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Israelis Have Spoken And We'll Live With The Result - But

MICHAEL HAYMAN
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JULIUS HAYMAN
PUBLISHER AND
EDITOR
1937-2000

ANITA SURMAN
GENERAL NEWS
EDITOR

The outcome of the Israeli election has left many Jews in the Diaspora on edge. This unease is not because the “Fall of King Bibi” never happened and that he is moving back to the prime minister’s residence on Balfour Street. Most Jews will be comfortable with Netanyahu’s foreign policy, backing him unconditionally when he confronts Iran and offering encouragement when he seeks to expand the Abraham Accords. And given the recent events in Jerusalem a harsh crackdown on the current wave of runaway terrorism will have widespread support across the Jewish world. Nor do we think Jews living outside of Israel care that Netanyahu’s legal problems are probably behind him now that his brief stint as Opposition Leader is over.

What is troubling many Jews are the roles in his coalition of the firebrand and racist far right politicians Itamar-Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. Otzma Yehudit’s Ben Gvir, the pistol packing disciple of Meir Kahane, a man who until recent years had a photo of Baruch Goldstein hung prominently on his wall, along with “proud homophobe” Religious Zionist leader Smotrich, who believes that only the ultra-Orthodox matter, speak for a group of knesset members who, despite their electoral success, will now exert far more influence on policy than their numbers justify.

Fifth on the Religious Zionist list is Otzma Yehudit’s Yitzhak Wasserlauf. He argued in a recent interview that Reform Jews “make a mockery of religion...They celebrate bar mitzvahs for dogs and they have weddings with a rabbi and a priest simultaneously.” Number 9 Amichai Eliyahu has no time for the LGBT community. “It is forbidden, it is the opposite of Judaism. it is against the will of (God), it is not natural, it is not normal...” It is these comments, along with uncompromising stands on who is a Jew, conversion, the Law of Return and the egalitarian Kotel, that led the Anti-Defamation League to release a pre-vote statement that Ben-Gvir’s role in a right-wing coalition “would be corrosive to Israel’s founding principles and its standing among its strongest supporters.”

We join those who would have pre-

ferred a different election result. We worry that the enactment of the Override Clause would pose a threat to Israel’s vibrant democracy. We do not appreciate it when non-Orthodox Jews are called “Christians in disguise” or when Smotrich labels Reform Judaism a “fake religion”. Branding Reform and Conservative Jews as “illegitimate” and refusing to accept the reality that there is more than one way to be a Jew will only serve to further a deepening divide.

Elected officials have every right to implement the policies for which their constituents voted. And those of us who did not make aliya are in no position to question the decision of the almost 5,000,000 Israelis who cast their ballot. Likud, the Religious Zionists, Shas and United Torah Judaism now hold 64 knesset seats. Israelis did not vote for another “government of change.” They voted in sufficient numbers for Netanyahu, Ben-Gvir, Smotrich, Deri and Goldknopf. And it’s also worth noting that those on the winning side were ably assisted by Lapid, Gantz, Eisenkot, Galon and Michaeli who, we assume, are busy on their manuscript “How Not to Run an Election Campaign.”

We would like to believe that Ben-Gvir means what he says when he tells worried Israelis and those of us in North America, that he has “grown up” and that he “would not seek to impose religious law nor curb freedom of dissent, and even if I’m not keen on the (Gay Pride) parade, I will ensure the utmost protection for the men and women marching”. Maybe a frustrated Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union of Reform Judaism, is being overly pessimistic when he says that Ben-Gvir as public security minister is “like letting a pyromaniac run a fire station.” But if Ben-Gvir insists on attending memorial services for Kahane, if he and Smotrich start to trample on the rights of those who do not fit their definition of a “good Jew”, if they are not just posturing when it comes to unreasonable policy demands, we have to believe that Netanyahu will do whatever it takes to keep them in check. He knows from his many years in office that no Israeli government can afford to slam the door shut on world Jewry.

THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

British Labour Party's New Leaf

Two years in politics is a lifetime. The next election in Britain is not until the end of 2024. It is also too early to determine whether Rishi Sunak will turn the fortunes of the governing Conservatives around.

But at this point Labour Party's lead in the polls seems almost insurmountable. And so when party leader Keir Starmer addressed the Labour conference recently his words carried special meaning, not only for the party's Jewish supporters but also for the Jewish community of Great Britain in general.

It was not that Starmer stated that the Labour Party must "rip out anti-semitism by the roots".

These were words he had been using since he replaced the anti-Semitic Jeremy Corbyn who three years ago had insisted that the Labour conference venue be illuminated with projections of the Palestinian flag and slogans supplied by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

But what was significant was the reaction to Starmer's remarks from the thousands of party faithful at the conference. Jews and non-Jews rose in a spontaneous standing ovation, led it should be noted by Starmer's Jewish wife Victoria who is originally from Poland and together with her husband are raising the couple's children Jewish. Friday night shabbat dinners at their home are a family tradition.

A few in attendance did sit on their hands dur-

ing an address clearly aimed at Corbyn and his still loyal supporters but that did not detract from the overall support for his genuine words of praise for the country's Jews and Israel. Indeed, 400 Labour Friends of Israel packed a reception as shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves expressed her commitment to the Jewish state.

Thanking LFI for "giving me the space" to show he was committed to eliminating anti-Semitism in his party, Starmer told the gathering that "when we go into government...you'll be inscribed

on the foundation stone as part of this story, part of this journey".

It must, of course, be remembered that Sir Keir was part of Corbyn's shadow cabinet and would likely have been a minister in a Corbyn government. And his voice did remain silent when Jewish MPs Louise Ellman and Luciana Berger were driven out of Labour by the party's anti-semites (Ellman has returned). Said Lord Ian Austin, who stood down as an MP in 2019 out of disgust with the anti-semitism permeating his party: "It is

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JEWISH SPOUSE HELPS LABOUR LEADER BATTLE ANTI-SEMITISM



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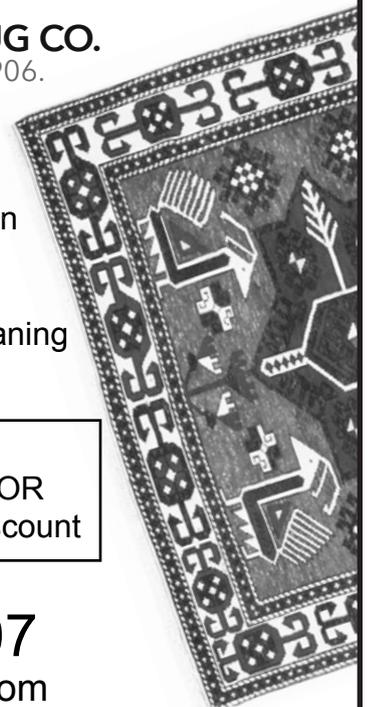
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NBA LEGEND SPEAKS ON SOCIAL ACTIVISM, ALLYSHIP AT SPIRIT OF HOPE

KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR RECEIVES FIRST ANNUAL ALLY AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM AWARD FROM FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER

SUBMITTED BY THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER

NBA legend and social activist Kareem Abdul-Jabbar received the first annual Ally Against Anti-Semitism Award, presented to him by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) in front of more than 1,200 Jewish community members and allies in Toronto.

Abdul-Jabbar was presented with the award at Spirit of Hope - FSWC's annual marquee fundraising event that raised more than \$3.2 million this year for the organization's education and advocacy programs - at

the Beanfield Centre in Toronto before he took centre stage to speak about his longstanding work in advocating for social justice and human rights, being a steadfast ally in the fight against antisemitism and building bridges between communities.

He began his remarks by echoing his recent blog post, strongly condemning the repeated anti-semitic comments of US rapper Kanye West. He also addressed the reaction he has received for his criticism

of West and of antisemitism in general. "The principal lesson is we can never go to sleep, we can never stop being vigilant and let bad things to fester," said Abdul-Jabbar.

"I get condemnation

from people who don't want to see any progress, and I get support from people who understand that what people like Kanye West have to say is intolerable," Abdul-Jabbar told his au-

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CANADA'S SPECIAL ENVOY ON PRESERVING HOLOCAUST Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, Irwin Cotler, FSWC President and CEO Michael Levitt, NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Simon Wiesenthal Center Executive Director Rabbi Meyer May in front of FSWC's Tour for Humanity mobile education centre.

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HARVARD'S JEWISH PROF SHOULD KNOW BETTER

DEREK J. PENSLAR CONTRIBUTES TO THE SPREAD OF ANTI-SEMITISM ON CAMPUS

By MOSHE PHILLIPS

Much has been written about the recent endorsement of BDS by the editors of The Harvard Crimson, the Harvard student newspaper. But how do you suppose Harvard students got that way? Could it have anything to do with the professors who are teaching them about Israel?

Let's consider Derek J. Penslar, who is Harvard's William Lee Frost Professor of Jewish History. His areas

of specialty are the history of Zionism and Israel, as well as related topics in modern Jewish history.

Penslar, who happens to be Jewish, has been very successful in his academic career. He has had a string of prestigious named professorships—first at Indiana University, and then at the University of Toronto, before moving up to Harvard. He has published books with prominent academic

presses, and articles in well-known scholarly journals. He serves on the editorial boards of several Israel-related academic journals. He is frequently interviewed by the news media and invited to lecture at various Jewish institutions.

All these impressive credentials give us a sense of Prof. Penslar's prominence in his field. But what exactly does he

about Israel? What does he teach his students? What message does he convey when he speaks to the Jewish community? — "Israel is guilty of ethnic cleansing."

In an interview with London's Jewish Chronicle on March 14, 2013, Penslar said: "What happened to the Palestinians [in 1948] wasn't genocide. It was ethnic cleansing."

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THE MOBILE MENORAH

CHABAD LUBAVITCH HELPS SPREAD THE JOY OF CHANUKAH

By ORI BELMONT

Each year, the onset of Chanukah brings the succulent richness of latkes and sufganiyot. Dreidels spin as we recall the miracle of oil lasting 8 nights to light the lamps of the Beis Hamikdash menorah. We remain grateful for all that we have, as we ache to expand and heighten our seemingly endless journey as we become closer to our source.

Predictability our routine should never be aligned with stagnation. Mundanity inhibits our ability to broaden our hor-

izons; an evolutionary process which fosters growth for Jews as a collective, and also for us as individuals. In time, and through the self-enhancing process of cheshbon nefesh, an accounting of our souls, we become more aware of our truest self.

The soul illuminates with pride and gratitude each Chanukah for those who reside along the Bathurst Street corridor and beyond, for it brings out the Menorah Mobiles - larger than life chanukiyot fastened to the top of vehicles.

As each evening of the holiday approaches, one more light shines its luminous glow ... 'to remind us of days long ago'.

The renowned Chanukah mitzvoim, or Chanukah campaign, is a project which falls under the auspices of Chabad Lubavitch. It is a vital component of their *raison d'être*, a valuable initiative of outreach and kiruv.

Also commonly referred to as 'mitzvah mobiles' or 'mitzvah tanks', the first menorah mobiles were actually rented U-Haul

trucks, introduced by Chabad headquarters in Brooklyn in 1974. As the years passed, these trucks were replaced by the 'mitzvah tank', affectionately coined by none other than the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem M. Schneerson.

The scope and reach of the Chanukah Mobile Menorah campaign extends far beyond this, though. Chabad yeshiva bochurim are the foot soldiers for spreading the warmth that this holiday brings. They go street to street, and house

(Please turn to page 10)

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TACKLING ANTI-SEMITISM IN TORONTO

THE LAWFARE PROJECT OFFERS PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES TO ALL VICTIMS OF ANTISEMITIC DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING ON CAMPUS

A simple message will echo throughout the GTA early next year as the world's foremost organization dedicated to enforcing the civil and human rights of the Jewish people via strategic legal action launches a powerful billboard campaign, directed to all victims of antisemitic discrimination, including local university and college students, faculty, and staff.

The purpose of The Lawfare Project campaign is to inform victims of antisemitic discrimination and Jew-hatred of the pro bono legal services that are available to them via The Lawfare Project's attorneys and legal fund. This is the first campaign of its kind in Toronto, highlighting legal resources available to the Jewish community, which has been plagued by intol-

erance, discrimination, and even violence in recent years.

Two of the four billboards will be located near York University and the University of Toronto, both breeding grounds for antisemitism, in order to ensure that Jewish students, faculty, and staff are aware of the legal resources available to them. At York, just a few years ago, The Lawfare Project and local counsel successfully helped the student group Herut Zionism after its campus event was mobbed by antisemitic disruptors and, inexplicably, Herut was suspended. Thanks to The Lawfare Pro-

ject's intervention, Herut was reinstated, and York worked to improve protections for Jewish campus events.

Billboard Locations and Dates:

Bathurst St. and Wilson Ave. -- February 6 (for 7 weeks); Bathurst St. and Stormont Ave. February 6 (for 7 weeks); Bathurst St. and Bloor St. (near University of Toronto) -- February 6 (for 7 weeks); Keele St. and Canarctic Dr. (near York University) -- February 6 (for 7 weeks).

"People who experience Jew-hatred are not alone. We are there to support you."
(Please turn to page 15)

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MOBILE MENORAH

(Continued from page 7)

house distributing menorahs to Jews who might not otherwise have them.

Yossi Gottlieb is a Shaliach - an emissary - who oversees and spearheads the Menorah campaign in Toronto.

In partnership with one of his contemporaries, a fellow Shaliach, Yossi serves as the co-Director for the Menorah campaign at the Yeshivah, Gedolah of Toronto, ideally situated in the heart of 'kiruv alley', at the intersection of Bathurst Street and Lawrence West Avenue.

Together, they oversee the entire production, which includes renting the vehicles, printing signs, building Menorahs and

other tasks that are related to the implementation of a successful campaign.

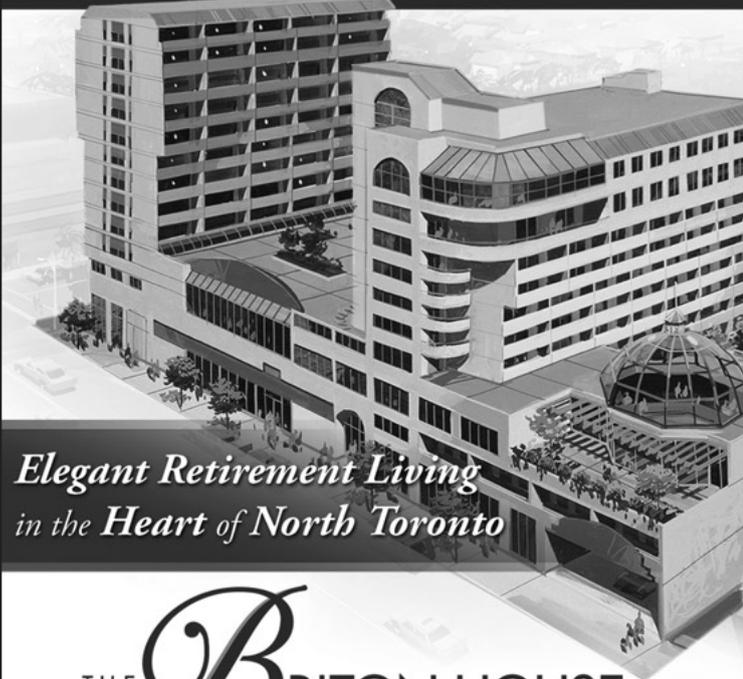
Yossi shared a noteworthy parallel between an army tank and the Mitzvah tank:

"The same way that a tank in its literal sense acts to protect its occupants from the enemy, the Mitzvah Tanks reach Jews from all walks of life to shed the light and warmth of Yiddishkeit in the face of the incessant waves of hostility that seemingly knows no bounds."

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signed to welcome and reach Jews wherever they may be, irrespective of geographical location, affiliation or level of religiosity.

Due to the exorbitantly high costs that are associated with operating such large vehicles, Chabad Toronto does not own their own mobiles, but instead rents them for Chanukah, and for other special occasions. The tanks reach Jews from all walks of life to shed the light and warmth of Yiddishkeit.

The purpose of the mitzvah tank parade is for persumai nissah, the publication of the miracle of Chanukah, as well as a reminder for all to light their menorahs at home. With this in mind, those who are not able to participate in the parade are encouraged to safely and proudly display their lit menorahs so that they are visible for people who pass by their homes.

This year, it is expected that the local Chabad Chanukah Campaign will see a total of 8 mitzvah tanks and 6 pickup trucks on Toronto's streets, each with mega-menorahs in the back. The goal is to distrib-

ute over 3000 menorahs within the Greater Toronto Area. The total expense of the outreach efforts this year is expected to be approximately \$32,000.

People of all ages are encouraged to become involved in the campaign, as it is of great zchus, or merit, to become an ambassador by spreading the light of Chanukah. If you, or someone that you know is in need of a menorah, you may pick one up from your local Chabad.

Due to the selfless generosity of the local community, and through the annual pre-Chanukah fundraiser, the 'mitzvah mobiles' and all other Chanukah-related activities and programs continue to expand. To contribute, our readers can visit www.mesivtalubavitch.org/donate/ and select 'shluchim services' (mivtsoyim).

For any additional information about the mitzvah mobiles or the Chanukah menorah campaign, please contact Yossi at chanukahintoronto@gmail.com

Ori Belmont is a freelance writer based in Toronto.

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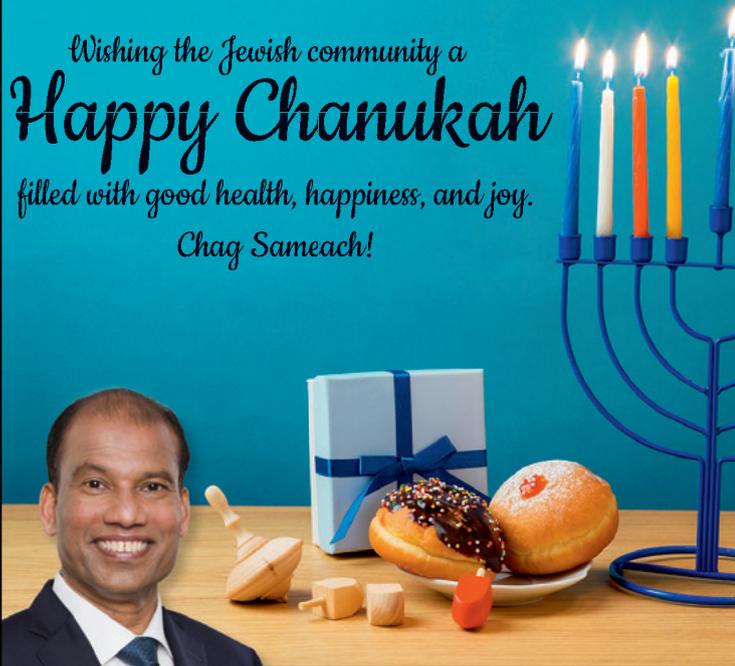



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MANDATING HOLOCAUST EDUCATION IN ONTARIO'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) have commended the Government of Ontario for making Holocaust education mandatory in elementary schools for the first time.

Minister of Education Stephen Lecce made the announcement during a news conference at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Toronto, where he unveiled a series of actions the government is taking to combat rising antisemitism in schools across the province.

"We are taking action to counter antisemitism and hate, because those that fail to learn from history are doomed to re-

it," said Lecce. "With antisemitism on the rise, we are introducing mandatory Holocaust education in elementary schools, expanding resources and strengthening anti-hate training for Ontario students, educators, and families."

Added Solicitor General Michael Kerzner: "We all have the right to feel safe in our communities, and a shared responsibility to stop hate. Our government is combatting antisemitism by updating the Grade 6 curriculum to include Holocaust education, so that future generations never forget."

The Ontario government will be revising the Grade 6 Social Studies cur-

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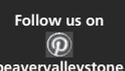
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riculum to include mandatory learning about the Holocaust. Currently, students are only required to undergo Holocaust education in Grade 10.

The Ontario government has also outlined community resources it is investing in to further help students learn about anti-semitism and how to address it, including FSWC's Antisemitism Classroom Toolkit (ACT). ACT is a resource guide that provides parents and educators the content and learning strategies necessary to guide young learners through a curriculum-com-

patible introduction to the often complex and difficult topic of antisemitism.

"Recent studies amongst Canadian youth have revealed an overwhelming lack of knowledge about the history of the Holocaust, the ultimate example of what happens when hate is left unchecked," said Michael Levitt, FSWC President and CEO. "We commend the Ontario Ministry of Education for taking this monumental step in ensuring that the lessons from the Holocaust and the legacy of survivors are never forgotten."

TACKLING ANTI-SEMITISM IN TORONTO

(Continued from page 8)

port them. This is why we are expanding operations in Canada, where pro bono legal services and financial support for litigation are so greatly needed to combat the rising Jew-hatred we encounter every day," says Brooke Goldstein, Founder and Executive Director of The Lawfare Project.

The Lawfare Project is the only organization in the world dedicated to enforcing and protecting the civil and human rights of the Jewish people via strategic legal actions.

Through the courts, we aggressively fight discrimination and antisemitism wherever we see it. Our goal is to achieve justice for the Jewish people while punishing and deterring acts of hatred.

Editor's Note: In June The Lawfare Project, with the assistance of RE-LAW LLP, filed a formal complaint with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) challenging the "Made in Palestine" labels on olive oils sold throughout Canada.

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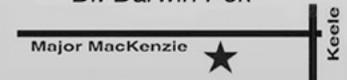
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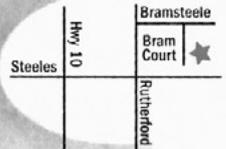
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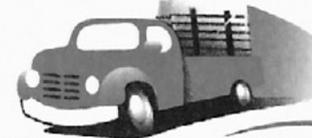
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HARVARD PROF SHOULD KNOW BETTER

(Continued from page 6)

That’s a lie. Israel didn’t commit genocide, and it didn’t commit ethnic cleansing. There was no mass murder of the Arabs. There was no mass expulsion of the Arabs. There were a few isolated instances—as there are in every war—in which a small number of individuals were compelled to move a few miles down the road. That’s not even close to “ethnic cleansing.”

There is no internationally accepted legal definition of ethnic cleansing, so I’ll use the one posted on the website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: “The forced removal of an ethnic group from a territory...The practice of ethnic cleansing may constitute genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes.” Israel didn’t do any of those things. Not in 1948. Not in 1967. Not ever.

— “Israel is partly to blame for the Arab-Israeli wars.”

Penlar wrote last year that “Israel bears its share of responsibility for the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem in 1948 and for subsequent Arab-Israeli wars.” Nonsense. Israel is not to blame for the refugee problem; the Arab regimes that invaded Israel in 1948 are to blame. Israel is not to blame for the Arab wars against it; the Arabs who launched those wars are to blame. Israel’s preemptive strikes against Arab regimes that were preparing to invade it were not acts of aggression; they were self-defense.

— “Israel perpetuates oppression, resistance, and hatred.”

Penlar wrote last year: “Israel and the Palestinian territories are a welter of ill-fitting political elements – statehood and occupation, autonomy and

settlement enclaves – that perpetuate oppression, resistance, and hatred.”

I know it’s annoying when academics write like this, using convoluted language that has to be deciphered like some code. Still, it’s obvious that when Penlar is talking here about “oppression,” he’s not saying the Palestinians oppress Israel, he’s saying that Israel oppresses them. When Penlar refers to “resistance,” he’s referring to Palestinian terrorism against Israel; why he labels it “resistance,” which implies that it’s justified, is a question worth asking. (I’ll set aside his reference to “hatred,” since in theory it could be interpreted either way.)

— “Most PLO terrorism after 1967 was the work of splinter groups.”

In a book review in The Forward on October 8, 1999, Penlar said the author of the book was “on firm factual ground when he argues that post-1967

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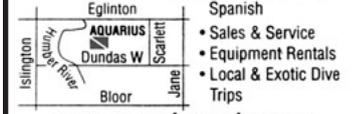
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Palestinian terrorism was waged primarily by splinter groups that were not part of the PLO mainstream...

Could Penslar really be so ignorant as to believe such a blatantly untrue statement? Does he really not know now many post-1967 terrorist attacks were openly claimed by the "mainstream" PLO, under Yasser Arafat's leadership? Does he really still believe the pathetic fiction that "Black September" was not part of the PLO mainstream, even though its leaders all long ago admitted to it being a PLO front?

Ironically, not too long after Penslar's apolo-

getics for the "PLO mainstream," the PLO mainstream—that is, its largest component, Fatah—launched a wave of suicide bombings against Israel, including the notorious Passover Seder massacre in Netanya. I find no evidence that Penslar ever publicly acknowledged his error or apologized.

So why do many Harvard students see Israel as a perpetrator of ethnic cleansing and an aggressor against the Arabs? Why do many Harvard students see Palestinian massacres of Israelis as "resistance" instead of terrorism? Why do many Harvard students see Palestinian massacres of
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HARVARD PROF SHOULD KNOW BETTER*(Continued from preceding page)*

as “resistance” instead of terrorism? Why do many Harvard students excuse mainstream Palestinian Arab terrorism by pretending that the mainstream PLO leadership is not to blame?

I’m not saying that Prof. Penslar is single-handedly responsible for the spread of anti-Israel attitudes on campus, or the mindset that led to the Harvard Crimson newspaper endorsing BDS in late April. But it would be absurd to pretend that there is no connection between what Harvard professors teach

and what Harvard students believe. Academic freedom ensures the right of professors to teach whatever they want, including lies about Israel engaging in “ethnic cleansing.” But parents have a right to know what their kids are being taught, so they can decide if that’s the kind of professor who they want teaching their kids about Israel.

[Moshe Phillips is a commentator on Jewish affairs. He was a U.S. delegate to the 38th World Zionist Congress in 2020. The views expressed are his own.]

WORLD IN REVIEW*(Continued from page 3)*

good that Keir makes these comments now but it remains a shame that he did not do so during the Corbyn years. It is far too soon to claim Labour has rooted out antisemitism.”

Still, Starmer is undeniably making progress in his efforts to root out party members who still believe in ridiculous conspiracy theories about Jews and Israel.

The King and Queen’s House Guests

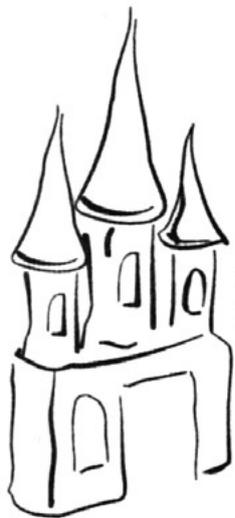
British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and his wife

were invited to attend the coronation of King Charles on May 6, 2023. The problem is that May 6th is a Saturday and the new King knew he had to accommodate the Chief Rabbi in order that he could attend the coronation without breaking any Sabbath regulations.

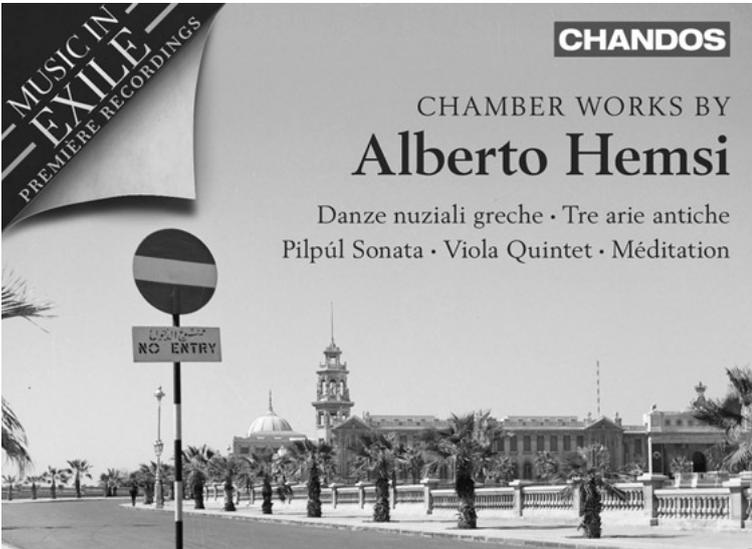
And accommodate the Rabbi and his wife King Charles will. The couple will stay with the King and Queen at Clarence House the night before the coronation which will mean the Chief Rabbi and his wife will

*(Please turn to page 23)***HAPPY CHANUKAH**

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It is indeed ironic that composer Alberto Hemsí, who spent much of his life rescuing music that faced extinction, should have his own brilliantly original works threatened with a similar fate. As part of its mission to research and recover 20th century music suppressed, or marginalized by repressive regimes, war and exile, Canada’s highly-regarded ARC Ensemble focuses its sixth Chandos recording on this overlooked and prodigious talent, the latest in its acclaimed “Music in Exile” series. “Chamber Works by Alberto Hemsí,” which was released on October 14, is the first commercial release devoted to these extraordinary works.

With Juno, OPUS Klassik, and multiple Grammy nominations, Toronto’s ARC Ensemble, has built its international reputation on enlarging the repertoire, rather than replicating it. Drawn from the senior faculty of the Royal Conservatory’s esteemed Glenn Gould School and its accomplished students and alumni, ARC has revived the works and reputations of a growing number of outstanding composers.

Alberto Hemsí was born in 1898 in Anatolia, then part of the Ottoman Empire and now Turkey. Wars, political unrest, and anti-Semitism forced Hemsí to flee from areas that had once provided sanctuary for Jews. The Société Musicale Israélite in Smyrna, supported him with a scholarship to study at Milan’s Verdi Conservatory, whose alumni include Puccini, and more recently, Gian Carlo Menotti and Riccardo Muti. Hemsí’s huge natural gifts, were expanded and developed here, but any chance of a piano career ended when he was drafted into the Italian army and wounded in the final months of WWI. He returned to Smyrna after completing his studies, but left for Rhodes in the aftermath of the Greco-Turkish War, and the massive fire of 1922 that destroyed much of the city

(Please turn to page 22)

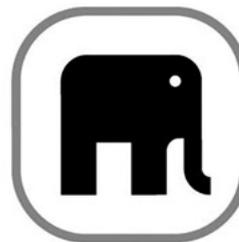
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In 1928, he was appointed musical director of the Middle-East's largest synagogue, the Eliahou Hanabi Temple in Alexandria, where he remained for the nearly thirty years. With Israel's invasion of Sinai, and the Suez Crisis, the Hemi family fled Egypt in 1957. He spent his remaining years in Paris, where he continued to teach, study and to supervise the music of two synagogues. He died of lung cancer in 1975.

Hemi was certainly fortunate to abandon both Smyrna and Rhodes, almost all of whose Jewish residents were killed in Auschwitz after Nazi forces took over the island. "Living through the war in Egypt, though undeniably stressful, was not remotely comparable to the experience of European Jews," says Wynberg. Yet, while the frequently displaced composer may have been able to survive and even thrive, despite having to rebuild his career, his strikingly original music has remained in exile, unheard for the last 60 plus years.

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 20)

have just a short walk across St. James Park to Westminster Abbey. It will not be the first time that the King will have accommodated Rabbi Mirvis. During

the days of mourning following the death of his mother Charles moved the time of a Friday Palace event from 18:00 to 17:00. When they met during the ceremony the King said to the rabbi: "Leave now. You'll have time to get home before Shabbat comes in."

Baseball's Barney Dreyfuss

With another World Series now in the books it might be worth recalling that it was a Jew who helped pioneer the Fall Classic.

At the beginning of the 20th century there were, as there are today, a National League and the junior circuit American League. When their seasons ended they went their separate ways. No one even thought of a post season.

But Barney Dreyfus, the owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates, had seen his team dominate the National League for three straight seasons and was looking for a way to showcase his team. And so Dreyfus wrote to Boston American owner Henry Killea proposing a postseason battle between the champions of the two major leagues. "The time has come for the National League and American League to organize a World Series" Dreyfus wrote. "It is my belief that if our clubs played a series on a best of nine basis, we would create great interest in baseball, in our leagues, and in our players. I also believe it would be a financial success."

Killea agreed and in 1903 the World Series was born. While Boston took the series five games to three Dreyfus donated his share of the profits to the players. "He was a real

(Please turn to page 25)

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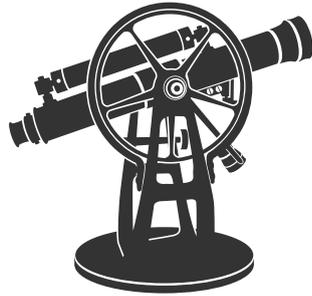
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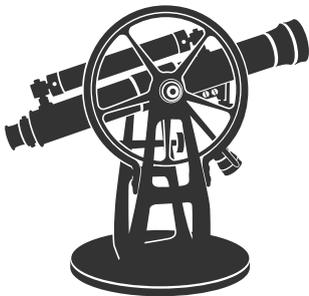
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OPPOSITION LEADER PIERRE POILIEVRE TOLD A group of fellow Canadian lawmakers and Israeli diplomats during a gathering on Parliament Hill in Ottawa organized by the Keep “Jerusalem–Im Eshkachech” group that “I repeat clearly and unambiguously: Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, and when I am elected prime minister of Canada, I will ensure that our embassy is relocated from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem,” From left to right: Ambassador (ret) Ran Ichay, head of Keep Jerusalem’s Center for Applied Policy, MP Melissa Lantsman, Chaim Silberstein, Founder and Chairman of Keep Jerusalem, Poilievre and Aaron Remer- board member of Keep Jerusalem.

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 23)

“mensch”, says University of Pittsburgh’s sports history professor Rob Ruck.

Names In The News

Gad Elmaleh, one of France’s most well-known Jewish comedian, who never shied away from referencing his Jewish identity, has announced that he

is converting to Catholicism. Apparently, “the Virgin Mary took him under her wing.” ...Superstar Taylor Swift has reacted to the disappointment of her Jewish fans who would not be able to attend her concert on Friday or Saturday nights. The singer has now added eight more shows to the U.S leg of her tour all on week nights...Alan Strank is (Please turn to following page)

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SPIRIT OF HOPE

(Continued from page 5)

dience. “We can’t have our people who set the standards and who everybody wants to emulate... talking like that. That’s not what we’re supposed to be about, especially in America where we say that all men are created equal.”

He also spoke out about the delayed condemnations from celebrities and companies in response to West’s antisemitism, saying, “Look what happened in the time it took for all the people who ended up condemning Kanye, look how long it took for them to get around to saying what they had to say. In the meantime, Jewish kids were intimidated and bullied

had to deal with a whole lot of violence or violent thoughts directed at them because someone like Kanye West says it’s okay. It’s not okay.”

Abdul-Jabbar delved into some of his most prominent works – including his op-ed in The Hollywood Reporter, “Where Is the Outrage Over Antisemitism in Sports and Hollywood?,” his book Brothers in Arms, and the documentary film, for which he was the Executive Producer, for the History Channel called Fight the Power: The Movements that Changed America, which focused on the impact that key protests have had on the evolution of

the United States.

Before presenting Abdul-Jabbar with the Ally Against Antisemitism Award, FSWC President and CEO Michael Levitt spoke about the organization’s work in combatting antisemitism and hatred through education and advocacy as well as the importance of allyship.

“We know antisemitism is the proverbial canary in the coal mine,” said Levitt. “For millennia, we’ve seen how if a society isn’t safe for Jews, it’s an early warning sign of the danger ahead for others. Antisemitism isn’t a threat to just Jews but to our broader society. The hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews.”

He also issued a clarion call for all communities to join together in the fight against the growing tide of hate in Canadian society.

“Allyship is critical,” Levitt added. “The fight against hate is an all-hands-on-deck battle. To our allies, both Jewish and non-Jewish in this room, to the organizations we work with in the Jewish community and the broader community across Canada, please hear this from me. We are here to work with you. We are here to partner with you. Knock on our door because we know we are stronger together. We know the importance of communities standing side-by-side in times of need, and that time is now.”

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

a nobody. But during a football match in England he gave the Nazi salute. As a result he received a three year football banning order, will have to undertake 50 hours of unpaid work in the community and pay a £189 fine...Robert Cleary, born Robert Max Widerman in 1926, and a Holocaust survivor, achieved fame by playing French Corporal Louis Lebeau in Hogan’s Heroes from 1965 to 1971. Cleary died recently at 96.

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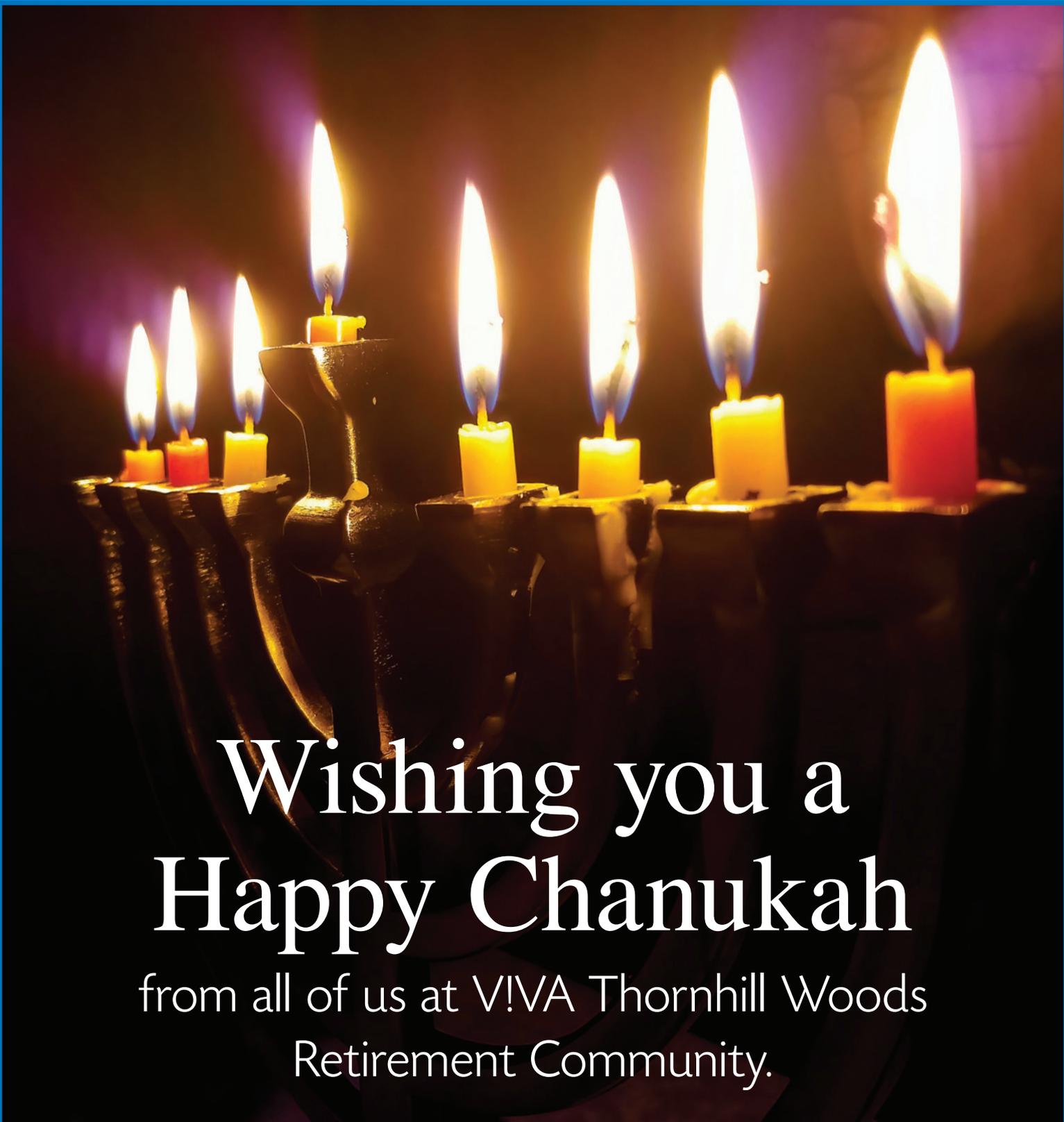


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