BARBER, Index No. 512614/2015. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated, March 28, 2019 and entered with the Kings County Clerk on April 9, 2019, Gregory M. Laspina, Esq., the Appointed Referee, will sell the premises known as 1417 57th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219 at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, Room 224 on February 6, 2020 at 2:30 P.M. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York known as Block: 5692; Lot: 63 will be sold subject to the provisions of filed Judgment, Index No. 512614/2015. The approximate amount of judgment is \$245,367.42 plus interest and costs. FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

AJ; 1/3/10/17/24/

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings US Bank National Association as Trustee for CMALT REMIC Series 2007-A5-REMIC Pass-Through Certificates Series 2007-A5, Plaintiff AGAINST Junior Newton, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 5/17/2019 and entered on 5/28/2019, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at

LEGAL NOTICE

public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 06, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 864 Euclid Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4505, LOT: 119. Approximate amount of judgment is \$585,352.63 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 522995/2016. Joel E. Abramson, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706

AJ; 1/3/10/17/24/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Trustee for Nomura Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-AF1, Plaintiff -against- Neetra Estwick a/k/a Neetra L. Estwick, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Mortgage Enterprise, Ltd., Green-Point Mortgage Funding, Inc., City of New York Environmental Control Board, City of New York Department of Transportation Parking Violations Bureau, Davon Dockery, John Smith (Name Refused), Natasha Dockery, Venita Balthazar, Shaquana Dockery, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered on November 13, 2019 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at ROOM 224 F/K/A ROOM 274 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 on February 6, 2020 at 2:30 PM premises known as 92 Williams Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207. ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of KINGS, City and State of New York. Block: 3682 Lot: 52 Approximate amount of lien \$587,649.90 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 508277/2014 Joel Abramson, Esq., REFEREE STEIN, WIENER AND ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: December 19, 2019 FILE #: WELLS 66234

AJ; 1/3/10/17/24/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC Bank USA, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST Shakir Mustafa; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated October 23, 2019 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 6, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 444 Autumn Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 4171 Lot 21. Approximate amount of judgment \$331,359.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 504909/2018. Joel Abramson, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: December 5, 2019 66950

AJ; 1/3/10/17/24/

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Credit Suisse First Boston Mortgage Securities Corp., CSMC Mortgage-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, series 2006-9, Plaintiff AGAINST Todd Milner; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 31, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 6, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 619 Grand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238- 4129. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 1155 Lot 6. Approximate amount of judgment \$822,695.83 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 500138/2015. Philip L. Kamaras, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: December 23, 2019

AJ; 1/3/10/17/24/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS PHH Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff AGAINST Tyrelle Johnson a/k/a Tyrelle K. Johnson; Andrew Adams; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated April 24, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 6, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 10 Pleasant Place, Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 1568 Lot 31. Approximate amount of judgment \$418,417.08 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 505826/2015. Jageshwar Sharma, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: December 4, 2019 66930

AJ; 1/3/10/17/24/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff AGAINST ANDREW GRANT, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 1-10-2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 13, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 433 Jerome Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 4030 Lot 39. Approximate amount of judgment \$753,960.02 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #503926/2014. Bruno F. Codispoti, Esq., Referee Carter Conboy Case Blackmore Maloney & Laird, PC 20 Corporate Woods Blvd. Albany, NY 12211 26743 67079

AJ; 1/10/17/24/31

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Credit

LEGAL NOTICE

Suisse First Boston 2006-1, Plaintiff AGAINST Shira Frank, Avraham Frank, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 4/26/2017 and entered on 5/11/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 13, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 799 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11230. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 6496, LOT: 53. Approximate amount of judgment is \$573,284.05 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 3261/2009. For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www. Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832. Jeffrey R. Miller, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706

AJ; 1/10/17/24/31

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR NOMURA ASSET ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-AP3, Plaintiff -against- MARIA POSNER A/K/A M. POSNER A/K/A MARIA POSNET, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR ALLIANCE MORTGAGE BANKING CORP., CHEMICAL BANK, THE FIRE COMMISSIONER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, CITY OF NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, GEORGE BRYANT, HENRY CLARK, SHAWN CAMPBELL, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered on September 20, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at ROOM 224 F/K/A ROOM 274 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 on February 13, 2020 at 2:30 PM premises known as 309 ARLINGTON AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11208. ALL that certain plot, piece of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of KINGS, City and State of New York. Block: 3927 Lot: 61 Approximate amount of lien \$479,903.07 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 501183/2015 JEFFREY R. MILLER, ESQ., REFEREE STEIN, WIENER AND ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: January 3, 2020 FILE #: WELLS 66757

AJ; 1/10/17/24/31

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS GOSHEN MORTGAGE LLC, AS SEPARATE TRUSTEE FOR GDBT I TRUST 2011-1, Plaintiff -against- CHRISTOPHER CLEMENTE; MARSHELLE MCCROREY A/K/A MARSHELLE VICTORIA MCCROREY; COURTNEI CLEMENTE, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated October 23, 2019 and entered on November 14, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Court-house 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on February 13, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of

LEGAL NOTICE

New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of East 96th Street, distant 278.15 feet southerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the easterly side of East 96th Street and the southerly side of Flatlands Avenue; being a plot 20 feet by 100 feet by 19.78 feet by 100.01 feet. Block: 8204 Lot: 26 Said premises known as 1183 EAST 96TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$585,911.49 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. Index Number 511952/2017. JEFFREY MILLER, ESQ., Referee Kosterich & Skeete, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 68 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Tuckahoe, NY 10707

AJ; 1/10/17/24/31

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: LAW OFFICE OF MAARIA MAHMOOD, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 12/12/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Law Office of Maaria Mahmood, PLLC 615 W. 186th street New York, NY 10033. Purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 1/10/17/24/31; 2/7/14

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: KING HI CLOTHES & ENTERTAINMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 04/08/2019. Office location: Bronx County . SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it May be served. SSNY Shall mail copy of process to: Haakim Wasiym Bell P.O. Box 802 bronx, NY 10451. Purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 1/10/17/24/31; 2/7/14

CINE MAGIC SUNSET PARK STUDIOS LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/03/2020. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 11 Kent Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7/14/21

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR BANC OF AMERICA ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-7, V. JEAN SCHICK A/K/A JEAN SHICK; ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 21, 2018, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR BANC OF AMERICA ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-7 is the Plaintiff and JEAN SCHICK A/K/A JEAN SHICK; ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the KINGS COUNTY COURTHOUSE 360 ADAMS STREET, ROOM 224, BROOKLYN, NY 11201, on February 20, 2020 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 615 HENDRIX ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11207: Block 4075, Lot 7: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY OF KINGS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK Premises will

Continued on Page A10

Tradition.

The Weighing of the Heart



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

In this week's parsha, before even the first plague has struck Egypt, God tells Moses: "I will harden Pharaoh's heart and multiply My miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt." (Exodus 7:3)

The hardening of Pharaoh's heart is referred to no less than twenty times in the course of the story of the Exodus. Sometimes it is Pharaoh who is said to harden his heart. At other times, God is said to have done so. The Torah uses



three different verbs in this context: *ch-z-k*, to strengthen, *k-sh-h*, to harden, and *k-b-d*, to make heavy.

Throughout the ages, the commentators have been concerned with one problem. If God hardened Pharaoh's heart, how could he have been to blame for not letting the Israelites go? He had no choice in the matter. It was God's doing, not his. That he and his people should be punished seems to flout the fundamental principle of justice, that we are guilty only for what we have freely chosen to do.

However, the commentators noted that for the first five plagues, Pharaoh is said to harden his own heart. The obstinacy, the refusal, the intransigence are his. Only with the sixth plague is God said to have done so. This led to several explanations.

Rashi says that the hardening of Pharaoh's heart in the last five plagues was a *punishment for the first five*, when it was Pharaoh's own obstinacy that led him to refuse to let the people go. Maimonides interprets God's hardening of Pharaoh's heart as meaning that "repentance was withheld from him, and the liberty to turn from his wickedness was not accorded to him." Albo and Sforno offer the opposite interpretation. God hardened Pharaoh's heart precisely to restore his free will. After the succession of plagues that had devastated the land, Pharaoh was under overwhelming pressure to let the Israelites go. Had he done

so, it would not have been out of free choice, but rather under force majeure. God therefore *strengthened* Pharaoh's heart so that even after the first five plagues he was genuinely free to say Yes or No.

It may be that all three are right and are simply responding to the different verbs. *K-sh-h*, "hardening," supports Rashi's reading. Pharaoh was hard on the Israelites, so God was hard on him. *K-b-d*, "making heavy," supports Maimonides. Pharaoh lacked the energy, the strength, to repent. *Ch-z-k*, "to strengthen," supports Albo and Sforno. The text allows for all three possibilities.

However, part of the truth may lie in a completely different

direction. The Egyptians – Pharaohs especially – were preoccupied by death. Their funerary practices were astonishingly elaborate and were meant to prepare the person for life after death. The tombs of the Pharaohs were among their most lavish creations. Tutankhamun's, discovered in 1922, is a dazzling example. One of the greatest literary works of ancient Egypt was *The Book of the Dead*.

The Torah notes the attention the Egyptians gave to death. At the end of Bereishit, we read of how the Egyptians accompanied Joseph and his family in the funeral procession to bury Jacob. The Canaanites witnessed this and said, "The Egyptians are holding a solemn ceremony of mourning." They named the place, *Abel Mizraim* (Gen. 50:11). Note: they called it "the place of Egyptian mourning," not Israelite mourning, despite the fact that it was for Jacob, a non-Egyptian. Then we read of how Joseph himself was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. In the Torah, only Joseph, and Jacob at Joseph's request, are embalmed. So we have already been forewarned about the significance of death to the Egyptian mind.

However, there is one specific aspect of Egyptian belief that opens up an entirely new perspective on the references to Pharaoh's heart. According to Egyptian myth, the deceased underwent a trial to establish their worthiness or

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A9

be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 4267/2008. Doron Leiby, Esq. - Referee. RAS Boriskin, LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7

ADMINISTRATION CITATION File No. 2018-2423 SURROGATE'S COURT QUEENS COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent, TO: The heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of MARGARET FRIESON a/k/a MARGARET L. FRIESON, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead to the heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence TOMMY C. FRIESON DIANE FRIESON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF QUEENS COUNTY A petition having been duly filed by SN SERVICING CORPORATION, as servicer for ELL 09-2009, LLC, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, who is domiciled at 323 Fifth Street, Eureka, California, 95501 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435 on March 5, 2020 at 9:30 o'clock in the fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of MARGARET FRIESON a/k/a MARGARET L. FRIESON lately domiciled at 91-31 175th Street, Jamaica, New York 11432, in the County of Queens, State of New York, granting Limited Letters of Administration upon the estate of the decedent to Tommy C. Frieson, Diane Frieson, or any other distributee, or if they fail to qualify to the Public Administrator of Queens County, and if permitted to renounce the right to Letters, then to Petitioner's nominee Oscar Prieto upon duly qualifying, that the quality of the representative under the foregoing letters be limited to accepting service of process on behalf of the estate of the deceased in a foreclosure action on a first mortgage held by the petitioner, its successor and/or assigns, dated October 21, 1998 and recorded at Book 5087, Page 1052 in the Office of the Queens County Clerk on January 19, 1999 in the original principal balance of \$56,100.00, on the Decedent's real property located at 139-38 232ND STREET, LAURELTON, NY 11413. HON. PETER J. KELLY, Surrogate James Lim Becker, Chief Clerk Dated, Attested and Sealed, January 8, 2020. Name of John J. Ricciardi, Esq. Attorney for Petitioner: Gross Polowy, LLC Tel. No. 716-204-1700 Address of Attorney: 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 412, Westbury, New York 11590 Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed, you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to

otherwise to enjoy life after death in Aaru, the Field of Reeds, where souls live on in pleasure for eternity. They believed that the soul resides in the heart, and the trial consisted of the ceremony of *The Weighing of the Heart*. Other organs were removed after death, but the heart was left because it was needed for the trial.

On one side of the scales was

Continued on Page A7

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

have an attorney-at-law appear for you. 67694 AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 22 NORTH 6TH STREET 8B LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY)on 10/07/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 22 North 6th Street 8B LLC 16 Melbourne Road great neck NY 11021 . Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7/14/21

Notice of location of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SKY CASTLES CONSTRUCTION LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 10/24/2019. Office location: Kings county.SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Legal-corp Solutions,LLC 11 Broadway Suite 615 New York, NY 10004. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7/14/21

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Trustee for Nomura Asset Acceptance Corporation Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-AF2, Plaintiff AGAINST Roberto Martinez; Deborah Martinez; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 4, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 20, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 938 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 1714 Lot 12. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,100,693.49 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 504322/2014. Steven Naiman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: December 20, 2019 67254 AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff AGAINST ABBEOLA AARON AKA ABBEOLA O AARON, ALVIN ASHBY, MARCIA CROAL, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 18, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on February 27, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1091 E 96TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 8184, LOT 31. Approximate amount of judgment \$412,546.22 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 501950/2012. LEONARD C. SPECTOR, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney

LEGAL NOTICE

for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 67335 AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 6 MILDRED PLACE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/27/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Anderson registered agents 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 210 Brooklyn, NY 11228.purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Bruno Brancalone; Maria Brancalone; Robert Goldschmidt; Antonella Goldschmidt; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 14, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 27, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 2051 West 10th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 7096 Lot 62. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,227,564.11 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 15699/2013. Shmuel Taub, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: November 20, 2019 66817 AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Necta Dupuy; Frantzy Dupuy; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated October 18, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 27, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 8610 Avenue N, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 8083 Lot 5. Approximate amount of judgment \$703,916.99 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 1128/13. Steven Naiman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: January 15, 2020 AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SOMETHING FRENCH,LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY)on 10/10/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Osher Battal 2247 E. 66 street Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: All lawful activity AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/21/28

Social.



Roy Nissany at the Winter Cup in Lonato, racing for Morsicani Racing. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Roy Nissany Becomes Israel's First Formula One Driver

BY JNS.org

Roy Nissany will become the official test driver for the Williams Group, making him Israel's very first Formula One driver, announced the motor racing team and constructor ROKiT Williams Racing on Wednesday.

Nissany was joined at a press conference on Wednesday morning at the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation by the group's president, Claire Williams, and Sylvan Adams, who has supported Nissany's development in motor racing and serves as president of Nissany's management group.

The 25-year-old began his journey in motor racing at age 14 and comes to Formula One following two successful seasons in Formula V8 3.5, where he secured 13 podium finishes and reached pole position seven times.

Nissany's achievements include two consecutive victories at the Silverstone track in the United Kingdom, plus wins at Italy's Monza track, France's Paul Ricard

circuit and Jerez in Spain. He competed in the Formula Two championship in 2018, but missed last season due to an injury.

In 2014, he completed his first test in a Formula One car with the Swiss team Sauber Motorsport.

In early December, Nissany was asked by Williams to participate in two days of testing in Abu Dhabi, after which the group decided to sign the Israeli as the team's third driver. As such, Nissany will train with the team and drive on Fridays during Grand Prix practice at Formula One weekends, waiting for the opportunity to compete behind the wheel of one of two championship cars.

He joins a distinguished list of past drivers for the UK-based Williams team, which includes Formula One legends such as Brazilians Ayrton Senna and Nelson Pique, Keke Rosberg of Finland, Britain's Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill and Jenson Button, Frenchman Alain Prost and Canada's Jacques Villeneuve.

converted to Judaism, became an Israeli citizen and adopted a Hebrew name, Elisha Ben Avraham. And Israel rescued his career when he was released by the New York Knicks before ever playing game in the NBA. In return, he put Israeli basketball on the map," said Menkin.

The film describes Perry's early life growing up in Newark, New Jersey, in the 1960s. Born in Newark Beth Israel Hospital, Perry was already 6'5" at the age of 13. The violence of the period was striking. Perry said that around 20 of his fellow high school students were dead before they graduated. "Basketball was my way out. I knew it was going to be a way out of a bad situation," said Perry.

Maccabi Tel Aviv gave him his start. In the film, the team is described as becoming part of "the in thing" in the 1970s. For example, Moshe Dayan could be seen shaking hands with players on the court. Perry became the equivalent of a pop star.



Director of The Jewish Museum Claudia Gold, basketball legend Aulcie Perry, chairman of The Jewish Museum Robert Pruzan and executive director of Film at Lincoln Center Leslie Klainberg. Photo: Gary Shapiro.

"He was Michael Jordan and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar rolled into one," said Sports Illustrated writer Alexander Wolff. "He turned himself and his team into the kings of Europe."

He and Israeli model Tami Ben Ami became an item. They were a power couple, like "Brangelina," said Wolff of Sports Illustrated, referring to Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

While Perry's life story has ups and downs, the latter has much to do with drugs. What started as an addiction to pain killers for his knee "became my downfall," acknowledged Perry. "It's when everything began to collapse for me."

In 1987, he was convicted in the US of heroin trafficking. He served five years of a ten-year sentence in federal prison in North Carolina. While there, he received thousands of letters from fans. "The people at the prison couldn't believe it," he said.

The documentary has an emotional scene where Perry meets with his college-age biological daughter, Cierra, for the first time.

Perry still works in youth basketball in Israel. Asked by The Algemeiner what advice he had for children who wanted to have careers as basketball players, he said one has to work hard every day at it. "It can't be a hobby," he stated, "and it has to come from inside."

Executive producer Nancy Spielberg said Perry's openness and honesty made the film remarkable.

Perry commented, "I'm a very lucky man, even with the hardships."

From Harlem to Tel Aviv: Aulcie Perry's Basketball Journey

BY GARY SHAPIRO

"Legendary basketball player Aulcie Perry's life has been remarkable on and off the court.

This African-American athlete's life changed dramatically after playing basketball on a court in Harlem in 1976. A scout from Israel saw him there and recruited him to join the team Maccabi Tel Aviv. Within a year, Perry catapulted the team to a European

championship, a feat repeated four years later.

Israeli director Dani Menkin's documentary "Aulcie" follows the arc of Perry's remarkable life and career. It premiered this week at the New York Jewish Film Festival, which is sponsored by the Jewish Museum and Film at Lincoln Center. It has upcoming screenings in Las Vegas and Palm Beach, among other locations.

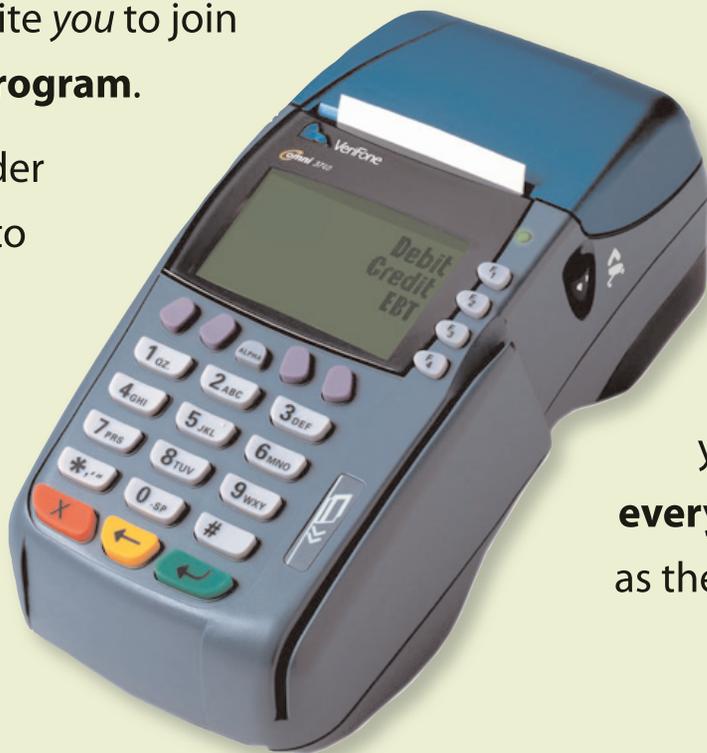
"It is a love story," said Menkin. He noted that Perry embraced Israel and the feeling was mutual. Perry

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