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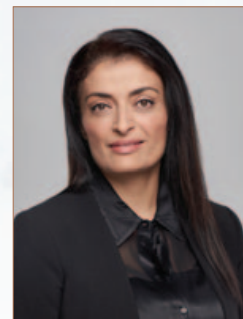
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Reflections on Rosh Hashanah

There can be no minimizing the tragedy inherent in human existence. We are never far from the impact of misfortune. Each year millions of human beings pass by the wayside in one way or another of the various means by which life is brought to an end.

If a sense of uneasiness is understandable in our personal lives, it is also reflected in the dark blots which affect our fellow Jews and, indeed, all of mankind. No Jew is exempt from the pain felt as Jews and others count the victims of the latest terrorist attack. The continued acrimony among nations, the harrowing thought that there are diabolical men far removed from complete sanity who relish the prospect of a nuclear holocaust, the poverty and suffering of hungry and homeless refugees around the globe are all potents of political and human disasters. Meanwhile, the defacing of synagogues, the desecration of tombstones, the fiery rhetoric from the likes of Kanye West, Bella Hadid, Roger Waters and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and the spreading of antisemitic leaflets and posters by the Goyim Defense League are grim reminders that even in seemingly comfortable environments, the poison of antisemitism has not been eradicated and that racists must be constantly ferreted out and vigorously fought. While “irrational fears” may be unwarranted, Jews know that they must be vigilant in their defence against those who think that it is their bounden duty to help the world “smite the Jews.”

The disasters which press down inexorably on all of mankind, Jew and non Jew, seem to deny optimists any convincing arguments for their views. But it is not in the nature of man to give up lightly the struggle for self-preservation and the vision of an abundant life. The immediate future may inspire a spirit of foreboding. We have no choice, however, but to persevere in the hope that 5784 will, even in this uncertain world, bring us some measure of happiness.

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THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

Accused of Going To Israel

Sylvia Santana is a Michigan state senator whose district includes the heavily Arab Muslim population of Dearborn. She recently joined several of her fellow senators on a visit to Israel. Her presence has infuriated many of her constituents.

“The news about Santana’s visit to Israel”, wrote Osama Siblani, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Dearborn-based *Arab American News*, “shocked and angered the Arab American community. Santana’s

visit constitutes a slap in the face to the Arab American community who has been supportive and respectful of the senator”.

Sensing a political backlash Santana was quick to apologize for the trip. “I recognize my presence on this trip has sparked anger and disappointment...For this, I truly apologize, seek your forgiveness and hope that you will understand that I had no malicious intent.”

Santana’s district overlaps with the notorious anti-Israel and antisemitic Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib. Tlaib was a featured

speaker at a recent art show which advocated Israel’s destruction. The Handala Coalition, a group of organizations advocating for Palestinians, sponsored the May 30 show at Detroit’s Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery. Among the figures honored with artwork was Khader Adnan, 45, an imprisoned terrorist in Israel who died on May 2 following an 86-day hunger strike. He had spent eight years in prison for terror-related offenses.

Rabbi Asher Lopatin, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council for the Metro-

politan Detroit area, responded to the politician by saying “Everyone should go. It’s the holy land. Whether you like whose the state now, maybe you preferred it when it was under the Ottomans or the Crusaders or the Romans, but whoever it is, everyone should visit.”

Self Proclaimed First Rabbi of Riyadh

Rabbi Yaakov Israel Herzog lives in Riyadh. Despite the restrictive laws in the country Herzog has opened the first Chabad
(Please turn to page 31)

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FDR SAID “NO” AT BERMUDA

U.S. PRESIDENT LED THE ABANDONMENT OF THE JEWS

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

The name “Bermuda” conjures up a variety of images. Tourists think of it as a tropical vacation site. Scientists ponder the disappearance of ships in the Bermuda Triangle. But for those concerned with the history of the Holocaust, Bermuda is remembered as the site of a notorious U.S.-British conference that was organized for the ostensible

Dr. Rafael Medoff is director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, in Washington, D.C., and author of more than 20 books about Jewish history and the Holocaust. - The Editor

purpose of rescuing Jews from Hitler, but instead abandoned them.

In early 1943, following the Allies’ verification of the Nazi genocide, some British parliament members and church leaders began pressing for immediate

rescue action. To appease the growing clamor, the Churchill and Roosevelt administrations announced they would hold a conference presumably to address the crisis.

The island of Bermuda was chosen for the

gathering. Nahum Goldmann, cochairman of the World Jewish Congress, suspected the remote setting was selected so “it will take place practically in secret, without pressure of public opinion.”

Jewish organizations asked permission to send representatives to the conference; their request

(Please turn to page 16)

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ATTENTION HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

If you are a Holocaust survivor who has not received any compensation payment (either from the Claims Conference or German or Austrian governments), please call us immediately. You may be entitled.

The Claims Conference has negotiated the following liberalizations of criteria to compensation funds with the German government. **HARDSHIP FUND – SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT** Jewish Nazi victims eligible for the Hardship Fund have been approved for annual Supplemental Payments of approximately €1,200 in 2023 through 2027. If you already received a Hardship Fund Supplemental Payment (meaning payments over the two years of €2,400), you don't have to apply again. You will only need to provide Proof of Life. Please register with Paneem for the 2023 payment (you will need to do this every year through 2027). You will hear from us to validate via Paneem. If you have moved, or don't hear from us, please contact us. If you have never applied, the deadline for the 2023 payment is December 31, 2023.

Holocaust survivors who were previously ineligible to receive the Supplemental Hardship Fund payments because they received one-time German government payments (for example from Länderhärtefonds) are now eligible to apply for the supplemental payment.

Survivors who receive a German or Austrian pension for persecution during the Holocaust (BEG, Article 2 Fund, Regional Specific Program (RSP), Austrian Victims Pension (Opferausweis)) are not eligible to receive the Hardship Supplemental Fund Payment.

NEWLY APPROVED OPEN GHETTOS: Jewish Holocaust survivors who were persecuted in the open ghettos identified below, for at least three months, may be eligible for a monthly pension from the Article 2 or CEE Fund:

- In Romania, survivors persecuted in Bucharest, Adjud, Beiuș, Blaj, Caracal, Dumbrăveni, Făgăraș, Hăteș, Luduș, Mediaș, Nălaț-Vad, Oravița, Păcliaș, Pitești, Șarmașu, Sighișoara, Tâmbăveni, Tinca, Turnu Severin, Arad, Braila, Brasov, Buhusi, Călărași, Deva, Dorohoi, Fălticeni, Huși, Iliia, Lugoj, Ploești, Podul Iloaiei, Sibiu, Suceava, Târgu Frumos, Timisoara, Turda, Alba Iulia, BaCau. Barlad, Botosani, Buzau, Costanta, Craiova, Focasni, Galatz, Harlau, Iasi, Pascani, Pietra Neamt, Roman, Romanicu Sarat, Stefanesti, Targu Mures, Targu Neamt, Tecuci, and Vaslui, between August 1941 and August 1944;
- In Bulgaria, survivors persecuted in Dobrich, Kazanlık, Kürdzhalı, Lovech, Nevrokop (a.k.a. Gotse Delchev), Nikopol, Plovdiv, Popovo, Preslav, Provadiya, Turgovishte, and Yambol (Jambol), between September 1942 and September 1944. In addition, all pension recipients who were in one of the open ghettos in Romania or Bulgaria named above and born after January 1, 1928, may be entitled to a one-time payment from the Child Survivor Fund administered by the Claims Conference.

Note: Jewish Nazi victims from these open ghettos in Romania and Bulgaria may also be entitled to a pension from the ZRBG (Ghetto Pension). This pension is not administered by the Claims Conference. Please contact a German embassy or consulate near you or <https://www.germany.info/us-en/service/07-Pension/ghetto-financial-compensation/920638>

CHILD SURVIVOR FUND In addition to the other eligible applicants listed above, the Child Survivor Fund may also provide a one-time payment to those who are among the One Thousand Children amounting to €2,500 (approximately \$2,500) per person. Approximately 1,400 children were forced to leave their parents behind when they were rescued from Nazi Germany and Nazi-occupied countries and taken to the United States. Please contact us to learn the details of eligibility.

PAYMENT TO SPOUSES OF DECEASED ARTICLE 2/CEE FUND BENEFICIARIES

The Claims Conference will provide payments to eligible spouses of deceased recipients of the Article 2, Central and Eastern European (CEE) Funds. A spouse of an Article 2/CEE Fund beneficiary may, upon the death of the Article 2/CEE Fund beneficiary, be entitled to receive payments for up to 9 months, paid in three quarterly installments, if the following conditions apply:

1. The spouse is alive at the date of the payment; and
2. The spouse was married to the Article 2/CEE Fund beneficiary at the time of death of the Article 2/CEE Fund beneficiary; and
3. The Article 2/CEE Fund recipient passed away at any point while he or she was receiving a payment from the program.

The spouse of a Holocaust survivor must be alive at the time of each payment. Other heirs, including children, are not entitled to receive any payment. To download an application from our website, please go to: www.claimscon.org/apply

The German government established a similar program for surviving spouses of monthly Holocaust compensation pensions made under German Federal Indemnification Law, other German federal compensation laws or governmental programs, (sometimes referred to as Wiedergutmachung), for Holocaust survivors who passed away January 1st, 2020 or later. For more information, please check with the BADV or download the application from the BADV website at <https://www.badv.bund.de/DE/OffeneVermoegensfragen/UebergangsleistungenEhegattenNSOpfer/antrag.html>.

REGION-SPECIFIC PERSECUTION (RSP) PENSION A pension program was created for survivors, who currently do not receive pensions who were, for at least three months in: (i) the Leningrad Siege (ii) persecuted in Romania or (iii) hiding in France. Income/Asset criteria of the Article 2/CEE Funds apply. Meeting the RSP persecution criteria shall entitle a survivor to a payment from the Child Survivor Fund if the age criteria (born in or after 1928) is met.

For more information, contact:
CLAIMS CONFERENCE
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Email: info@claimscon.org

LITTLE HAS CHANGED SINCE CJC WAS DISBANDED

MULTIPLE CASES OF DÉJA VU FACE THE JEWISH COMMUNITY TWELVE YEARS LATER

By **JACK SILVERSTONE**

In the modern era, the now defunct Canadian Jewish Congress struggled with huge problems facing Jews worldwide and sometimes right here in Canada. Some of these issues like the fate of Jews in Syria were successfully resolved with the exodus of the entire Jewish community. This rescue was largely orchestrated by the extraordinary volunteers who headed up the CJC Jews in Arab Lands Committee. One can only imagine the fate of Jews

Jack Silverstone was the executive vice-president of CJC from 1985 to 2003 - The Editor

in Syria had they been caught up in the brutal civil war that erupted there in 2011.

CJC disbanded in July 2011, via a di facto merger with the Canada-Israel Committee to become the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs. While we believe CIJA and B'nai Brith Canada are doing a good job advocating on the important issues of the day, CJC had a cache that neither of these

organizations have been able to replicate.

There is a reason why CJC was recognized as the Parliament of Canadian Jewry. As our former president, the late Irving Abella wrote in *The Globe and Mail* in 2019, "the CJC was Canada's first national ethnic organization, and for many years the only democratic one in North America; Its leaders were elected by representatives of all the Jew-

ish communities and organizations from coast to coast. It became the model for successive waves of immigrants from places like Italy, Poland, Hungary, China and Japan to create their own organizations.

"It began as an organization for Canadian Jews, but soon after its founding became an organization for all Canadians who needed its help. Throughout its history, the congress was in the forefront

(Please turn to page 20)

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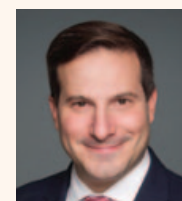
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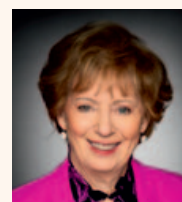
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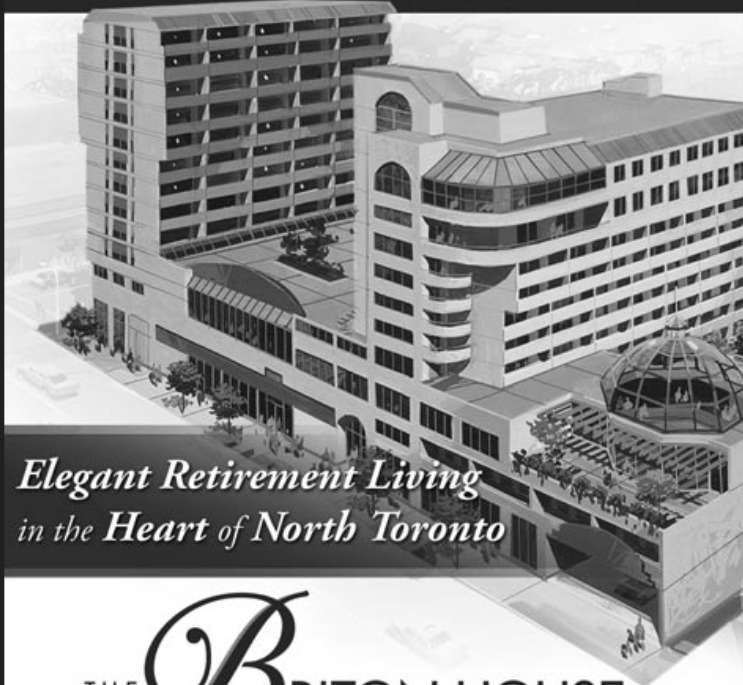
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Helping Refugees, Together Faith-based organizations in Toronto come together to help the city's asylum-seekers

There is a refugee crisis in Toronto. There are currently an estimated 2,900 refugees and asylum-seeker claimants in Toronto's shelter system – a growth of 500 per cent in the last 20 months. The issue captured attention when dozens of refugees were found sleeping on the streets in downtown Toronto, nearby the over-capacity shelters.

This past month, organizations in Toronto's Jewish community – among them, Ve'ahavta, B'nai Brith Canada, Beth Tzedec Congregation, and Holy Blossom Temple – sought ways to help support two churches that

stepped up to offer shelter to 300 of these asylum-seekers in North York – Revivaltime Tabernacle Church and Dominion Church International – Toronto.

Primarily from African countries, refugees have fled unspeakable circumstances back home, only to arrive in Canada to face a very challenging road ahead. "As Jews, many of us having similarly arrived in this country as refugees, we can relate personally to the plight of these individuals," says Cari Kozierok, Executive Director of Ve'ahavta, a local Jewish humanitarian organization dedicated to solving

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poverty, one person at a time.

On August 2, on learning that the refugees were being temporarily housed at the two nearby churches, Ve'ahavta quickly mobilized and prepared 300 meals and arranged for dozens of volunteers to help cook, bake, and serve the meals at the churches.

The Jewish community responded so quickly and generously to Ve'ahavta's emergency campaign, that the organization raised enough money to supply not 300 meals, but 1,500 meals (one each week until the end of August).

At the same time, B'nai Brith Canada delivered fresh food and clothing; and Beth Tzedec Congregation and Holy Blossom Temple made donations to the churches to buy cots and tables.

Ve'ahavta, primarily funded by individual donors from the Jewish Community, provides immediate relief and referrals to individuals facing extreme poverty and homelessness, and offers a variety of pre-employment training programs. The organization will extend applications to these refugees, to help them succeed as they transition to their new life in Canada.

Ve'ahavta programs have an unheard-of 95% success rate, and refugees now account for 31% of their enrollees, an increase of 12% over last year.

"When newcomers succeed, we all benefit," says Kozierok. "To quote Ghandi... the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."



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UNITING STUDENTS AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL KOREN,
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ALLIED VOICES FOR ISRAEL

Allied Voices for Israel (AVI) unites students of all backgrounds against anti-Jewish hatred. AVI offers a multi-faceted approach to Israel advocacy and education by empowering a new and diverse cohort of Israel advocates at high school and university campuses across Canada.

Through allyship programs to Israel, educational workshops, media fellowships, and other advocacy programs, AVI is inspiring a new generation of students to change the narrative around Israel. By embracing our peers, we will establish a movement of students working together to achieve strength in numbers and create a more just society.

AVI offers a variety of flagship programs as well as resources, access to high-profile speakers, and a suite of educational workshops that give students the tools to build meaningful coalitions and understanding of regional conflicts in the Middle East, how to refute misinformation from

anti-Israel students and professors, and serve as vocal and proactive Ambassadors for peace, coexistence, and human rights. We also offer interactive campaigns for our students to meaningfully engage in dialogue with their peers on campus.

AVI strongly believes that coalition-building is essential to combating anti-Jewish hatred and all forms of bigotry on campus. We believe in real allyship – meaning that no student should ever need to renounce an integral part of their identity (such as Jewish students being forced to denounce their support for Israel) to be considered an “ally.”

Recently, students representing 10 college and university campuses came together for an AVI Summer Retreat in Keswick to learn about allyship, Jewish indigeneity to Israel, and more. Students of all backgrounds joined us, representing 10 college and university campuses such as University of *(Please turn to following page)*



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UNITING STUDENTS

(Continued from preceding page)

Toronto, University of Windsor, Carleton University, Western University, McGill University, George Brown College, and others.

Students took part in interactive workshops on allyship, coalition-building, the harmful effects of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, the indigenous Jewish connection to Israel, and how to identify and combat anti-Jewish hatred on campus.

Students had many questions about Israel and Jewish indigeneity and gained several valuable new skills. It was quite the experience.

"I am pleased to report that nearly 90% of participants said the workshops made them feel

more confident and likely to advocate for Israel and engage in allyship on campus," says Koren. "Additionally, all students reported that their knowledge of Israel increased."

"The spirit of the event as well as the information provided equipped us as allies in a meaningful and nuanced way," said one student.

AVI will be gathering similar metrics and data from students for its upcoming Common Ground program to Israel beginning on December 27th. If readers know a student who may be interested in becoming a Common Ground Ambassador and joining AVI in Israel this winter, please encourage them to apply today!

**We Join in Extending ROSH HASHANAH
Greetings to the Jewish Community**



LET US ROCK YOUR WORLD



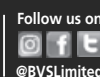
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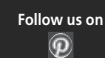
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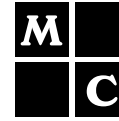
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Over the span of two decades, the ARC Ensemble (Artists of The Royal Conservatory) has provided a voice for exiled musicians, the many composers who had graduated from Europe's finest conservatories and enjoyed successful careers, but were then forced into exile by antisemitism and bigotry. The works of many of these composers have been forgotten. As it marks its 20th anniversary, the ARC Ensemble remains

dedicated to the research, recovery and recording of the music produced by these extraordinarily gifted exiles.

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(Please turn to page 22)

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FDR SAID "NO" AT BERMUDA

(Continued from page 6)

was rejected. They sent the State Department a list of proposals for rescue action; the memo was ignored. Jewish congressmen met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt to suggest rescue steps, "but the answer to all of [our] suggestions was 'No,'" according to Congressman Daniel Ellison (R-Maryland).

American Jewish groups were alarmed that U.S. Congressman Sol Bloom (D-New York) was chosen as a member of the American delegation to Bermuda. Bloom was a staunch defender of FDR's harsh policy toward Jewish refugees; Jewish leaders feared Bloom would serve as "an alibi" for the administration's claim that rescue

was impossible. Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long wrote in his diary that he chose Bloom because the congressman was "easy to handle" and "terribly ambitious for publicity."

The Bermuda gathering opened on April 19, 1943, which coincided with the first night of Passover and the outbreak of the Warsaw Ghetto revolt against the Nazis. The British and U.S. governments decided beforehand that in their discussions, there would be no emphasis on the plight of the Jews, nor would they adopt any policies that would benefit Jews in particular.

Nearly every rescue idea that was raised was

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shot down. The U.S. refused to use trans-Atlantic ships to transport refugees, not even troop supply ships that were returning from Europe empty. The Roosevelt administration also rejected any increase in the admission of refugees to the United States.

The British delegates refused to discuss Palestine as a possible haven, because of Arab opposition. They also rejected negotiating with the Nazis to release Jews, on the grounds that “many of the potential refugees are empty mouths for which Hitler has no use.” Their release “would be relieving Hitler of an obligation to take care of these useless people,” a senior British official asserted.

The delegates also dismissed the idea of shipping food to starving Jews as a violation of the Allied blockade of Axis Europe, even though Allied leaders previously made an exception for German-occupied Greece and sent food there.

In the end, the Bermuda conferees spent a large amount of time on very small-scale steps, such as evacuating 5,000 Jewish refugees from Spain (who were not in immediate danger) to the Libyan region of Cyrenaica.

After twelve days of basking in the tropical sunshine, the delegates adjourned without achieving anything of significance. The two governments kept the proceedings of the conference secret rather than admit how little they had accomplished.

The failure of the Bermuda conference provoked the first serious public criticism of U.S. refugee policy. A large advertisement in the *New York Times*, sponsored by the rescue advocates known as the Bergson Group, was headlined “To 5,000,000

Jews in the Nazi Death-Trap, Bermuda was a Cruel Mockery.”

Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-New York) charged that the delegates in Bermuda had engaged in “diplomatic tight-rope walking,” at a time when “thousands of Jews are being killed daily.” In a slap at Congressman Bloom, Rep. Celler characterized the conference as “a bloomin’ fiasco.”

The editors of *The New Republic* charged that Bermuda revealed “the bitter truth” that the U.S. and Great Britain were unwilling to aid “these potential refugees from murder...If the Anglo-Saxon nations continue on their present course, we shall have connived with Hitler in one of the most terrible episodes of history.”

Bermuda galvanized some mainstream Jewish leaders to speak out more forcefully for rescue. Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Synagogue Council of America, charged that “the victims are not being rescued because the democracies do not want them, and the job of the Bermuda conference apparently was not to rescue victims of Nazi terror but to rescue our State Department and the British Foreign Office from possible embarrassment.”

Even the chief British delegate to Bermuda, Richard Law, later acknowledged that Bermuda was a “façade for inaction.”

Historians have come to view the Bermuda conference as one of the era’s most vivid demonstrations of the Roosevelt administration’s abandonment of the Jews. The many books and films about America’s response to the Nazi genocide devote ample space to the Bermuda failure—with the notable exception of the recent Ken Burns documentary, “The U.S. and the Holocaust which

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FDR SAID "NO" AT BERMUDA

(Continued from preceding page)

for some reason never mentioned Bermuda at all. Perhaps one day, some interviewer will ask him about that.

An Eyewitness Account:

The day the Bermuda conference concluded, April 30, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency published an extraordinary eyewitness account of Nazi atrocities against Jews in the Polish city of Lvov.

A 40 year-old bank clerk named Arthur Rotenstroikin described how he and other Jews in Lvov were "lined up and machine gunned," but "I fainted and fell to the ground before a bullet hit me and thus escaped death." Late that night, he "crawled from the mound of the dead and returned home.

Rotenstroikin re-

counted a wide range of Nazi outrages in Lvov, from young Jewish boys "forced to beat their parents," to Rosh Hashana worshippers compelled to spread Torah scrolls on the ground "and dance upon them." He also detailed the mass murder process: executions of tens of thousands of Jews in a nearby forest where "the cries of the victims could be heard for miles," and mass deportations to the Belzec death camp.

Within a year, "only 10,000 Jews were left of [Lvov's] original Jewish population of 160,000," Rosenstroikin reported. Among the murdered were his own wife and two year-old child. His harrowing testimony offered a heartbreaking eyewitness counterpoint to the Allies' farce of a conference in Bermuda.

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LITTLE HAS CHANGED

(Continued from page 8)

of epic battles for human rights, equality, immigration reform and civility in this country. It stood arm-in-arm with Indigenous people in Canada fighting for their rights and dignity, with Canadian Sikhs demanding their right to wear turbans at their jobs and in Legion halls, and with a host of minority groups making their way in Canada. To each of them, the CJC has been a mentor, sharing its expertise and experience.

Many of the issues that occupied the efforts of CJC are still very much alive. Thus, CJC was a leader in the successful struggle to free the Jews of the former Soviet Union. Sadly, today all these years later, Jews in Russia and Ukraine, while no longer prisoners, find themselves in precarious situations as they face the terrible uncertainty created by war and civil strife.

The pursuit of Nazi war criminals in an effort to bring them to justice is now all but over as more than 75 years have passed since the end of the Second World War. Tragically, there has

been no lack of war criminality and crimes against humanity since then. In a bizarre and perverted twist of morality and law, some of the transnational vehicles such as the International Criminal Court that were put in place to counter horrific behaviour by individuals and nation states have become venues for anti-Israel machinations.

Worry continues for the sizeable Jewish community in Iran living as they do under an oppressive and violent theocracy. Meanwhile the small Jewish community in Tunisia is under stress. The country is not stable and unlike neighbouring Morocco where the Jewish community remains safe and respected and where the government is forging close ties with Israel, Tunisia remains hostile to the Jewish state. On May ninth of this year two Jewish visitors as well as three local security personnel were killed in an attack on a synagogue. The CJC had an extraordinary volunteer in Judy Feld Carr who headed our Jews in Arab Lands Committee and orchestrated the dramatic

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rescue of so many Jews from Syria.

Regrettably the transmission of antisemitic and anti-Israel propaganda has grown exponentially with the emergence of social media and similar nefarious efforts. At the same time, traditional antisemitic manifestations both from the extreme right and left have certainly not abated.

CJC fought tirelessly against anti-Israel boycotts. Today this pernicious form of economic and psychological warfare persists and is making odious inroads in the areas of culture and academia. This virus will not succeed, but *(Please turn to following page)*

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it must be countered.

Finally on the domestic front the struggle for minority rights continues. In this regard, we recall the extraordinary coalition of the Jewish, Italian and Greek communities in Québec when faced with the referendum on independence in 1995. With the current threats of Bill 2 (secularism) and Bill 96 (language), perhaps such a coalition should be re-established?

We were also able to draw strength from our small Jewish communities from coast to coast which CJC nurtured recognizing

their historical and political importance. These smaller Canadian centres continue to have a vital role to play and merit support.

These were some of the many issues that preoccupied the lay leadership and staff of Canadian Jewish Congress throughout the last century and into this one. Unfortunately, many of the problems persist albeit in modified forms. It is appropriate then to recall the wisdom of the Sages who declared that we are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are we free to abandon it.

REVIVING THE MUSICAL LEGACY

(Continued from page 15)

tally and abroad. Its concerts and recordings are eagerly received and have garnered enthusiastic reviews and multiple Grammy and JUNO nominations. ARC has released nine recordings (on RCA Red Seal and more recently on Chandos Records), including six

in its illuminating Music in Exile series. Through its quest to uncover neglected and forgotten 20th century composers, a roster of deserving works is now entering the classical canon.

From its inception, the goal of ARC Ensemble's Artistic Director Simon

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Wynberg was to both engage the creative energy of Conservatory's talented musicians, and to find a unique direction and purpose, one that would set them apart, generate attention and open opportunities to promote The Royal Conservatory, Canada's largest national arts organization.

"I knew it would be difficult to compete with the hundreds of recordings of canonical works and familiar programs," Wynberg says. "Luckily, I've always been drawn to the unfamiliar and I'm always curious as to why some works are endlessly performed, while others are consigned to an eternal hibernation. I love the idea of having an audience experience new music—especially music that enjoyed success in its own time—in the knowledge that we are embarking on an utterly new journey."

The group's first major success was its Music Reborn series which

featured composers who had been killed during the Holocaust. A few years later, Wynberg programmed a weekend dedicated to the works of émigré composers like Erich Korngold and Miklós Rózsa, musicians who had fled Europe during the 1930s and found sanctuary in America and the U.K.

As he examined the exile experience more deeply, Wynberg very soon concluded that "dozens of composers of the period still remained unresearched, unassessed and ignored." The ARC Ensemble had found its raison d'être and the Music in Exile series was born. The candidates for performance and recording are drawn primarily from the post-1933 period, when National Socialism forced artists to flee Europe and find refuge wherever they might be allowed. After the war, composers whose careers had been diminished by exile,

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REVIVING THE MUSICAL LEGACY

(Continued from preceding page)

then saw their music dismissed by their younger avant-garde colleagues as reactionary and largely irrelevant.

Wynberg's musical detective work might begin with a footnote in a biography, an old concert program, an email from a composer's relative, or a suggestion from the network of musicologists active in the area of suppressed music "Fortunately, many scores have survived and are hiding in plain sight in large library collections and archives," he says. Wynberg tracks down potential treasures scattered across the globe, from Israel to India, from Austria to Argentina, and resources closer-to-home in Bloomington, Indiana, and Winnipeg, Canada.

In resurrecting music forgotten in the boxes

of library archives, the ARC Ensemble has created renewed appreciation for a growing list of gifted composers: for example, the Ukrainian nationalist Dmitri Klebanov, who was suppressed under Stalin; the Sephardic composer and musicologist Alberto Hemsí, who fled Turkey and Egypt to settle in Paris, and Walter Kaufmann, who found sanctuary in Bombay and created a uniquely personal language by fusing Indian and Western traditions. As a direct result of ARC's research and recording, Kaufmann's works are now published by the legendary Viennese publisher Doblinger, and both European and American orchestras are now programming his works. Kaufmann's Indian Symphony will be reintroduced to an audience at Carnegie Hall in 2024. ARC's

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Music in Exile series continues with a recording of premieres by Robert Müller-Hartmann who fled Hamburg with his wife in 1937 and settled in England. The release is scheduled for November, 2023.

Every one of the exiled composers that ARC

has introduced has both a compelling story of flight and exile, and a body of music of extraordinary range and quality. "It is hugely exciting to uncover a piece that quickens the pulse the first time you hear it," says Wynberg, "But the process is also rather nerve-racking as we are always asking audiences to trust our choices in travelling these unexplored paths."

Wynberg acknowledges that while the canonic repertoire is secure, he is confident that the new platforms for distribution and the explosion of social media, will encourage listeners to leap into the unknown. "When ARC performed a Klebanov String Quartet for NPR's Tiny Desk", Wynberg reports, "I watched in disbelief as the number of views exploded. The YouTube channel alone quickly exceeded 50,000...Videos like these do suggest that there is a parallel audience for classical music that is quite separate from that of the traditional concert-goer."

Twenty years on, with an alarming rise in antisemitism and new waves of cultural repression, the ARC Ensemble's mission reminds us of how easily lives

and careers can be devastated by political and social oppression. Says Wynberg: "My hope is that our introductions to these chamber

works will encourage further research, exploration and adoption of music that has been unjustifiably ignored."

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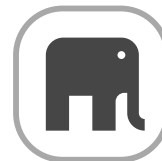
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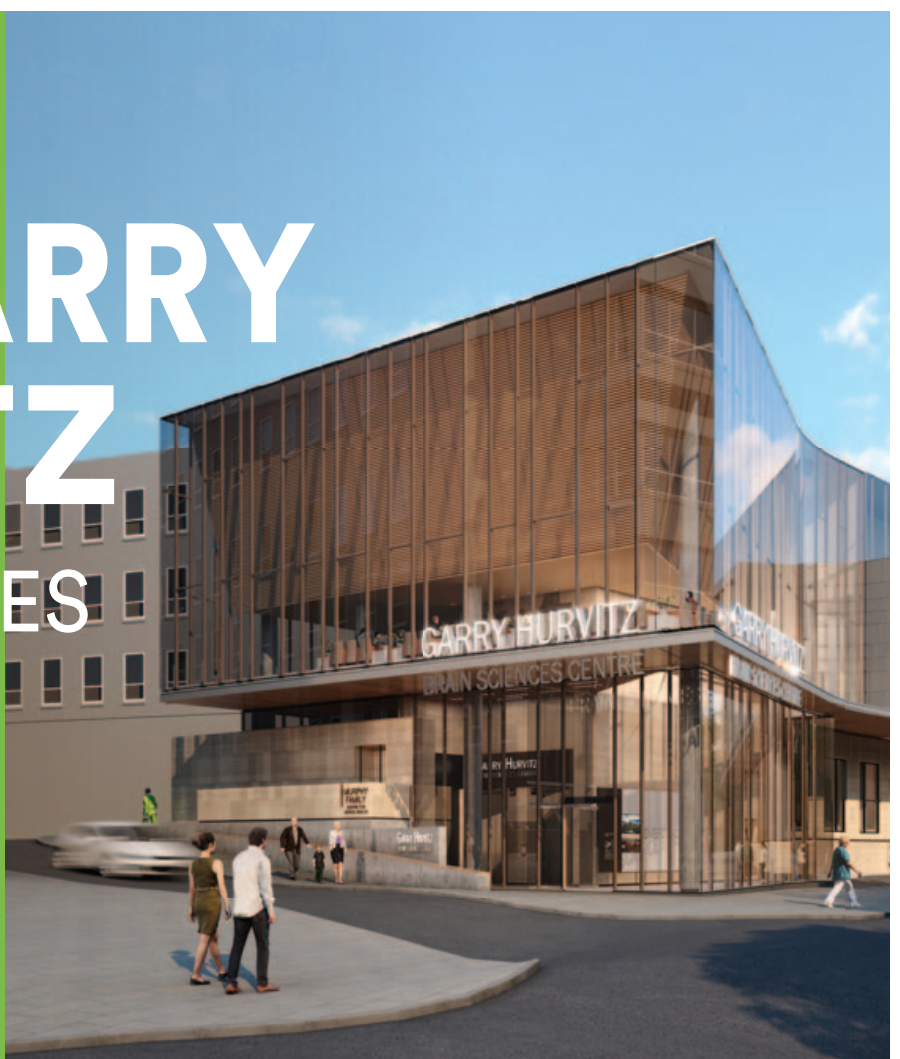
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TORONTO GRADE 5 STUDENT SISI KLEINER-FISMAN WRITES BOOK ON CANCER EXPERIENCE TO HELP OTHERS

11-year-old Toronto-based author Siena (Sisi) Kleiner-Fisman details her harrowing but inspirational experience as a long-term cancer survivor with her impactful new book for adults and children alike, "She-Warrior" — available now.

When Sisi was three years-old, she was diagnosed with a rare cancer. Initially, the weight of it all made her sad and angry at being sick and missing out on all the fun of summer. However, when Sisi and her parents traveled to Philadelphia, PA, to receive life-saving radiation, Sisi made new friends and had all sorts of adventures exploring a new city.

Facing her demons head-on with optimism and a relentless spirit, Sisi chronicles her life-changing journey with "She-Warrior". As Sisi puts it, "Being diagnosed with cancer as a small child, getting through treatment, and now being a long-term survivor is a unique experience."

What follows is an excerpt from "She-Warrior" detailing one of Sisi's first doctor's visits: The doctors

needed a sample of the cancer ("earth-monster" to Sisi). They wanted to look at it under the microscope to make sure it really was Rhabdomyosarcoma and not some other monster and to help decide which medicine Sisi would need. Sisi actually called the "earth-monster" "Toots" after watching a cartoon episode about a funny little germ named "Toots."

Years after her cancer ordeal, she woke up one morning with an epiphany. Sisi realized she had an extraordinary story that had to be told. She decided to write this book to help other kids cope with childhood cancer and inspire them to remain hopeful in their journeys and to know that they are not alone. "Even though my days were filled with uncertainty and fear, with the help of my doctors, nurses, and my mom, I never lost hope, and eventually, I recovered," says Sisi.

"I decided that telling my story could have such a huge impact on kids who are going through tough times with cancer as I did and telling them my

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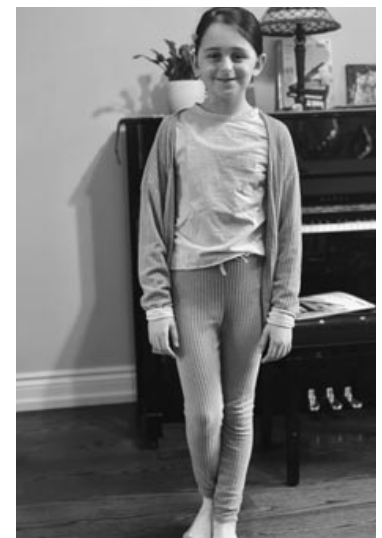
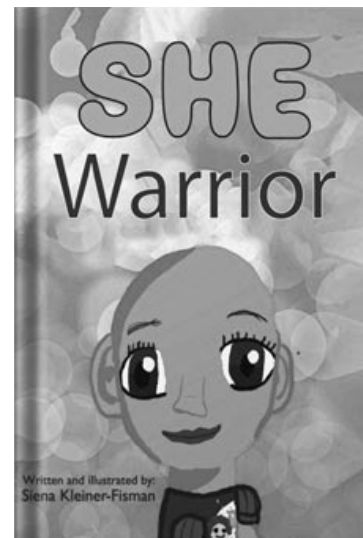
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story might help them have hope that they too will get better.”

This story, written by Sisi when she was 11-years-old, will delight children, teens, and adults alike. Featuring original art by Sisi, “She-Warrior” is the true story of an inspiring little girl with a big personality who navigates adversity with humour and resilience. Sis’s debut book is written with a youthful spirit capturing the optimism and resilience of childhood.

Sisi Kleiner-Fisman lives in Toronto, where she is a grade 5 student. She loves singing, dancing, per-

forming in musical theatre, drawing and painting, and spending time with her friends and family. While Sisi still has some challenging hurdles to conquer due to the effects of radiation, she plans to be a child psychologist. Sisi says “I want to help kids cope with their feelings and anxieties because I know what it's like”. She will impact others, knowing what it is like to be vulnerable and in need of support and encouragement.

11-year-old author Siena (Sisi) Kleiner-Fisman’s debut book “She-Warrior” is available now.

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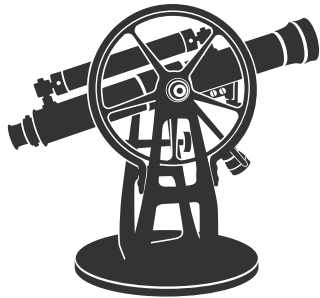
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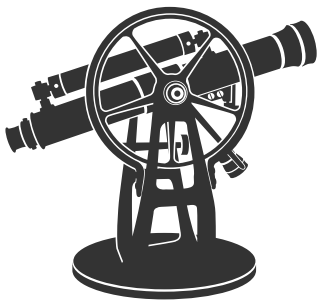
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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 5)

Movement house designed to serve what he claims are the thousands of Jewish expatriates living there.

“There are many Jewish expats coming to the Kingdom to work”, he says. He tells journalists that some 15,000 Jews now work in Saudi Arabia on different employment contracts although that number has not been verified.

There was this perception, says Herzog, that his work would be forbidden in a country where public displays of non-Islamic religious practices are still prohibited. “After I aligned myself with what I wanted to do, and the current situation in Saudi Arabia and Islam in general, I realized that with the Jewish people they won’t have a problem...We basically looked at

the current Saudi law book, and we tested the waters.” He describes himself on LinkedIn as a “Rabbi and entrepreneur”, specializing in acquisitions, as well as religious circumcision and interfaith dialogue. On X he calls himself “the rabbi of Saudi Arabia” and “the rabbi of the Arabian Peninsula”.

At present Herzog operates out of rental facilities where he hosts prayers and provides holiday meals (with grape juice instead of alcohol). But his goals are much greater. We “want to build a proper center, a proper mikvah ritual bath, a synagogue, a day school for children, and whatever a Jewish person in the kingdom would need in order to have a fulfilling Jewish life.” Herzog admits

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

he hasn't reached everyone but he remains undaunted, encouraged by the "nice turnouts" to various events. For at least one observer: "One man isn't waiting for peace to become official". *(Please see page 33)*

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THE JEWS OF ROUYN-NORANDA - STORIES BY THOSE WHO LIVED THERE

Accounts of the early 20th century Jewish immigration to Canada are more often than not written by professional historians and academics. Few are told by the immigrants

themselves or by the children and grandchildren of those who took a leap of faith and established roots in this alien land.

But the recently released *The Jewish Com-*

munity of Rouyn-Noranda is the “life and history of a small Jewish community” in the words of those who were born in Rouyn-Noranda and who spent the early part of their lives growing up in these remote northern twin cities. It’s the story of their parents and grandparents who came to Rouyn-Noranda, induced others to join them, became married and raised their families there. It tells the history of men and women finding the strength to endure the harshness of nature, to build businesses so that their families could live relatively comfortable lives, of finding the resources to build a synagogue as early as 1932 and of ensuring their families maintained their Jewishness in this predominantly French and Catholic community.

The Jewish Community of Rouyn-Noranda came about because of the

tireless efforts of Rosalie Mednick Nepom who felt the need to “tell a story that presented the growth and pains and innermost feelings of the Jews who established themselves and their families in the twin cities of Rouyn-Noranda”. Together with brother Sol Mednick, and with input from book committee members Harvey Korman, Esther (Korman) Vered, Dr. Issac Katz and Editor and Designer Bill Gladstone they have produced a fascinating account of a Jewish community which in its heyday numbered some forty to forty five families. Their story makes for compelling reading, even for those who have no ties to these cities or to the individuals who lived there.

The Jewish Community of Rouyn-Noranda can be purchased on Amazon.ca, Chapters.indigo.ca, thriftbooks.com and from Barnes and Noble.

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The JEWISH COMMUNITY of
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The life and history of a small Jewish community in
Northern Quebec (remembered by those who lived there)



WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 33)

greeted less than enthusiastically in some quarters. The controversy has nothing to do with Bernstein's music or the star's acting ability.

What has bothered some was the prosthetic nose worn by the non-

Jewish Cooper. "This isn't about making a non-Jewish actor look more like Leonard Bernstein", said Joel Swanson, a Jewish history PhD student at the University of Chicago. "It's about making a non-Jewish actor look more like a Jewish stereotype."

Writing in *Newsweek* Malina Saval and Jess Sneider argued: "A note about noses: not all Jews have the same one. This is insane to have to point out in 2023, but here we are. The ubiquitous ethnic stereotype about the hooked 'Jewish nose' is rooted in a medieval societal attempt to ostracize, dehumanize and demonize Jews—to turn Jews into witches. The physiological existence of a 'Jewish nose' has always been—and always will be—a pseudoscience."

But the film and Cooper have their supporters. Bernstein's three children issued a statement in response to the backlash: "It happens to be true that Leonard Bernstein had a nice, big nose. Bradley chose to use makeup to amplify his resemblance and we're perfectly fine with that. We're also certain that our dad would have been fine with it as well."

Baby Sarah Finds Sanctuary in Odessa

Two week old Baby Sarah's was born to a Jewish mother in the besieged Ukrainian city of Zaporizhia. Unfortunately, her mother has suffered physical wounds and emotional trauma and is unable to care for her child.

Sarah has found a home in the Mishpacha Orphanage in Odessa. "We received a request from the

(Please turn to following page)

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

Chabad emissaries in the city of Zaporizhia”, said Rabbi Nahum Amtroy and his wife Dina...Sarah is joining our extended family and with the help of God we will provide her with warmth and love just like we do other children.”

Sarah is the sixth infant sent to the Mishpacha Orphanage. “We have experienced many upheavals since the outbreak of the war,” ads Igor Shadkin, head of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Southern Ukraine....We strive to provide them with a warm and loving home, a safe place for their bodies and souls.”

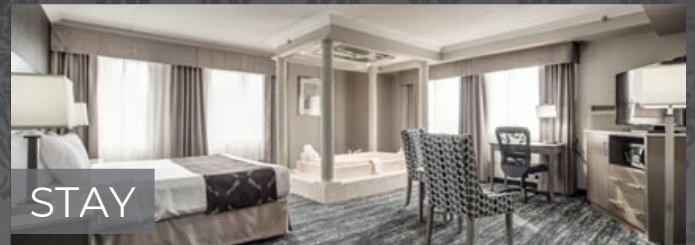
Canada “No” Israel “Yes”

The Chinese government recently expressed its displeasure with Canada by removing it from its list of accepted travel destinations for groups. Israel, however, has made the list.

Travel between Israel and China came to an abrupt halt during COVID. The recovery has been slow despite the efforts of Tourism Minister Haim Katz and Chinese Ambassador to Israel Tsai Ron. The recent decision from Beijing should help bring Chinese group tours back.

Also helping is the

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increase in the number of flights between the two countries. Direct flights to Israel from Beijing and Shanghai have been available since 2016 but soon direct flights from Shenzhen will also begin.

China is also committed to taking part in the 2024 International Tourism Fair in Israel.



UJA FEDERATION OF Greater Toronto has announced the creation of the Honey and Barry Memorial Arena, which will be connected to the Schwartz/Reisman Centre. The arena will pay tribute to Honey and Barry Sherman's extraordinary legacy of philanthropic leadership. This gift will also make a lasting social impact in the heart of York Region's Jewish community by funding subsidies to enable families of modest means to participate in arena programs. The structure, anticipated to open in 2025, will meet an important need in Vaughan by enabling further engagement with the greater community through sports. The project was made possible by Jonathon Sherman, in honour of his parents. Photo credit: Architecture49 and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

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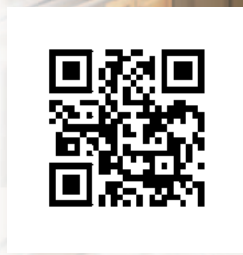
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WO4LD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

**Names In
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Bernardo Arévalo will be Guatemala's new "Hebrew speaking president." He and his father, who was president between 1944 and 1948, have both

spent time in Israel...Paul Cohen is the only Jew living in remote Greenland. He and his wife have lived there for 22 years...The new president of Paraguay, the conservative Santiago Pena, has fulfilled a campaign promise and moved his country's embassy back from

Tel Aviv to Jerusalem...Hunter Biden led a prayer for justice at his nephew Jayden Cohen's bar mitzvah at the Etz Chaim synagogue in Marietta Georgia...Sammi

Cohen, the director of Adam Sandler's bat mitzvah film, "wants Jewish kids to feel seen and celebrated." The director hopes the recently released Netflix film will appeal to a younger audience more than the original novel did. "We just wanted this to feel like a modern telling of a story," said Cohen.



ISRAEL'S NATAN LEVY is just the third Israeli to compete in the UFC. He does not hide his Jewish identity. Recently he invited "Ben", a follower of the antisemitic and Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes to a fight in Los Vegas, even offering to pay for his gas. For Ben, Fuentes is supposedly just a "revisionist", someone simply trying to further Christian values in the United States. Meanwhile the fight lasted for two rounds with Levy pinning his opponent both times. At the end of the second round Ben can be heard saying "I'm sorry". He now admits he "needs to be more well researched". "He better be," says Levy, who warns him: "This one wasn't that painful. The next one will be twice as painful".

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