

# THE JEWISH STANDARD

DECEMBER 2023 CHANUKAH



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# *And If You Wrong Us Shall We Not Revenge? Shylock*

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The staggering death count in Israel, civilians and soldiers, has had a numbing effect on Jews everywhere, not alone in Israel. We think of these dead as they were when they were alive - young men and women, self confident and full of promise, and our hearts break with the infinite sadness of their loss. We grieve for parents who have lost their children and children who are now orphans. We bleed for the mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, wives and husbands who, if they survived the massacre or live through the ordeal of captivity or manage to return safely from the mission in Gaza, will bear the wounds all their own lives.

The knowledge that some of the anguish could have been avoided had Israel's leadership, political and military, not been oblivious to Hamas' plans for October 7 only deepens our anguish. But who bears responsibility for allowing these barbarians to enter Israel and take selfies as memorabilia can wait to be determined at a later date. For now, Hamas and its sympathizers need to be continually shown what wrath and resolve can do to those who slaughter with impunity the innocent and the defenceless. Hitler learned it when he invaded Russia and Japan learned the same lesson after bombing Pearl Harbor. By shredding Jewish blood, by decapitating month old babies, Hamas united a fractured Israeli society. The reservists who threatened not to serve during the judicial reform protests answered the call immediately. An "unprecedented" number ultra-Orthodox ignored their military service exemption. IDF Brigadier General Dedi Simchi returned to duty days after his son was mowed down at the music festival. We cannot help but recall the words of the Dutch writer Maurits Dekker who, in urging Jews to join the fight against the Nazis, told his readers and followers to arm themselves as "throughout our history, we as Jews have repeatedly taken it all lying down. Now, the time has come for us to take action ourselves."

Meanwhile Jews in this country and elsewhere in the Diaspora are forced to listen to ignoramuses like Greta Thunberg giving Hamas either open support or benign approval. We hear union leaders and college professors tell their members and students that Hamas is simply doing what freedom fighters must do, ridding the

globe of yet another colonial oppressor. And then there are the avowed antisemites who glorify the atrocities because after all the "plague of the Jews" is the cause of all the world's problems.

We should not be surprised by the celebratory rallies being held across the country by brainwashed Muslims. But Jews are dismayed at the tepid response from non Jewish neighbours and co-workers. It's not that these Canadians think the Hamas terrorists are brave freedom fighters. Nor are they linking arms with those who are justifying that which cannot be justified. Rather, it's their unwillingness to give Israel unwavering support for the pain it suffered in a murderous rampage that had nothing to do with the rights of Palestinians. Many expressed sympathy for Israel in the immediate aftermath of the chilling scenes from the Supernova music festival. But now they are accusing the IDF of too harsh a response, pleading with the victim to adhere to that obsession with "proportionality". They don't see what should be obvious, that Israel cares more about the civilians in Gaza than the butchers who lead them and that the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is not on Israel's conscience.

But we'll conclude on a more positive note. The Jewish Standard has some 150 non-Jewish advertisers throughout the GTA, southwestern Ontario, Ottawa and Montreal. Many of them have sent us letters expressing their solidarity with the Jewish community in which they reside and their support for Israel. From Liza Mrak, Executive Vice president of Mark Motors in Ottawa: "First, with everything going on in Israel, I am thinking about you and the community. It is a terrible situation and cannot imagine what it would be like to have family or friends over there." From psychologist Dr. Chris Lane in Kitchener-Waterloo: "Here's to ongoing support of the Jewish community in Canada and abroad. Best wishes in these troubled times". And from Nadege of Toitures Gilles Mongeon et fils in Gatineau, Quebec: "Dear Michael, In these very difficult times, we wanted to let you know that we were thinking of you and hope that all your families, loved ones and friends are safe. We are saddened by this terrible news and are at your side. We share your sorrow".

# RAPE AS AN ARAB TERRORIST'S WEAPON

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME TERRORISTS HAVE RAPED THEIR VICTIMS

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

The news that some women at the Israeli music festival were raped by Hamas terrorists before they were murdered is a reminder that this is not the first time Palestinian Arab terrorists have employed sexual violence as a weapon.

Nearly a century ago, in the aftermath of the Arab pogrom against Jews in Hebron in 1929, a journalist visiting one of the victims' homes reported: "The 12 foot-high ceiling [was] splashed with blood. The rooms looked like a slaugh-

terhouse...the severed sexual organs and the cut-off women's breasts...lying scattered over the floor and in the beds...Not a single item had been left intact except a large black-and-white photograph of Dr. Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism. Around the picture frame the murderers had draped the blood-drenched underwear of a woman."

Many accounts of the Arab invasion of the newborn state of Israel in 1948 have described the sexual mutilation of Jewish

corpses that was discovered after Arab forces overran the Kfar Etzion bloc. Likewise, Amnon Rubinstein, later a Member of Knesset, wrote in his diary about the genital mutilation of three of his comrades who were guarding a stranded tank in the 1967 war when Arab troops came upon them.

In her acclaimed book *Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape*, the sociologist Susan Brownmiller

wrote about the use of rape as a weapon against Jews in Europe before and during the Holocaust.

Brownmiller quoted from Red Cross reports about anti-Jewish pogroms in Ukraine in 1919. In a "typical" pogrom, "the gang breaks into the township, spreads all over the streets, separate groups break into the Jewish houses killing without distinction or age

*(Please turn to page 14)*



*FOLLOWING HAMAS'S CRIMINAL INVASION OF southern Israel, brave men and women have stepped up to protect their homeland, with dozens sacrificing their lives in the process. These are some of the men and woman who died defending Israel. (Photo: Israel Police, IDF Spokesperson's Unit)*

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# BLAMING KISSINGER

REVISIONIST HISTORIANS CLAIM SECRETARY OF STATE HELD ISRAEL BACK

By **MOSHE PHILLIPS**

The following article was submitted just prior to the start of the war with Hamas. - The Editor

In recent days, there have been numerous articles, seminars, and lectures in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War. Yet, somehow, they all managed to miss one of the most crucial aspects of the conflict: how Henry Kissinger prevented Israel from launching a preemptive strike.

On Yom Kippur morning, hours before the 1973 Arab invasion, Prime Minister Golda Meir was informed by her military intelligence officials that Egypt and Syria were massing their troops along Israel's borders and would attack later that day. The Israelis

immediately contacted Kissinger.

Matti Golan, long-time chief diplomatic correspondent for Ha'aretz, described in his book *The Secret Conversations of Henry Kissinger* what happened next: "Till the very outbreak of the fighting, Kissinger remained more concerned with the possibility of an Israeli preemptive strike than an Egyptian-Syrian attack." Kissinger instructed the U.S. ambassador in Israel to personally deliver to Mrs. Meir a "presidential entreaty"—that is, a warning, in the name of President Nixon—"not to start a war."

Abba Eban, who was then Israel's foreign minister, confirmed in his autobiography that Israeli Army Chief of Staff David Elazar proposed a preemptive strike, but Prime Minister Meir and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan rejected it on the grounds that "the United States would regard this as provocative."

Further confirmation comes from the widely acclaimed book, *The Prime Minister*, by the late Yehuda Avner, a distinguished Israeli diplomat who witnessed Kissinger's actions up close.

Avner (1928-2015) was a speechwriter, secre-

tary, or adviser to five different Israeli prime ministers, from both sides of the political spectrum—Golda Meir, Levi Eshkol, Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin, and Shimon Peres. He also served as Israel's ambassador to various countries, as well as other senior diplomatic positions.

Avner bluntly wrote that American officials—meaning Kissinger—"tied Golda's hands on the eve of the Yom Kippur War, telling her "in no uncertain terms not to fire the first shot." They even "warned" her "against full scale mobilization" of Israel's reserve forces.

*(Please turn to page 15)*

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# EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES IN THE NEWS IN OUR CITY

By MIKE COHEN

**BESO CATERING:** BESO Montreal, managed by Alan and Avi Serour and Connor Stacey, was formally launched in 2013. Years earlier Alan had gotten started in the business by working for the legendary Harvey Leavitt of ETMO Catering. BESO is indeed a very well-oiled machine, with all of its operations entrenched at 8146 Chemin Montview in the Town of Mount Royal Industrial sector. You just need to take Ferrier from Decarie and turn right at Montview. There is a large parking lot. You can pick up the order or someone will bring it to your vehicle. This is a large sprawling facility, with a boutique at the front where you can buy some food to take home. This is the place to go for simchas, special events, major holidays or merely to pickup for Shabbat dinner. Who can resist their freshly baked challah?

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**A WIN FOR ZERA:** Zera Café, a not-for-profit meal service in Montreal that employs neurodiverse young adults, was awarded the first-ever INfinity Prize by The Azrieli Foundation in Toronto on October 25. The prize was awarded following a competitive process involving social enterprises that provide meaningful and sustainable employment for neurodivergent people. Three finalists pitched their ideas to a panel

of six experts at an event of 300 guests that was staged like CBC's Dragons Den. Former Canadian "Dragon" and INfinity judge Jim Treiving said he wished he could give an award to each finalist since all their ideas were so inspiring. In accepting the award, Zera Café Founder Eve Rochman said she was thrilled to receive the prestigious honour and "excited with this prize that will take Zera Café to the next level." She says the \$100,000 INfinity Prize will be used for a new project that will create more meaningful jobs over the next two years. The prize includes two years of professional coaching and support from the Azrieli Foundation.

*(Please turn to page 11)*

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# WHEN UNIVERSITIES TWIN WITH TERROR

AUTHOR ASKS WHY WESTERN UNIVERSITIES TWIN WITH PALESTINIAN INSTITUTIONS

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

Why are prominent Western universities “twinning” with a Palestinian Arab institution that permits glorification of the October 7 pogrom?

Fatah Shabiba, the second-largest student group at An-Najah University, has been tweeting non-stop praise of the pogromists. Yet so far, the numerous Western universities and student unions that have relationships with the university have said nothing.

An-Najah is the largest university in the Palestinian Authority-governed territories. Hamas has 40 seats on its student council, Fatah Shabiba has 38. Fatah Shabiba is the student wing of Fatah, the rul-

ing faction of the PA.

On the day of the massacres, Fatah Shabiba posted a photo of terrorists from Hamas and Fatah’s Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades together in the back of a pickup truck, apparently taking part in the invasion of Israel.

The accompanying text declared: “On the ground we stand as one, each one is defending from their stronghold, and there is no difference between two people who are defending the same homeland. May the men’s forearms be blessed, and may the result be blessed.”

The next day, October 8, Fatah Shabiba posted a photo of masked terrorists with Fatah head-

bands, above this caption: “We are the proud ones, when disasters come, we stand against them like a volcano—the Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades - #The\_Al-Aqsa-Flood.” The term “Al-Aqsa Flood” is the name by which Hamas calls its pogrom.

On October 10, Fatah Shabiba’s Twitter (X) account featured another photo of Fatah terrorists, with automatic rifles. The text called them “Men who loved the Al-Aqsa Mosque

[and] the [Al-Aqsa Martyrs] Brigade and [the Al-Aqsa] Flood.”

Two days later, a message from Fatah Shabiba called on Arabs throughout the PA territories to “go to the points of friction with the occupation, to avenge the blood of our heroic Martyrs, and to support the resistance in the proud Gaza Strip.”

In recent years, a number of Western universities and student unions

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WEAPONS SEIZED BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS during the fighting in Gaza (Photo: IDF Spokesperson’s Unit)

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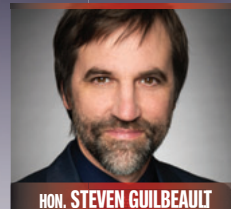
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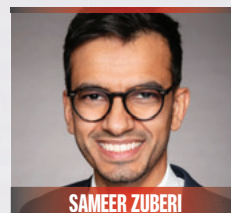
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# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **ALEXANDRA COHEN**

**VACATION PARADISE:** Close your eyes. Imagine a place with palm tree-lined streets, beautiful summer weather in the spring and fall, resorts, golfing, hiking, shopping, and more. For many years, I had heard such wonderful things about The Greater Palm Springs (GPS) region, and when I finally had the opportunity to travel there myself, it absolutely lived up to the hype.

**JEWISH CULTURE:** The local Jewish Federation, which serves the Palm Springs community, estimates that there are approximately 20,000 Jewish residents in an overall population of 350,000. Approximately 55 percent of this Jewish community lives there year-round, with others spending varied periods of time in the desert.

The community currently includes five synagogues and two Chabad entities, including Temple Isaiah of Palm Springs, which is multi-denominational; Temple Sinai of Palm Desert, which is Reform; the Desert Synagogue of Palm Springs, which is Modern Orthodox; Congregation Beth Shalom, B. Dunes, which is Conservative, and Har-El, Palm Desert, the Reform Congregation.

There are two Jewish Day Schools: Desert Torah Academy, run by Chabad, and Jewish Com-

munity School of the Desert. The community also has a full-service Jewish Family Services organization, which specializes in a wide array of services for seniors. The community is very proud of its Holocaust Memorial, located in the Palm Desert municipal park, built at the initiation of two local survivors, Earl Greif and Joseph Brandt. Many National and international Jewish organizations have strong constituent groups in the Palm Springs area, including ADL, AIPAC, JNF, American Friends of Hebrew University, and Technion. The Jewish community is, indeed, a vibrant one.

*(Please turn to page 22)*

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**EYE ON MONTREAL**

*(Continued from page 7)*

**CHOMEDEY CONGREGATION SUPPORTS**

**MDA:** Congregation Shaar Shalom, a small Conservative Ashkenazi synagogue in Chomedey Laval, has donated \$6,100 to Canadian Magen David Adom to assist their mission during the Israeli war against Hamas.

Synagogue leaders Mike Andradi and Hirsh Shnayer say that most of the congregants participated in donating for this important cause. As well, the synagogue doubled all their donations and provided a lump sum too. Andradi, the synagogue president and Shnayer, the treasurer, visited the Canadian Magen David Adom For Israel offices and presented the cheque to National Executive Director Sidney Benizri and Eastern Region Director Samuel Moyal.

**SZLAK IS A LEADER:** Yair Szlak has worked for Federation CJA for 18 years. Since 2018 he

has served as president and chief executive officer. We must all be very grateful for the true leadership role he has played, not only during the war between Israel and Hamas, but the efforts he made by going overseas to assist Jewish refugees from war-torn Ukraine. There have been many individuals at the helm of Federation CJA during my time, but none have stepped up to the same level as Szlak.

**COMMUNITY NOTES:** If you want to look sharp for your next simcha, make sure to drop by Inter-coupe on Decarie where Victor Soussana, Georges Ouaknine and their team have been servicing the community for more than four decades. Not only can you get your hair done, there is a massage service and even some clothing items for sale.

*Mike Cohen can be reached at [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca)*



*THE FIRST PHOTOS OF THE REUNITING OF the Avigdori family at Sheba Medical Center, after the mother of the family, Sharon Hertzman and daughter Noam (12), not pictured, were released, Photo credit: Omer Meron (GPO)*



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# חג שמחה

*Happy Holiday*



During the dark days since the October 7th terrorist attack in Israel that claimed so many lives. What we need more than ever is unity and solidarity. Hannukah, the Festival of Lights serves as a reminder that our community thrives through our collective spirit and acts of kindness for one another.

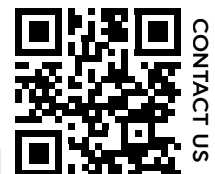
The Board and staff of the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal wish to extend our heartfelt greetings for the Hanukkah holiday. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday.

We pray for peace and the safety of all our loved ones.

**Am Israel Chai**

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## RAPE AS A TERRORIST'S WEAPON

(Continued from page 3)

and sex everybody they meet, with the exception of women, who are bestially violated before they are murdered." A report on a pogrom in another village, Kremenchug, referred to "three hundred and fifty cases of rape...neither children of 12 nor old women of 60 were spared. After they had been ravished, the little girls were thrown down the water-closets."

In the town of Fastov, where six hundred Jews were massacred, the pogromists "threw themselves upon the girls under age with a perfect brutal fury and ravished them before the very eyes of their parents, powerless to interfere." Some "particularly atrocious scenes took place in the courtyard of the synagogue where the Jews had sought refuge." The courtyard was "covered with the

bodies of women and children, old men, and young girls who had been ravished. Many people became insane."

Brownmiller then pointed to the synthesis of rape and anti-Jewish violence in the ideology of Nazism. She noted a remark by Nazi war production chief Albert Speer: "Hitler always said that the masses are essentially feminine, and his aggressiveness and charm elicited an almost masochistic surrender and submission in his audience—a form of psychic rape...He didn't convince his audiences, he conquered them."

"Rape is the quintessential act by which a male demonstrates to a female that she is conquered—vanquished—by his superior strength and power," Brownmiller wrote.

"It was perfectly logical within the framework of fascism that rape would be employed by the German soldier as he strove to prove himself a worthy Superman."

Thus during the Kristallnacht pogrom of 1938 and throughout the Holocaust years to follow, there were numerous instances of Nazis raping Jewish women. Many of those atrocities have been documented in books such as *Sexual Violence against Jewish Women During the Holocaust*, coedited by Sonja Hedgepeth and Rochelle Saidel. The USC Shoah Foundation has more than 1,700 testimonies by survivors about rapes and other sexual violence inflicted on them during the war.

"In fact," Brownmiller continued, "it would have been highly illogical if rape were not in the German

soldier's kit bag of weapons...Rape for the Germans...played a serious and logical role in the achievement of what they saw as their ultimate objective: the total humiliation and destruction of 'inferior peoples' and the establishment of their own master race."

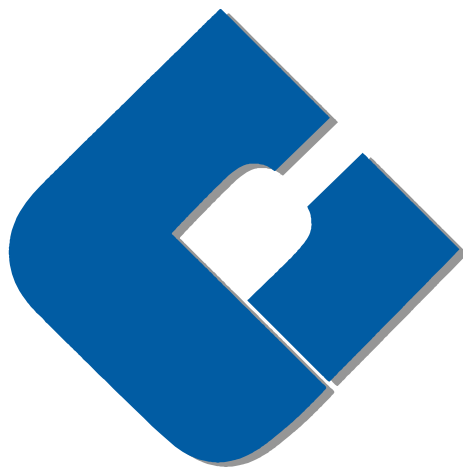
Rape appears to play a similar role in the psychology of Palestinian Arab terrorists, from the 1920s to our own time.

(Dr. Rafael Medoff is founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies and author of more than 20 books about Jewish history and the Holocaust. His latest is *America and the Holocaust: A Documentary History*, published by the Jewish Publication Society & University of Nebraska Press.) The above article appeared in the *Jewish Journal of Los Angeles*.

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**BLAMING KISSINGER**

*(Continued from page 5)*

Kissinger did not want Israel to win a decisive victory because he thought that would make it hard to wring concessions out of the Israelis after the war. Having prevented Israel from striking first, Kissinger then exploited Israel's suffering in the early days of the war in order to advance his strategy.

The Israelis immediately requested a U.S. airlift of military supplies. But Kissinger stalled them—for an entire brutal week. Kissinger's plan was to orchestrate "a limited Egyptian victory," according to David Makovsky, formerly an Obama Administration Middle East envoy. Writing in the Jerusalem Post in 1993, Makovsky confirmed that the secretary of state feared an Israeli victory "would cause Israel to strengthen

*(Please turn to page 17)*

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**BLAMING KISSINGER**

*(Continued from page 15)*

its resolve not to make any territorial concessions in Sinai.”

Walter Isaacson, in his definitive biography, Kissinger, confirmed: “Kissinger opposed giving [Israel] major support that could make its victory too one-sided.” Kissinger told Defense Secretary James Schlesinger that “The best result would be if Israel came out a little ahead but got bloodied in the process.”

A “little bloodied”? Try 2,656 dead Israeli soldiers.

Back to Avner’s The Prime Ministers. Avner quoted from a conversation between Kissinger and President Richard Nixon on the ninth day of the war. Israel was begging for U.S. weapons. Kissinger, with Nixon’s agreement, was still stalling on the weapons

shipments. “We’ve got to squeeze the Israelis when this is over and the Russians have to know it,” Nixon said. “We’ve got to squeeze them goddamn hard.”

Kissinger replied: “Well, we are going to squeeze them; we are going to start diplomacy in November after the Israeli elections.” And squeeze them he did, pressuring the Israelis to release the encircled Egyptian Third Army and various other concessions.

The process culminated in early 1975, by which time Nixon had resigned and Gerald Ford was president—but Kissinger was still directing America’s Middle East policy. When Israel’s new prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, hesitated to give into Kissinger’s demands

*(Please turn to following page)*

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**BLAMING KISSINGER**

*(Continued from preceding page)*

for more territorial withdrawals, the secretary of state orchestrated what Avner called a “brutal” message from President Ford to Rabin.

The message blamed Rabin for the absence of peace and announced a “reassessment” of America’s policy toward Israel. The “reas-

essment” consisted of a cut-off of all U.S. weapons shipments. Within months, Rabin surrendered to the pressure.

It’s troubling that so many descriptions of the Yom Kippur War skip over these crucial events. Fortunately, we have the ac-

counts by Yehuda Avner, Matti Golan, Abba Eban, David Makovsky and Walter Isaacson to set the record straight.

Moshe Phillips is a commentator on Jewish affairs. He was previously a U.S. delegate to the World Zionist Congress)

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**TWINNING WITH TERROR**

*(Continued from page 7)*

have “twinned” with An-Najah, sponsoring joint programs and visits by faculty and students.

The list includes McGill University, in Canada; the University of Applied Sciences in Darmstadt, Germany; the University of Abertay in Dundee, England; the University of Naples Federico, in Italy; Norway’s Stavanger University; and student unions at three British Uni-

versities—the University of Essex, the University of Manchester, and the London School of Economics.

What motivates Western universities to seek relationships with an institution that tolerates support for terrorism? Why haven’t any of them threatened to sever ties with An-Najah unless it shuts down Fatah Shabiba?

Perhaps the answer may be found in the history



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of American universities twinning with schools in Nazi Germany in the 1930s. Just as An-Najah craves international ties in order to soften its pro-terrorist image, the Nazis regarded relationships with U.S. universities as opportunities to improve their image abroad. The New York Times reported that one Nazi official described German exchange students as “political soldiers of the Reich.”

Many American students and faculty who visited Germany returned with friendly assessments, according to Stephen Norwood’s landmark study, *The Third Reich in the Ivory Tower*. Columbia University dean Thomas Alexander came back convinced that Hitler’s forced sterilization policy was a good way of “throwing out the criminals and other undesirables.” American University chancellor Joseph Gray reported that German cities were “amazingly clean” and that “everybody was working in Germany.”

The most active participants in the student exchanges with Nazi Germany

were the “Seven Sisters” colleges—Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley. Their enthusiasm was not dampened by the Nazi regime’s oppressive policies toward German women. After visiting Germany in 1935, Barnard dean Virginia Gildersleeve called Hitler’s territorial expansion plans “legitimate” and said Nazi limits on the enrollment of women in universities were justified because some professions in Germany were way too overcrowded.

Vassar student Mary Ridder, who spent her junior year at the University of Munich, told her campus newspaper in 1934 that she used to think the Nazis were as bad as the Ku Klux Klan. “But while I was in Germany, I met Hitler and had a long conversation with him,” she reported. “Now I see him as a truly national person who beyond a doubt feels he is looking out for the best interests of his country.” As for Germany’s Jews, “None of the Jews who fought at the front in

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**TWINNING WITH TERROR**

*(Continued from preceding page)*

World War I] have been molested," she erroneously asserted.

Harvard accepted an invitation to take part in anniversary celebrations at the Nazi-controlled University of Heidelberg in 1936. Its president, James Conant, said "political conditions" should not be allowed to interfere in friendly relations between the two institutions.

Columbia also accepted the invitation. Its representative, Prof. Arthur Remy, declared upon his return that the event was "impressive and dignified." He found the reception for the American delegates, hosted by Nazi propaganda minister Josef Goebbels, to be "very enjoyable."

A number of American universities took part in the bicentennial celebration at the Nazi-controlled University of Goettingen in 1937. That event took place

in "a thoroughly National Socialist atmosphere," according to the New York Times. Among the U.S. delegates was the chairman of Cornell University's German Department, Prof. A. B. Faust, who accepted an honorary degree and gave the Nazi salute during the ceremony.

What motivated those who befriended Nazi universities in the 1930s? Some wanted to demonstrate open-mindedness and a spirit of academic camaraderie. Some naively believed they were taking part in legitimate scholarly endeavors. And none of them showed any concern for the suffering of the Jews in Nazi Germany.

If An-Najah takes no action against Fatah Shabiba, and Western universities and student unions continue to partner with An-Najah, one may justifiably wonder whether the

mindset among many in the academic world today has changed very much since the Nazi era.

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## TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 20)

**WHERE TO STAY:** During my time in Palm Springs, I had the great pleasure of staying at The Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa ([www.renesmeralda.com](http://www.renesmeralda.com)), a beautiful resort in Indian Wells, which is conveniently nestled between the Palm Desert and La Quinta regions, just at the foot of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Adjacent to the Indian Wells Golf Resort, The Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa is located off Highway 111 and is approximately a 30-minute drive to the airport and Downtown Palm Springs. A few years ago, the resort underwent a multi-million-dollar re-design, which included the creation of new guestrooms and suites, the development of a beautiful new two-story lobby, an olive tree grove, and a new two-story lobby, an olive tree grove, and a new set of menus for their restaurants.

A stay at this hotel truly does feel luxurious. Wherever you turn, you are treated to stunning views of

the blue, typically cloudless sky, the desert mountains and the nearby palm trees. The hotel's large pool area features two swimming pools, one with a fountain and the other with zero-entry and a sandy beach, as well as two hot tubs. There is plenty of seating, but for those hoping for a particularly special day, it is possible to reserve VIP chairs or cabana seating. My travel partner and I enjoyed a lovely day in a cabana, which comes with couches, a television, waters, and a large fruit platter. We also ordered drinks and lunch from the tasty and diverse pool menu. The service was truly top-notch. Are you a golfer ready for a challenge? The hotel offers packages which include the option to play a round at the neighboring Indian Wells Golf Resort. The Renaissance Esmeralda also features a fitness center with state-of-the-art facilities, tennis facilities, an entertainment zone with arcade games, virtual reality, and an escape room, a

camp for children, and a fantastic spa.

**DINING:** We started off our dining experiences in the Greater Palm Springs region at our own hotel. First, at The Place Lobby Bar, which offers an extensive and creative cocktail menu, as well as many light bites. The second restaurant that we tried at the Renaissance Esmeralda was Cava, which is on the terrace level with a patio adjacent to the swimming pools. Cava has different menus available for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Located at The Gardens on El Paseo, deemed to be the premier shopping and dining destination in the Southern California Desert region, I highly recommend visiting Pacifica Seafood Restaurant. Their fine dining menu focuses on their selection of fresh seafood, as well cocktails and award-winning wine list. Arnold Palmer's Restaurant opened in 2004. The menu features some of the late golfing legend's favorites,

seafood, aged beef, and comfort foods.

**WHAT TO DO:** When you aren't relaxing at a hotel pool or playing a round of golf, there are plenty of other activities to consider during your visit to Palm Springs. The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (<https://pstramway.com/>) is the world's largest rotating tram car. Joshua Tree National Park is another exciting place to visit and less than a one-hour drive from Downtown Palm Springs. The Greater Palm Springs area is home to a large variety of festivals. While you can certainly peruse shops by walking through Downtown Palm Springs, as well as Old Town La Quinta, true shopping lovers may also wish to explore the Uptown Design District for one-of-a-kind boutiques Palm Desert's El Paseo for upscale, luxury retailers, or Desert Hills Premium Outlets for the best deals.

For more about Palm Springs please go to <https://www.visitgreaterpalmsprings.com>



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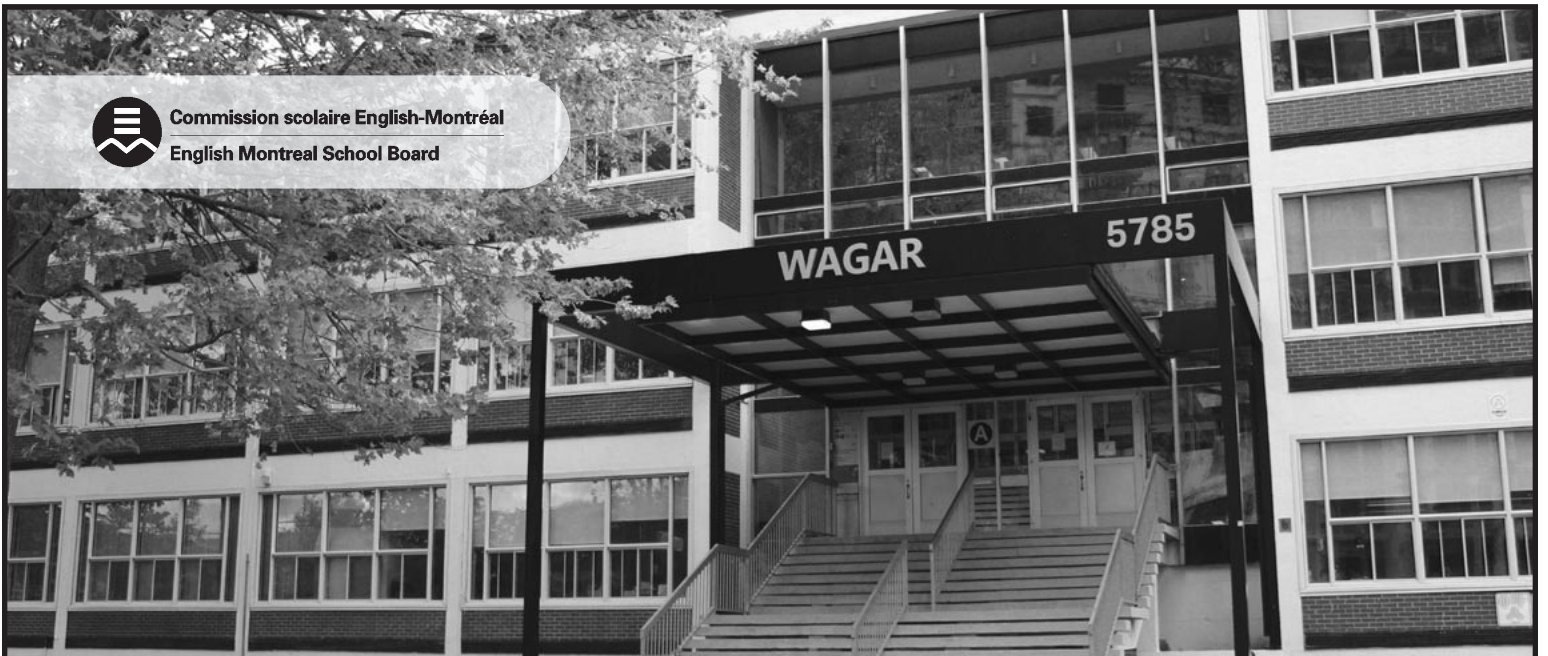
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