

THE JEWISH STANDARD

JUNE 30, 2016



NEIL DANKOFF (LEFT) IS SHOWN WITH KIRSTY AND DEREK Stern at the red carpet opening of their trendy new Kandy Gallery on Ferrier Avenue. For the Sterns, who own real estate giant Olymbec, this was quite a departure from their traditional line of business and quite a positive one at that. The Kandy Gallery could just become the new “it” venue for parties. See our featured story on page 6.

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LAVs to Saudi Arabia

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The House of Saad shows no repentance for beating its own citizens into submission. And genuine repentance is, after all, the forerunner of forgiveness. The Saudi regime, linked since 1744 to the teachings of Mahammed ibn al-Wahhab, clamps down on those accused of diluting the true meaning of Islam. It denies rights to women. It tolerates no dissent. What's perhaps even more disturbing is that the Saudis aggressively export their brand of Islam, funding mosques in countries which should be beyond their reach. Nor can we forget that while there may have been no direct evidence that the government as an institution or its senior officials played a role in 9/11 there is little doubt that Riyadh turned a blind eye to Saudi donors and unregulated charities who financed al-Qaeda's operations. For years Saudi Arabia has hidden behind a Machiavellian cloak of probity and good faith.

But the Saudis have now become dependable, and indispensable, allies in the fight against ISIL, Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthi. And Saudi Arabia, together with Israel, understands that only power and might will curb Iran's nuclear ambitions. While most countries with the legal instruments to target terrorist financing have stood idly by, Saudi Arabia has obtained convictions in 900 cases. The Saudi government has frozen over 31 million Euros owed by 2187 entities or individuals, far exceeding the dismal response among other nations merely paying lip service to their own laws. Expressing sympathy for ISIL lands a person in jail. And to address the extremism being preached in the country's mosques the Ministry of Islamic Affairs has launched a "war of ideas" aimed at imams who incite their worshippers.

Only the naive could possibly believe that we can be knights on a white charger riding in to Saudi Arabia bringing universal brotherhood. Perhaps these activists should ask themselves who might replace the House of Saad if it fell. We sought regime change in the Arab world before and the results are now playing out every night on our television screens.

If David Ben Gurion, in the aftermath of the Holocaust, could negotiate an arms deal with West Germany, surely a strategic alliance with an obvious ally of the West, and despite lingering mutual suspicions, of Israel, merits our support. Indeed, unconfirmed reports suggest Saudi Arabia may be buying drones from Israel, even if, for obvious reasons, the transaction is taking place under the radar and through South Africa. There is also credible evidence that Israel and Saudi Arabia have discussed Israel's use of Saudi airspace in the event it decides to launch an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities.

The Harper government and now the Trudeau Liberals were right to allow the sale of light armoured LAVs to Saudi Arabia. If the Saudis weren't able to buy military equipment from Canada they would buy it from a more willing and reliable partner. We believe that the need for Canada to play in full measure its role in stopping the spread of Islamic terror should far outweigh our disdain for the devious machinations of the House of Saad. Those who see a world of only sweetness and light are almost childlike in their faith in human nature. Most Canadians, we hope, understand that there is no security in surrender.

ANITA SURMAN
Editor
General News Section

THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

New London Mayor Condemns Anti-Semitism

Blatant anti-Semitism has permeated the British Labour Party. Khadim Hussein, a Bradford Labour councillor, complains that the school education system “only tells you about Anne Frank and the six million Zionists that were killed by Hitler”, while neglecting to mention the deaths of millions of Africans. Vicki Kirby, the vice chair of Labour’s Working branch, tweets that Jews have “big noses” and “slaughter the oppressed”. Then there’s suspended Labour MP Nas Shah who apparently would like to see all Jews deported from Israel to America. And who can forget the views of ex London mayor Ken Livingstone whose reading of history tells him that Hitler was originally a Zionist.

And so it’s a refreshing change when newly elected London mayor Sadiq Khan endorses a pledge co-signed by 150 mayors from 30 European countries and over 300 mayors from the United States to fight anti-Semitism. “I am proud,” said Khan, “to sign the Mayors Against Anti-Semitism pledge and I will encourage other mayors across the country and Europe to do the same...Sadly, for many Londoners, antisemitism is a very present problem. As a British Muslim, I am no stranger to discrimination and prejudice”.

Khan has been outspoken in his condemnation of members of his own

party and says he wears a “badge of shame” because of the virulent anti-Semitism expressed by Labour politicians. Jonathan Arkush, the president of the Jewish

Board of Deputies, is encouraged that the new mayor of London has “set a very positive tone that we hope will be replicated throughout Khan’s mayoralty.”



AVIGDOR LIEBERMAN, ISRAEL’S NEW Defence Minister, is shown with his new ally, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The expanded co-alition is some observers say, Israel’s most right-wing government in its history. Outgoing Minister Moshe Yaalon warned of “extremist elements” in the government and former prime minister Ehud Barak spoke of the “fascist elements” now dictating government policy. Whether the reconciliation between Netanyahu and Lieberman will last is anyone’s guess. The unpredictable Lieberman still has his eye on the prime minister’s office and his “past differences” with Netanyahu could easily resurface and bring the honeymoon to an abrupt end. Photo IGPO

No Room At the Inn

Alexandra Katzman and Jonathan Webber wanted to hold a non-religious wedding ceremony and paid a deposit to Bernadine’s Stillman Inn in Galena, Illinois. Their wedding was to take place on May 14, 2016.

But when the interfaith couple visited the Inn late last year to finalize details for the wedding Inn owner Dave Anderson advised them that he would only permit a Christian wedding at the hotel. When Mr. Webber and Ms. Katzman told Anderson that she was Jewish and the family would be uncomfortable with such a service, Anderson told them that the wedding was “not a good fit” for the Inn.

The couple had stayed at Bernadine’s Stillman Inn the weekend they became engaged and decided that it would be the perfect location for their ceremony. They filled out the proper form and made it quite clear that they wanted a “non-religious” wedding. The Inn’s website provided instructions for securing the services of a local judge which would be no problem since the mother of one of Ms. Katzman’s friends was a judge. The Inn seemed satisfied as the deposit cheque was cashed.

But the protest was to no avail. It was either a Christian wedding with God or religion or nothing. The deposit was returned

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MRS. TRUMP BLAMES THE JEWS

WIFE OF PRESUMPTIVE NOMINEE SAYS
CRITICAL ARTICLE "PROVOKED" ANTI-SEMITISM

By **RAFAEL MEDOFF**

Dr. Rafael Medoff is founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies and author of 16 books about Jewish history. - The Editor

Melania Trump, the wife of presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, says that a Jewish journalist "provoked" anti-Semitic harassment by writing an unflattering article about her. In doing so, Mrs. Trump has joined a small but notorious group of public figures who, instead of confronting anti-Semitism, have preferred to blame the victim.

Julia Ioffe's recent article about Melania, in *GQ Magazine*, disclosed that Mrs. Trump has a half-brother whose existence their father has never acknowledged. As a result, Ioffe received numerous threats to her life from self-described Donald Trump supporters. Some of the harassing telephone calls included recordings of speeches by Adolf Hitler. Ioffe has filed a complaint with the police.

In an interview with *Du Jour Magazine*, the would-be First Lady was asked about the anti-Semitic harassment of Ms. Ioffe. Melania replied: "I don't control my fans, but I don't agree with what they're doing...but there are people out there who maybe went too far. She provoked them."

Donald Trump is well known for his reluc-

tance to distance himself from his more extreme supporters, and for his tendency to blame others for "provoking" unruly behavior by his admirers. Some critics might say that Melania is following in her husband's footsteps by depicting her more vicious "fans" as the ones who were unfairly "provoked" by Ms. Ioffe.

Mrs. Trump, however, is not the first public figure to blame Jewish behavior for the actions of anti-Semites.

One infamous outburst along these lines came from British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin in 1945. Annoyed by the growing pressure to admit Holocaust survivors to Mandatory Palestine, Bevin warned that if "the Jews" tried "to get too much to the head of the queue, you have the danger of another anti-Semitic reaction through it all." Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann memorably responded that just a few months earlier, "the Jews had the highest priority in the queues which led to the crematoria of Auschwitz and Treblinka."

The following summer, another prominent European public figure invoked the blame-the-Jews theme. After pogromists murdered 46

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OLYMBEC OWNER EXPANDS REACH

OLYMBEC OPENS THE KANDY GALLERY

By MIKE COHEN

Olymbec owns and manages a diverse portfolio of industrial, office, retail, and residential properties located throughout Canada and the United States. Headquartered in Montréal, Olymbec is now one of the largest private industrial real estate holders in Eastern Canada with branch offices located in key markets across Québec and the United States including; Trois-Rivières, Sherbrooke, Québec City, Dallas, Atlantic, Columbus,

Las Vegas, St. Louis, Memphis, Hartford, Indianapolis and West Virginia.

The key to Olymbec's rapid growth is its successful formula of acquiring and repositioning vacant properties and marketing to a new client base. The late Edward Stern founded the company in 1975. Today, his sons Richard and Derek run the operation. In the case of Derek, not only does he fly his own helicopter - he

also happens to have a keen interest in photography. Last fall, he and his wife Kirsty, along with noted Canadian photographer Neil Dankoff, opened the Kandy Gallery at 5629 Ferrier Avenue. This was an empty shell of a storefront owned by Olymbec. It had been left vacant for some time. Over a period of several months, the 5,500 square foot property was transformed into a state-of-the-art gallery with sufficient room to display

the majority of Dankoff's large panoramic prints as well as a number of photographs taken by Derek and Kirsty.

Dankoff, who was born and raised in Côte Saint-Luc and now resides in Toronto, is close friends with the Sterns. He takes magnificent panoramic landscape photographs some of which span over 10 feet wide. His current work on display represents six years of photography trips
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EYE ON MONTREAL

NAMES IN THE NEWS IN OUR CITY

By MIKE COHEN

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: An orientation and dinner was held at the Gelber Conference Centre recently, hosted by Riva and Thomas O. Hecht, for five teachers who will travel to Israel in July to take part in the Summer Seminar for International Educators at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

Via the Riva and Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship, Teaching of The Holocaust for Educators, this year's recipients are Marymount Academy International Baccalaureate Program Coordinator Ramin Khodaie from the English Montreal School Board

and Clearpoint Elementary School in Pointe Claire teacher Suzanne Ujvari from the Lester B. Pearson School Board. They will be joined by Anne-Marie Jacob from College Jesus-Marie de Sillery in Quebec City, Marie Hélène Laverdière from École Secondaire Jean-de-Brébeuf in Quebec City and Sandy Plamondon from École Primaire St. Lawrence in Candiac.

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DANIEL PERITZ (LEFT) is Senior Vice-President of Canderel and **Brian Salpeter** leads the Cadillac Fairview. Eastern Portfolio Development team.

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CÉRAMIQUE ROYAL

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 4)

and the couple were forced to find another venue.

Now the newly married Wisconsin couple have filed a discrimination charge against the Illinois hotel. "This type of discrimination is exactly what the Illinois law

was designed to prevent," said Rebecca Glenberg, a senior staff attorney at the ACLU of Illinois. "As a public business, open to all, the Inn cannot impose religious requirements on my clients or others, especially not at their own wedding".

Holocaust Survivor Fulfills a Dream

Hermina Hirsch is 89 and a Holocaust Survivor. She was born in Czechoslovakia and endured a series of Nazi concentration camps beginning in 1944, at the age of 17. She was liberated in January 1945. She and her husband moved to Detroit in 1953 and she immediately became a loyal Detroit Tigers fan, attending many games over the years.

Hirsch has been singing the national anthem for years at meetings of Holocaust survivors in the Detroit area. But she had one ambition that remained unfulfilled. She wanted to sing the national anthem at a Major League baseball game.

In an interview with Detroit's WWJ television station the octogenarian called on the Detroit Tigers to allow her

to sing the anthem, assuring them that she would not be intimidated being in front of thousands of fans. After an outpouring of support from the community the Tigers invited her to sing the anthem before a game last month between the Tigers and Tampa Bay Rays.

When asked if she would be nervous, Hirsch replied: "If I lived through the concentration camp, it couldn't be that bad. I don't want to die before I sing at a baseball game".

I'm Not Anti-Semitic Says Toms River Mayor

More than half of Lakewood, New Jersey's 95,000 residents are Orthodox Jews. It is home to one of American's largest yeshivas, Beth Medrash Govoha. It has the highest birthrate in New Jersey at 44 births per 1000 residents.

But with Lakewood running out of real estate
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EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from page 7)

The teachers will take part in a professional development program under the direction of the Faculty of the Yad Vashem Seminars for Educators from Abroad, International School for Holocaust Studies. The goal of the program is to provide professional development activities to teachers for teaching about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. Each scholarship recipient will be asked to create at least one teaching unit or module developed within the context learned, appropriate for the régime pédagogique. The scholarship covers all expenses.

The Hechts sponsored the trip for Mr. Khodaie and Ms. Ujvari. Bill and Dana Bell did so for Ms. Laverdière while the other scholars were sponsored by Victor David, Irwin and Sara Tauben, Janis Levine and the Morris Goodman family. On hand at the reception and orientation to serve as resource guides were Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Executive Director Ester Driham, Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre Executive Director Alice Herscovitch and past scholarship winners Lev Berner from Vincent Massey

Collegiate in Rosemount and Gina Lavine from Collège Laflèche in Trois-Rivieres. The Hechts announced the relaunch of their website <http://t-h-e-program.org> and the debut of a Facebook page (T-H-E Program).

155 FAHRENHEIT:

Young Jewish chef Shane Gannon already has the admiration of his superiors and clients at a trendy new Old Montreal restaurant called 155 Fahrenheit, located at 42 McGill Street. This locale is the brainchild of noted restaurateurs Raphael Roussel and Louie Mercuri. There are 45 seats here and 15 more on the seasonal summer terrace. They grow their own spices in special planters in the front and specialize in burgers and bubbly – matching five different versions of fabulous burgers

with different bottles of champagne and prosecco. Shared plates to start include: brussel sprouts with Buffalo sauce and blue cheese, asiago; bison tartar with quail Egg, coffee and straw potatoes; and market cold cuts and terrines with Quebec cheeses and house condiments. Gannon attended Lauren

Hill Academy in St. Laurent and then studied culinary arts. For more information log on to <http://www.155fahrenheit.com> or call 514-903-6155 for reservations.

CATS CONCERT:

The Côte Saint-Luc Cats Committee (CSLCC) will hold a fundraising concert *(Please turn to following page)*

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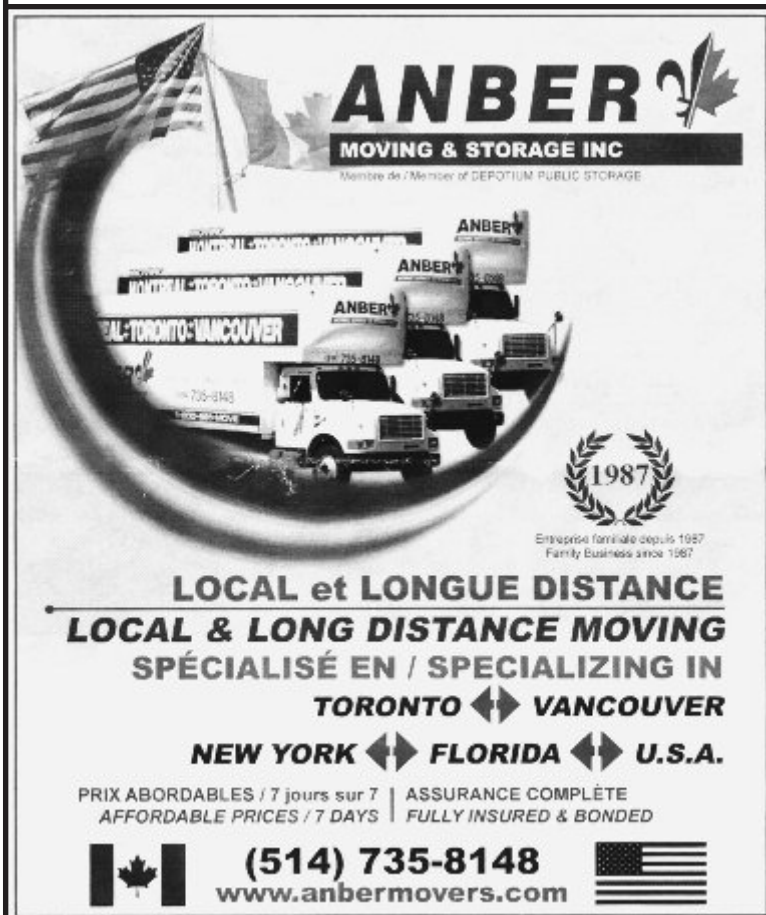
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(Continued from preceding page)

on Tuesday, August 23 (7:30 p.m.) at the Syd Wise Auditorium (5785 Parkhaven) of the Marymount Adult Education Centre. Featured performers will be the Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra (<http://www.musiciansoftheworld.ca>), conducted by Joseph Milo. Some members of his orchestra will also present solo performances. Funds raised from A Bouquet of Classics: The Music We All Love will go towards the CSLCC's Trap, Neuter, Release and Adopt Program and Educhat (www.educhat.ca), the volunteer organization headed by Shelley Schecter, which has spearheaded efforts in Côte Saint-Luc and elsewhere. There are many feral cats in the community. The CSLCC's team of volunteers sets out to trap as many as possible, have them sterilized and then adopted or returned to the spot where they were originally found. The committee has also rescued a number of kittens and found homes for them. The city has a cat licensing

bylaw. Tickets are only \$12 each (tax included) and can be purchased now at the following locations: the main desk at the Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library (5851 Cavendish Boulevard); the Côte Saint-Luc Aquatic and Community Centre (5794 Parkhaven Avenue); and the Côte Saint-Luc Hospital for Animals (7930 Baily Road). Tickets can be purchased at the first two locations by credit and debit card or cash and cash only at the Animal Hospital. For more information call 514-485-6806, ext. 2200 or log on to www.cotesaintluc.org/cats.

STERN FAMILY

HONOUR: On June 7, Beit Halochem Canada, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, presented a "Celebration of Life" Concert at the Oscar Peterson Hall in honour of The Stern Family and in memory of Edward Igal Stern. The most recent war and the current wave of terror attacks in Israel have resulted in over 700 newly disabled Beit Halochem members this past year. Leading-edge Beit Halochem

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Disabled Veterans of Israel assists the injured on their long and difficult journey to regain their health and independence, empowering them to be productive members of Israeli society.

Mike Cohen's e-mail address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow him on Twitter @mikecohencsl.

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 8)

properties to buy Orthodox Jews have begun seeking homes in nearby towns, among them the North Dover neighbourhood of Toms Rivers. Mayor Thomas Kelaher has expressed some "concern" about Orthodox Jews trying to buy homes in his town and warning non Jews that if they don't sell they will be the only non-Orthodox left.

"It's like an invasion", Kelaher told Bloomberg. "It's the old throwback to the 1960s, when blockbusting happened in Philadelphia and Chicago with the African-American community. I want to buy your house. You'll be sorry if you don't". It scares the hell out of people."

Kelaher denies any suggestion of anti-Semitism. *(Please turn to page 15)*

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OLYMBEC EXPANDS REACH

(Continued from page 6)

to destinations including Italy, Israel, Namibia, South Africa, Bora Bora, Tahaa, New York, Banff, Maui, Kauai and Kona.

Three years ago Dankoff wanted some company for his trip to Africa. He initially thought of

Richard Stern, Derek's brother. While Richard was not available, Derek jumped at the opportunity. That is when Kirsty piped in. "If you plan to go to Africa with Neil, you are not doing so without me!" she stated. They went for 14 days, had

a great time and returned with superb material. A year later the threesome did a repeat trip, this time to Bora Bora. When Hawaii became the choice for 2015, Dankoff's wife Carolyn Offman decided to join in the fun as well. This summer, Iceland and the Grand Canyon are on the agenda.

Dankoff lauds Derek and Kirsty for making the Kandy Gallery a reality. In four months they took a shell of a storefront and turned it into a thing of beauty. Business is good, not only for the purchase of the photographs, but private bookings. This is quickly becoming the "it" place for weddings, bar mitzvahs and charity events. Jewish community and other non-profit organizations have begun to take notice. The walls in the middle move, creating even more space. Andrea Baron is the Gallery coordinator and on location at least three days a week. Appointments and events can be booked directly with her at 514-439-1286, 514-793-0084 or info@kandy-gallery.com.

The name Kandy, by the way, came from "Kirsty, Neil and Derek." There is also a lot of delicious looking real candy on display in the large showcase when you walk in. I really enjoyed touring the facility and was impressed by Dankoff's

portraits, particularly those from Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, the Western Wall, Masada, Times Square and Central Park. They are framed in plexi-glass and printed on high end photo paper. Orders are fully packaged and delivered door to door.

Dankoff, who was included in "The Ten Best Canadian Photographers You Should know" list, comes to Montreal about once a month. He studied Film & Communications at McGill University before heading west to Toronto in 1998. He founded Reaction Studio, a photography/video business in 2002 and has since enjoyed expressing his creativity within both mediums. He and his wife have three children; the Sterns have four.

Using a medium format digital camera, Dankoff's unique approach and technique result in a distinct look that is easily recognizable. Each final piece consists of multiple images captured with varying exposures all seamlessly put together in an effort to transport the viewer to a specific time and place.

You can see a video of the Gallery on the Jewish Standard website at www.thejewishstandardmag.com. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olf4cha547U>



A LOOK INSIDE THE KANDY GALLERY.

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MORE THAN 30 YEARS

MRS. TRUMP BLAMES THE JEWS

(Continued from page 5)

Jews in the Polish town of Kielce in 1946, the highest church official in Poland, Cardinal August Hlond, declared that the attackers were simply responding to the (alleged) presence of many Jewish officials in the country's new Communist regime. These Jews were "attempting to impose forms of government completely rejected by the great majority of people," the cardinal insisted; therefore, the responsibility for the violence in Kielce "is borne to a great extent by Jews."

It is even more troubling that such sentiments have been privately voiced by several presidents.

Consider, for example, the February 21, 1973 telephone conversation between then-President Richard Nixon and evangelist Billy Graham. (The transcript was released by the Nixon Presidential Library in 2009.) Nixon told Graham that Jewish opposition to Christian evangelism would "stir up" anti-Semitism. "It happened in Spain, it happened in Germany, it's happening--and now it's going to happen in America if these people don't start behaving," the president asserted. "It may be they have a death wish," Nixon added. "You know that's been the problem with our Jewish friends for centuries." Even "a lot of reasonable people...are getting awfully sick of Jewish behavior", he said.

Unfortunately, such attitudes sometimes can be found on both sides of the political aisle. In 1968, the U.S. government published a transcript of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's January 17, 1943 meeting with local officials in Casablanca. Discussing the status of Jews in Allied-liberated North Africa, FDR

said that quotas should be used to ensure that Jews "would not overcrowd the professions." The transcript continued: "The President stated that his plan would further eliminate the specific and understandable complaints which the Germans bore towards the Jews in Germany, namely, that while they represented a small part of the population, over fifty percent of the lawyers, doctors, school

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teachers, college professors, etc, in Germany, were Jews." (Those statistics were wild exaggerations, of course.)

While doing research at the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem several years ago, I came across another Roosevelt statement in this vein. The document contained the notes of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, the most prominent American Jewish leader of that era, from a meeting he had with President Roosevelt on January 22, 1938. When Wise referred to the mistreatment of Jews in Poland, FDR responded with an anecdote alleging that "the Jewish grain dealer and the Jewish shoe dealer and the Jewish shopkeeper" were dominating the Polish economy, and that was what provoked local Christians to start saying "the Jew should go."

In the cases of Nixon and Roosevelt, their private sentiments about Jewish behavior did not become public knowledge until many years after they had passed away. In the case of Melania Trump, however, she has unabashedly made her views known; perhaps we should be thankful for that.

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 11)

"To suggest that I am anti-Semitic is ridiculous. We have a lovely relationship with the Jewish community in Toms River. Kelaher maintains he was just expressing how local residents feel.

Meanwhile the Toms River Town Council enacted an ordinance creating a five-year "cease-and-desist" zone barring door to door solicitations. The town already has a no knock registry in effect but real estate agents are simply ignoring the order.

Appealing Blatant Passover Punishment

Susan Abeles, an Orthodox Jew, worked for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for 26 years. Each year, prior to 2013, she requested and received time off to observe the Passover holiday. In 2013 she followed the same procedure for Passover. But when she returned to work her superiors accused her of failing to follow proper

protocol. They claimed she had not given ample notice of her impending absence. She was suspended without pay for five days. So distraught was Abeles that she retired "involuntarily" the same year.

In May of 2015 Abeles filed a complaint against the Airports Authority claiming that it had violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the Civil Rights Act. The Authority countered that it is not strictly a gov-

ernment entity and that it therefore falls outside the provisions of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The federal district court of Virginia, where the case was heard, ruled against Abeles.

Now Abeles has filed an appeal. Her suit asks the court to order the airports authority to rescind the "absence without leave" designation and remove any reference to it from her personnel file. It asks that Abeles be reinstated to her position if she so chooses. The suit further seeks financial compensation for lost income, lost pension money due to early retirement and remuneration for pain and suffering.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and the American Jewish Committee each filed a friend of the court brief on her behalf. "It takes some chutzpah for the government to punish a Jewish woman for celebrating Passover", says Eric Rassbach, deputy general counsel at Becket. "That didn't work out so well for Pharaoh."



THE MONUMENT IN THE PASTEUR-AMIA Subway Station in Buenos Aires, Argentina with the names of the 85 victims of the 1994 terrorist rampage. Whereas the assault on the Israeli Embassy two years earlier was regarded more as an attack on a foreign country, the storming of the AMIA building was seen as an attack on loyal citizens of Argentina.

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