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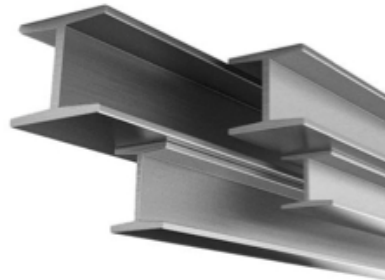
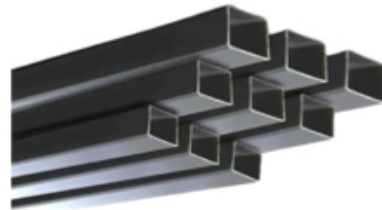
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THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

A Concession For Passover

Hunter College High School is a prestigious middle and high school in Manhattan. It is a coveted destination for many New York City students, including Jews.

But is also incredibly difficult to get into. Indeed, even getting to write its three-hour entrance exam is by invitation only and open only to students whose scores on state exams in English and math exceed a high threshold. Nor can a student get into the school after the seventh grade.

This year's entrance exam was scheduled for April 5th, the morning of

the first Seder. Erica Rahavy's son was invited to take the test but was dismayed that the school did not seem to understand that Jews "travel to be with their families on the holidays." "I have no problem missing the day of school for my kids", she said. "We've done that before to celebrate holidays with our families. It shouldn't be so high-stakes that it's just one day or nothing."

Rahavy sent an e-mail to the school asking if administrators would offer "alternate time for students celebrating the holiday."

Hunter College responded tersely: "The Entrance Exam will only be held on Wednesday April 5, 2023 in the morning and students will have about

three hours to complete the exam. HCCS is unable to administer make-up exams."

But the school, knowing that New York city school are obliged to show sensitivity to religious observance, had a change of heart. Its website announced that "an alternate test date for religious observance on Tuesday afternoon, April 4, 2023, held at Hunter College, will be made available on request."

Rahavy believes that accommodating a widely observed Jewish holiday in New York, where Jews make up more than 10% of the population, was the only course of action Hunter could take. "I can't imagine they would have planned this out on Christmas Eve when families travel to be

with each other for the holidays," she said.

Escaped Ukraine - Died in Turkey

Yulia Petrova and her two sons, 10-year-old Zachar and 5-year-old Matthew, managed to escape from war torn Ukraine less than a year ago. The Jewish family fled to Turkey.

The bodies of Petrova and her two sons were found buried under the ruins in Antakya, the southernmost province of Turkey. They were among the thousands of victims of the devastating earthquake which ravaged the country.

"We spoke for the last time on the evening of

(Please turn to page 16)

REFLECTIONS ON PASSOVER

The spirit of Passover is the spirit of optimism. It is our assurance that whatever Jewry may have suffered, whatever Jewry may suffer in the future, it has still the power to rise above the agony of the present and work towards a future in which not Jews alone but all peoples may share the four freedoms enunciated by President Roosevelt - freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

Passover does, indeed, mark a turning point in Jewish history. During the three hundred years in which the Israelites suffered the stinging lash of the Egyptian whip they were hammered on the anvil of oppression and suffering into a people. This people struggled, as so many peoples have struggled over the past centuries, for self-determination, for the right to satisfy its own spiritual and religious aspirations. Finally, under the guidance of Moses, probably the greatest personality the world has ever known, our ancient ancestors emerged out of their Egyptian ghetto and began their first faltering steps towards the fulfillment of what has turned out to be a historic purpose.

But Passover has a meaning which goes beyond the historic and philosophical. Its observance creates a radiance and warmth which is unique in the Jewish tradition. Our recollections of Seders past are among the most tender and most heart-warming memories many of us have. The Passover ritual has meaning which even the most rationalistic secularists are able to grasp. It has a beauty which no other aspect of Jewish life, even a synagogue service, can begin to match. Jewish life is, indeed, seen at its finest and most beautiful from the vantage point of a seat at the Passover table and in the stirrings of memories, ancient and new.



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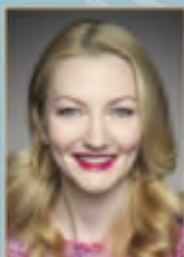
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COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM IN PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES

CAEF IS A LEADER IN THE FIGHT TO STAMP OUT DISCRIMINATION

By **ORI BELMONT**

Ori Belmont is a freelance writer based in Toronto. Visit his website: OriBelmont.com

Through education, interfaith relations, and advocacy, the Canadian Anti-Semitism Education Foundation (CAEF) equips people with the necessary tools to counter acts of anti-Semitism and the duplicitous manifestations that it stokes, such as myths and tropes against the Jewish people. They respond to issues that affect Jews and Israel, encourage understanding between faiths and cultures, and inform people about the legal claims and rights of the Jews to the land of Israel.

Working with allies and building partnerships in all communities who respect freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the rule of law, and the rights of everyone in Canada under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, CAEF fights oppres-

sion, discrimination, racism, and anti-Semitism in a host of forums and arenas. The uncompromising belief that a community's strength lies in working together with groups of a similar disposition has guided the CAEF through the challenging and murky waters of fighting injustice and hatred.

History has taught us that initially, hateful rhetoric and violence may only be levied against the Jews, but it frequently morphs and proliferates into a broader campaign against other groups.

CAEF promotes adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance alliance definition of anti-Semitism. "We combat anti-Semitism that mas-

querades as anti-Zionism, the latest and most prolific form of Jew hatred. Our projects include research, education, public awareness, interfaith alliances, and advocacy," says Andria Spindel, executive director at CAEF.

President Anita Bromberg represents CAEF on a coalition of religious groups. Among other pursuits, she is Executive Director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, overseeing initiatives that bring communities together to combat racism and hate.

CAEF has partnered with Doctors Against Racism

and Antisemitism, Hasbara Fellowships Canada, StandWithUs Canada and the Alpha Omega International Dental Society to embark on the 'Hineni' project. They are collaborating with Annette Poizner, research director, MSW, Ed.D, RSW and Stacey Love, Research Assistant, BA. 'Hineni' translates to "here I am," and is the response Avraham gives when asked to sacrifice his son Yitzhak. Also, the term refers to the humility we espouse as we present ourselves on the *Yanim Noraim* (days of awe) for judgement by the almighty. Likewise, the

(Please turn to page 9)



PICTURED ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT, ANDRIA Spindel, executive director, CAEF; Centre - Dr. Mordechai Kedar, professor Bar Ilan U, researcher at Begin Centre; Anita Bromberg, President CAEF

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WHY OHIO TOWN IS NAMED EAST PALESTINE

MANY AMERICAN TOWNS HAVE BIBLICAL NAMES

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

A toxic spill has drawn the nation's attention to the little town of East Palestine, Ohio, just as another tragedy, the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia in 2003, turned the nation's gaze upon the town of Palestine, Texas, where much of the debris landed.

The tragic spotlight now shining on Ohio's "East Palestine" naturally leaves some people curious as to

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

why it has such an unusual name. The answer is that it's not a very unusual name at all.

Elsewhere in Ohio, there are towns named Hebron, Gilboa, Canaan, and Shiloh (two of them, in fact). There's even a Sodom, which was given its name

after a prohibition advocate, disappointed at the small turnout for his lecture in 1840, jokingly compared the locale to that infamous biblical center of sin.

In Texas, in addition to Palestine, there are towns with the names

Hebronville and Joshua. There is a Hebron in North Dakota and a Sinai in South Dakota, a Jerusalem in Arkansas, a Jericho in Vermont, a Bethlehem as well as a Nazareth in Pennsylvania, and a Zion in Maryland. Nearly every state has one or more towns named after biblical sites or individuals. Altogether, there are more than 1,000 biblically-named towns from

(Please turn to page 22)

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FOOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

NAMES IN THE NEWS FROM TV, STAGE AND SCREEN

By CHAIM BALINSKY

Alden Ehrenreich, who stars in the movie “Cocaine Bear”, made a home movie that he and some friends showed at a bar mitzvah in Los Angeles in 2009. One of the guests at the event was **Steven Spielberg**. **Spielberg** introduced him to Francis Ford Coppola and **Ehrenreich** was on his way to acting fame...Comedian **Modi Rosenfeld**’s target audience is mostly Orthodox Jews. Recently Rosenfeld came out as gay. But he has not lost his Orthodox audience. The funny man is still getting his gigs at Orthodox

synagogues.

Joanie Leeds, a children’s musician and Grammy winner, and **Mikey Pataker**, a “devoted rock artist” from California, are on a mission. There is a Grammy Award for just about every kind of music. But there’s no specifically Jewish category. The two Jewish musicians are submitting a proposal to the Recording Academy to add “best Jewish music album” to the lists of awards...The late **Richard Belzer** may not have “worked Jewish”. But his routines often included bits and pieces of

Jewish material. Moreover, the role for which he was best known, Det. John Munch on “Homicide: Life on the Street” and “Law and Order: Special Victims Unit”, identified as Jewish. Yet no mention was made in various obituaries that **Belzer** was Jewish.

Mayim Bialik owes her hosting gig on ‘Jeopardy’ to her son. Fifteen-year-old son **Miles** told her that he saw a post on social media that ‘Jeopardy’ was looking for guest hosts. “Mama, you should be the host”, he told **Mayim**. “That’s not going to

happen”, she responded but she asked her agent anyway to pursue it. “My kid was right”, admits the chosen host.

Mel Brooks’ “History of the World Part 11”, debuted on Hulu in March. He has not ruled out a sequel to “Blazing Saddles”. When asked how the death of **Carl Reiner** affected him Brooks replied. “I can’t tell you how much I miss **Carl** but he would never want tragedy to stand in the way of comedy.”

Lily Brasch became the first model with mus-
(Please turn to page 14)

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LIMMUD TORONTO RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN!

TORONTO'S PREMIER FESTIVAL OF JEWISH LEARNING RETURNS TO AN IN-PERSON INTERACTIVE FORMAT – BUT “HYBRID” MODEL KEEPS TIES WITH REMOTE AUDIENCES

After two successful virtual “Zoom” events, Limmud Toronto returns to its in-person format for April 30, 2023. Limmud, which can be translated as “learning,” is an innovative, inclusive festival that celebrates Jewish discussions and ideas. It’s an immersive, multidisciplinary day of performances, lectures, debates and workshops. With a marketplace, entertainment, a catered lunch, and special programming for participants aged 5-12, Limmud Toronto aspires to offer something to everyone.

“We’re delighted to

return to a live festival and the atmosphere of celebration and community that we get from being face-to-face,” says Mira Kates Rose, this year’s Co-Chair. “Organizing a festival where we can see people striking up conversations, making new friends, swapping stories about what they’ve just learned or started to wonder about – those connections are such a vital part of Limmud, so it’s nice to have the energy that comes from this format. But we’re definitely keeping some features that grew out of our online events, which had partici-

pants and volunteers joining us from Ukraine, Israel, South Africa, Jamaica and Gravenhurst. I love that Limmud Toronto can welcome people from anywhere, so this year’s Limmud is our first ever ‘hybrid’: all sessions will also be livestreamed on Zoom.”

Limmud festivals originated in the United Kingdom in 1980. Since then, festivals have taken root in 90 communities in 42 countries around the world. Limmud Toronto was first held in 2004 and has developed a strong community of “Limmudniks” of

all ages who attend each event.

Limmud Festivals are guided by a series of values including volunteer leadership, accessible and participatory experiences, diversity and a core belief that every person has something to teach. The result is that each festival is a unique reflection of the interests, ideas, and perspectives of the community and the moment.

This year, look for discussions exploring Jewish pop culture and the digital world, local Canadian history and heroes, Talmudic

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tales, Israeli current events and Jewish cultural traditions and innovations from all over the world. “The most difficult part of the planning process, by far, is choosing between the excellent speakers and educators who offer to present,” says Hannah Blazer, Limmud Toronto’s other Co-Chair this year. “The ideas people bring are incredible, thought-provoking, creative – and the presenters who share them, whether they are academics or rabbis or community leaders or amateur ‘mavens,’ are so passionate. It’s really a privilege to get a peek at these suggestions. But with limited space in the program, we just have to hope they come back and teach at the next event.”

Date: **Sunday,**
April 30, 2023 **Time:**

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Limmud Toronto is a community event. Registration is open to all.

Tickets can be purchased at limmud.ca

About Limmud Toronto: Limmud is a global movement that celebrates diverse Jewish thinking as an active and evolving conversation. Limmud happens today in over 90 communities in 42 countries worldwide, demonstrating the broad interest in the topics explored, as well as the wide spectrum of people taking part in the exploration. Limmud is for thinkers curious about new ideas and fresh perspectives. It is how people connect Jewishly with their inner selves, their local community, and to people around the world.

Think globally, attend locally (or virtually!)

ANTISEMITISM

(Continued from page 5)

‘Hineni’ project presents itself in a similarly conscientious manner, seeking to identify, expose, and investigate anti-Semitism at post-secondary institutions, where the toxicity of anti-Jewish attitudes and behaviours has become all too familiar.

The study demonstrates that some students currently enrolled in social work education are contending with blatant anti-Semitism. The report’s findings reveal that both nuanced and overt instances of anti-Semitism are common, if not ubiquitous within the discipline. Poizner feels that at a minimum, the field must integrate the study of anti-Semitism into both the social work curriculum and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Although the post-secondary curriculum has yet to see tangible change, social work entities are at least beginning to


take note.

“We appreciate that the Ontario professional bodies are now working to self-correct. Nevertheless, we await signs of change from the individual schools where the worst of the problems have been reported,” says Poizner.

Ms. Poizner is optimistic about bringing these findings forward. By bringing these issues to light, she remains confident that the necessary changes can occur. But left unchecked, this markedly deviant modus operandi will surely continue.

The thematic essence of ‘Stronger Together Fighting to End Jew Hatred’ is at the crux of CAEF’s mission. In collaboration with other community organizations, CAEF is presenting a conference with the same name: ‘Stronger Together Fighting to End Jew Hatred’ on Sunday, September 10 at the Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto

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ANTI-SEMITISM

(Continued from preceding page)

The agenda for the conference includes workshops and lectures, with keynote speakers including the much-heralded Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, renowned author of 'Israel Warrior' and 'Shalom in the Home'. The focus will be on defining, recognizing, and combatting antisemitism through education. Attendees will learn about the history, impact, and forms of antisemitism; equipping them with the necessary tools to teach others. The event is geared towards students, educators, parents, community members and policy makers. For more information, visit <https://strongertogether.name/>

One recent event, 'Israel: The Good Neighbour, Not an Apartheid State', presented by CAEF and CILR (Canadians for Israel's

Legal Rights) took place at the Lodzer Centre. The keynote speaker was LTC (Ret.) Eyal Dror, who served as an officer in the IDF in a variety of positions. Dror founded and served as the commander of the 'Good Neighbour' unit, an entity which in collaboration with non-governmental organizations of all faiths, executed 700 humanitarian missions to Syrian civilians in the border area. He dispelled the myth of Israeli being an apartheid country, an obvious lie which invariably emboldens Jew-haters as this rhetoric increasingly becomes a part of the mainstream.

To learn more about CAEF, readers can go to <https://www.caef.ca>, or contact Andria at andria@caef.ca, 905-413-7230.

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TORONTO NOSTALGIA

The Jewish Standard has been publishing regularly since 1929. The following items taken from 1930 editions provide an insight into the Jewish life of our parents and grandparents. - The Editor

December 15, 1933

The Oakdale Golf and Country Club held its annual dance at the Roof Garden of the Royal York Hotel. The guests were received by Mr. and Mrs. Egmont L. Frankel. A hundred and fifty people were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Percy, St. Clair Avenue West, entertained a few friends at dinner and bridge last Sunday evening.

Mrs. Harry Rosenberg, Lonsdale Road, entertained the Holy Blossom Sisterhood at tea last Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Seigel entertained at a dinner and dance at the Savarin in honour of their niece, Miss Sylvia Ross, of Hollywood, California. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. C. Seigel, Mr. and Mrs. M. Jubas, Misses Gertrude Gotlieb, Bett Seigel, Gertrude Lewis, Messrs. Arthur Daniels, Manuel Jacobs and Jack Seigel.

August 1938

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Sol Alter (née Florence Andrews), 1650 Bathurst St., on Tuesday July 26, at Toronto Western Hospital, a son.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Bennett (née Lillian Eckler), 2 Connaught Circle, on July 21, at Toronto General Hospital, a son, Robert Stanley.

The marriage took place quietly in July of Miss Lillian Butman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Butman, of Philadelphia, to Jack Abrams, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Abrams, of Toronto. Rabbi Hurwitz officiated.

The marriage of Miss Helene Francis Gernstein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Gernstein, to Albert Libman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Libman, took place quietly in July.

Born to Dr. and Mrs. H. Davidson (née Beatrice Centner) on July 28, at Toronto Western Hospital, a daughter.

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Blessings this
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Best wishes to my Jewish
friends and the
community on a joyous
Passover celebration!



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FOOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

(Continued from page 7)

ular dystrophy to walk the runway unassisted at New York Fashion Week. **Brasch**, who is an Orthodox Jew, and goes by the stage name Lily B, walked the catwalk at 5 p.m. in order to have time to prepare for Shabbat. After the event she walked to a nearby hotel to welcome the Sabbath with her sisters.

Walter Mirisch, together with his two brothers, **Harold** and **Marvin**, founded Mirisch Co. in 1967. The independent production company produced many classics over the years, including *Some Like It Hot*, *West Side Story*, *The Apartment* and *In The Heat of the Night*. **Mirisch** died recently at 102...**Gene Simons**, born **Chaim Witz** in

Haifa and former lead singer of the rock band KISS, has announced the band's farewell tour. It will start in Austin, Texas and go on to locations across the United States and then to Canada.

Eugene Levy's "The Reluctant Traveller" appeared on AppleTV+ - YouTube. **Levy** visits some of the world's most beautiful and intriguing destinations in Costa Rica, Finland, Italy, Japan, Maldives, Portugal, South Africa, and the United States, exploring hotels and places. While not strictly speaking a "funny travel show", **Levy** says that "humour comes through me and my reluctance to engage in things I would never normally engage in". In

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Costa Rica, for example, **Eugene** journeys into the jungle, where he sleeps among the trees, comes face-to-face with deadly wildlife, and conquers a major fear.

Jews are having a successful year in golf. **Ben Silverman** and **Max Homa** both won tournaments within days of each other. In fact the two Jewish golfers recently won big competitions in a single week: Canadian pro **Silverman** won on the Korn Ferry Tour and rising star **Homa** earned his sixth victory on the PGA Tour. Meanwhile **Daniel Berger** has won four PGA titles. Unfortunately, a back injury has kept him sidelined this year and his return remains uncertain. **Herman Barron** was the first Jew to win a PGA event which he did in 1942.

More Jews in the world of sports: Duke University men's basketball coach **Jon Scheyer** had a tall task this year, stepping into the role after Duke legend Mike Krzyzewski, who led the team for 42 years. Turns out, **Scheyer** was up for it: he made history this week as the first head coach in the ACC to go undefeated at home in his first season...Milwaukee Bucks co-owner **Marc Lasry** has sold his stake in the team to the owners of the Cleveland Browns for a reported \$3.5 billion. **Lasry** joined the ownership group in 2014. His son **Alex Lasry**, a Bucks executive, briefly ran for the U.S. Senate in 2021...After weeks of rumors, the Arizona Coyotes finally traded **Jakob Chychrun**, to the Ottawa Senators.

In "Never Again", a recent episode of the CBS show "The Equalizer", a wave of hate crimes strikes a Jewish neighbourhood in Brooklyn. **Adam Goldberg**, one of the show's stars, says

that the plot hit close to home. **Richard Masur** plays a local rabbi. **Adam Glass**, an Ashkenazi Jew from New York, and **Ora Yashar**, from an Iranian family, co-wrote the episode.

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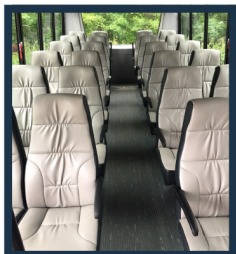
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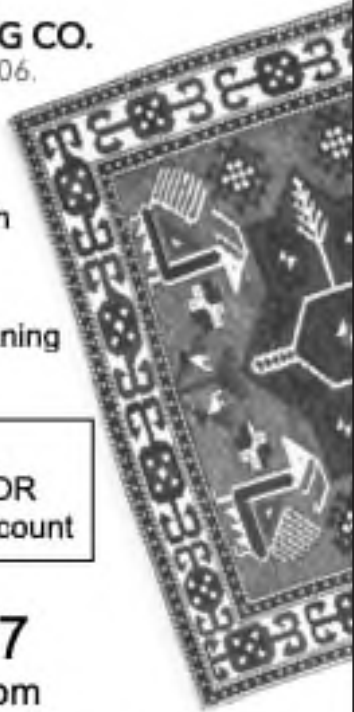
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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

February 5th, and at 4am the disaster struck,” Yulia’s father, Sergey Petrov, said. “I lost touch with them then.”

Yulia’s husband is a soldier in the Ukrainian army and is in hospital recovering from wounds suffered during the fighting.

Estimates of the number of Jews in Ukraine vary but Hebrew demographer Sergio Della Pergola’s says that Ukraine is home to between 56,000 and 140,000 Jews, making it the fourth largest Jewish community in Europe and the eleventh largest in the world.

Moroccan Textbooks Embrace Jewish Life

A report conducted by the Israeli-British organization IMPACT-se that analyzes schoolbooks and curricula for compliance with UNESCO-defined stan-

dards on peace and tolerance, in collaboration with the Jeffrey M. Talpins Foundation and its president Oren Eisner, concluded that textbooks in Moroccan schools embrace Jewish life and that Jews are entwined in the national and cultural fabric of Morocco. The study examined 127 textbooks in state-run schools emphasizing social studies, history, Islamic studies, language and literature.

“We want to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for taking steps to improve its curriculum and spread tolerance and understanding throughout the Middle East”, said Eisner. The report noted that reforms were meant to familiarize students with Jews and Judaism “to a far greater extent than other curricula we have reviewed.”. Students now know that the Jewish

(Please turn to page 18)

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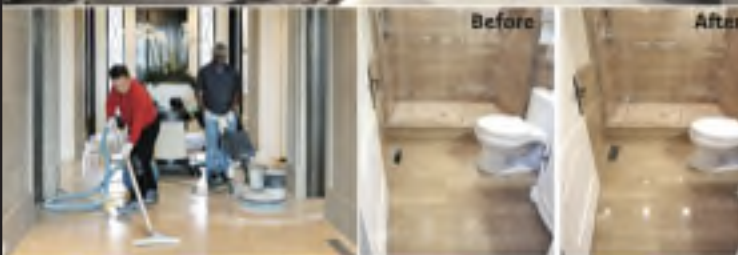
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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 16)

community is an “inseparable part” of Morocco, it continued.

Added IMPACT-se CEO Marcus Sheff: “We are struck by this unique embrace of Jews and Judaism in the reformed Moroccan school curriculum. The affection through which Morocco’s Jewish community and its customs are represented as well as the lives of individual Moroccan Jews is heart-warming.”

The report did conclude that one area of the curriculum still needs attention. The Holocaust is not taught in schools and

while a two -state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is endorsed, there is obvious sympathy for the Palestinian side.

Morocco is home to some 2000 Jews.

***Blaming Team Woes
On Jewish CBO***

Chaim Bloom is the Jewish chief baseball officer of the Boston Red Sox. The team fan base is a rabid one and failure is not taken lightly.

Unfortunately for Bloom, his arrival in Boston 2019 has coincided with

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two last place finishes and the departure of several high profile players to free agency. The successful playoff run in 2021 has long been forgotten by fans used to winning seasons.

And so Red Sox fans need a scapegoat and Bloom has become that target. He told the *Boston Globe* that he has received death threats and anti-semitic slurs as the team has struggled. Last year, the team released a minor league player after a series of social media attacks against Bloom, including calling him “an embarrassment to any torah-following jew.”

(Please turn to page 26)

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UNITED BAKERS DAIRY RESTAURANT AND VE'AHAVTA PARTNER TO FEED TORONTO'S HOMELESS

Over 100 people recently tuned in on Zoom to Cooking for a Cause at Ve'ahavta, a charity dedicated to promoting self-sufficiency among those facing poverty and homelessness.

The live cooking workshop was led by United Bakers' Ruthie and Nathan Ladovsky with kitchen interns at Ve'ahavta's commercial kitchen. They shared their restaurant's soup secrets, along with some wonderful personal stories about the 112-year-old Toronto establishment and its founding family. Guests, who made and donated over 60 liters of soup, raised over \$8,000 for Ve'ahavta's robust suite of life-saving programs.

Seven night a week, from 6pm to midnight, staff

and volunteers on Ve'ahavta's two outreach vans visit shelters, clinics, and encampments in the downtown core and across Scarborough, delivering hot

food, clothing, and other lifesaving supplies such as blankets, sleeping bags, hygiene products and harm reduction kits.

"Partnering with United

Bakers to raise money and make soup to feed those facing poverty and homelessness in our city is a beautiful way to fulfill the mitzvah of giving tzedakah and feeding the hungry," says Cari Kozierok, Ve'ahavta's Executive Director. "A pillar of Toronto's Jewish communal life, they are dedicated to Tikkun Olam and they really do make the tastiest soup in the city."

"We are excited to again join Ve'ahavta in helping to feed their clients and fulfill the mitzvah to have fed the hungry," says United Bakers' Dairy Restaurant's Nathan Ladovsky.

Ve'ahavta takes its name from the Torah passage Ve'ahavta lerecha kamocha: to love your fellow human as yourself.



(L-R) Nathan Ladovsky, Ve'ahavta Executive Director Cari Kozierok and Ruthie Ladovsky

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WHY EAST PALESTINE

(Continued from page 6)

coast to coast.

Towns such as East Palestine, Ohio, were established by 19th-century religious Christian settlers; they chose those names to express their spiritual attachment to the land and people of the Bible. When they thought of Palestine, they recalled the Jewish kingdoms and temples of ancient times, as well as the events surrounding the origins of Christianity in the Jewish town of Bethlehem. In their prayers, they prayed for the return of the Jews to the Holy Land, which they understood to be inextricably linked to the coming messianic age.

The area that became East Palestine was originally known as Mechanicsburg. There are a number of towns in the U.S. that were originally settled

by mechanics of various types. But in the case of Ohio, "Mechanicsburg" was changed in 1836 because—according to an early history of the region—"the wife of Dr. Robert Chamberlin desired a more euphonious appellation and desired it [be] called 'Palestine,' the quiet beauty of the little town, and the earnest, virtuous, simple life of its people suggesting to her a name recalling holy memories."

Since there already was a town named "Palestine" in the western part of the state—likewise founded by religious Christians who wanted to infuse their town with "holy memories"—government officials, in assigning the new post office, added the prefix "East."

That early account of East Palestine's founding

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was published in 1905, when it was common for a married woman's name to be hidden behind that of her husband. But a historical marker in front of the log house where the Chamberlins once lived tells us that the name of the doc-

tor's wife was Rebecca—an appropriately biblical name for a woman who took her Bible seriously.

Not surprisingly, numerous churches quickly sprung up in East Palestine and its environs. Lutheran and Reformed congregations established the Salem Church, choosing a name derived from "Jerusalem." Evangelical Lutherans founded the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, while Methodists originally held their services in a local school—the separation between church and state was still rather fuzzy in those days—before eventually erecting their Methodist Episcopal Church. East Palestine also had a United Presbyterian Church and, later, another house of worship with a biblically-inspired name, the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

When America's religious Christian settlers thought of the Holy Land, they thought of the Hebrew bible and the area's 3,000 years of Jewish inhabitation, not the Koran or the more recently-arrived Arab

residents of the area. They thought of the many Jews who appear in the accounts of the birth of Christianity (including its founder), texts that do not mention any Palestinian Arabs.

Certainly Americans were aware that there were Arabs living in Palestine in the 19th century. Mark Twain, for example, had mentioned them in his account of his *(Please turn to following page)*

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WHY EAST PALESTINE

(Continued from preceding page)

visit to the Holy Land, The Innocents Abroad (1869). So had Herman Melville in his famous Clarel: A Poem and the Pilgrimage in the Holy Land (1876).

But it was common knowledge that the Arab population of Palestine was relatively small and unsettled, and that the Arab residents of 19th-century Pal-

estine regarded themselves as part of southern Syria, not as a separate nationality. H. Allen Tupper, Jr. wrote in the *New York Times* in 1896, after having “ridden on horseback more than four hundred miles through Palestine and Syria,” that virtually the only local people he encountered were “merchantmen

men with their long camel trains” and “wild Bedouin tribes” that “reside in one locality not more than two months.”

Today’s residents pronounce East Palestine “Palesteen,” but the original settlers undoubtedly pronounced it the more common way. Because it was the Holy Land, with its deep Jewish roots, that burned

bright in the hearts and prayers of the founders of the many biblically-named towns across America. And it is for the same reason that Bible-believing Christians today—probably including more than a few residents of East Palestine, Ohio—constitute one of the major sources of pro-Israel sentiment in the United States.

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 19)

Bloom insists that he understands the frustration of the fans, especially with the Boston Bruins and Boston Celtics dominating hockey and basketball. He acknowledged that he is "suffering when we lose" just as much as his critics.

Bloom is a Jewish day school graduate, observes shabbat and keeps a kosher home. During his 15 years with the Tampa Bay Rays prior to joining the Red Sox Bloom and his family lived close to Tropicana Field so he could walk to home games on Friday nights.

Saying "No" To Roger Waters

Roger Waters, the bassist for Pink Floyd, is a persistent critic of Israel. He is at the forefront of the BDS movement and is con-

stantly spreading anti-Semites tropes.

Waters was scheduled to perform on May 28th at Frankfurt, Germany's Festhalle. Festhalle was the site of the deportation of 3000 Jews to their deaths just after Kristallnacht.

The city of Frankfurt is part owner of the concert hall and announced that it was cancelling the planned concert. "The background to the cancelation is the persistent anti-Israel behaviour of the former Pink Floyd frontman, who is considered one of the most widely spread antisemites of the world," the city said in a statement. "He repeatedly called for a cultural boycott of Israel and drew comparisons to the apartheid regime of South Africa and put pressure on artists to cancel events in Israel."



HASBARA CANADA CREATIVE DIRECTOR LEA J. Bloom (third from right) poses with a few of the women who joined Hasbara Canada for its #LNO Ladies Night Out event in Toronto. Speakers were Kim Smiley, Monica Gold and Bracha Khurtzer Gross. Dozens of women came out for an evening of food, wine, shopping and inspiration. A large portion of all proceeds (25%) went directly to Hasbara Canada and its efforts to empower students to advocate for Israel and combat anti-semitism on campus.

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