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- MISHNAH, PIRKEI AVOS 6:2



Reflection on Passover In Troubled Times

Passover is, traditionally, a festival that appeals to the optimist in life. We are almost persuaded that this is, indeed, “the best of all possible worlds”

It takes only a moment, in the aftermath of October 7th, to disabuse us of our fancies. We are dismayed at the pain and suffering, the shattered lives, of our fallen fellow Jews and their bereaved families in Israel. We witness mobs of masked Palestinian protesters and their Israel bashing allies carrying racist placards, chanting their support for Hamas, having no regard for our safety, breaking laws with impunity all while authorities sit idly by. Maybe the virulent antisemitism is merely the product of a small but loud mouthed minority. Maybe we have more support from our non-Jewish neighbours than we think. And if we are going to pack up and leave why are we building new synagogues, day schools and community centres? But when Free Palestine protesters target our schools and businesses, when university campuses and unions are rife with antisemitic venom, when spineless politicians cover in fear of angering a segment of the electorate, we are understandably uneasy. Too many living in this country see the slaughter of 1200 Jews on October 7th as a reason to celebrate.

We Jews, however, are a resilient People. And so as we read the Haggadah, we rejoice in our survival even as “Dayenu” and the Four Questions are given rethinks. We find infinite joy, despite the current veil of darkness, at the Pesach table surrounded by family and friends, sharing in common memories. We take comfort in the realization that while each of us is of a different background, in character and experience and that there is much that divides us, we do, in fact, share with each other a common destiny and that even in the face of hate we are proud to express our Jewishness.

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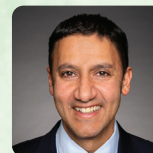
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THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

Memo to Ban “The Kiss” Reversed

It is one of the most iconic photos ever taken. The V-J Day smooch in a Times Square celebration marking the end of World War II appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine with the caption “In New York’s Times Square a white-clad girl clutches her purse and skirt as an uninhibited sailor plants his lips squarely on hers.”

For years the identity of the sailor and the young lady went unknown. In the 1960s Greta Zimmer, now Greta Friedman, recognized herself and wrote to *Life*, providing more photos as proof that she was the woman in the famous photo.

Life, already inundated with letters from women claiming to be the famous “nurse”, put Greta’s information on the back burner.

But the photo came back into the spotlight as the 67th anniversary of VJ Day approached. *Life* editors confirmed her identity and invited her and the now identified sailor George Mendonsa to a “reunion”.

Friedman, the daughter of Jewish parents from Austria who perished in the Holocaust, told the Library of Congress that “it wasn’t my choice to be kissed. The guy just came over and kissed or grabbed....And the reason he grabbed someone dressed like a nurse was that he felt very grateful to nurses who took care of the wounded.” Only thing is that Friedman was not a nurse. She was a dental assistant who happened to be wearing a white uniform.

Rita and George did not meet again until 2012. In fact, George claimed he didn’t even know about the photo until 1980. But once they reunited they kept in touch and Greta and her

husband accompanied George and wife Rita to anniversary commemorations of V-J Day.

Now, however, “The Kiss” has become the target of the woke movement. A memo from the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains that the photo “depicts a non-consensual act” and does not align with the department’s sexual harassment policy.

Fortunately Secretary Denis McDonough reversed the department memo, making it clear that “this image is not banned from VA facilities-and we will keep it in VA facilities.”

George Mendonsa died in 2019 at age 95 and Greta Friedman in 2016 at age 92.

Editor’s Note: The original photo was taken by Alfred Eisenstadt and is protected by copyright. The photo appearing here is by Victor Jorgenson, a U.S. Navy photographer. This photo is in the public domain. Jorgenson titled his photo “Kissing the War Goodbye”.

Lionel Messi Indirectly Saves One Israeli

It is doubtful that Argentinian soccer legend Lionel Messi has any idea of the role he played in likely saving the life of 90-year-old grandmother and Kibbutz Nir Oz resident Esther Cunio.

(Please turn to page 18)



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CANADA SHOULD RECALL OWN HISTORY

AUTHOR SAYS THIS COUNTRY HAS NO RIGHT TO LECTURE ISRAEL ON DEATHS OF CIVILIANS

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

The prime minister of Canada recently blasted Israel for accidentally killing civilians in Gaza— even though the Canadians deliberately killed German civilians in World War II.

Hypocrisy? Cynical indifference to the historical record? Perhaps a little bit of both.

The Canadian Royal Air Force was a participant in the Allies' strategy of "area bombing" in World

(Dr. 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.)

War II, the policy of attacking civilian areas in order to undermine the German public's morale. Canadian bombers took part in some of the war's most famous strikes on civilian targets—including the bombing of Hamburg in July 1943,

which left 40,000 dead, and the attack on Dresden in February 1945, which killed tens of thousands more.

The bombings were reported in the Canadian press at the time, and nobody protested. The *Hamilton Spectator*, for example,

reporting on July 30, 1943 about one of the attacks on Hamburg, noted: "A great many Canadian bombers participated in this attack as they have in every Hamburg raid since the round-the-clock bombings began last week-end."

And that's not all.

Canadian troops fought a storied urban battle in World War II that had more than a few similarities to the situation in Gaza to-
(Please turn to page 14)

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FIGHTING HUNGER

VE'AHAVTA PROVIDES A VITAL NEED AT PASSOVER FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

By **CARI KOZIEROK**

With Passover 2024 around the corner, Jews around the world will have one thing on our minds – food. From shopping to cooking to - of course - consuming, food is central to the holiday. Which is why we choose this as an auspicious moment to consider people who cannot afford something so simple and so basic to survival – food.

As we prepare for Passover, now is the time to remember people who are less fortunate than us; people who not only don't have enough food to eat, but who also are not able to access food banks

The author is Executive director of Ve'ahavta. - The Editor

port – people who are homeless.

Sadly, one in ten Torontonians must access food banks to meet their most basic food needs. Staples like dry pasta, canned goods, vegetables, and milk help people get through the month without going hungry.

According to Daily Bread Food Bank's 2023 Who's Hungry report, reliance on food banks in our city increased by 51% from 2022 to 2023. Food insecurity is at crisis levels in Toronto.

But food insecurity is even more dire among people who are homeless. People facing homelessness are not able to fully benefit from the kinds of groceries that are available through the food banks because they do not have a fridge, stove, or kitchen to prepare meals.

What good is a frozen turkey if you don't have an oven?

Food insecurity for people facing homelessness requires a different solution. Rather than groceries, people facing homelessness

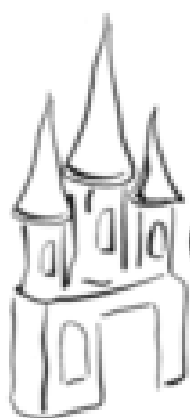
need access to healthy, prepared meals.

That's where Ve'ahavta's Mobile Jewish Response to Homelessness outreach vans come in.

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(Please turn to page 21)

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ACCUSING JEWS OF PROVOKING THE HOLOCAUST

PALESTINIAN LEADERS SAY IT AGAIN

By RAFAEL MEDOFF

The following article appeared in the Jewish Journal of Los Angeles. - The Editor

Palestinian Arab leaders can't seem to make up their minds about the Holocaust. Sometimes they say it never happened. Sometimes they say it did happen, but Israel's behavior is even worse. And sometimes, as they again did recently, they say the Jews themselves provoked the Holocaust.

Yasser Abu Sido, a senior official of the Palestinian Authority's ruling party, Fatah, said on an Egyptian television program

that "Hitler had obvious reasons" for perpetrating the Holocaust.

The Jews' own provocative behavior was the reason, according to Abu Sido. "They planned to take control of Germany. They started to bring down Germany in terms of the economy and moral values." That was why "Hitler reacted by making the Jews go on the streets and lick the sidewalks. They know this very well."

(Please turn to page 26)



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CHARTING A PATH FOR JEWS IN THE NHL

ALEX LEVINSKY SET THE TABLE FOR ZACH HYMAN AND OTHER JEWS IN TODAY'S NHL

By ERIC ZWEIG

The number of Jewish players in the NHL has risen in recent years to the point where it would now be easy to get a *minyán*. This year, Zach Hyman of the Edmonton Oilers, who grew up attending Jewish schools in Toronto, became the first Jew to score 50 goals in a single season. Other prominent NHL players of Jewish descent include Quinn Hughes of the Vancouver Canucks and his bothers Jack and

The author is a Freelance Writer/Sports Historian. Readers can visit his website at ericzweig.com - The Editor Luke of the New Jersey Devils.

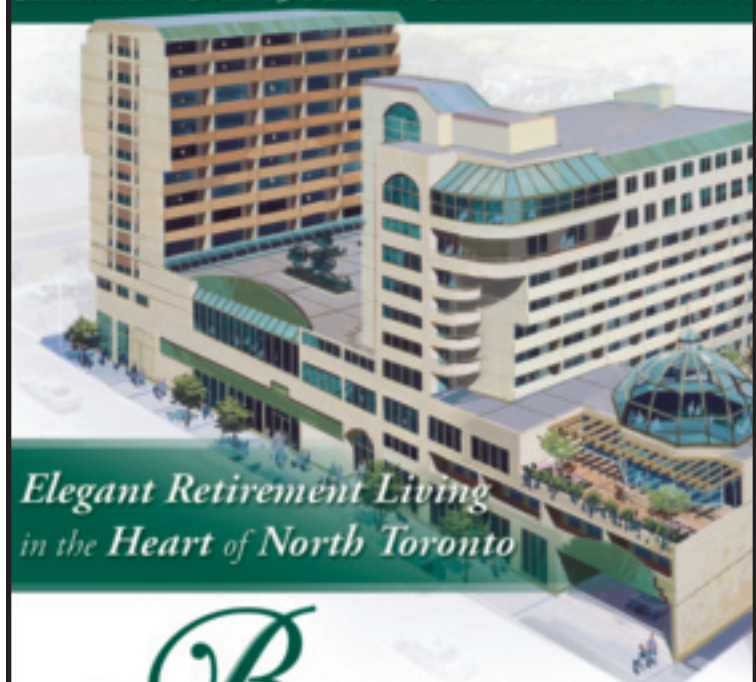
The NHL was formed in December of 1917 and the first Jewish players appeared seven seasons later. Sudbury's Sam Rothschild signed with the Montreal Maroons on October 20, 1924, though he may have been preceded by Charlie Cotch. (Cotch was acquired by the Montreal Canadiens in March of that

Harbord Collegiate and the University of Toronto. He also starred in baseball and basketball with the Elizabeth Street Playground team known as the Lizzies, as well as playing hockey.

Levinsky signed his first professional contract with his hometown Toronto Maple Leafs in March of 1931. Prior to his home debut, Lou Marsh of the *Toronto Star* wrote on March 4, 1931: "Levinsky's appearance in a Leaf uniform
(Please turn to page 22)

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As the Talmud (Pesachim 10:5) states, 'In every generation, a person is obligated to regard himself as if he personally left Egypt.'

So we remember that we left Egypt, but is this what it means to be free?

Certainly freedom from taskmasters is a level of freedom, but there is more

than one kind of taskmaster, and HaShem did not merely bring us out from Egypt, He also gave us the Torah. That Torah is our freedom.

As the mishnah says,

'Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi said . . . it says (Shemos / Exodus 32:16), 'The Tablets are G-d's handiwork and the script is G-d's script [Hb. charus] on the Tablets. Do not read charus (engraved), but cheirus (freedom), for there is no free man except one who is engaged in the study of Torah.

(Please turn to page 28)

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CANADA SHOULD RECALL ITS OWN HISTORY

(Continued from page 6)

day: enemy fighters holed up in underground tunnels, savage house to house fighting, booby-traps everywhere—and more than a few civilian casualties.

In late 1943, Canadian troops pushing through Italy took aim at German forces situated in the quiet seaside town of Ortona. Many of the town's 10,000 residents fled after the Germans took over, but some remained, as the Canadian military historian Mark Zuehlke made clear in his book, *Ortona: Canada's Epic World War II Battle*.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently demanded that Israel stop “this killing of women, of children, of babies” in Gaza, asserting that “the price of justice cannot be the continued suffering of all Pales-

tinian civilians.” Yet the suffering of innocent Italian civilians was regarded by Canada as a just price to pay for the wholesale destruction of Ortona in 1943.

Trudeau told Israel to “exercise maximum restraint,” warning that “the world is watching.” The world was watching in 1943, too. *The New York Times* provided a day-by-day, blow-by-blow description of the battle during the final week of 1943—yet nobody urged the Canadians to show restraint.

“Mines, demolitions and booby traps” planted by the Germans “are steadily taking [a] toll” on the Canadian troops, the *Times* reported. Holed up in “cellars and sewers,” German snipers would pop up, shoot at the advancing Canadians,

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The Jewish Standard, April 2024

and then disappear underground again. “You can hardly stick your head around a corner without hearing a sniper’s bullet zing by,” one Canadian soldier remarked.

The Nazis “have defended the town street by street and almost house by house,” the *Times* explained. Utilizing the city’s underground railroad tunnels, the Nazis had turned Ortona into “a veritable underground fortress.”

The Canadians responded with a new military tactic called “mouse-holing.” To avoid venturing into the streets, they used explosives to blast their way through the interior walls of adjoining houses, moving from house to house through the rubble.

The Canadian officer in charge of the massive bombing operation “never gave a thought to the destruction he was wreaking on Ortona with his explosives,” historian Mark Zuehlke recounted. “There

was a job to do, so he did it.”

When the battle was over, “Hardly a building was left intact” in “the once pleasant coastal resort,” the *Times* noted. One thousand, three hundred and seventy-five Canadian soldiers were killed. So were more than 1,300 innocent Italian civilians.

Considering the similarities between what the Canadians faced in Ortona and what the Israelis are facing in Gaza, you would think Prime Minister Trudeau might show a little more understanding. And considering the huge number of German civilians whom Canadian pilots deliberately helped kill in World War II—by contrast with Israel’s careful and risky efforts to avoid killing civilians—the prime minister might be a little more restrained in his comments. Perhaps he needs to brush up on his own country’s history.

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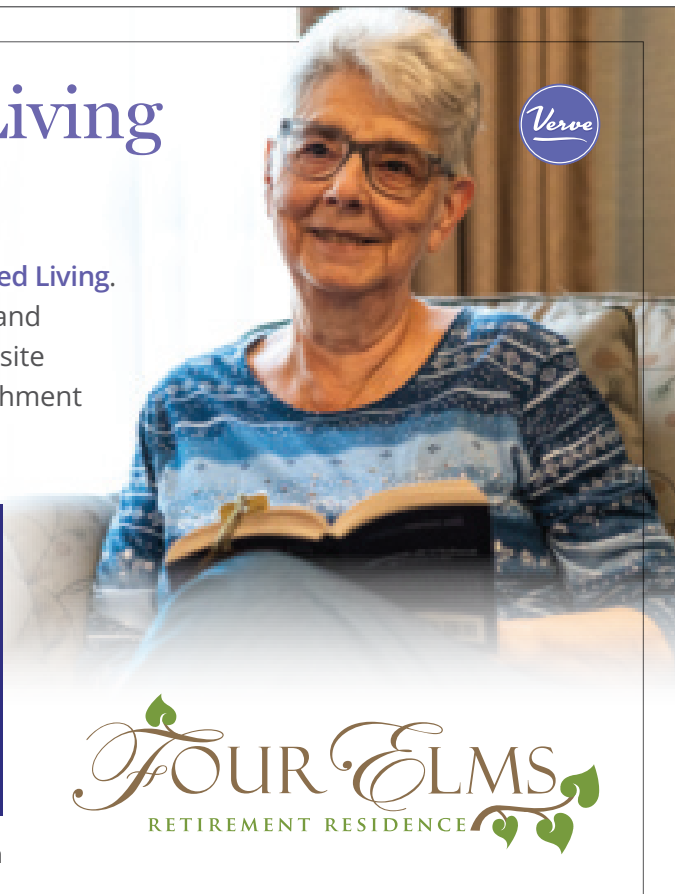
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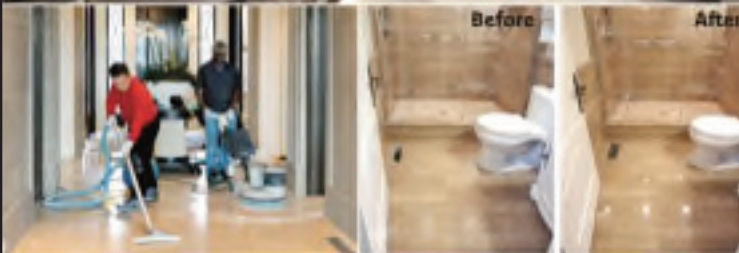
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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 5)

On October 7th two Hamas terrorists invaded the kibbutz killing or kidnapping nearly one-quarter of the residents. When the masked terrorists approached Cunio it appeared as if she would suffer the same fate as her family and friends.

Cunio was questioned by the invaders on the whereabouts of her relatives but someone the alert senior changed the subject to soccer. She told her potential abductors that she was born in Rosario, Argentina the same place as Lionel Messi. Cunio was

forced to take a photo with the Hamas butchers but was spared the same fate as most members of her kibbutz. She credits her “conversational skills” for saving her life.

David and Ariel Cunio, Esther’s grandchildren, are still being held captive at time of writing.

Cunio’s story, along with those of other Latino-Israeli survivors, will be told in a film currently in the production stage and being developed by Fuente Latina, a nonprofit organization for Spanish-speaking media

(Please turn to page 24)

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A MAYOR WITH BACKBONE

Vaughan mayor Steven Del Duca has had enough of the mobs protesting in front of schools, places of worship and hospitals. "The right to protest," says Del Duca, "is a fundamental freedom afforded to all Canadians. However that right is not without limits." "Everyone", adds the frustrated mayor, "regardless of their faith has a right to feel safe, especially in vulnerable areas of our community where kids go to learn, where people go to access vital health care, where families go for child-

care services and where residents to worship."

A proposed bylaw would ban "demonstrations of a nature that are intended to intimidate, incite hatred violence or discrimination within 100 metres of the boundary of a property where a religious institution, school, childcare centre or hospital is located." Fines of up to \$100,000 could be levied.

The UJA Federation and CIJA reacted positively to the proposed bylaw. But Palestinian groups gave us the usual claptrap. "People are protesting religious in-

stitutions that are being used as spaces to facilitate ethnic cleansing and genocide and that is something that I think people should protest," said the Palestinian Youth Movement".

Most Vaughan residents will, we hope, say "Good for Del Duca." If the bylaw "riles up the marchers" then so be it. Protesters must be told in no uncertain terms to obey the law.



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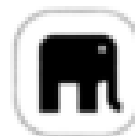
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FIGHTING HUNGER

(Continued from page 7)

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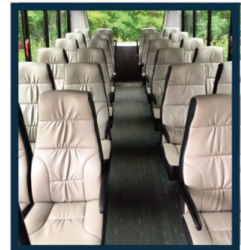
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FIGHTING HUNGER

(Continued from preceding page)

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CHARTING A PATH IN THE NHL

(Continued from page 10)

here tomorrow should be good for at least three thousand new faces at pro games, his race is solidly clannish when it comes to sports."

It's hardly the most anti-Semitic of remarks, but certainly an example of the casual racism Levinsky would face thought his nine-year NHL career with the Maple Leafs, New York

Rangers, and Chicago Blackhawks.

According to son Richard Levinsky his father didn't face a lot of anti-Semitism from his fellow players. At 5'10" and with his weight listed over the years as being between 184 and 205 pounds, Levinsky was big for a player of this era...and he was tough. Even so there's an inter-



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esting incident in Toronto from early in Levinsky's first full season with the Maple Leafs in 1931-32.

The Leafs would go on to win the Stanley Cup in the spring of 1932 (Levinsky would win the Cup a second time with Chicago in 1938), but when the season

opened at the brand new Maple Leaf Gardens in the fall of 1931, the team started poorly. In a letter to Lou Marsh, who was now Sports Editor of the *Toronto Star* on November 24, 1931, a fan wondered why Levinsky had sat out the last game when he'd been playing better than his teammates.

"There was a lot of talk up at the Arena Saturday night" writes the fan, "that some of the Leaf players have stated openly that they will not play on the same team with a Jew, and that if Levinsky plays they will refuse to step out on the ice and for that reason [Conn] Smythe rather than hurt the feelings of some of his pet hirelings intends railroading the big lad to one of the minor league teams."

Richard Levinsky had never heard that story. There's no actual proof any of the Leafs felt that way, and Alex Levinsky himself had a good relationship with the team owner. "Smythe stood behind his players 100 percent," he told Dick Beddoes years later for a story in the *Globe and Mail* on October 28, 1966. "Big on loyalty, even — (he laughed to himself as he said it) — even to the point of naming race horses after us."

Conn Smythe called the Levinsky horse Mine Boy, which was Levinsky's nickname. It appears often in Toronto newspapers, and was said to be popularized by Lou Marsh.

As the story goes, the nickname comes from the fact that Abe Levinsky would root for his only child by proudly shouting "That's Mein Boy!" ('mein' or 'meyn' being the Yiddish word for 'my' ... though technically). Alex Levinsky in newspaper stories in 1934 said he preferred his nickname Mine Boy to any others, but there still may be some anti-Semitism — or, at least, some

casual racism — behind it.

Richard Levinsky says his grandfather, Abe, was born in Canada and would have said "My boy, not "Mein boy." So, if it was Lou Marsh playing up the nickname, he was likely playing up common stereotypes of the time. There are

certainly plenty of racist tropes in much of Marsh's writing, which is why the name of the Lou Marsh Trophy, first awarded to Canada's best athlete after Marsh's death in 1936, was rightfully changed to the Northern Star Award in 2022.

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 18))

covering Israel. “The film is critical”, says Leah Soibel, CEO and founder of Fuente Latina, “as it preserves these testimonies for future generations, ensuring the truth is not distorted or forgotten, as is the case with past events.”

**More Soccer News
Involving Argentina**

For the first time in almost 60 years, a Jewish soccer club in Argentina competed in one of the country’s national soccer tournaments. Nautico Hacoaj used its win in the opening round to pay tribute to Israel. After the victory Hacoaj’s players posed with a banner displaying Oct. 7th with the message “No olvidamos. Am Israel Jai”. “We do not forget” read the poster in English. “The Jewish people live.”

Nautico Hacoaj was the first Jewish club to compete in the 14-team Amateur Promotional Tournament since Organizacion Hebra Macabi from Buenos Aires went undefeated on its way to winning the

championship in 1967. The professional tournament is part of the lowest level of the Argentinian national football association.

Ariel Brunfman, scored the team’s crucial third goal in the 3 to 2 victory. “It was an important match for everyone — for the players, but also for the Jewish community,” Brunfman said.

Unfortunately Hacoaj lost its second game at its home stadium, named for the late Israeli Prime Minister and President Shimon Peres. to Estrella de Berisso.

**Resigning from
B.C.’s NDP Caucus**

MLA Selina Robinson resigned recently from the caucus of the NDP government telling Premier David Eby that his “silence” in the face of antisemitism displayed by two colleagues “broke my heart”.

The Jewish MLA, who was elected in Coquitlam-Maillardville in 2013, 2017 and 2020 had stirred
(Please turn to page 30)

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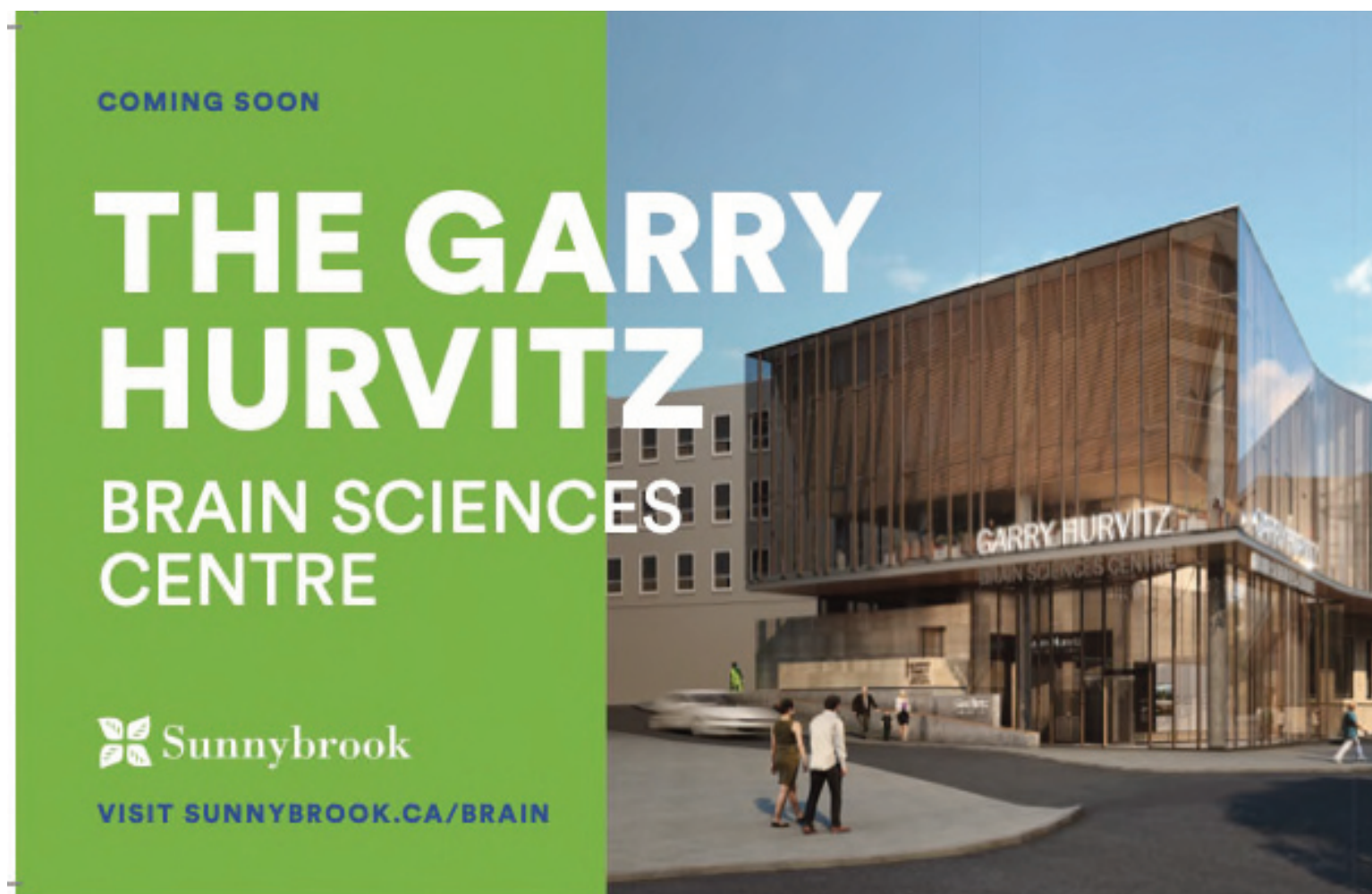
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BLAMING THE JEWS

(Continued from page 8)

Abu Sido's blame-the-Jews approach to the Holocaust echoes words spoken repeatedly by PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

In an April 30, 2018 speech to the Palestinian National Council, Abbas explained the "reasons" why Jews were massacred throughout history, from the pogroms of the Middle Ages to the Holocaust. He began by dismissing the idea that antisemitism had anything to do with it. "Why did this happen? They say 'it is because we are Jews'," but that must be false, Abbas said, because "there were Jews in Arab countries. Why wasn't there ever one incident against Jews [there] because they're Jews? Not even once." (An obvious falsehood.)

The real reason for the Holocaust, Abbas said, was the Jews' own "social behavior, [charging] interest, and financial matters." Those Jewish actions are what provoked the Nazis, he claimed.

Just last year, the PA chairman repeated that perspective in a speech to Fatah's Revolutionary Council (on August 24, 2023). "They say that Hitler killed the Jews because they were Jews and that Europe hated the Jews because they were Jews. Not

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true,” Abbas asserted. “The Nazis fought the Jews because of their social role, and not their religion....The [Nazis] fought against these people because of their role in society, which had to do with usury, money and so

on and so forth.”

Somehow, that train of thought coexists peacefully in Abbas’s mind alongside the view he articulated in his infamous Ph.D dissertation-turned-book, *The Other Side: The Secret Relationship Between Nazism and Zionism*, published in 1984. There he argued that fewer than one million Jews were killed by the Nazis, and they were the victims of a secret partnership between David Ben-Gurion and Adolf Hitler. Asked about the book by a Lebanese television interviewer in 2013, Abbas insisted that he stands by what he wrote, and even has written “seventy more books that I still haven’t published” on the topic.

It’s bad enough that mainstream Palestinian Authority leaders such as Abbas and Abu Sido believe such crazy things. But what is at stake is more than just a grotesque distortion of history; their rhetoric can help set the stage for further atrocities—because the logic behind the Holocaust comments by Abbas and Abu Sido is remarkably similar to the position that they and their PA colleagues have taken regarding the October 7 pogrom.

Abbas and other PA leaders have characterized October 7 as a “response to the occupation.” They have said the attack “did not happen in a vacuum.” They have portrayed Gaza as a “prison” from which Hamas was trying to “break free.” Every such justification is another way of saying that Israel’s own behavior was to blame for provoking the attack.

In a sense, Abbas is being consistent: The Jews provoked the pogroms of the Middle Ages. The Jews provoked the Holocaust. And the Jews provoked the murders, gang-rapes and beheadings of October 7. That’s the common thread in all of his thinking on these subjects.

Blaming the Jews for their persecutors’ actions
{Please turn to following page}

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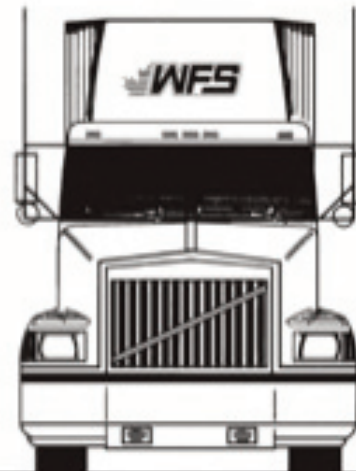
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BLAMING THE JEWS

(Continued from preceding page)

is not just adding insult to the injuries that the pogromists inflicted. It incites further violence by justifying whatever Arab terrorists will do to Jews in the future. Such an extreme and irrational perspective—which is

promulgated by PA leaders, disseminated by the PA-controlled media, and taught by teachers in the PA's schools—may be the single greatest threat to hopes for a lasting Arab-Israeli peace.

FREEDOM TO LEARN

(Continued from page 11)

And anyone who engages in the study of the Torah becomes elevated, as it is said (Bamidbar/Numbers 21:19), 'From Matanah to Nachalieil, and from Nachalieil to Bamos.' – Pirkei Avos 6:2

Matanah means gift, Nachalieil means divine heritage, and Bamos means heights, and so this verse is interpreted by the Sages to mean, 'From the gift of the Torah, man gains a divine heritage that elevates him and leads him to spiritual heights (Rashi).

In other words, the script on the two Tablets of the Covenant were written by G-d, and that writing is freedom, and that divine heritage of freedom leads to spiritual heights.

Far from being the burden that some imagine the Torah to be, as those who lovingly embrace the yoke of the Torah can attest, the Torah is freedom from spiritual corruption that enslaves us (see Midrash Shmuel). By engaging in serious Torah study, and living according to the Torah, we become free from corruption.

This is perhaps most clear to those who come to the Torah later in life, not having been raised with this heritage of spiritual freedom from corruption, though Jewish from birth or converts to Judaism. For such people, life before and after Torah is like night and day, like being reborn, from death to life. The experience of freedom

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The Jewish Standard, April 2024

from spiritual corruption that comes with embracing the Torah is palpable. Yet engaging in serious Torah study later in life can be very difficult.

As such a person comes to the Torah, and begins to delve deeper and deeper, they are confronted with the vast depths of the Torah—the Talmud, the Midrash, the Zohar, to list a few. Such a person finds there is so much to learn in order to come to maturity, and so little time! If only they could have the freedom to sit and learn, they would gladly do so. They have tasted the sweetness of the

Torah, they know HaShem is Good.

They want to receive the Torah, but they find themselves trapped in Egypt. They have bills to pay, an apartment or a house, a car, school and/or a career, maybe a family. Thank G-d for Shabbos, but the rest of the time the world is clamoring for their attention, barely giving them a break. When they try to put more time into prayer and learning, they find these things distained by the world around them. How can they have the audacity to sit and learn when there is so much work to do!

And so, many feel trapped, not knowing how to be free to sit and learn; not knowing there is a place just for them — a real yeshiva for baalei teshuvah — a place where Jewish men at any level can sit and learn Torah, even for years at a time if they like, without having to worry about mundane affairs of the world.

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As Ruach Chaim points out, our mishnah is connected to mishnah 3:6: 'If someone takes upon himself the yoke of Torah, the yoke of government and of worldly responsibilities are removed from him.'

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 24)

up controversy when she told a B'nai B'rith online panel on January 30 that there is an "entire generation of young adults who do not know about the Holocaust or understand that the region on which the State of Israel was created decades ago was previously

a crappy piece of land with nothing on it...There were several hundred thousand people but other than that, it didn't produce an economy. It couldn't grow things. It didn't have anything on it."

Robinson was heavily criticized for her comments

but despite apologizing for her what she acknowledged were "flippant remarks" was forced to resign as Minister of Post-Secondary Education.

But Robinson maintains that it was not her choice to leave the party's caucus. "I told the premier" she wrote in a letter, "that if this is what he wanted and what caucus wanted I wouldn't fight what caucus wanted I wouldn't fight him on it - but let's be clear - others asked for my resignation, so I gave it."

Robinson further added that after October 7th "I had offered to the Premier that as a member of the Jewish community, I could speak at a vigil that was being planned...this was

my community. I put out the call for you to join me...I sent out a group e-mail. Two maybe three responded - that's it. How is it that with more than 35 lower mainland/valley MLAs only three or four would be on stage with me - I had no idea how many UCP would be there and a poor showing would not reflect well on us...My heart cracked...Your silence broke my heart that day."

Meanwhile, in the aftermath of Robinson's resignation the Jewish Federation of Vancouver has had a meeting with Eby. A statement released after the meeting read: We thank Premier David Eby for meeting with us today to hear our concerns about systemic

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The Jewish Standard, April 2024

antisemitism in his government and across our province, particularly in the public service and the province's healthcare, education, and post-secondary institutions. Events to this point, especially in the way MLA Selina Robinson has been treated, have sent a chilling message that antisemitism is tolerated in B.C. This is dangerous and contributes to the vulnerability already experienced by our community after the Oct. 7 terrorist attacks committed by Hamas. Our tradition teaches us that there are clear steps to take to repair relationships. The first is to understand the harm one has caused, both by action and by inaction.

We appreciate the first step taken by the Premier today. Now he must make amends for the harms

he has caused and address the alarming increase in antisemitism in B.C. with concrete action.

Selina Robinson is not running for re-election.

So Much For This Relationship

The Conservative synagogue Hamakom in San Fernando Valley and the Islamic Society of West Valley have had a strong bond over the past few years. The rabbi and the imam sometimes have coffee together to discuss ways of bringing the two communities together. The synagogue even invited the Islamic Society to use Hamakom for its overflow Ramadan crowds.

There was some pushback from members but *(Please turn to following page)*

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

the rental agreement went ahead. The synagogue staff covered up photos of the Israeli hostages but Hama-kom's leadership told mem-

bers that the custodial staff misunderstood their in-structions.

But that was not the only issue. A guest speaker at the service was CAIR's

Hussan Ayloush who deliv-ered one of his usual anti-Israel speeches.

Members of Hama-kom threatened to resign en masse unless the syn-agogue terminated the rental agreement. This was done with the synagogue telling members that "We cannot give audience to comments that denigrate Is-rael's right to protect itself after Oct. 7," Still, the syn-agogue's co-presidents were forced to resign.

Stevens said that the Re-publican's comments "por-tended hell on earth". "Threatening the use of or God forbid, actually using nuclear weapons, are unac-ceptable tactics of war in the 21st century." Rep. Ritchie Torres, a pro-Israel Demo-crat from New York, called the comments "deranged and depraved." And Rep. Susan Wild, from Penn-sylvania, called Walberg's statement "despicable"

Walberg tried to walk back and clarify his comments. in a statement on X he wrote:"As a child who grew up in the Cold War Era, the last thing I'd advocate for would be the use of nuclear weapons. In a shortened clip I used a metaphor to convey the need for both Israel and Uk-raine to win their wars as swiftly as possible, without putting American troops in harms way. My reasoning was the exact opposite...the quicker these wars end, the fewer innocent lives will be caught in the crossfire."

Congressman Tells Israel "Get It Over Quick"

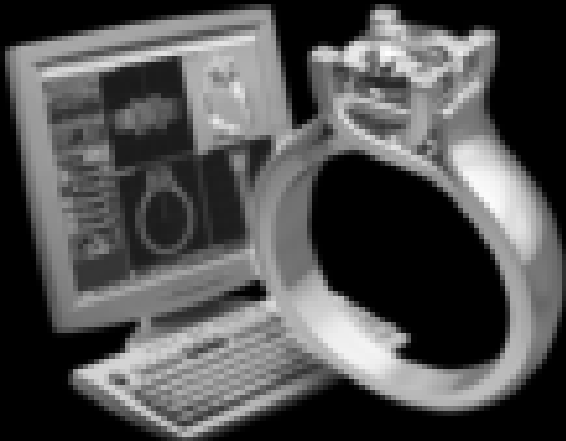
Congressman Tim Walberg, a Michigan Repub-lican, is facing backlash over his comments advising Israel to treat Gaza "like Na-gasaki and Hiroshima". A video of Walberg addressing a town hall meeting in Dun-dee, Michigan, shows the congressman telling a con-stituent that "we shouldn't be spending a dime on hu-manitarian aid...Get it over quick", he continued.

Pro-Israel Demo-crats were quick to pounce on Walberg. Rep, Haley

As might be ex-pected his "clarification" satisfied none of his critics.

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The Jewish Standard, April 2024

Recruiting Students From China

Kehillah Jewish High School in Palo Alto intended to recruit students from Israel and China this year. But October 7th made it too difficult for the schools's admission director to travel to Israel. So the focus shifted to China. One third of the school's 200 students are already non-Jewish and several are Chinese-American. The effort is another step in the schools goal of "reflecting the world's diversity."

KICKER SHOWS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL



SOUTH AFRICAN-BORN-Minnesota Viking kicker Greg Joseph is proud to be Jewish and says that Judaism has "absolutely" guided him during his life. He was also affected by the October 7th attack. He first responded by starting a "Kicks for Israel" Pledgeit campaign which raised \$10,000 for Leket Israel. Then he wore specially designed cleats for a December game with the Stars of David and the phrases "I Stand with Israel" and "Am Yisrael Chai" in Hebrew and the English transliteration.

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In the backdrop of the October 7th massacre by Hamas terrorists, which saw the slaughter of over 1,200 innocent people

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in southern Israel and Israel’s self-defence efforts in Gaza, anti-Israel detractors have usurped the platforms of Canadian campus media and news platforms to foment discord, inflame tensions, and protract the conflict, leading to antisemitism and anti-Zionist rhetoric on campus. Our aspiring student journalists are actively working to stand for Israel and Canada’s Jewish community on campuses across the country.

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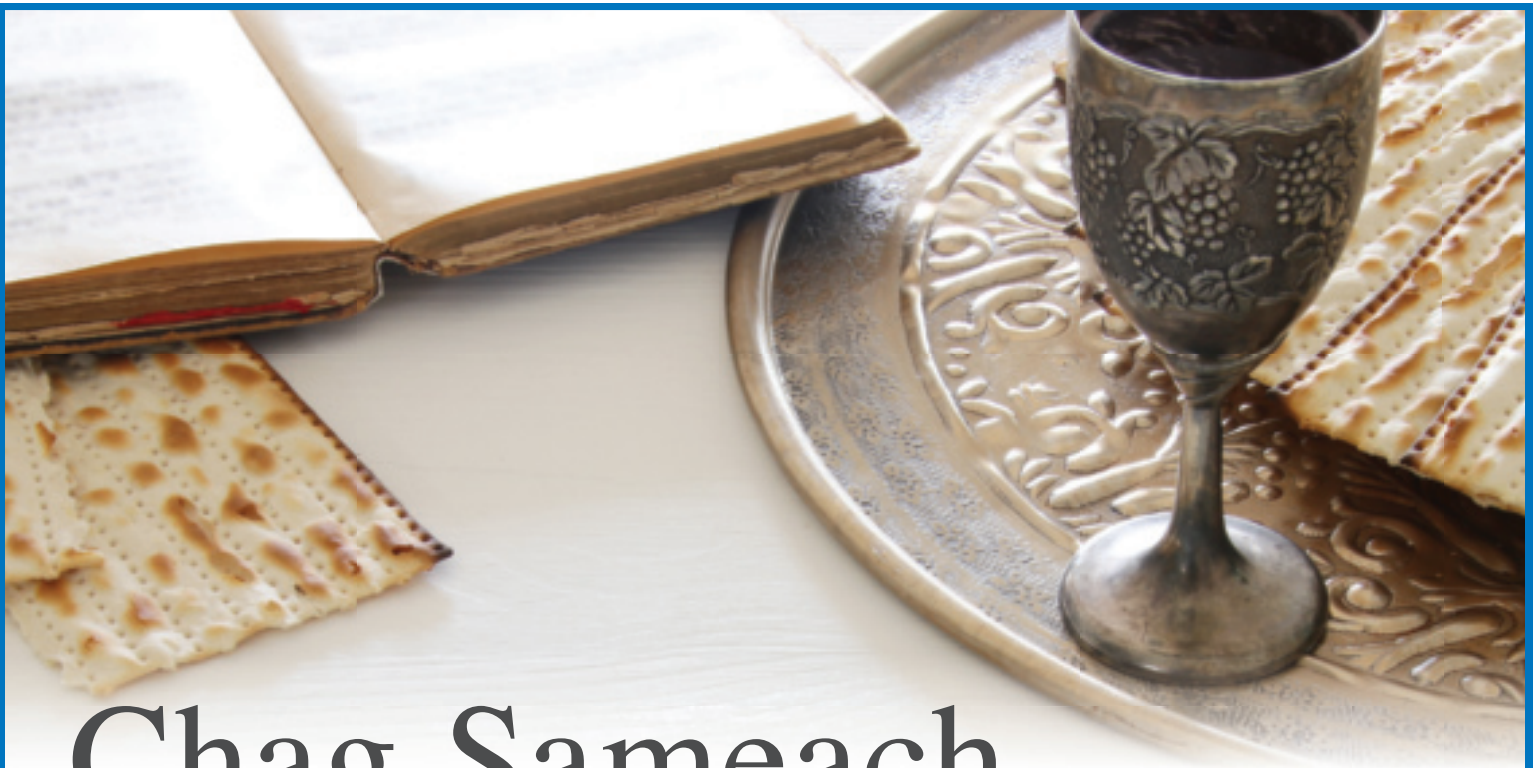
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