

# B'NAI B'RITH

M A G A Z I N E

PUBLISHED SINCE 1886

WINTER 2017

## The Albert and Joseph Letters: It Wasn't All About Science

By Cheryl Kempler

Eight months after the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan to end World War II, the world-famous scientist whose discoveries unleashed the destructive forces of the atom wrote of his concern that “all of humanity” may be in danger of another “catastrophe.”

Albert Einstein's March 19, 1946, letter was addressed to Joseph Brainin — journalist, writer and archivist for the papers of Chaim Weizmann, also a scientist and the first president of Israel. The letter is contained in a collection of correspondence between Einstein and Brainin recently donated by Brainin's heirs to New York's YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

The correspondence, which has never before been published, spans a nearly 20-year period from 1932 through 1950 and sheds light on how the father of the atomic bomb saw his role in relation to the hoped-for Jewish state in Palestine and as a postwar supporter for liberal causes.

Einstein, who promulgated the revolutionary theory of relativity in 1916, was visiting the United States in 1933 when Adolph Hitler came to power and did not return to his native Germany. He took up residence in Princeton, N.J., where the Nobel Prize winner continued his research as a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies and died in April 1955, at the age of 76.



Photo from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.

Pictured on the deck of the SS Rotterdam, Albert Einstein, Chaim Weizmann and other Zionist leaders embarked on a fundraising tour for Palestine in 1921.

Joseph Brainin was the son of Reuben Brainin, a Russian Jewish biographer, publicist and literary critic who died in New York City in 1939. Joseph died in 1970, at 74.

The Brainin-Einstein collection is comprised of German and English typed and handwritten correspondence sent to and from Brainin and Einstein, his wife, Elsa,

## The Albert and Joseph Letters: It Wasn't All About Science

and secretary, Helen Dukas. Most are letters of transmittal, but they provide commentary on their enclosures, drafts or finished copies of speeches or statements that Einstein or his representative would deliver at fundraising dinners or read to the press.

Some are more personal — and pointed. In April 1937, Einstein wrote to Brainin criticizing Dr. Karl Landsteiner, born Jewish but a Catholic convert who objected to his inclusion in “Who’s Who in American Jewry” and even sued to have his name removed. Einstein wrote Brainin that “Dr. Landsteiner’s attitude is unquestionably deplorable, indeed pitiable.”

The relationship between Brainin and Einstein began to develop shortly after Einstein took up residence in the United States. The two men shared mutual philanthropic objectives and political sentiments and joined forces to heighten awareness of and raise money for the plight of war refugees and for charities in Palestine.

Einstein would also be identified by his connection to and love for the Jewish people, which had gradually evolved, he later wrote, as the “strongest human attachment ever since I reached complete awareness of our precarious position among the nations.”

Some letters contain details about the trajectory of Einstein’s relationship to the organizations with which both he and Brainin were associated. Lending his name as an enhancement to the boards of a number of labor organizations and Jewish philanthropies, Einstein served as honorary president of the American Committee of Jewish Writers, Artists and Writers (CWAS), possibly at the request of Brainin, who chaired its executive committee. One of many Russian-American friendship groups that flourished in the United States even before Russia joined the Allies during World War II, CWAS, and its Soviet counterpart, the Jewish Antifascist Committee, promoted Yiddish culture in both countries.

As evidenced by the short speeches



From Flickr.com

A hand-tinted photo of the young Einstein.

Einstein drafted and sent to for approval to Brainin, the physicist was committed to the organization’s mission for a number of years after the war ended, but he tendered his resignation on Aug. 16, 1948. By letter of Sept. 9, 1948, Einstein explained to Brainin that he was convinced that CWAS was turning into “a Jewish party organization” reflecting his own fears that the perception of Jews forging a union that crossed international borders would feed into the anti-Semitic stereotype of the influence of a worldwide Jewish cabal.

Two years later, on April 21, 1950, Einstein complained to Brainin that he was still listed as honorary chairman on the committee’s letterhead. Eight days later, he resigned from the organization.

Einstein’s letters to Brainin reference statements, including one he intended to make on behalf of the presidential campaign of former Vice President Henry Wallace, whose progressive politics and anti-nuclear platform aligned with his own

views, and another, which was read on his behalf at the 1948 dedication of Poland’s first Holocaust memorial in the Warsaw Ghetto. Others focus on Einstein’s interest in Jewish music and theater.

Throughout the correspondence, Einstein and Brainin write to each about their shared passion for the land then called Palestine. Einstein professed in his writings that this sense of belonging was integral to Jewish survival, and he emphasized in an essay that “the Jewish nation is a living fact . . . Zionism strengthens the self-confidence of the Jews” and he reiterated throughout his life that “Palestine creates a strong bond which gives the Jews moral support.”

It was in 1921 that he joined his colleague Chaim Weizmann, then-World Zionist Organization president, on a successful trip in the United States to raise funds for Jerusalem’s proposed Hebrew University. Later, Einstein would present the University’s inaugural lecture.

Throughout the 1930s, Einstein urgently promoted the Jewish homeland, as desperate Jews sought a means of escape from Europe. Soliciting contributions for the League for Labor Palestine, and Jerusalem’s Children’s Hospital, he concluded in a 1933 speech that the educated classes of German Jewish professionals who had settled there and were now working as artisans or farmers were perhaps best suited to be “in a position to create a healthy relationship with the Arab nation . . . the support of labor also means the furthering of a human and worthy political policy.”

One of the most interesting items in the YIVO collection is a typed document in English, with a handwritten date of February 1941. Headed simply “Einstein message,” it may have been prepared for one of the several Palestine advocacy organizations in which the two men were involved.

In this speech, Einstein remarks that “Eternal calamity provides the ultimate test of the vitality or individuals or communi-

## The Albert and Joseph Letters: It Wasn't All About Science



Photo from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.

Einstein lived modestly in this house on Mercer Street in Princeton, where he taught at the University's Institute for Advanced Study.

ties. ... In but a few years' time, the common destiny of all Jews has become a matter of course to all of us .... our responsibility [is] the upbuilding of Palestine as a center of Jewish life ... may our love for our Palestine work therefore remain alive in our souls ...” Einstein also expressed his hope for “a permanent understanding with the Arabs ...”

Also in the Brainin papers are several copies in English of Einstein's January 1946 letter to the Zionist philosopher Martin Buber, written in their native German. In it, he condemns the British for imposing “restrictions on immigration, limitations on land acquisition by the Jews ...”

Agreeing with Buber's positing of a two-state solution, Einstein also wrote to Brainin on Aug. 7, 1947: “As per your request, I am expressing my longstanding conviction that a bi-national form of government is the only just and expedient government form for Palestine. However, administration functions would have to be essentially



From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.

Designed in 1968, Israel's Five Lira note commemorates Einstein's discoveries in physics.

## The Albert and Joseph Letters: It Wasn't All About Science

handled by the United Nations for the foreseeable future, since political life in Palestine is thoroughly entrenched and the country is therefore not yet ripe for political independence.”

In 1948, Einstein, along with many other Jewish Zionists who had endorsed and worked for Israel, publicly criticized an alleged massacre by the paramilitary Irgun faction in an Arab village during the War for Independence. In response, Einstein and Leo Baeck, the B'nai B'rith leader and theologian, in a letter to The New York Times called for mutual cooperation in an effort to avoid what they decried as “a futile war.”

Rejecting what he felt to have been a transgression against Judaism's moral code, and for some years after 1948, Einstein turned a critical eye to Israel but remained a supporter. Following the death of Chaim Weizmann, Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion had a letter delivered to Einstein in Princeton in November, 1952, requesting that the physicist assume the Israeli presidency. In his answer, Einstein expressed his distress at having to decline, citing both his advanced age and what he considered his poor interpersonal skills.

Just prior to his death, Einstein worked with Israeli diplomat Abba Eban to compose a message intended for a national broadcast on American radio and television but which was never recorded or delivered due to his failing health. Again citing Israel as the haven for the survivors of the Holocaust, Einstein hailed the country as a living monument which “actively engages the conscience of this generation.”

A document evidencing the metamorphosis of his attitude to the Jewish homeland, the speech called attention to the “bitter paradox that Israel was threatened by dangers to its own security.” Einstein observed that the world powers endeavored to maintain the conflict in the Middle East as the wedge that would exacerbate the “struggle between East and West . . . It is anomalous that world opinion should only criticize Israel's response to hostility, and should not actively seek to bring an end to the Arab hostility which is the root cause of the tension.”



El Libro Negro de Crimenes Nacis fue presentado a Ilya Ehrenburg, Vice presidente del Comité Judío Antifascista de la Unión Soviética, durante su visita a los Estados Unidos. De izquierda a derecha: Joseph Brainin, secretario, Comité Judío Panamericano; Albert Einstein, presidente honorario, Comité del Libro Negro; Ilya Ehrenburg. Se está preparando una edición en español del Libro Negro.

Credit from the Archives of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York

Photographed for the cover of this South American magazine, Joseph Brainin, far left, and Albert Einstein, posed with Ilya Ehrenburg, leader of the Jewish Antifascist Committee of the Soviet Union. Both men helped to promote its mission in the United States.

## Editor's Note

In this, our first all-digital issue of B'nai B'rith Magazine, we offer a potpourri of features spanning the worlds of arts and letters, sports, social justice and history.

We present here for the first time an exchange of unpublished letters between Albert Einstein and Joseph Brainin, a journalist, writer and archivist, on issues ranging from war and peace to the hoped for Jewish homeland to internal Zionist politics. They reveal that, as our headline says, for the father of the atomic age, it wasn't all about science.

Linking the past and present, we tell the remarkable story of 90-year-old Monica Ullman Friedman, who, as a 12-year old girl, escaped with her family from their home in Antwerp, Belgium in a daring sea rescue from Saint-Malo, on the Brittany coast, in June 1940. This was just a few weeks after the famous mass evacuation featured in the recent movie "Dunkirk."

From Israel, we write about the government's efforts to include persons with physical and other disabilities across all sectors of society, even the Israel Defense Forces. Back home, we profile Jerry Markbreit, a former National Football League official who got his start refereeing with a B'nai B'rith youth touch-football league and went on to officiate at four Super Bowls. Now in his 80s, Markbreit continues to motivate, inspire and consult in the sport.

With this issue, we begin a series of retrospective columns by former B'nai B'rith presidents recalling highlights during their terms, as the organization marks its 175th anniversary.

In addition to these features and our regular columns, you will find links to related stories and videos, as we expand our coverage to encompass multiple platforms. Enjoy! 📺

-- Eugene L. Meyer

**Gary P. Saltzman**  
President

**Daniel S. Mariaschin**  
Executive Vice President and Chief  
Executive Officer

**Sharon Bender**  
Vice President, Communications

**Eugene L. Meyer**  
Editor

**Felice Caspar**  
Deputy Editor

**Rachel Chasin**  
Contributing Editor

**Simeon Montesa**  
Art Director and Graphic Designer

**Cheryl Kempler**  
Staff Writer

**Ann Marie Maloney**  
Proofreader

**EDITORIAL OFFICES:**  
1120 20th Street NW Suite 300 North  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-857-6591 or bbmag@bnaibrith.org

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING:**  
202-857-6699  
marketing@bnaibrith.org

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING,  
MARKETPLACE AND STUDENT  
RECRUITMENT GUIDE:**  
David Levy  
702-575-4509

Signed articles represent the opinions of their authors and are not necessarily the view of B'nai B'rith or B'nai B'rith Magazine. Return postage must accompany unsolicited material, for which no responsibility is assumed. Contents ©2017 by B'nai B'rith International. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

B'nai B'rith Magazine (ISSN 1549-4799) is published in print annually and online throughout the year by B'nai B'rith International, 1120 20th Street NW, Suite 300 North, Washington, DC 20036, and is indexed in the Index to Jewish Periodicals. \$5 of member dues goes toward B'nai B'rith Magazine.

Standard postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing offices. Notification of address change should be sent to Circulation, 1120 20th Street NW, Suite 300, North Washington, D.C. 20036, or call 888-388-4224. Please allow six to eight weeks for change.

### LEADERSHIP

**International President**  
Gary P. Saltzman

**Honorary Presidents**  
Gerald Kraft  
Seymour D. Reich  
Kent E. Schiner  
Tommy P. Baer  
Richard D. Heideman  
Joel S. Kaplan  
Moishe Smith  
Allan J. Jacobs

**Executive Vice President and Chief  
Executive Officer**  
Daniel S. Mariaschin

**Honorary Executive Vice President**  
Sidney M. Clearfield

**Chairman of the Executive**  
Peter A. Perlman

**Senior Vice Presidents**  
Eric T. Engelmayer  
Eduardo Weinstein Gottlieb  
Shel Marcus  
Sheila Mostyn  
Marvin Siflinger  
Robert B. Spitzer

### Treasurer

A. Michael Gellman

**International Vice Presidents**  
Susana Chalón de Nesis  
*Argentina*

James Altman  
*Australia and New Zealand*

Matilde Groisman Gus  
*Brazil*

Aubrey Zidenberg  
*Canada*

Sergio Bitran  
*Chile, Bolivia and Peru*

Valérie Achache  
*Europe*

John P. Reeves  
*Europe*

Abraham Huli  
*Israel*

Abraham Mizrahi  
*Northern Latin America and the Caribbean*

Jacobo Wolkowicz  
*Uruguay and Paraguay*

## From the Vault

# Composer Leonard Bernstein's B'nai B'rith Connection

By Cheryl Kempler

**T**he official centennial of composer Leonard Bernstein's birth isn't until Aug. 25, 2018, but a two-year celebration is already underway. Could there be a B'nai B'rith connection?

Profiled in B'nai B'rith's National Jewish Monthly in 1943, Bernstein, then the 25-year-old assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic, got rave reviews after his unscheduled debut at the podium. This prodigy had written ballets, musicals and symphonies like "Jeremiah," based on the Old Testament. His interview, and accompanying headshot, inspired some cute poetry from some of B'nai B'rith's female readers.

Two years later, Bernstein headed a committee that included famed composer and conductor Aaron Copland to choose the winner of a contest for composers under the age of 30. Bernstein had risen quickly; he was now engaged by both the Philharmonic and City Center's New York Symphony Orchestra.

The prize was awarded under the auspices of the George Gershwin Memorial Foundation, founded and funded by Manhattan's




This photo of the 25-year-old Leonard Bernstein appeared in The National Jewish Monthly in January 1944.

B'nai B'rith Victory Lodge and the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations. Named for the man who had given the world masterpieces including "Rhapsody in Blue" and "Porgy

and Bess" before his premature death in 1937, the foundation awarded \$1,000 and covered the costs of a New York premiere for the winning work.

Held in March 1945, the award concert featured the New York Philharmonic with Bernstein conducting the winning entries by two 22-year-olds, Peter Mennin and Army Sgt. Romeo Cascarino. A week before, Bernstein had wielded the baton at a Victory Lodge benefit featuring Broadway star Muriel Smith.

When the contest was announced the next year, Bernstein was again in charge, selecting the winning work by Harold Shapero, later a Brandeis University professor, and leading the concert, broadcast over radio station WNYC.

Bernstein would continue to participate in the foundation's activities and would occasionally conduct the Gershwin Memorial Foundation concerts, presented through 1961. In 1966, the Victory Lodge ceded the funds of the Gershwin Memorial Foundation to the Juilliard School, which continues to offer the prize as a scholarship. 

## From Milken Archive

<http://www.milkenarchive.org/artists/view/leonard-bernstein/>

## From YouTube Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qn8KSkLgQko>



## From YouTube Audio Only

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liBEKW6lf\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liBEKW6lf_Q)



# In Israel, Including the Excluded Gains Traction

By Michele Chabin

When soldiers serving at the Central Command army base in Jerusalem need a new uniform or a warm jacket, they go to the Quartermaster warehouse, located in a nondescript prefab building.

Pvt. Batsheva Moalemi is often the soldier who assists them.

On any given day, Moalemi takes inventory, orders new items, sorts through and organizes piles of uniforms and paraphernalia dropped off by soldiers who have completed their military service, and searches through rows of labeled boxes of drab green army fatigues.

When a female soldier recently asked Moalemi to find a pair of small-sized regulation army boots, the supply specialist pulled down several big boxes and searched until she found them.

When Moalemi handed over the boots the appreciative soldier broke into a smile and exclaimed, "You're a queen!"

While any Israel Defense Forces soldier would appreciate such praise, it was particularly satisfying for Moalemi, who received an exemption from Israel's mandatory military service because she has a disability but insisted on serving anyway.

One of three triplets born prematurely, Moalemi, now 21, has a condition that has weakened her muscles, making it difficult for her to walk long distances and to carry heavy things. One of her triplet brothers has similar physical challenges; the other does not.

Yet, all three are now serving in the IDF.

"I was born in this country and want to be a part of this country," Moalemi said of her decision to volunteer for military service through the IDF's unique inclusion



Photo by Michele Chabin

Pvt. Batsheva Moalemi, exempted from the army because of weak muscles, decided to volunteer anyway and works in the Quartermaster warehouse on a military base.

program. "I wanted to protect the country, and, although I'm not a fighter, in some ways, I think I am."

The fact that Moalemi and her brother with disabilities have the opportunity to serve in the military, just like their able-bodied brother, exemplifies Israel's ongoing efforts to ensure an inclusive society.

## Making Inclusion a Priority

On the grassroots level, many groups and nonprofit organizations are making inclusion a priority. Universities and synagogues are building ramps and installing

listening systems for people with hearing impairments. Tzohar, a modern-Orthodox rabbinical group, is urging engaged couples to consider accessibility when choosing a wedding venue.

For the first time since Israel's establishment, most public transportation within Israeli cities (though not necessarily between) is wheelchair-accessible, as is the national train system.

There is also a new law aimed at helping more people with disabilities enter the workforce (just 57 percent are employed), and there are ongoing partnerships with the

## In Israel, Including the Excluded Gains Traction



Photo courtesy of Bizchut

Participants at Bizchut, a self-advocacy organization for people with intellectual disabilities in Israel.



Photo courtesy of Shutaf Inclusion Programs in Jerusalem

Pesach sleepaway camp for Shutaf teens at Tur Sinai - Organic Farm Resort.

Joint Distribution Committee, a Jewish relief organization, and several non-governmental organizations to develop programs that bring about inclusion in the community.

In an important move, the government recently began offering the same stipends to people with disabilities who want to live on their own, or with just a roommate or spouse, that it offers to people living in group homes or institutions with five or more people.

Avital Sandler-Loeff, director of the Israel Unlimited, a developer of innovative services and programs for people with disabilities, says Israeli legislation in this area “has become very progressive” in recent years.

“There is good legislation aimed at inclusion in regular schools, and a great basket of services now available to people with psychiatric disabilities,” he said, thanks to a 2015 amendment that requires health insurance companies – and not the bureaucratic Ministry of Health – to provide mental health services on par with other services.

Unfortunately, Sandler-Loeff said, the law is not inclusive enough.

Yotam Tolub, director of Bizchut: The Israel Human Rights Center for People with Disabilities, an organization that has lobbied for and helped draft most of Israel’s

progressive inclusion laws and regulations, agrees that Israel’s policies are a major step forward but still fall short.

“There’s much more acknowledgement that if you’re blind or deaf you have the right to live independently in the community and not in an institution,” he says.

That’s also true for people with mental health challenges, Tolub said, noting that the majority of Israelis with these conditions live in the community and, unlike in the past, not in a psychiatric facility.

During the past year, hundreds of activists have taken to the streets and blocked major highways in their wheelchairs in well-publicized demonstrations to demand an increase in disability benefits.

Israelis who are considered fully disabled receive a monthly stipend of just \$660. In September, an agreement reached between the government, disability rights activists and the Histadrut labor union stipulates an increase to nearly \$1,300 in 2019, but it is unclear how the government would fund it, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Tolub noted that the poverty rate in the disabled community in Israel is “very high, as in most countries,” due to low stipends and a much higher rate of unemployment.

Jay Ruderman, president of the Ruderman Family Foundation, which supports

dozens of inclusion initiatives in the United States and Israel, said Israel still lags behind the U.S. when it comes to allowing people with disabilities, especially intellectual and physical, to live in the community where they want and with whom they want, with appropriate government-funded supports like transportation, training and caregivers.

“It’s actually less expensive to house someone in their own apartment in the community with the appropriate supports than it is to run an institution,” Ruderman said.

### The Grass Roots Steps In

When the government doesn’t step in, small grassroots organizations like Shutaf try to fill the void.

Determined to ensure that their children with learning disabilities would not be segregated from their typically developing peers, Beth Steinberg and Miriam Avraham created Shutaf, which brings together 300 children, teens and young adults of all abilities from a variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds.

Today, the organization, which receives no government funding, includes a fully inclusive summer camp, as well as after-school activities.

“We wanted to create not just a camp but a place where you can build community. To



## In Israel, Including the Excluded Gains Traction



Photo courtesy of Shutfat Inclusion Programs in Jerusalem

Shutfat Siblings: Mia, Hallel and Adin, having fun together at Shutfat summer camp.



Photo courtesy of Shutfat Inclusion Programs in Jerusalem

Pool Day, Shutfat Summer Camp 2017.

do this, you need to start from childhood," Steinberg said. "When the kids who were in the program go into the army and succeed in their independence, it's a fantastic feeling."

Too often, Steinberg says, "the burden of inclusion is on the backs of the parents."

Tolub said people with disabilities have had to fight for their rights, "because in Israel, as in many countries, there's still a lot of pity, and the notion that helping someone with a disability is a chesed," an act of kindness, "and not an obligation." Many Israelis "still believe they should be secluded in institutions."

SHEKEL (Community Services for People with Special Needs), a sprawling organization that receives 65 percent of its funding from government agencies and national foundations and the remainder from donations, assumes some of that burden.

SHEKEL trains and provides employment, both inside its vocational centers and in cooperation with companies and offices; it also supports more than 100 community apartments and offers educational resources for people aged 18 and over with a wide range of special needs.

It also creates accessibility master plans for government and local authorities and provides protocols and training for public

and private bodies to make services accessible for people with sensory and cognitive issues.

Yifat Baruch is an illustrator and graphic designer who works at SHEKEL's design studio, which produces everything from high-quality bar/bat mitzvah invitations to trivets. She said that relatively few mainstream workplaces are prepared to hire people who, like her, use a wheelchair.

"I once had an interview at a hi-tech company, but instead of hiring me because I would have been an asset, they asked, 'What will you do if you need to go to the bathroom?'" she recalled.

During a visit to one of the shared apartments run by SHEKEL, 36-year-old Yafit, who lives with three other women, said that in the past year she has learned how to go to the bank to deposit her paycheck and withdraw money, and to pick up prescriptions from her HMO.

"It feels good to be so independent," she said. Her apartment mates, who are also employed, smiled and nodded in agreement.

### Serving More Than Food

On the ground floor of SHEKEL's Jerusalem headquarters, the organization has created an attractive, modern restaurant called Harutzim where 16 young adults

with various cognitive challenges, including autism, have learned to cook, make coffee, run a cash register and maintain a restaurant with dishes that are well-prepared and highly-rated. Half of those trained now work in professional settings.

The restaurant attracts shoppers and other local people, "many of whom don't realize this is a restaurant that trains and employs people with special needs," said Sharon Simmer, SHEKEL's director of resource development, marketing and communications.

Standing next to the café's coffee machine, Roi, an affable 28-year-old man employed through the inclusion program, said working at Harutzim "is fun. I have friends here and enjoy being part of a team."

Pointing to the café's bright, clean open kitchen, Noa Zweber, who trains the workers, said Harutzim "is a restaurant that shows that people with disabilities can work. Unlike some restaurants, where all they do all day is clean, here they have the same rights and responsibilities as any other worker."

On the SHEKEL building's second floor, several young men and women with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Asperger's participate in a program run by Mobileye, the Jerusalem company whose vision-based

## In Israel, Including the Excluded Gains Traction

navigation system is contributing to the development of driverless cars.

The company runs a paid training and employment program for young men and women at the top of the autism spectrum who spend several hours a day watching video footage of roads and identifying the location of street signs for future use by the navigation system.

Eli Schreiber, 24, has been doing this job for almost two years.

After graduating from a mainstream high school, Schreiber, who has Pervasive Developmental Disorder (a type of autism), said he spent the next three years “doing basically nothing,” while subsisting on his disability stipend.

“I had no motivation. I felt stuck. I didn’t know if I could handle being in the outside world,” Schreiber said in the office he shares with several of the program’s employees.

Schreiber said his mother finally convinced him to go to an interview at SHEKEL, where he learned that he was eligible to live in an apartment with other young men on the spectrum, on one condition: that he participate in workplace training.

He jumped at the opportunity and is now living in a shared apartment in Jerusalem.

“I live with three other people, and we’ve become friends,” said Schreiber. “My job is fantastic. I used to be dependent on my grandparents, and now I can afford to buy my own things. I have savings. I’m planning a vacation. I’ve gained maturity, and I’m happy all the time.”

### Inclusion in the IDF

People on the autism spectrum are also among the 800 or so people with disabilities or significant medical conditions who are accepted into the IDF every year. Technically exempt from serving, those with medical challenges may volunteer.

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, president of RespectAbility, a nonprofit organization in the United States that fights stigmas and advances opportunities for people with



Photo by Michele Chabin

Harutzim, a restaurant created by Shekel, an organization that facilitates independence in people with disabilities, shows that these workers are capable.

disabilities, commented about the IDF: “To my knowledge Israel is the only country that intentionally includes people born with disabilities in its military. While some countries will retain veterans who acquire disabilities as a result of their war injuries, Israel is inclusive from the get-go. Israel is way ahead of the curve in that it recruits, trains, includes and benefits from the talents of soldiers with disabilities. This is great for their military and also helps increase inclusion in society overall, as the IDF is a big melting pot for Israeli society overall.”

These volunteers in the IDF, some of them deaf, others with limited mobility or diabetes or other conditions, serve in variety of fields, including intelligence, arms development, technology-based professions, human resources management and training, as well as in classified positions in elite units.

“We work with several nonprofit organizations in order to increase accessibility at our bases,” an IDF spokesperson said. “For instance, in order to aid those with sight impairment, we bring the soldiers to their assigned base several times before enlistment to become familiar with the location

and its available routes. In addition, we adjust professional courses and tailor training to meet the soldiers’ needs.”

The spokesman said the IDF makes these accommodations because the soldiers contribute so much to the IDF.

“These soldiers are extremely motivated and driven. They come with a sense of duty and seriousness, especially given the fact that they could be exempt from service. They choose to take part of the recruitment process and are thus highly ambitious.”

Not that the IDF makes it easy. Although it checks the medical suitability of all prospective soldiers, it scrutinizes recruits with medical conditions or disabilities more closely.

Being accepted “was a long process, more than a year,” Moalemi, the supply soldier, said. “I had to hand in my paperwork — my doctors’ reports of what I can and can’t do — three or four times.”

Still Moalemi, says her IDF service was worth the wait. “Since I was very young I’ve always wanted to do everything everyone else can do. And that includes serving in the IDF.” 📍



## From the President

# B'nai B'rith: 150 Years of Providing Disaster Relief

By Gary P. Saltzman

President, B'nai B'rith International

At some point in time after a tornado, an earthquake, a tsunami or a hurricane devastates an area, people outside the impacted region move on to focus on other things. The media lose interest. And the rest of us — without the constant barrage of videos, photos and social media posts showing us the level of the ongoing trauma — tend to forget as well.

At B'nai B'rith, we don't forget. We stay to help after first responders have moved on to the next disaster. Disaster relief is a mainstay of our global efforts. In the 1860s, we took our first steps in establishing what is now more than 150 years of disaster aid.

Of course, this fall was busy on the weather front this year. We all have images from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, and their aftermath, in our mind's eye. Those images are hard to shake. Talking to people who lost family, homes, schools

and/or houses of worship invigorates our attention to this area of our work.

With weather scientists noting we are likely now in a period of increased weather extremes, the need for assistance will only grow. And our commitment to helping will remain steadfast.

B'nai B'rith major relief efforts focus on long-term rebuilding, by providing funds as well as people power.

Joining with the Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) fraternity for more than a decade, we have provided key assistance after disasters big and small. Not all natural disasters make the national news. But you can be sure that for a community hit by a tornado or a flood, the level and nature of the impact is all consuming.

The variety of our aid is vast. The level of devastation we assist with is wide.

We joined with AEPi to provide mus-

cle-power to help clean out and rebuild a park after Hurricane Katrina. This boots-on-the-ground work was in addition to the \$1.1 million we raised to assist New Orleans and the Gulf Coast after the twin monumental storms, Katrina and Rita, powered through the region.

We sponsored a team from AEPi that visited an Oklahoma community wracked by tornadoes in 2013. There the team helped tear down a severely storm-damaged barn, preserving the wood for the farmer, along with providing other labor. This show of force reduced what could have been a week of labor had only a few hands been involved to just a day to get the job done.

In fact, disaster relief is a big point of agreement with AEPi, which chose our organization to receive a \$100,000 grant over five years to continue our disaster relief work.



## From the President

# B'nai B'rith: 150 Years of Providing Disaster Relief



Our relief work is global. We are a founding partner of IsraAID, the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid, and we have funded projects and supplied people-power for aid programs around the world. And for nearly 16 years, we have partnered with the Brother's Brother Foundation, to bring tens of millions of dollars worth of medicines and supplies to Latin America. Our Young Leadership Network has been particularly involved in our disaster assistance programming. From meet-and-greet fundraisers to aiding a community, to hands-on help, our dedicated young leaders know the value of Tikkun Olam — to repair the world. After Hurricane Sandy in New York, for instance, they donned goggles and gloves and hammered, swept, pulled up rotting floor boards and hauled materials to help a community get back on its feet.

Another aspect of our disaster relief efforts is to use contacts we have or we work with in impacted areas to assess needs and create a long-term rebuilding plan. Unmet needs are our specialty.

Between 2000 and 2010, the B'nai B'rith

Disaster Relief Fund responded to several major disasters by raising and distributing \$2.3 million for emergency relief and rebuilding efforts.

We integrate our disaster relief efforts into other aspects of our global assistance work. We organized teams to create and package disaster readiness kits. We distribute these to B'nai B'rith senior housing communities in places such as south Florida, so residents there would have ready access to flashlights, pill kits and water when a disaster strikes.


As we work with local assistance groups, we determine the best use of our resources. In Louisiana last year, it was supplying books and school supplies to children who lost those tools in a flood. Some of our top leaders pitched in, gloves and masks on, to muck out flooded houses to prepare them for rebuilding.

Also last year, we chose to underwrite a disaster relief supply vehicle. Thanks to our gift, the utility truck will be outfitted with tools, supplies and equipment and it will be ready, through NECHAMA Jewish Response to Disaster (our partner on the ground), to move into a disaster area quickly.

Of course, natural disasters know no geographic boundaries. Our assistance spans the globe. In 2004, we raised \$850,000 to help areas affected by the South East Asia Tsunami. In 2010, we raised \$250,000 to help after a massive earthquake decimated Haiti. Some of those funds were used to help create a local farming community for residents to have a reliable food supply. In 2010, after the Japan earthquake and tsunami, we provided trauma counseling to people in the regions that were most devastated by the catastrophe.

Natural disasters are truly the ultimate equalizer. They don't care where you live, if you are rich or poor, what your religion is. They just force people into extreme circumstances.

Our more than 150 years of helping around the world is a point of pride around here.

Join our efforts. To learn more about B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief and to donate to our ongoing funds, visit: <http://www.bnaibrith.org/disaster-relief.html> and <http://www.bnaibrith.org/disaster-relief-newsletter/2017-disaster-relief-report> 



## From the EVP

# A World View Shaped from a Small-Town Jewish Perspective

By *Daniel S. Mariaschin*

*Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, B'nai B'rith International*

In 1955, just before I entered the first grade, we moved from Englewood, New Jersey, to Swanzey, New Hampshire.

To go from the center of the Jewish universe—the New York metropolitan area—to a region with some 25 Jewish families, represented a major transition.

In New Jersey, we had Jewish neighbors on our block; in New Hampshire, there were but four Jewish families in our semi-rural town of about 3,000 people, just outside the small city of Keene. Kosher food? Readily accessible before we moved; but when we were in New England, my uncle in Boston sent a box of meat once a month on the bus from Boston, 85 miles away. Organized Jewish life? In New Jersey, the Jewish Community Center was a 15-minute walk from our house; in Keene, the small synagogue, housed in a grand, former house on a tree-lined street, was the center of activity for everything Jewish.

So why the move? My parents had an opportunity to purchase a women's clothing store and a chance to run their own business. My mother, an immigrant from Lithuania in the early years of the last century, was raised in Maine, so the return to New England was not so difficult. My father, who emigrated from Russia, was raised in Brooklyn and always loved to vacation in Maine, with its rocky coastline and fresh air. And we had relatives in Boston, close enough to reach if need be.

To call our Jewish community a minority, would be an understatement. There were other small ethnic communities in our area, but they were all bound, in one way or



Photo from the synagogue's website, [www.keenesynagogue.org](http://www.keenesynagogue.org)

The first permanent home of Congregation Ahavas Achim Synagogue in Keene, N.H.

another, religiously with the rest of the population. I was, for a time, the only Jewish student in my school, later to be joined by several others a bit younger than me.

School would no sooner open in September than I would be out for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Christmas/Chanukah season always presented the same dilemma: how to explain to my friends that I didn't receive gifts under a decorated tree but around a menorah, which we lit for eight nights. In the third grade, my teacher asked me to present the story of the Maccabees to our class, which I did, notwithstanding my uneasiness at being front and center different than all my classmates.

Not too far removed from the Holocaust,



Photo from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

The Mariaschin's store was located at street level on the historic "Colony's Block" in Keene, N.H.

I can recall telling my first-grade teacher that relatives of mine were killed by the Nazis. It was a revelation I was to make at various points during my schooling over the years.

As I look back, I realize that you can make a Jewish life wherever you are, and it need not be in the midst of a large urban environment. In our house, our table talk frequently revolved around Jewish subjects. My father would regale me with stories from his upbringing in the shtetl; my mother would do the same about her childhood in Bangor, Maine, where her father was president of the synagogue. Israel was always at the center of our conversations, made all the more relevant because of our relatives who lived there.

## From the EVP

# A World View Shaped from a Small-Town Jewish Perspective

During most of our years in Keene, we had a rabbi, and there was a small Hebrew school, and my bar mitzvah took place in that tiny synagogue.

My parents had to keep the store open on Friday nights, the biggest shopping day. But as soon as they came home, we lit candles and recited Kiddush. The store was closed on the high holidays, and my father made sure to keep me close by in our small sanctuary, lest I wander out to play ball on the synagogue's front lawn.

My classmates and their parents and many of my teachers were open-minded, welcoming and supportive to the only Jewish kid in their midst. Those classmates, to this day, are still my closest friends. At one point, when our old synagogue was sold, my father taught Hebrew School classes in the Unitarian Church. And that year, we held High Holiday services (crosses covered) at the Salvation Army building.

We did encounter some anti-Semitism; I'd hear taunts sometimes in the hallways or on the playground, and my parents might hear an occasional comment in the store. As I look back, I think much of it came from stereotypes passed down over generations and from the fact that, for many people, our family or the few others in town were the first Jews they had ever actually encountered.

My grade school principal occasionally stopped for a cup of coffee at a drug store fountain near our shop (owned, by the



Photo from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository. Creator: Granite State Studio, Keene NH

Main Street, West Side, Keene, N.H. in the 1950s.

only Jewish pharmacist in town) where my parents also went for an afternoon coffee. Upon hearing from my mother about one such playground incident, he assured her he wouldn't tolerate it. And he didn't.

I like to think of my family's story as unique, but as I look around, it was repeated in many corners of the United States. A look at a listing of B'nai B'rith lodges in the 1950s shows Jews in places like Gonzalez, Texas, Fremont, Neb., and Corry, Pa. Jewish life in small-town America centered around the synagogue and the dinner table (and, if the community was bigger than ours, perhaps a B'nai B'rith lodge) but

those two anchors were often more than enough to sustain one's identity in the midst of a much broader world.

Demographic patterns have brought many Jewish newcomers to our town in the decades since we left, attracted by the environment and the quality of life. Our synagogue now has over 100 members, four times what it was in 1955.

Like thousands of other Jews, I left the small town for opportunities and a career elsewhere. Notwithstanding everything since, those formative Jewish years gave me a perspective on the world that informs me to this day. 🌍

# Jerry Markbreit: A Football Ref for All Seasons

By Hillel Kuttler

The remark from New York Giants head coach Bill Parcells startled NFL referee Jerry Markbreit, for its content, and its speaker.

“Your crew has worked an outstanding game today,” Parcells told Markbreit, along the sidelines at San Francisco’s Candlestick Park on the afternoon of Jan. 20, 1991. The contest was heading toward a dramatic climax. Trailing the host 49ers by one point in a National Football Conference championship game, the Giants had recovered a fumble and driven downfield. With four seconds left, they called a time-out to set up a field goal attempt. That’s when the two men spoke.

Later, watching a replay, Markbreit noticed that he leapt while signaling Matt Bahr’s successful kick to win the game, 15-13.

To Markbreit, the excitement came from refereeing what he considers “the best game I was ever in.” The approving comment by Parcells, hardly a warm-and-fuzzy character, was an added bonus.

“It was very rewarding for me for a coach to say that,” Markbreit, 82, says from his home in the Chicago suburb of Skokie.

Markbreit witnessed plenty of great competition in the 461 National Football League games he officiated from 1976 to 1999, including four Super Bowls (a record for a referee), eight conference championships and 12 other playoff games. Before that, he worked a decade for the Big Ten, a premier collegiate division, a stretch that included the 1972 Rose Bowl.

Says Barry Mano, president of the National Association of Sports Officials, who’s known Markbreit for over 50 years:



Jerry Markbreit at his August 2000 induction to the B'nai B'rith Sports Hall of Fame.  
Source: November/December 2000 issue of the B'nai B'rith Jewish Monthly magazine.

## Jerry Markbreit: A Football Ref for All Seasons

“He’s fair-minded, tough and never took any crap on the field.”

Who knows? Someday, Markbreit could be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. And B'nai B'rith will have helped deliver him there.

### Officiating for B'nai B'rith

As a University of Illinois student, Markbreit began his officiating career by handling intramural football games. His next paid gig – \$3 a game – was for a B'nai B'rith youth touch-football league in Chicago's Grant Park on Sunday mornings in the late 1950s. That led to Markbreit's officiating high school and small-college football games before hitting the big time.

“It was wonderful,” Markbreit says of the B'nai B'rith league. “I bump into some of the guys now, and they're old like I am!”

From 2004 to 2014, he served as president of the B'nai B'rith Sports Lodge, raising money for college scholarships for Jewish male and female athletes. Phil Zagon, the Chicago lodge's vice president, remembers Markbreit running meetings efficiently, often pressing long-winded participants to get to the point.

“He kept a tight rein on his board so they did what they were supposed to do,” Zagon says.

Someone who earned a lodge-provided scholarship, Brent Novoselsky, went on to play tight end in the NFL. Novoselsky, now the lodge's treasurer and chair of its scholarship committee, says he's adapted Markbreit's approach to managing meetings. Coincidentally, Markbreit's wife of 61 years, Bobbie, was Novoselsky's high school English teacher.

Each man enjoys relating the rare instance of a Jewish referee working an NFL game involving a Jewish player.

Novoselsky's Minnesota Vikings were playing in Los Angeles in 1992. Markbreit threw a flag to signal a penalty against a Vikings lineman for an illegal block. The

pile of players on the ground cleared to reveal the culprit, Novoselsky, who contested the call.

Markbreit responded, “Brent, I didn't know it was you!” They smiled.

For NFL referees, lighthearted moments are rare because of their heavy responsibilities. Each referee, distinguished by a white cap, oversees six other officials at every game, announces penalties and video-review decisions and cultivates teamwork within his crew.

He, like the other officials, must make tough calls in the heat of competition, in real time, without watching the slow-motion replays that television viewers enjoy. Most importantly, that means determining whether a runner crossed the goal line for a touchdown, a receiver legally caught a pass or a quarterback's fumble was really an incompletion.

On the field, Markbreit says, his brain could slow down the lightning-quick action and pinpoint key components of a single play – a receiver's feet landing in-bounds, hands securing the ball, the ball crossing the goal line – simultaneously; he'd be impressed that subsequently watching film clips confirmed he'd nearly always decided correctly.

Some missed calls remain embedded in Markbreit's memory, even framing his career. In his first NFL game, as a line judge in Seattle, he gave the perfect signal for the two-minute warning – but in the first quarter, when no such timeout occurs. On the last play of his last game, he missed a holding call.

### Strive for Excellence, Commit an Occasional Doozy

“My philosophy of life is: You strive for excellence. You want perfection, but there is no perfection. The best officials are the ones who make the fewest mistakes,” he says.

One mistake was a doozy, before tens of millions of TV viewers. At midfield at the

start of Super Bowl XVII in 1983, Markbreit erred on the coin toss, incorrectly calling “heads,” but quickly corrected the gaffe after closer examination of the ceremonial coin. Markbreit is perhaps best known for a call he made late in a 1978 contest that gave the Oakland Raiders a game-winning touchdown after quarterback Ken Stabler fumbled the ball and a teammate, Dave Casper, kicked it into the end zone and recovered it. The rule would later be changed to prevent such recoveries.

Two calls that Markbreit takes most pride in occurred on the same play—and were not covered by the rules; rather, he decided on the spot. In a late 1986 game in Chicago, he ejected Green Bay Packers lineman Charles Martin for picking up Bears quarterback Jim McMahon and slamming him to the turf head-first—an act that Markbreit thought had killed McMahon. It was the first NFL ejection not given for fighting. Markbreit also negated a colleague's flagging of a Bears player for retaliating for Martin's hit. He did so, he later explained, because ruling otherwise would have endangered his crew.

Markbreit has long had a habit of reading the NFL rulebook every day of the year to stay sharp and anticipate any situation. In Soldier Field that day, Markbreit explains, he relied instead on common sense. He expresses gratification that the league supported him on those rulings.

Markbreit was nearly 52 years old at the time – precisely in the 50-65 range he considers sports officials around the world to be in their prime.

“I was at my very best between those years. In real life, a 50-year-old to some people sounds old; in the officiating world, we're young. You mature, you can handle problems, you can figure out what's wrong,” he explains.

“Officiating is the same thing. You store up all of these wonderful things that you need to use as an official, and, miraculously,



## Jerry Markbreit: A Football Ref for All Seasons



See Jerry Markbreit in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ok60L3RBCs0>

they're in your head – and when something happens on the field, the answer, the solution, comes out.”

For Markbreit, confidence built over time. He strove in each position to attain the next rung on the officiating ladder.

“I didn't know if I was good enough to get in the pros,” he says – and even after applying to officiate in the NFL and being hired, he was “scared to death” of failing.

“Risk in your life is really the only way you can achieve anything,” Markbreit says. “It's to take a chance, move to the next level, not really knowing how well you'll do but having the guts to do it anyway. No risk, no gain.”

Since leaving the field, Markbreit sold advertising for *Where* magazine and was trade and barter manager for 3M. Markbreit

has applied his game-day wisdom as an NFL “trainer” of officials. Whenever the Bears play at home during the exhibition season and regular season, he's at a game to evaluate that day's referee, write a report with observations and suggestions and share it with that person confidentially; when the Bears play out of town, he watches on television and does the same. (He also consults on referees for the Big Ten each Saturday.) “The best part of my life has been the refereeing,” Markbreit states.

That's a big change from his refereeing career. The 1986 game was Markbreit's only one in Chicago. The NFL's policy is not to assign games involving officials' hometown teams because, as Markbreit notes, fans “know where you live.”

Alberto Riveron, the NFL's senior vice

president of officiating, says Markbreit remains “an invaluable resource for the league” as “a very good teacher, consultant and motivator.”

“Everyone on staff, starting with myself, has the utmost respect for him,” Riveron, a former NFL referee, continues. “I would not be sitting in this chair without Jerry. He helped me when I was on the college level: with mechanics, rules, communicating with people, the way you run meetings.”

The two, Riveron says, are “like family,” with a friendship extending “way beyond the professional side.”

Their friendship deepened in 2016, when Riveron's son Tyler, 24, passed away. In 2005, Markbreit and Bobbie lost their younger daughter Betsy, 45, to breast cancer.

“He knew how I felt, because that's how he felt. It brought us closer together,” Markbreit says. “When you go through the same sad, horrible thing, you really do know how they feel.”

Markbreit remains close with several other NFL-referees colleagues, some of whom he speaks with daily. Those friendships included inter-religious discussions on issues such as their respective holidays. In Phoenix once, Markbreit's head linesman, Terry Gierke, a Catholic, removed his cap for the crew's pre-game prayer before they headed onto the field. It was just before Yom Kippur.

Atop Gierke's head was a kippah.

Says Markbreit: “It was wonderful. He said, ‘I know it's your holiday coming, and I wanted to honor you by wearing this yarmulke.’”

## Monica's Story

By Eugene L. Meyer



Photo by Eugene L. Meyer

Monica Ullman Friedman, in Silver Spring, Md., 2017.

May 10, 1940 is a date “graven in my memory forever,” 90-year-old Monica Ullman Friedman says. That was the day the Germans bombed the airport in the port city of Antwerp, Belgium, where she lived with her family. Six weeks later, on June 21, she would be evacuated in a small fishing boat from the French coastal town of Saint-Malo. It was the day before France officially surrendered to Germany, leaving Jewish refugees to uncertain fates, most likely to perish.

This wasn't Dunkirk, further up the coast, where 338,000 mostly British soldiers were rescued by an armada of small private vessels from across the English Channel. But it was close enough for Friedman to say of the

current Oscar-contending movie “Dunkirk” that “I don't have to see it. I was there.” Her family's rescue was part of Churchill's post-Dunkirk maritime mission known as Operation Aerial, to save 150,000 more soldiers and civilians from capture or death.

From their large rented house at 40 Rue du Vélodrome in Berchem, an Antwerp district, they could hear the bombs falling on the airfield of Belgium's second-largest city, also a center for the diamond trade, in which her father Otto worked. Monica was the third of six children in an Orthodox Jewish family. In their religiously mixed neighborhood, they had a Hebrew tutor and attended public schools, opting for the French- over the Flemish-speaking wing. But the Ullman kids missed music

classes on Saturdays because they observed Shabbat.

It was a Friday when the aerial attack began. “We heard a lot of noise. We thought it was exciting,” Monica says. But her father knew better. He insisted the family leave at once, overruling his English-born wife, Irene, who wanted to stay for Shabbat. After digging a hole in the garden to hide some silver items, they left — along with two grandparents, a nanny, a very pregnant aunt and cousins, 26 in all. By bicycle and taxi, they went to the seaside town of La Panne, near the French border. There they had Shabbat, eating whatever little dairy food they could find. Early Sunday morning, they walked to the border.

The French were allowing only Belgian citizens to cross. Their entourage included a Polish nanny. Hastily, Otto handed over a large stack of ID cards, which the soldiers didn't bother to check, and they were all allowed through. On the road inside France, they joined other refugees on foot and had to lie down when German planes seeking to clear the route began strafing. Somehow, they got to Paris, where Otto had a cousin and where Monica's aunt went to a hospital to give birth to a girl she named Francine, in honor of the country.

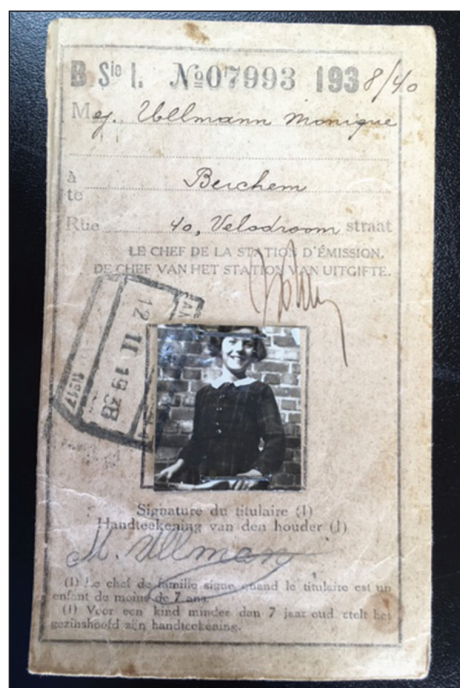
The Paris cousin had a Jewish friend who had abandoned his large summer home at Saint-Lunaire on the Brittany coast to flee to England. The house had large grounds, a big garden and barns that were formerly horse stables. Otto's German-speaking Polish-born mother had to stay at an inland hotel “because the French were afraid she would signal the German U-boats with a flashlight.”

## Monica's Story

"Through most of this, I must say I had a very good time. Our parents must've been worried sick, but they managed not to show it that month," Monica says. "Every night on the radio news, we heard, 'Our French troops are retreating in good order.'"

Thinking they would be there for a while, her parents sent her sister to a local Catholic school. "She came home reciting all kinds of Catholic prayers." For the rest, the older children tutored the younger ones. After a month, as the Germans were approaching, it was time to go. The nearest port town was Saint-Malo, the setting for the recent best-selling novel, "All the Light We Cannot See." Her father had to rush to fetch his mother and another daughter, who, Monica says, was "off swimming and flirting. My father was livid, because every moment counted."

At first, British officials would allow only Irene and the children on the boat, but Otto said, "As a British gentleman, would you allow your wife to go alone?" which won the day. They boarded a small English fishing boat in the afternoon. The Channel waters were calm but mined, and they saw a sunken fishing boat standing upright in the shallow water. They shared the boat with British soldiers, who gave them oranges and cigarettes, "though we were kids, which we later smoked in secret in England." The captain gave over his cabin to her grandmothers.



Monica's identity card, 1938-1940

After 10 hours, they landed in Weymouth, England. With her British mother and aunt, they went to stay with relatives in London. Her father had a cousin in Great Neck, N.Y. who sent the requisite affidavits for them to immigrate. After six weeks, they boarded a ship for North America. They landed in Quebec City, and from there took a train to New York City, where her father's brother met them and helped them find an apartment in Riverdale, in the Bronx.

Almost immediately, her father went to work in Manhattan's diamond district, resuming his career as a broker and meeting his brother for lunch every day at the famed Diamond Club. Monica and her siblings, who spoke English, resumed their education in September at P.S. 7. She went on to graduate from Brooklyn College as a sociology major and to earn a master's degree in social work from Hunter College. She met her husband, Ezra, a Justice Department attorney for 30 years, when they were college students with summer jobs at a Catskill hotel. They married in 1950 in Israel, where one sister still lives, and have a son and a daughter.

Years later, Monica and Ezra went to see the house where she'd lived in Berchem. It had been subdivided into apartments. After they'd moved to Maryland, buying their Silver Spring home in 1973, she ran into a Jewish school friend from Belgium who had also escaped, but to Cuba, and then immigrated to the United States. "She told me about all my classmates who were rounded up and perished," Monica says. "The Germans wanted to use them as prostitutes for the troops and they committed suicide."

Monica made a career for herself as a clinical social worker and family therapist, and she also ran a nonprofit agency for home health aides. "My sister thought God helped us escape. I thought it was the family, so I became a family therapist," she says. 🌟

# Sculptures Lost and Found: A Jewish-German Legacy

By Cheryl Kempler

Jewish culture has left its mark on every nation where Jews have settled. Over time, Jewish perception, experiences and thought fuses with, and alters, the creative impulse of the host country; resulting in something entirely original. Perhaps, it is impossible to separate one from the other. Yet, the act of severing all traces of Jewish sensibility and aesthetics from German society, its heritage and traditions, became the Nazis' obsession.

Their names inscribed on war memorials, and their features, portrayed on statues erected in their honor, as well as their signatures, engraved into the surface of sculptures they created, Jews had influenced both the design, and the inherent message of civic art, conveyed to thousands who looked at them, however briefly, on a daily basis.

Following Hitler's election as Chancellor of the Reich in January 1933, the removal of these most visible works of art, most considered important sculptural landmarks in large cities, took place within a few weeks. Imbued with a Jewish sensibility, these works had the power to thwart and corrupt what Germany's new leaders considered its authentic values. After the 1935 passage of the Nuremberg laws, the names of Jewish soldiers were omitted from World War I memorials.

A large granite war memorial by the Jewish sculptor Benno Elkan and completed in 1920, was situated in Frankfurt's busiest area, near the transit center. Drawing on a variety of Western and non-Western stylistic sources, the work was made up of a single figure, that of a weeping woman crouching, her face and body contorted in anguish and grief. Here, the rhetoric of glory and heroism is meaningless: The aftermath of war leaves only an



All photos from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.

Relocated close to its original site in downtown Frankfurt, Den Opfern endures as a powerful anti-war statement.

inconsolable mother in its wake. Integral to both the statue's visual impact and meaning is the dedication Den Opfern (To the Victims), inscribed directly beneath her body on the pedestal. Many, if not all, who passed by the memorial had lost loved ones and would have identified with its message.

Den Opfern was removed from the site, probably in March or April, 1933, as private residences in Frankfurt were searched for more Elkan pieces. At the Schillerplatz in Mainz, vandals defaced Elkan's Die Freiheit (Freedom), a large stone sculpture of a semi-nude female. This work, as well as another version of Den Opfern in Völklingen, were probably taken away during this time, and later destroyed. Settling in England, the artist, who died in London in 1960, is today best known for his large Knesset Menorah,

on display in front of the Knesset gates.

Although a number of statues honoring the memory of the 19th century poet Heinrich Heine were planned decades before the Nazis came to power, they were opposed by German hate groups. Although Heine converted to Christianity in his youth but later returned to Judaism and treated its traditions as themes in his works. Heine's lyrical celebration of nature and romantic love inspired some of the country's greatest music and art. Two of these commissions were awarded to Georg Kolbe, later admired by the Nazis, whose work reflected his interest in the world of ballet and athletics. Evoking the romantic spirit of Heine's poems, Kolbe's statue of a dancing couple was a familiar sight in Frankfurt's Friedberger neighborhood for 20 years. In April 1933 rioting Hitler Youth members pried the figures from their mount with chisels and pushed them off. The sculptor's second Heine commission was never realized.

Distinguished by its elaborate architectural setting, Hugo Lederer's 1936 Heine monument became one of the focal points in Hamburg's city park. Its disappearance is dated to 1933, but playwright Samuel Beckett's travel diary records a later sighting. Although the sculptor's style harkens back to that of German medieval sculpture, well within the aesthetic cannon of the Third Reich, Lederer's career suffered after he was suspected of having "Jewish blood."

For centuries, Leipzig, located in Eastern Germany, had been a bastion of cultural life. Constantly apprised of the situation in Germany, B'nai B'rith National Jewish Monthly subscribers would read an editorial that equated the destruction of the city's

## Sculptures Lost and Found: A Jewish-German Legacy



All photos from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.

A 19th century photo of Leipzig's Memorial to Felix Mendelssohn, a victim of the Nazi's anti-Semitic wrath.

monument to the once beloved 19th century composer Felix Mendelssohn with the end of civilization. Two musical geniuses, J.S. Bach and Mendelssohn, were identified with the history of the City of Music, where tributes to them were featured prominently. Given pride of place at the plaza at the Gewandhaus, the theater where Mendelssohn had conducted, the composer's statue had been envisioned as a shrine where the composer could be worshipped by his devotees.

Elevated on a heavenly perch, Mendelssohn's full-length bronze effigy stood on a high pedestal, where figures of the muse of music and her angels reverently guarded the base. By the 1930s, the memorial had become a source of pride to the city's prosperous Jewish community. After 1933, local Nazis campaigned for the changing of streets with Jewish names and battled the mayor, who opposed their demand for the statue's removal. He was absent from the city on Nov. 9, 1936, when London Philharmonic members and their venerable conductor,



All photos from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.

A scrim of trees in Frankfurt's Taunusanlage becomes the perfect backdrop for Kolbe's Heine Memorial as it is seen today.

Thomas Beecham, laid a wreath at the statue to protest the Nazis' prohibition of the playing of Mendelssohn's music during their concert tour.

The next day, passers-by saw only an empty pedestal, devoid of the composer's image, which had been taken during the night. A hastily issued statement to the press announced the figure's demolition "in accord with the Aryan cultural ideal." Later that month, another memorial to Mendelssohn was removed in Dusseldorf.

All of the sculptures that disappeared were probably melted down for armaments in 1940.

People killed in a war can never return, but some sculptures are actually brought back to enjoy a second life. Sheltered in the underground passages of the Frankfurt tram depot, even the art hated by the Nazis was protected from the enemy bombs. Den Opfern was saved and displayed in close proximity to its original site, where it can be seen today. Rededicated in 1946, the memorial was

praised by Frankfurt's mayor, a U.S. military appointee, as a timely and relevant statement. From his point of view, all the German dead had been war victims, whether killed by the Allies or murdered in concentration camps.

Germany again embraced Heine's legacy, reclaiming him as a native son. After the damage inflicted by the Hitler Youth was repaired, Kolbe's statue was exhibited as *Frühlingslied* (Spring Song) in the Frankfurt Museum sculpture garden during the 1930s. Like *Den Opfern*, the statue was sent to an underground location in the train station, during the war. Emerging from its hiding place after the war, it was re-installed in the city to mark the poet's 150th birthday in 1947. Kolbe replaced the original portrait relief, which had been detached from the pedestal in the in the process of expunging the statue's Jewish references. Today, it is beautifully set in the city's Gallus Park.

Tributes to Heine by modern sculptors are among the familiar sights in Berlin, Dusseldorf and Hamburg. A controversial statue of Heine executed in 1983 by Hitler's favorite sculptor, Arno Breker, finally found a home outside the city hall at Norderney, an island in the North Sea where the writer spent time.

In Leipzig, a small limestone bust substituted for the Mendelssohn monument at its original site. In 2000, plans were finally launched by Maestro Kurt Masur and others for the statue's reconstruction, which was completed in 2008. Emphasizing the connection between Mendelssohn and Bach, whose works he championed and performed, it has been placed near St. Thomas, the church where the Baroque master worked as music director and where he is buried. The Gewandhaus' motto, "Edles nur künde die Sprache der Töne" (May the language of music only tell of noble things) is carved into its pedestal. Inside St. Thomas, a stained glass window honors Mendelssohn's memory.

The 2016 replacement of the Dusseldorf Mendelssohn statue was funded by donations from the city's residents.

## Sculptures Lost and Found: A Jewish-German Legacy

### Portrait Bust in the Einstein Tower

Even compared to cutting edge, visionary structures by contemporary architects like Frank Gehry and Zaha Hadid, the century-old Einstein Tower in Potsdam near Berlin, can still amaze. It is one of the earliest examples of the work of Erich Mendelsohn, and one of only a few extant Expressionist structures, which are easily identified by their unique, hallucinatory qualities.

When Mendelsohn asked the great scientist to comment on the headquarters of the new Einstein Institute, equipped as a solar observatory and as a center for the study of relativity, he provided the perfect, if non-committal, one-word description: “organic.”

The Nazis' hatred of the Jewish physicist, his fame and reputation in the world, was magnified by his outspoken criticism of their regime. In keeping with their agenda, in March 1933, an order was issued directing the name of the tower be changed to “The Institute for Solar Physics.” Deemed yet another product of the degenerate Jewish mind, the building was too necessary to be abandoned. His photos removed from the walls, Einstein became a persona non grata. It was believed that a portrait bust that decorated one of the observatory chambers had to be taken away, and later melted down.

After the war, the bust, which had been hidden by staff members, re-emerged from one of the laboratory storage bins. The bust is now displayed near the Tower's entrance, but a stone is placed at its former location, in remembrance of a time when it could not be seen. Today, part of the Leibniz Institute for the Study of Astrophysics, the Einstein Tower has not moved from its Potsdam campus, now named Albert Einstein Science Park.

After leaving Germany, Erich Mendelsohn lived and worked in Israel, England and the United States, where he died in 1953. Cleveland's well-known Park Synagogue is one of the innovative buildings that characterizes the architect's late style.



All photos from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.

Eric Mendelsohn's avant-garde Einstein Tower still houses an institution devoted to scientific discovery.

## B'nai B'rith at 175: Honorary Presidents Reflect on Our Stellar Legacy

When new B'nai B'rith International officers are elected, the Board of Governors may elect the outgoing president to serve as an honorary president. For the remainder of their lives, these leaders share their treasure trove of experience and expertise with the current leadership. As B'nai B'rith commemorates its 175th anniversary and celebrates its legacy of accomplishments, we asked the eight living honorary presidents to reflect on the most significant events during their presidential terms, to be published in chronological order. In this issue, we feature:

### Gerald Kraft

*B'nai B'rith President (1982-1986)*



Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta and President Gerald Kraft at a meeting of National Conference on Soviet Jewry. January, 1995.

I take pride in B'nai B'rith achievements on behalf of Soviet Jewry during the early-mid 1980s, including its organization and implementation of the history-making 1984 International Day of Concern and Solidarity for Soviet Jewry, when 110 worldwide communities participated. We were in the forefront of activities during the November 1985 Geneva summit, when hundreds of congregations conducted special services and observed a minute of silence. Later, England's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told me how impressed they were with our initiative.

Three of 24 state visits in which I participated stand out: meet-

ing German Chancellor Helmut Kohl after U.S. President Ronald Reagan's controversial 1985 visit to the Nazi officers' cemetery in Bitburg, Germany; a conference with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak focusing, not on Israel but on the military aid his country was receiving from the United States; and a South African trip in connection with American sanctions imposed during apartheid.

Perhaps the most emotional experience of my presidency occurred during a November 1984 Thanksgiving celebration in Ethiopia, when B'nai B'rith was involved with the first airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Assisted by the Jewish Agency, France's President Jacques Mitterrand, U.S. Vice President George H.W. Bush and Reagan, this monumental undertaking continued as we worked with then Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the Chief Rabbis to settle the refugees in their new country.

### Seymour D. Reich

*B'nai B'rith President (1986-1990)*



Prime Minister's Conference on Jewish Solidarity with Israel. Closing ceremony at Western Wall. March 22, 1989. Right to Left: Finance Minister Shimon Peres, President of B'nai B'rith Seymour Reich, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and the program narrator.

It was an honor for me to lead our organization as B'nai B'rith rallied the world community to acknowledge the plight of Russian Jews, suffering as prisoners in their own country, and enduring

## B'nai B'rith at 175: Honorary Presidents Reflect on Our Stellar Legacy

harsh punishments for practicing their faith.

In 1986, I boarded a small chartered plane as part of a consortium of Jewish leaders bound for the historic Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Reykjavik, Iceland. There we made our voices heard during a press conference covered internationally. Human rights issues were incorporated into the summit discussions. We traveled back to the States on the same day, Oct. 10. This was one of my proudest memories.

I had another marathon trip in November 1988. I was to participate in the dedication of a footbridge constructed by B'nai B'rith in Jerusalem. But U.S. President Ronald Reagan had requested my attendance at a special White House meeting focusing on Jewish concerns. I returned to the air at 1 a.m., and flew for 17 hours to keep the appointment. While I was away from Israel, my wife Helyn became my able representative at the festivities, where, along with B'nai B'rith leaders and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, she left her handprints in the bridge's wet cement for posterity.

### Kent E. Schiner

*B'nai B'rith President (1990-1994)*



B'nai B'rith President Kent E. Schiner (left) with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

B'nai B'rith's reputation as a powerful voice of the Jewish people was called into action in 1990, shortly after I was elected, when Lebanon fired Scud missiles at Israel. While we were there, we had our first experience with gas masks and warning sirens. We were in three missile attacks, so we know the feeling of anxiousness and concern for the safety of its people.

During this trip, which was unprecedented in scope, Dan Mariaschin, then Director of Public and International Affairs, and I met with European heads of state, including German Chancellor

Helmut Kohl, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel, Polish President Lech Walesa, and, in Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

There were some special, gratifying moments. Walesa delivered an impromptu denunciation of anti-Semitism, vowing to eliminate it in Poland. At our suggestion, Chancellor Vranitzky sent Israel emergency aid, and Havel agreed to be honored at a Washington, D.C. dinner. I spoke at the opening of the Prague lodge, the first in Czechoslovakia in more than 50 years. Then, as now, B'nai B'rith continues to advocate for Israel globally with government officials and others.



President Bill Clinton participates in the Havdalah service with B'nai B'rith Hon. President Jack J. Spitzer (right) and B'nai B'rith President Kent E. Schiner (left).

In 1993, more than 1,000 guests attending our 150th anniversary Havdalah service at the Jefferson Memorial heard a superb cantor and choir, stirring words from "Exodus" author Leon Uris and — the evening's high point — President Bill Clinton's speech praising our humanitarian mission. Greats, including former Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Abba Eban and French leader and humanitarian Simone Veil, celebrated that milestone year with us.

I was honored to be a part of our organization's history. 🇮🇸



# B'NAI B'RITH TODAY

## Celebrating Young Jewish Artists Down Under

*By Felice Caspar*

The B'nai B'rith Shalom Menorah Unit in the Melbourne, Australia suburb of Caulfield, has, for 22 years, organized an annual arts show and competition. It provides Jewish students with an extraordinary opportunity to showcase their talent and win prizes and scholarships. This year, students aged 11 to 18 submitted more than 200 paintings, sculptures, ceramics, mixed and digital media.

The 2017 exhibition was held in the Glen Eira Arts Complex in August. Leah Black, chair of the Shalom Menorah Unit Jewish Art Competition Committee, welcomed a large crowd to the opening and award ceremony. Three councillors from the city and representatives from other organizations were recognized and appreciation was extended to the sponsors, advertisers and art judges. A special expression of gratitude was



Oscar Casper won first prize for sculpture in the 16-18 age group.



Sculptor Sonia Payes presenting the Bencjan Rozencwajg Scholarship to Natasha Kane.



From left: Leah Black with Patron Lady Anna Cowen who has just presented the Morrie Gold Memorial prize to Shmuli Cohen.

## Celebrating Young Jewish Artists Down Under

given to the event's honorary patron, Lady Anna Cowen.

The program's featured speaker was Sonia Payes, an award-winning sculptor, photographer and new media artist whose works have been exhibited in Los Angeles, London, Shanghai, Auckland, Brisbane, Perth and in her hometown of Melbourne. The artist spoke of the value of encouraging young people to express their creativity. She presented the Bencjan Rozencwajg Memorial Scholarship for the work that showed the most potential to Natasha Kane, of the King David School.

Dr. Benny Monheit, president of B'nai B'rith Victoria and Leah Black presented prizes for painting/drawing, mixed media and sculpture in each of three age groupings. Lady Cowen presented the Morrie Gold Memorial prize to 13-year-old Shmuli Cohen, of Leibler Yavneh College.

This competition would not be possible without local support, involvement by respected experts in art and the gallery staff, and, above all, the hard work and organizational skills of volunteers in the B'nai B'rith Shalom Menorah Unit. The Unit developed the concept of the event,

thanks to the foresight and generosity of one devoted B'nai B'rith member who started it all. The exhibition catalogue includes this tribute:

"Morrie Gold was born in 1917 in Warsaw, Poland and immigrated to Australia in 1937. In the Second World War he joined the Australian Army and fought at El Alamein. Always a lover of the arts, his interest was furthered through his artistic wife Marie. As an art benefactor he contributed to the National Gallery of Victoria.

"His interest in fostering art amongst Jewish youth was prompted by watching his grandson's artistic abilities developing. He realized that to encourage the interest and confidence of children in art there must be interaction with the public.

"Having been a member of B'nai B'rith for some time, Morrie felt it was the right organization to fulfill his wish of running an Annual Jewish Youth Art Competition. And so this competition was born.

Morrie Gold died in 1993 and is survived by his wife Marie, two daughters and grandchildren."

His bequest to B'nai B'rith inspired this annual Jewish youth art competition. 🇺🇸



Art by Natasha Kane.



Raizel Gutnick won the prize for best work on a Jewish theme.



**B'NAI B'RITH  
INTERNATIONAL**



**B'nai B'rith Europe**

## 2017 B'nai B'rith International Leadership Forum / B'nai B'rith Europe Convention

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC • OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 1



# Jewish Communities and Western Democracies: What is the Future?

**Sunday, Oct. 29**



On Sunday evening, Oct. 29, participants from 20 countries began the leadership forum with a chance to meet each other and socialize and enjoy a scenic cruise on the Vltava River, Pictured above, welcoming everyone to Prague were: Daniel Citone, president, B'nai B'rith Europe (holding microphone), with Tomas Kraus, president, B'nai B'rith Renaissance Praha.

Also shown are Gary P. Saltzman, president, B'nai B'rith International and Daniel S. Mariaschin, CEO and executive vice president, who welcomed all and, with Citone, also offered remarks on the following morning at the Opening Session. Saltzman said "We hold our annual leadership forum every year to provide our members and supporters a chance to engage with business leaders and key government officials to express their concerns over issues such as anti-Semitism and incitement, and to learn about issues Israel and Jews around the world face."

**Monday, Oct. 30**



The menorah lighting ceremony included participants from around the world. B'nai B'rith International Senior Vice President Sheila Mostyn of Canada lights one of the seven candles.



Minister Daniel Herman, of the Ministry of Culture, welcomed leadership forum participants to the Czech Republic to the first session on Monday, Oct. 30.

Sessions took place at the Vienna Diplomat Hotel in Prague's Diplomatic District.



In his remarks, Daniel S. Mariaschin, CEO and executive vice president of B'nai B'rith International called for action during the 175th anniversary year, saying “Let us use our nearly 18 centuries of institutional commitment and action on behalf of the Jewish people and the State of Israel to lead the Jewish world in standing up for what is right, for us and for the broader Jewish community beyond, which we also serve. I look forward to working with each of you to build a stronger and ever-more-effective B'nai B'rith.”



In the keynote address by Věra Jourová, EU commissioner, Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Czech Republic said “These values include preventing and combating all forms of anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is not only a threat for European Jews, but also runs counter to the values Europe holds dear. The EU and the Jewish community are united in their openness for diversity. We both cherish our diversity.”



International President Gary P. Saltzman shared his vision for B'nai B'rith's future.



A panel discussion, “Developing B'nai B'rith Leadership – a Global Perspective” was moderated by Eric Book, chair of Leadership for B'nai B'rith International, seated at left. Diverse points of view were offered by six other B'nai B'rith leaders: (L-R) Rebecca Saltzman Barsheshet, chair, Marketing Committee; Eric Engelmayer, senior vice president for Europe; Jay Feldman, member, B'nai B'rith Executive Board of Directors and Managing Director, Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) Foundation; Roberto Krochik, president, B'nai B'rith Isaac Rabin Unit, Argentina; Eduard Redensky, chair, Young Leadership; and Rachel Silvestain, vice chair, Young Leadership.



The session, “B’nai B’rith International Cooperation in Israel,” featured two presenters: Haim V. Katz, chair, B’nai B’rith World Center in Jerusalem, and Abraham Huli, international vice president, B’nai B’rith Israel and member of the B’nai B’rith World Center Executive Board. The speakers described efforts to recognize Jewish rescuers during the Holocaust and other programs.

Later that evening, Huli offered another presentation before showing “Defiant Requiem,” a documentary film about the resilience and courage of the prisoners at the Terezin a concentration camp near Prague sometimes also known by its German name, Theresienstadt. Participants in Prague also had the opportunity to take a day trip to visit Terezin prior to the start of the forum.

The afternoon of Oct. 31 featured two panel discussions. The first, “Anti-Semitism in Europe: On the Rise?” had five panelists: Katharina von Schnurbein, coordinator on Combating Antisemitism, European Commission, from Germany; Gert Weisskirchen, chair, Central European Future Forum, from Germany; François Moysse, chairman, B’nai B’rith Luxembourg; Robin Sclafani, director, CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, USA/Belgium; Agnieszka Markiewicz, executive director, AJC Central Europe, of Poland; and Ilan Cohn, project manager, OSCE ODIHR, Israel. It was moderated by Pavel Fischer, director, STEM, Member, Program Council, Forum 2000 Foundation of the Czech Republic.

Von Schnurbein, pictured above, stressed the importance of the European Union’s Resolution on Anti-Semitism.



“Israel on the Global Stage” was the topic addressed at the forum on Monday afternoon. Pictured above (L-R) are panelists Daniel S. Mariaschin, CEO and executive vice president, B’nai B’rith International; Daniel Martin Meron, ambassador to the Czech Republic, Israel; Shlomo Avineri, professor of Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, member, Program Council, Forum 2000 Foundation, Israel; Daniel Schueftan, director of the National Security Studies Center at the University of Haifa; Israel/Germany. Jiří Schneider, executive director, Aspen Institute Central Europe, Czech Republic; and Tomáš Pojar, vice president for International Relations, CEVRO Institute, Czech Republic who served as the moderator.

Tuesday, Oct. 31



“Changing the Face of Europe: Terrorism, Populism, Radicalization” was the first of two panel discussions specifically addressing challenges in Europe. Panelist Daniel Schueftan, director of the National Security Studies Center at the University of Haifa, Israel, pictured above, said “We need to strengthen the middle of the political spectre. It is difficult but this is the way out” released on Twitter after the session. The panel also featured Zdeněk Kalvach, RFE/RL deputy director of Corporate Security, Founder, Soft Targets Protection Institute in the Czech Republic and Agnieszka Markiewicz, executive director, AJC Central Europe, of Poland. The moderator was Alexandr Vondra, director, Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations (PCTR), member, Board of Directors, Forum 2000 Foundation in the Czech Republic.

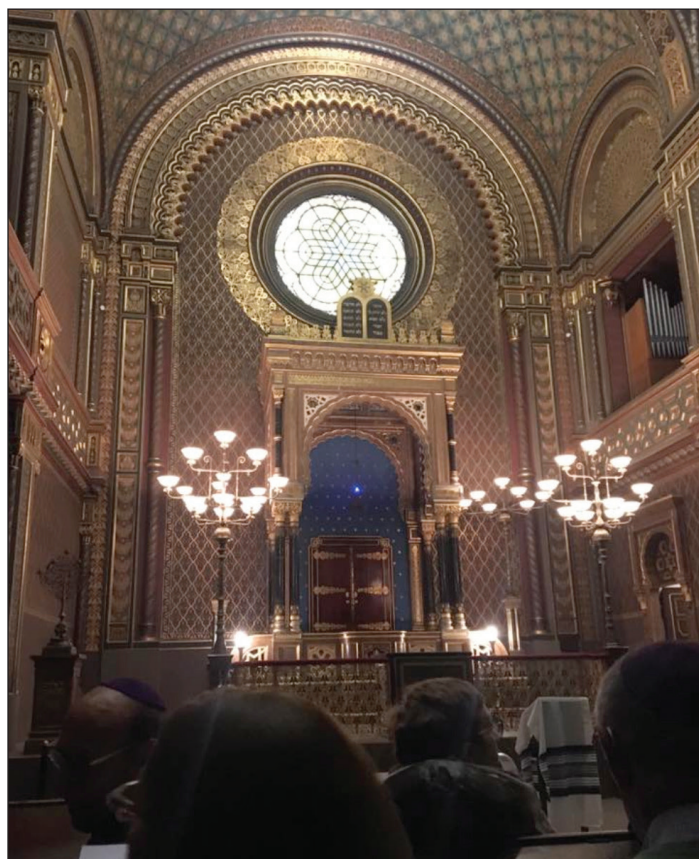


Czech Republic Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg and B'nai B'rith President Gary P. Saltzman confer before the panel discussion on minority communities.

On Tuesday afternoon, B'nai B'rith Europe held the first session of its triennial convention to address business issues, consider reports and resolutions and conduct elections.



The topic for the Closing Plenary was “The Future of Minority Communities in Western Societies.” Pictured above, Michaela Marksová, minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, speaking from the lectern. Seated from L-R, are Libor Rouček, former vice-president, European Parliament, co-chairman, Czech-German Discussion Forum, Czech Republic, who moderated a discussion with: Karel Schwarzenberg, former minister of foreign affairs, Czech Republic; Gary P. Saltzman, president, B'nai B'rith International; and Gert Weisskirchen, chair, Central European Future Forum, Germany.



Forum participants from outside Europe had the opportunity to socialize and tour the city of Prague. During their stay, many visited what is known as “Prague Jewish Town” or Josefov. Exploring with fellow young leaders, B'nai B'rith Marketing Committee Chair Rebecca Saltzman Barsheshet shared this photo of the Spanish Synagogue.



The leadership forum concluded with a Gala Dinner, held at the historic Rudolfinum, now home to the Czech Philharmonic. Above, Young Leadership Network participants pose for a photo on the ceremonial stairway leading to the cultural institution's art galleries.

The evening's program included remarks by David Mareček, director general of the Czech Philharmonic; Tomáš Kraus, president, B'nai B'rith Renaissance Praha; and Olga Menzelová, a film producer in the Czech Republic. It featured a musical performance by Ivo Kahánek, playing the Piano Sonata by Gideon Klein. Klein wrote the sonata at age 24, while imprisoned at Terezin in 1943.

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, B'nai B'rith Europe concluded its triennial convention, under the leadership of newly-elected president Serge Dahan, of France.

Planning is already underway for the 2018 International Leadership Forum, which will also celebrate the 175th anniversary of B'nai B'rith. 🌍

**Photographs were taken by**

Sunday: Ms. Eva Kořínková, Keynote.

Monday and Tuesday: Mr. Ondřej Besperát, Keynote.

## B'nai B'rith Resident Leadership Retreat: A 30-Year Success Story



First held in 1987, from Aug. 2-8, 2017, the B'nai B'rith Resident Leadership Retreat brought 28 seniors to Perlmans Camp in Lake Como, Pa. The goal was to empower these leaders and help them create a sense of community among their fellow residents. These representatives came from the 38 low-income senior housing facilities from across the country that B'nai B'rith proudly supports.

For the full story of the Retreat and to enjoy the video and photo gallery, please click here to read the feature in Seniority Report, the Center for Senior Services newsletter:

<http://www.bnaibrith.org/seniority-report-newsletter/seniority-report-august-2017#camp>



## Hats Off to Excellence in Fort Worth

By Felice Caspar

In presenting the Jewish Person of the Year award annually since 1951, the B'nai B'rith Isadore Garsek Lodge #269 of Fort Worth, Texas has a tradition of recognizing innovation and altruism.

The awards dinner invitation encourages nominations of an individual who has performed extraordinary service to the Jewish and Fort Worth communities. The honoree's name is a well-guarded secret not revealed until the presentation of the prestigious award at the dinner.

On Oct. 22, Jeff Hochster was so honored. Lodge President Rich Hollander described Hochster as “a mensch, a man with an unwavering and uncompromising Jewish heart. Those two attributes are the foundation for his Jewish involvement.”

The head of a western-wear company, Hochster donates new merchandise to several programs serving the disadvantaged. He has served on day school, congregation, Federation and other boards and supports even more organizations' social welfare programs.

Describing Hochster as a lifelong Zionist and a passionate supporter of Israel, Hollander shared a story that aptly illustrated his outgoing nature and kindness. “He took it upon himself to introduce himself to two lone Israeli pilots wandering around Fort Worth some years ago, invited them to dinner and ultimately hosted them for an entire year during their training at Carswell Air Force Base. Here in Fort Worth, he made them part of his family.”

As senior director of governmental relations for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, guest speaker Eric Fox was able to share an inside perspective about the F-35 fighter aircraft. In Fort Worth, this factory employs thousands of highly-skilled workers to



At center, Jewish Person of the Year honoree Jeff Hochster with his daughter, Audra Ohayon and his son, Jamison Hochster.



The Hochster family: L-R: Jacques Ohayon, Audra Ohayon, Jamison Hochster, Jeff and his wife, Linda Hochster, Tracy Hochster, Yehuda Goldman, and Brent Jones.

## Hats Off to Excellence in Fort Worth

produce these planes for the United States, Israel and other armed forces. In Israel, the F-35 is called the Adir, which means “awesomeness” in modern Hebrew.

Robert Chicotsky, Texarkoma Region Representative to the B'nai B'rith Board of Governors, conducted a memorial tribute to the people who passed away during the past year from surrounding Jewish congregations. The evening's program included a segment, “Hats Off to B'nai B'rith” by Dan Sturman, second vice president of the lodge. Sturman spoke about the lodge's many social programs, including publishing a Jewish community directory, providing scholarships to Jewish youth, providing Passover and Thanksgiving dinners to Jewish seniors, and several hundred meals, plus clothes and toys for a homeless shelter. Earlier in evening it had been noted that Fort Worth is home to two B'nai B'rith Senior Housing apartment communities, and that the lodge provides services and hosts holiday programs to enhance the lives of the residents.

Rich Hollander spoke about a new lodge program for spring. In reaction to an alarming growth of anti-Semitism globally, lodge leadership conceived of the first annual City Seder to foster understanding by sharing a meal and Passover traditions with the larger Fort Worth community. The free-by-invitation event will be held at the Will Rogers Center for more than 300 guests and a special Haggadah is being prepared. Planning is underway with local leaders and the Mayor's Council on Community Affairs.

Hollander closed by saying that B'nai B'rith and the Isadore Garsek Lodge are “like Uncle Sam, we want you ... We are about getting things done. ... Get involved in our community, you will find, as I have, that it is rewarding, in ways you simply cannot understand until you do it.”



Jeff Hochster, winner of the B'nai B'rith Isadore Garsek Lodge Jewish Person of the Year award, presented at the annual dinner, Oct. 22, 2017.



2011 awardee Alex Nason with Jeff Hochster at the Isadore Garsek Lodge award dinner held at Temple Beth El in Fort Worth.



At right, Jeff Kaitcer, awardee in 1998, presents the Jewish Person of the Year award to Jeff Hochster.



The 2014 award recipient and Lodge President Rich Hollander offered remarks.



Robert Chicotsky, member, B'nai B'rith International Board of Governors.

## Hurricane Harvey Aid in Houston



B'nai B'rith has teamed up with Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) fraternity to provide funds and people-power to communities in need. We have been honored with a \$100,000 grant from AEPi, specifically for disaster relief efforts. In October, B'nai B'rith organized events to put these resources where the need was urgent. AEPi fanned out across Houston to help with clean-up and rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, which struck Aug. 25 as a Category 4 storm. Property damage was extensive, with thousands of homes, schools and businesses damaged or destroyed. Another partner organization, NECHAMA, coordinated the aid project and provided the equipment and housing for this clean-up assistance. 🌐



Read the guest blog from an AEPi member and see the video of their disaster relief efforts here.

<http://www.bnaibrith.org/expert-analysis/guest-blog-aepi-provides-disaster-relief-in-houston>

## Planned Giving

# Music, Science and Tikkun Olam: Ed and Arlene Grossman's Legacy

*By Marna Schoen*

**E**d Grossman grew up enveloped by the arts. His father played piano by ear, his sister was a dancer who studied at the American School of Ballet, and his mother provided “motherly support” for their endeavors.

It's no surprise then, that, years later, Ed continues to be very active in the arts community. Juilliard has become a very important part of his life. He spends a great deal of time there, attends concerts, and supports many of their programs. Ed also supports the future of musicians by supporting Boston University Tanglewood Institute, where he enjoys being a part of nurturing high school-level musicians.

He and his late wife Arlene shared their love of music and the arts, and it was at the center of their lives. They supported the New York Philharmonic for almost 35 years.

Ed grew up in New York City, attending P.S. 189 in Manhattan. He went to Stuyvesant High School, but when his family moved to Long Island, he attended Mineola High School. He was graduated from Mineola in 3 1/2 years and then headed to the University of Connecticut. There he was the Master (president) of his Alpha Epsilon Pi chapter, which was a very “maturing” process, he observed. Ed did well in college, and graduated Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi with a bachelor's degree in English – all of which helped him be accepted to Harvard Business School, which had been his dream for many years.

Attending Harvard Business School was an extraordinary, transformative experience. The diversity of his class with its large international student body created a rich learning and social environment. The atmosphere and approach to learning, using the case method, set the stage for his life. Ed was graduated in 1959, and remains close to the University and the Business School, in particular.

As he was growing up in New York, Judaism was an important and largely secular experience for Ed. He belonged to a local synagogue where he had his bar mitzvah. “I always identified with Judaism, Jewish causes and tikkun olam.”



Ed and Arlene Grossman standing outside of the auditorium named after them in the Cell and Genome Sciences Building at the UConn Health Center in 2010. Photo provided by the UConn Foundation

## Music, Science and Tikkun Olam: Ed and Arlene Grossman's Legacy

After Harvard, Ed enlisted in the Air Force Reserves. He entered as an airman basic, was commissioned as a first lieutenant and was later promoted to captain. He continued with reserve duty for a number of years.

Ed's work history is as rich as his cultural upbringing. His first job in department store retailing was at Burdines in Florida, a Federated Department Store chain that eventually became part of Macy's. Ed left retailing and moved into advertising and marketing for almost 20 years. Then he took the big step to establish a business of his own, as founder, president and CEO of Marketing Resource, a wholesaler of general merchandise closeouts and book remainders.

Ed met his beloved wife, Arlene Petroff, in East Hampton in 1969. At that time, Ed was

still in advertising and Arlene was Director of Home Fashion for JCPenney.

Ed and Arlene Grossman shared a love of the arts and bought a house in Sheffield, Mass., where they took full advantage of the cultural activities in the Berkshires, including Tanglewood Music Festival and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. They commuted frequently from their Upper West Side apartment to their home in Sheffield.

When Arlene was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007, the Grossmans decided to actively engage in estate planning, focusing their support on medical research, performing arts, social welfare, the environment and Judaism.

They selected the organizations to which they'd leave the bulk of their estates. The list includes the Weizmann Institute of Science,

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Rockefeller University, Harvard Stem Cell Institute, the Harvard MD/MBA program, UConn Health Care, Breast Cancer Research Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, New York Community Trust, Juilliard and B'nai B'rith International.

"I always liked what B'nai B'rith did, and what they stood for. I'm big on tikkun olam, and it seemed that B'nai B'rith was a Jewish organization devoted to a lot of social welfare causes. B'nai B'rith struck a resonant note with us. I've been a supporter for almost 40 years."

Ed and Arlene were together for 43 wonderful years at the time of her passing. Arlene's legacy lives on in the organizations she and Ed so thoughtfully and purposefully committed to for generations to come. 🌟

*For more information on how to leave a legacy with B'nai B'rith through your will or trust, please contact the Planned Giving office at (800) 656-5561; or by e-mail at [plannedgiving@bnaibrith.org](mailto:plannedgiving@bnaibrith.org).*

# *Plan for a Secure Future ...Yours and Ours.*

**P**lanning makes all the difference. So, at the end of the calendar year, it's an important time to review tax obligations and income goals. Now you can ease your tax burden while assuring spending flexibility with a planned gift to the B'nai B'rith Foundation. A charitable gift annuity has a lasting impact to support B'nai B'rith's important work in your community, in Israel, and around the world, while providing income for life.

Our planned giving professionals can offer a no-obligation review of your giving options. Together, we can help you reach your financial goals today as you secure a bright and lasting Jewish future.

Call 800-656-5561, or e-mail [plannedgiving@bnaibrith.org](mailto:plannedgiving@bnaibrith.org).

## CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES BASED UPON AGE

AGE	RATE *
65	4.7%
70	5.1%
75	5.8%
80	6.8%
85	7.8%
90+	9.0%

*\*Please note these rates are current at time of printing and are subject to change. Two life rates available upon request.*



**B'NAI B'RITH  
INTERNATIONAL**

Please contact our professional staff for a no-obligation consultation.

StudentRecruitmentGuide

*Shalom! Best wishes to our many Jewish friends*

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

**SHIDLER**

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

• International Excellence •

Honolulu, Hawaii

**(808) 956-8266**  
www.shidler.hawaii.edu

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO A DIVERSE STUDENT BODY**



College of Social Science  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**Our science transforms  
the human experience.**

**socialscience.msu.edu**

*Shalom! and best wishes to our many Jewish friends*

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha

College of Communication,  
Fine Arts and Media  
Omaha, NE 68182

For program information please call  
**(402) 554-2232**  
or access our website at  
www.unomaha.edu/cfam

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO A DIVERSE STUDENT BODY**

*Shalom! and best wishes to our many Jewish friends.*

**HFA**

College of Humanities  
& Fine Arts

UMassAmherst

*Committed to a diverse and engaged student body.*

umass.edu/hfa | @UMassHFA | f UMassHFA

*Shalom! and best wishes to our many Jewish friends*

**COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON**

School of  
Sciences and Mathematics

School of  
Humanities & Social Sciences

Charleston, SC

*For program information:  
access our website at  
www.cofc.edu*

**We are Committed to a Diverse Student Body**

*Shalom and best wishes to our many Jewish Friends!*

**WIESS SCHOOL OF  
NATURAL SCIENCES**  
*The Frontiers of Knowledge*



**RICE**  
UNIVERSITY  
Houston, TX

For program information, please call: (713) 348-3350  
or access our website at: www.rice.edu

We are committed to a diverse student body.

*Shalom and best wishes to our many Jewish friends!*

**Creighton** | **Heider**  
UNIVERSITY | College of Business

**RANKS 12TH IN THE NATION IN FINANCE**

- LEARN TO THINK CRITICALLY
- START, RUN AND MARKET A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS
- ACQUIRE THE TOOLS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE STRAIGHT AWAY
- YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

For program information, please call: **402.280.2390**

**We are committed to a diverse student body!** Or access our website at: **Business.creighton.edu**

**BOSTON COLLEGE | LAW**

**One community. One mission.**  
*Justice for all.*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT US:**  
www.bc.edu/law  
bclawadm@bc.edu  
617.552.4340

**ND** Committed to a diverse student body



For information on how to join our diverse team in making the world a better place in which to live, visit our website.

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**  
College of Engineering **engineering.nd.edu**

**Shalom!**  
Best wishes to our many Jewish Friends

College of Languages, Linguistics, & Literature  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



**ill.hawaii.edu**  
*We are committed to a diverse student body.*

**Shalom!**  
and best wishes to our many Jewish friends



For program information  
call 817-257-7160 or visit addran.tcu.edu

**We are committed to a diverse student body.**




*Shalom! and Best Wishes to our many Jewish friends*


**The University of Vermont**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
Burlington, VT

**(802) 656-4015**  
www.uvm.edu/business

EDUCATING RESPONSIBLE MANAGERS FOR THE FUTURE




StudentRecruitmentGuide



**Graduate with a stronger connection to Jewish life**

Housed in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies offers a degree program as well as a variety of elective courses and summer study in Israel.

Learn more [sbs.arizona.edu](http://sbs.arizona.edu)



Shalom! and best wishes to our many Jewish friends.

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE  
**CHATTANOOGA**  
*Founded 1886*

**College of Health, Education and Professional Studies**  
Chattanooga, TN

For program information please call **423-425-4249** or visit our website at [www.utc.edu](http://www.utc.edu)

*We are committed to a diverse student body.*

**Shalom!**  
Best wishes to our many Jewish friends.



**KELCE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**  
Pittsburg State University  
Pittsburg, Kansas

For program information please call **620-235-4591** or access our website at [www.pittstate.edu/cob](http://www.pittstate.edu/cob)

*We are committed to a diverse student body.*

**SHALOM to our many Jewish friends**

**SJSU** | **CONNIE L. LURIE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**Shape the future. Become a teacher.**

For more info, visit [www.sjsu.edu/education](http://www.sjsu.edu/education)

*Shalom!*  
Best wishes to our Jewish friends.

For information on our social work programs, please call 412-624-6302 or access our Web site at [socialwork.pitt.edu](http://socialwork.pitt.edu).



Engage. Empower. Enlighten. | *We are committed to a diverse student body.*

**Shalom and best wishes to our many Jewish friends!**



**College of Engineering and Applied Sciences**  
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO STUDENT DIVERSITY!**

For program information please call (269) 276-3270 or visit [wmich.edu/engineer](http://wmich.edu/engineer)

Shalom! and best wishes to our many Jewish friends

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
**McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**  
WHERE LEADERSHIP IS EARNED™

For program information please call **(512) 471-5921** or access our website at [www.mcombs.utexas.edu](http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu)

**We are Committed to a Diverse Student Body**

Shalom! Best wishes to our many Jewish friends!



**Tulane University**  
FREEMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**START ACHIEVING YOUR CAREER GOALS**

[www.freeman.tulane.edu](http://www.freeman.tulane.edu)

*We are Committed to a Diverse Student Body*

Shalom! And best wishes to our many Jewish friends

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

For more information about our undergraduate and Masters programs, please call **562-985-5306** or visit our website at: [www.csulb.edu/cba](http://www.csulb.edu/cba)

*We are committed to a Diverse Student Body*

Shalom! Best wishes to our many Jewish friends.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
**College of Humanities**  
Tucson, AZ

A World of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

For program information please call: **(520) 621-1044**

or visit our website at [humanities.arizona.edu](http://humanities.arizona.edu)

**We are committed to a diverse student body.**

**DO MORE SOONER**

**A TOP-RANKED BUSINESS EDUCATION**  
25 NATIONALLY RANKED PROGRAMS  
*U.S. News & World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Princeton Review*

**AT THE BEST LOCATION FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**  
27,000 FT<sup>2</sup> ALL-NEW OKLAHOMA CITY FACILITY  
*For the Gene Rainbolt Graduate School of Business*

**INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY HEED AWARD RECIPIENT and 2017 Diversity Champion**

**DEDICATED OFFICE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**  
*Awarding over \$1,000K in scholarships each year with 100% graduation rate*

**MOST POPULAR U.S. CITIES TO LIVE**  
*Business Insider*

**BEST CITY TO START A BUSINESS**  
*WalletHub*

**BEST CITY TO SAVE MONEY**  
*Kiplinger MarketWatch*



VISIT US ONLINE AND IN PERSON  
PRICE.QUEDU | (405) 325-3611  
307 W. Brooks | Norman, Okla.



**Committed to diversity + inclusion:**  
Learn how we can help you build your career, take it to the next level or build your business.

[csuohio.edu/business](http://csuohio.edu/business) 216-687-3786

StudentRecruitmentGuide



**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**


[oakland.edu/secs](http://oakland.edu/secs)

**T** THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

We envision a socially just world that prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable.

Face-to-face Study in Nashville and Knoxville  
100% Online Programs for MSSW and DSW



Committed to Diversity and Inclusion

[www.csw.utk.edu](http://www.csw.utk.edu)

**Join us and learn to thrive**

<b>3,500</b> Jewish students	<b>4</b> faith-based clubs	<b>1</b> academic home
---------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------

Forge your own path at the school that's **#1 in innovation**

**ASU** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Arizona State University

[clas.asu.edu](http://clas.asu.edu)

Shalom! and best wishes to our many Jewish Friends

**MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Arlington, VA 22207

For program information please call (703) 284-1620 or access our website at [www.marymount.edu](http://www.marymount.edu)

We are Committed to a Diverse Student Body

Shalom! and best wishes to our many Jewish friends

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS — AT AUSTIN —

COLLEGE of LIBERAL ARTS

For program information please call (512) 471-4141 or visit our website at [www.utexas.edu/cola](http://www.utexas.edu/cola)

We are Committed to a Diverse Student Body

Read past issues of B'nai B'rith Magazine at [www.bnaibrith.org/magazines](http://www.bnaibrith.org/magazines)

Shalom! and best wishes to our many Jewish friends

**CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**

College of Humanities & Social & Behavioral Sciences

Mount Pleasant, MI

For program information please call (989) 774-3341 or visit our website at [www.cmich.edu](http://www.cmich.edu)

We are Committed to a Diverse Student Body

Shalom! Best wishes to our many Jewish friends.

**GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Allendale, MI

For program information please call (616) 331-2495 or visit our website at [www.gvsu.edu/clas](http://www.gvsu.edu/clas)

We are committed to a diverse student body.




Get short, timely messages from B'nai B'rith International on Twitter. Follow @BnaiBrith.

Make a Difference in the World Today

Show your commitment to Jewish heritage by making a gift to B'nai B'rith today.

Call 1-800-573-9057 or go to: [www.bnaibrith.org](http://www.bnaibrith.org) and click on "Donate Now."



**NATIONAL**

*The Freshest Ideas in Produce.*



Melissa's can create signature gourmet gift baskets to fit any theme or occasion!

[www.melissas.com](http://www.melissas.com)  
1-800-588-0151

Happy Hanukkah

**Northfield Lines, Inc.**  
We're The *Drive* Behind Worry-Free Travel!



MOTORCOACH CHARTERS • AIRPORT & WEDDING SHUTTLES  
CORPORATE & HOTEL TRANSFERS • TOURS & CRUISES

[www.northfieldlines.com](http://www.northfieldlines.com) • 800-944-2190

*By Lisa's Hand*

Lisa N. Rohde, Artist

- Hebrew & English Calligraphy
- Specializing In Custom Illuminated Ketubbot
- Invitations

By Appointment Only  
No Saturday Calls

Tel: 212-787-3161

19 W. 70th St. #B, NY, NY 10023

[bylisashand.com](http://bylisashand.com)

<http://www.ByLisasHand.Etsy.com/>

Get the latest news and information.

Go to  
[www.bnaibrith.org](http://www.bnaibrith.org)

## Hear News StraightFrom The Source

Our social networks create digital communities of B'nai B'rith members and supporters, discussing issues that matter to YOU.

Connect with us and learn what B'nai B'rith is doing in your community and around the world. Like and follow us to join the conversation!

**Get Connected  
With B'nai B'rith!**



ADVERTISERS BY STATE • CALIFORNIA - MASSACHUSETTS



**PESTEC  
IPM PROVIDERS**

Rodent, Pigeon Control & Proofing • Animal Trapping  
Bedbugs, Mice, Roaches, Ants, Cockroaches

Commercial Sanitation Reports Issued

Residential, Commercial, Government & Transportation  
Pest Control

(415) 587-6817    (510) 251-9000    (925) 934-2284    (925) 757-2945  
San Francisco    Alameda    Contra Costa County    Contra Costa County

[www.pestec.com](http://www.pestec.com)



**RESS FINANCIAL  
CORPORATION**

1780 Town & Country Drive, Suite 105  
Norco, CA 92860

**BRUCE R. BEASLEY**  
President

Phone (800) 343-7377  
Fax (866) 481-2032

PROFESSIONAL TRUST DEED AND LAND  
CONTRACT FORECLOSURE SERVICES

*Mention B'nai B'rith when calling*

**SUPERFAST COPYING & BINDING SYSTEMS  
WE DO IT ALL**

Full Color Printing

COLOR COPIES

BLACK & WHITE COPIES

FULL COLOR POSTER: \$6.50 PER SQUARE FOOT

Ask for Volume Discounts

Binding • Digital Output • Graphic Design • Typesetting

**310-452-3352 • Fax: 310-452-7662**

[superfastla.com](http://superfastla.com)

2358 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

**AVANTI POOLS INC.  
NEW POOLS/REMODELS**



818.501.3759

FAX: 818.501.5128

[www.avantipoolsandspas.com](http://www.avantipoolsandspas.com)

E-mail: [avantipools@sbcglobal.net](mailto:avantipools@sbcglobal.net)

8138 ORION AVE. • VAN NUYS, CA 91406

- State-of-the-Art Spray Booth and Bake Oven
- FREE Estimate
- FREE Loaner Car
- Frame Machine & Measurement System

Foreign Car Specialists  
Porsche, Volvo, Mercedes, BMW  
**FREE** Pickup & Delivery  
Your Insurance Company Knows Us!



36 Lucy St.  
Woodbridge, CT  
(between Rte. 63 & 67)  
**(203) 397-2909**  
**(203) 387-8069**

**Fax: (203) 389-4002**

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED  
SINCE 1972



**AUTO REPAIR INC.**  
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC REPAIRS

PHIL, JIM & PAUL LOCICERO  
PETE BUCK

**860-646-5036**

**FAX: 860-646-1552**

174 WEST CENTER STREET  
MANCHESTER, CT 06040

PHIL@P-AUTO.COXATWORK.COM  
[WWW.PPAUTOREPAIR.COM](http://WWW.PPAUTOREPAIR.COM)



Tile & Marble  
**CORNERSTONE**  
RETAIL SHOWROOM

LARGEST SELECTION

SPECTACULAR SERVICE

CONTRACTOR FRIENDLY

Granite and Marble  
Countertops & Vanities

**508-230-TILE (8453)**

[cornerstonetileandmarble.net](http://cornerstonetileandmarble.net)

EASTON INDUSTRIAL PARK

15F Plymouth Drive, So. Easton, MA 02375

**B'nai Mitzvah  
& Jewish Heritage Tours  
in Israel and Worldwide**

**Ayelet** Tours, Ltd.



ADVERTISERS BY STATE • NEVADA - TEXAS



**Take a shot at savings at your local GEICO office.**

702-643-0057  
3315 West Craig Road  
North Las Vegas  
geico.com/north-las-vegas



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2007. © 2007 GEICO

## The Kensico Cemetery

The Kensico Cemetery (Non-Sectarian) and Sharon Gardens (Jewish Faith) are situated in a rural setting with beautiful trees, rolling hills and sweeping lawns in Westchester County. They provide a serene and peaceful resting place not found in many cemeteries today. For FREE color brochure call toll free:

**1-888-KENSICO** or 1-888-536-7426  
P.O. Box 7, Valhalla, NY 10595  
Sharon Gardens is a division of The Kensico Cemetery  
914-949-0347  
www.kensico.org



www.sharongardens.com

Happy Hanukkah

**Glaser Bake Shop Inc.**  
Family Owned & Operated  
Since 1902


*Specializing In Cakes  
and Home-Made Butter Cookies*

1670 First Ave. At 87th St.  
New York, NY

**212-289-2562**

Get the latest news  
and information.

Go to  
**www.bnaibrith.org**



**CRITTER CONTROL**  
The Nation's Leading Wildlife Control Firm™

SQUIRRELS  
RACCOONS • SKUNKS

BIRD • WOODCHUCK  
MICE • BAT  
BEES • FOX • BEAVER  
COYOTES • ETC.

Humane Removal  
Damage Repair • Prevention

Attic & Chimney  
Screens Installed

Wildlife Biologist On Staff

*Serving All Of  
Cleveland & Suburbs*

EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE  
**216-642-3044**

B'nai B'rith  
Thank You For Your Continued Support

**OTIS CAFE**

"WORTH THE WAIT"  
Everything Is Homemade

Breakfast Served All Day  
Call ahead to place large orders.  
**541-994-2813**  
Hwy. 18 Otis Junction  
Otis, OR

**SOUTHWEST HOUSTON**



Established 1956

- Custom Shower Doors
- Custom Wall Mirrors
- Glass Replacement

www.buffaloglassco.com  
info@buffaloglassco.com  
Hours Mon-Fri 8-5 Sat 9-2  
Now accepting all major credit cards  
**713-774-7495**  
7936 Hillcroft, Houston, TX

The new and expanded

**children's museum**  
PITTSBURGH

412-322-5058  
www.pittsburghkids.org

*Taylor's Rental*  
FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE

- TENTS
- CANOPIES
- SMOKERS
- CONCESSION EQP.
- TABLES
- DANCE FLOOR
- CHAIRS
- CHINA
- CANDELABRA
- SILVER
- LINENS
- STAGING

**(817) 332-5258**  
220 University Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76107

## About Seniors

# The Increasingly Urgent Need to Fund Senior Housing

By Mark D. Olshan

Associate Executive Vice President, B'nai B'rith International

I've always thought of myself as a caring person, considerate of others and always thinking that we have a duty to be part of a society in which we respect and help one another where and when we can. Call me a do-gooder if you will, but please know that I am proud to wear that label.

With Congress back in session I continue to be baffled by its continued attempt to turn back the clock in the face of such overwhelming evidence of the number of aging Americans who require assistance with finding a safe, secure place to live.

The United States used to have a national housing policy focusing in part on creating affordable housing for older persons of limited means. Section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 was the only federal program that provided safe, affordable housing exclusively for low-income elderly.

The program was envisioned as a partnership between government and community-based nonprofits like B'nai B'rith to supply housing to these individuals. The government would supply the financial means to build the property, while the nonprofits would oversee the initial development and ongoing operations. Subsidies, such as Section 8 vouchers, would bridge the gap between what the tenant could afford and the cost of that apartment.

Over time, the funding mechanism for the program changed from a direct loan, with interest payments to the federal government, to a simple advance of funds for construction.

Since 1971, B'nai B'rith has been a partner with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in constructing and overseeing such properties. With 38 properties in 26 communities nationwide, we are the largest national Jewish sponsor of HUD-assisted senior housing. Our network comprises nearly 5,000 apartments available to more than 8,000 seniors.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the eligibility criteria were slightly refined. During the 1980s, "cost-containment" became the focus, and there was a shift to reducing the number of units being built and the overall construction cost. While budget driven, many of these decisions had an opposite effect. Having to replace and maintain systems cost more in the long term.

During the mid 1990s the program began to recognize and incorporate the physical and emotional needs of the residents, and the use of service coordinators become more prevalent.

With the aid of these professionals, residents were better able to obtain the support and services they might need to make aging-in-place more possible. HUD finally understood that providing some level of service support within the property often precluded a premature move to a more institutional setting for a resident, at a tremendous overall cost savings to society in general.

Even the definition of a well "independent" senior had changed. As these properties were basically apartments without medical or basic service supports when the

program was initiated, one of the criteria for admittance into a HUD-assisted property was the ability to vacate your apartment in the event of an emergency. Today, residents are able to remain as long as they can direct the service supports around them to assist in vacating their apartment in the case of an emergency. Yet, today, nearly 40 percent of residents are considered frail and require assistance with some of the basic activities of daily living.

But, remaining in their homes with support beats having to move to a skilled-care or institutional facility many years before actually needing that level of medical support.

So, for a period of time, the program evolved and — despite severe budget cuts during the congressional efforts to reduce overall federal domestic spending — survive. Politicians from both sides of the aisle have taken pride in visiting these properties and publicly marvel at what they say is their tremendous value, not just for the individuals but for the whole community.

So, where do we stand now?

We know the country is growing older. The percentage of persons 65 and up is a larger percentage of the total population, growing from 35 million (12.5 percent) in 2000 to 49.5 million in 2016 (15 percent) to an expected 71.5 million (19.4 percent) by 2030. Compounding the issue is the increase in the number of persons 85 and older — 6.2 million in 2016, projected to grow to 6.9 million by 2020 due to our increased longevity.

But, the senior population's sustained

## The Increasingly Urgent Need to Fund Senior Housing



B'nai B'rith Covenant House in Tucson, Ariz. First established March 1995, 79 apartments funded under Section 202, 40 apartments added: established May 2001

growth has not been matched by a corresponding growth in affordable housing. Currently, data show that there are at least 10 to 12 people on a waiting list for every available subsidized unit. The funding to create more of these properties has dried up. Currently, there are no federal dollars available to create new housing for this most vulnerable, growing population.

Where we housing advocates need to expand our efforts is to combat proposals

currently being introduced in Congress that would charge current residents even more of their very low income to simply stay put. Even worse are attempts to cut subsidies completely, which could effectively throw current residents out of their apartments, and potentially into the street.

Remember, older persons must already have very low-incomes to qualify — below half of the area median income. Once deemed “income eligible,” they must pay



B'nai B'rith Apartments in Allentown, Pa. (one of the first 202 buildings sponsored by B'nai B'rith). First established April 1979, 151 apartments funded under Section 202, 120 apartments added: established January 1983.

## The Increasingly Urgent Need to Fund Senior Housing

30 percent of their adjusted gross income for rent. If they have no income, they pay no rent. And we have a number of those individuals residing in our senior housing network. Bottom line is that these applicants were either homeless, near homeless, or at best, very low-income individuals.

Congress has recently debated amendments to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill that would reduce these subsidies while increasing tenants' contributions from 30 to 35 percent of their meager incomes and require them to pay a minimum amount

of rent, or lose the apartment entirely.

And, taking this even further, 139 House members voted for an amendment to reduce funds for project-based rental assistance by \$266 million in the current fiscal year, thus jeopardizing approximately 3,000 apartments which could be affected by this action. Fortunately the amendment failed, but the threat remains.

The numbers are alarming, and the White House is threatening to make a bad situation worse. The administration's budget proposals include the most dramatic cuts to HUD programs since the 1980s,

gutting federal housing assistance and redirecting the savings to "higher priority areas." What could be of higher priority than making certain that vulnerable older persons of very low income status have access to safe, affordable and adequate housing? 🗣️

*Mark D. Olshan, who holds a doctorate in Psychology, is the Director of the B'nai B'rith International Center for Senior Services as well as Associate Executive Vice President of B'nai B'rith International.*

**B'nai Mitzvah  
& Jewish Heritage Tours  
in Israel and Worldwide**

**Ayelet Tours, Ltd.**



[www.ayelet.com](http://www.ayelet.com)