Authorities Investigating Antisemitic Motive Behind Murder of Holocaust Survivor

BY BEN COHEN

The two men arrested by French police following the horrific murder of an elderly female Holocaust survivor — whose body was discovered on Friday evening with multiple stab wounds in her incinerated apartment in the 11th arrondissement of Paris — are being investigated for an antisemitic hate crime, the Paris prosecutor’s office announced on Monday.

French media outlets reported over the weekend that the two individuals had been arrested on Saturday, as the country’s Jewish community reacted with dismay and anger to the murder of 85-year-old Mireille Knoll the previous evening. Up to five fires were started in her apartment and the victim was also stabbed 11 times during the attack.

One of the two men arrested, a 29-year-old with previous criminal convictions, was identified by Mrs. Knoll’s son as “someone my mother knew very well and considered a son,” Le Parisien reported. Another outlet, broadcaster France 3, said that Knoll had known the man over a period of twenty years since his childhood.

The second suspect is reported to be a 22-year-old homeless man known to the victim.

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Has Trump Finally Figured It Out?

Donald Trump was elected president with no government experience or in depth knowledge of foreign policy. That ignorance was reflected in some of his first choices to fill key administration positions. Yet after another shakeup this week in which former UN Ambassador John Bolton replaces Gen. H.R. McMaster as national security advisor, Trump finally has the team members he needs. The only question is whether the president will have the wisdom to listen to them.

As far as the mainstream media is concerned, McMaster’s exit is just another example of the revolving door of personnel that has cycled in and out of the White House during Trump’s presidency. Liberal critics are not only damning Bolton as just another television personality, but proof that chaos is the only clear thinking about the absolute necessity of American action to either renegotiate or add on to that pact is correct. And fortunately, Trump seems to be in agreement with both him and with Pompeo on this issue.

But the realist school of thought that embraces the notion of pursuing Israeli interests and honoring the dictates of European allies, who have always been unenthusiastic about stopping Iran’s nuclear ambitions. But that is America’s only realistic option. True realism, as embodied by the stands of Bolton and Pompeo, involves understanding that the defense of US interests involves halting Iran’s quest for regional hegemony and a nuclear weapon, not enabling it as President Obama did with his deal. It also means not being deceived by international opinion about the Palestinians, instead demanding that they embrace peace and renounce terror before asking Israel to sacrifice its security for the hope of peace.

Due to his institutional distaste of the

Continued on Page A8

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Is Putin an Antisemite? It Really Doesn’t Matter

Among Sephardic Jews of my grandmother’s generation, there was a popular, if unproven, belief that Gen. Francisco Franco — the military dictator who ruled Spain from 1939 until his death in 1975 — was of Jewish parentage, and that this explained why he granted refuge to several thousand Jews fleeing the Nazis. I’ve heard tales of a similar belief about Russia’s present republican tsar, Vladimir Putin, along with a similar explanation that his largely benevolent attitude towards the more than one million Jews under his rule stems from his supposed Jewish ancestry.

In an interview this week with The Jerusalem Post, Russia’s Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar didn’t go so far as to claim Putin for the Jewish people, but he did lead them as the first leader in Russia’s long history “to say that Jews had the same rights as anyone else.” The rabbi also related the story of an elderly Jewish woman who told him that Putin’s attendance at a synagogue dedication left her feeling that she could now hold her head up after a lifetime of looking down.

Lazar’s comments were situated in a broader defense of Putin from the charge of antisemitism stemming from a recent NBC interview in which the Russian leader suggested that ethnic minorities with Russian citizenship — he named “Jews,” “Tatars,” and “Ukrainians,” specifically — were responsible for Moscow’s interference in the 2016 US presidential election. But while Jewish leaders in the United States and Europe condemned Putin’s apparent invocation of shoddy Jewish power, Lazar counteracted that Putin is implacably opposed to antisemitism, having presided over an unprecedented rebirth of Jewish identity and community in Russia over the past two decades.

Those who maintain that Lazar speaks the truth and those who argue that he is compelled to say such things are, paradoxically, both correct. Perhaps the most important task of a Jewish leader in a country like Russia — with its authoritarian and violently antisemitic traditions — is to ensure that the existence of a secure, vibrant Jewish community remains an important national interest, as Putin evidently believes it to be.

Yet Putin’s cultivation of warm relations with Russia’s Jews, along with his regime’s respectful relations with the State of Israel, serve as a reminder that the transnational ties that bind the Jewish people aren’t immune from the pressures of geopolitics. A century ago, that reality manifested itself on the battlefield, with more than 500,000 Jewish soldiers serving in the ranks of rival national armies during World War I. These days, the stakes are lower (or we at least believe they are), but the fact remains that the Vladimir Putin lionized by Rabbi Lazar is the same Vladimir Putin who is regarded by most Jews in Russia as a transparently nasty threat to the democracies in which they live as free citizens.

Putin is certainly a historical oddity. He is a ruthless dictator with a genuine friendship with his Russian leader

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Two Palestinians Convicted of Murdering Israeli-Jewish Boss

BY JNS.ORG

Two Palestinians on Sunday were convicted of murdering their employer for nationalist reasons in October.

Yusef Kamil and Mohammed Abu al-Rub, both of Qabatiya near Jenin in Samaria, stabbed and beat Germanschmerling to death in a premeditated attack at Schmerling’s coal warehouse in the Arab-Israeli city of Qafzeh on Oct. 4, according to the plea bargains approved by the Lod district court.

The two will be sentenced in June. According to details of their plea deal, the pair conducted the attack for nationalist reasons in order to kill Jews and were motivated by their desire to revenge a friend who was killed while attempting to commit a terror attack in 2013, in addition to the heightened Arab uproar following the shooting deaths of two Israeli Defense policemen on the Temple Mount by these means.

The two men did not have permits to enter Israel and traveled to Qafzeh in late September illegally in order to work at Schmerling’s coal-storage facility. According to the indictment, Kamil wanted to enter Israel to kill Jews, ultimately convincing Abu al-Rub. They purchased a butcher knife and chose Schmerling as their victim, due to their dislike of him and due to work disputes. They also carried the attack out using a pickaxe and a fan.

His body was found later that day in one of the business’s storage units by his son.

After the attack, Kamil and Abu al-Rub showered, changed their clothes, ditched their weapons and escaped back to Qabatiya.

Adviser to Polish Prime Minister Under Fire From Top Jewish Leaders

BY BEN COHEN

Jewish leaders in the US and Europe have rejoiced at the appointment of a leading Polish expert on antisemitism, after he recently became the target of an “antisemitic” online campaign led by an official adviser to Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Kacera, a high-level official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Rafal Pankowski — a Warsaw-based professor who leads the anti-racist “Never Again” Association — was described as a “Polish-speaking Jewish mongrel dog” and threatened with violence by extremists on social media following a speech he delivered to the Global Forum Against Antisemitism in Jerusalem on March 21.

In that presentation, Pankowski highlighted the upsurge of antisemitic rhetoric that has accompanied the recent passage of controversial Holocaust commemoration legislation in Poland. The bill — signed into law by President Andrzej Duda on Feb. 6 — criminalizes public discussion of Polish antisemitism and collusion with the Nazi authorities during the German occupation of 1939-45, with potential violations facing a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

(Pankowski, a critic of the legislation, is frequently quoted on this matter and related issues by The Algemeiner and several other international news outlets.)

Among those in the audience for Pankowski’s speech was Polish Ambassador to Israel Jacek Chodrowicz. Attending with the ambassador was Andrzej Pawluszek — a government adviser promoted on March 2 to the official post of secretary to the prime minister — who took exception to the speech’s content. While Pawluszek did not challenge the remarks during the panel, his further disagreement with Pankowski’s claim that antisemitism was widespread among certain Polish politicians and media outlets was revealed in a subsequent series of tweets, in which he joined with the deputy leader of Poland’s far-right National Movement in denouncing Pankowski’s assessment of Polish antisemitism as a “scandal.”

The tweets were approvingly shared by other well-known figures in Poland — including Sebastian Mniedz – a former diplomat at the Ministry of Justice, Krzysztof Ziembiec, the presenter of Polish state TV’s evening news program, and Adam Brzoz, a deputy speaker of the Polish Senate — setting off a volley of online abuse in Pankowski’s direction.

One respondent accused Pankowski of having gone to Israel “to earn his Judas shekels,” while another urged Pawluszek to “punch him in the face on our behalf.” Another participant in the exchange declared his desire “not to put TLM in the case of this Pankowski.”

Polish far-right activists — 60,000 of whom turned out for a menacing show of force in Warsaw in November 2017 — carry a long-established reputation for violence at soccer matches and political demonstrations, as well as a reported average of ten assaults each week on immigrants living in the country.

Some of the Jewish leaders who rushed to Pankowski’s defense on Monday expressed dismay that the originator of the social media campaign was a government official who had been present at the annual antisemitism forum in Jerusalem, hosted by Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry representa¬tive clarified that Pawluszek “wasn’t invited by us, and did not play an official role.”

Levin continued, “We were trying to create an inclusive atmosphere, and these tweets unfortunately don’t help with that.”

The tweets were seized on by the ear of internation¬al affairs for the Anti-Defamation League — demanded an immediate end to the outburst of online vitriol against Pankowski.

“Any campaign of online antisemitic harassment against our long-time partners at the Never Again Association is deeply regretted,” a spokesperson for the organization said.

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Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat had voiced concern about the timeline, telling Israeli radio on March 9: “I hope their (Americans’) schedule will be kept.”

The Israeli planning permit waiver for the embassy will be good for three years, the Finance Ministry statement said.

“Initially, the interim Embassy in (the Jerusalem neighborhood of) Armona will contain office space for the Ambassador and a small staff,” said a US embassy official in Tel Aviv.

“By the end of next year, we intend to open a new Embassy Jerusalem annex on the Armona compound that will provide the Ambassador and his team with expanded interim office space,” he said, adding that a search for site for the construction of a permanent embassy had begun.

World News.
The Israeli Nature and Parks Authority announced this week that archeologists unearthed a trove of rare bronze coins dating from the last years of the Roman Jewish War (66-7 CE) in a cave near the south wall of the Temple Mount on Monday. The discovery was part of the Ophel excavation operated by acclaimed Israeli archeologist Dr. Edith Mazar of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and included dozens of bronze coins as well as numerous fragments of pottery vessels from the difficult four-year rebellion of the Jews of Israel against Roman rule known as the Great Revolt.

Mazar’s team believes the coins were left by hidden Jewish residents of Second Temple Jerusalem who sought refuge from the Roman siege in a cave that measures 7 by 14 meters. The coins were dated to the period just prior to the destruction of the Second Temple, years 66-70 CE, with most of them dating to prior to the destruction of the Second Temple, Jerusalem, and included dozens of bronze coins minted by the Jewish revolters known as the Great Revolt.

“Among the coins discovered were several types of unique coins bearing the words ‘Freedom’ and ‘Redemption’ found right before the Jewish Festival of Passover begins is incredibly moving,” said Mazar in a statement.

According to Mazar, the cave was virtually untouched since the Second Temple period — a very unusual occurrence in archaeology — and also contains a Hasmonean Period layer beneath.

In February, the Ophel excavation garnered international attention for uncovering a 2,700-year-old seal which may have belonged to the biblical Prophet Isaiah. Approximately 50 years ago, after the 1967 Six Day War, Mazar’s grandfather, Professor Benjamin Mazar, discovered another hoard of Year Four coins at excavations near the Robinson’s Arch adjacent to the Western Wall.

By Reuters & Algemeiner Staff

British Jewish groups held a street protest on Monday against opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, accusing him of failing to tackle antisemitism in party ranks because (Polish Chief Rabbi) Michael Pankowski during the panel, Pawluszek deliberately launch a hate campaign against Rafal Pankowski and all those who stood up against hate in Poland.”

Responding to an email query from The Algemeiner, Paveluk suggested that he had "always been against antisemitism, which I consider to be a serious problem.”

Arguing that antisemitism was more pronounced in Western Europe, the Polish prime minister’s adviser added, “I do not disregard it in Poland, and I regularly ban use of hateful language and imagery.”

Ehrenberg said the WJC had been “deeply saddened by these unfortunate expressions on the part of the officials and calls for an immediate return to public discourse.”

Meanwhile, Shumon Sanders — international affairs director for the Simon Wiesenthal Center — called for Paveluk’s dismissal from his role in Morawiecki’s office.

"For a Polish government official to attend and address an Israeli government conference to deliberately launch a hate campaign against Rafal, demands an immediate condemnation from his boss, Prime Minister Morawiecki, and the dismissal of Paveluk from all government functions,” Sanders said.

"The repercussions of Pawluszek’s libel have always been against antisemitism, which I consider to be a serious problem.”

"This horror cannot be suffered in silence,” Levy said.

Meanwhile, Joel Mergui — the president of the Consistoire Central Israelite, a prominent religious organization — on Monday invoked the antisemitic murder in April 2017 of another Jewish prisoner, Sarah Halimi. Mergui warned against reproducung the silence that followed the murder of Sarah Halimi in the same district (of Paris.)”

The killing of Halimi by an Islamist assailant who broke into her apartment, beat her and then ejected her from a third-floor window to her death was shrouded in silence for several weeks after it occurred. At the time, many French Jews blamed the absence of media coverage, along with the reluctance of the authorities to treat Halimi’s murder as a hate crime, on the widespread belief that doing so would have boosted the fortunes of the far right presidential candidate, Marine Le Pen.

Le Pen was defeated in the April 2017 presidential election by centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron. Since his victory, Macron has strongly criticized the lack of sensitivity to the antisemitic character of Halimi’s murder on several occasions.

On a visit to Israel on Monday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said it was “impossible to assume” that Mireille Knoll’s murder was motivated by antisemitism.

Le Drian noted he had learned of Knoll’s death just after visiting the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, describing it as a “very moving and difficult moment.”

“We will need to continue fighting against antisemitism,” Le Drian declared.

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The French Jewish representative organization CRIF announced on Monday that it was calling a protest rally against the “odious murder” on Wednesday night. Demonstrators will gather at the Place De La Nation in Paris before marching to the Avenue Philippe-Auguste, the street where Knoll lived.

Henri Levy, one of France’s leading Jewish intellectuals, said on Monday that the nation had “failed” to protect Mrs Knoll.

“This horror cannot be suffered in silence,” Levy said.

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“We will need to continue fighting against antisemitism,” Le Drian declared.
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi Heads Democratic Delegation to Israel, Jordan

BY JNS.org

US House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi is heading a delegation of Democratic lawmakers on a five-day visit to Israel and Jordan to promote “global and regional security and cooperation.”

California Representative and ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee Adam Schiff was also among the 11 representatives who landed in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

“There is no greater political accomplishment in the 20th century than the establishment of the State of Israel,” Pelosi said in a statement. “Our delegation is pleased to be able to extend the congratulations of the American people to the people of Israel as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of Jewish state this spring.”

She noted that “in Jordan, our delegation travels at a vital time in the US relationship with this key ally. We anticipate productive meetings on how our two nations and people can work together to strengthen our economic and security relationships.”

“Members are particularly interested,” she added, “in reviewing the Syrian refugee and humanitarian challenges, as well as addressing other critical challenges facing the region.”

New York Governor Cuomo’s Joke That Jews Can’t Dance Falls Flat During Speech at Church

BY SHIRYN SOLNY

The audience listening to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo’s speech at a predominantly black church in Harlem on Sunday did not find his joke about Jews to be humorous, the New York Post reported.

While thanking the congregation at Mount Neboh Baptist Church for inviting him to speak, Gov. Cuomo said, “I want you to know as a matter of full disclosure, I am a Catholic. Catholics basically believe the same teachings that Baptists believe. We just do it without the rhythm. But we try. We are not as without rhythm as some of our Jewish brothers and sisters.”

Cuomo then pointed out Democratic consultant and former campaign adviser Rabbi Hank Sheinkopf, who was sitting in the front row, for his off-beat moves.

“I was watching Mr. Sheinkopf here in the front row moving to the music,” Gov. Cuomo added. “It was ugly, I’ll tell you the truth.”

Sheinkopf — who was at the church because he works for its pastor and his advocacy group, Mobilizing Preachers and Communities advocacy group — told The Post about the governor’s joke, “There weren’t many people laughing, but I didn’t feel humiliated.” He added sarcastically, “He’s the governor. He’s now in charge of American dancing.”

Jewish pro-Israel activist Arthur Schwartz also was not amused, saying, “The governor should focus more on governing and less on Jew jokes.”

State Senator Simcha Felder, an Orthodox Jew, said, “I don’t think it was that good a joke. I can write better material.”

Cuomo’s spokesperson later stated about the governor’s joke, “He was clearly poking fun at himself and one longtime friend who was in the audience.”
Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) came to Washington last week to meet President Donald Trump, and was lauded for many of the reforms he is undertaking in Saudi Arabia. Many of these steps, such as improving the rights of women, are commendable — but the country still has a long way to go in the area of human rights.

One decision that would win MBS significant goodwill in the West — and improve conditions for peacemaking — is to normalize relations with Israel. He has taken some encouraging incremental positive steps, but he needs to make the final, courageous leap.

Press reports have indicated the Saudis and Israelis have been quietly working together to confront the threat posed by Iran. For the Saudis, Iran truly poses an existential threat as a regional power. The Saudis also share an interest in reforming the Palestinian Authority away from terrorism and incitement. Many surmise that the Saudis have never cared much for the Palestinians, and have mostly paid lip service to their cause. In the past, the Saudis feared improving ties with Israel before an agreement was reached with the Palestinians — because of the fear of upheaval in the kingdom and that Saudi leaders might suffer the fate of Anwar Sadat, who was assassinated after making peace with Israel.

The Saudi public, however, has become more inward focused, and is looking to improve its own welfare. The Saudi public’s lack of reaction to the US decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital was one indication of the change in perception of the centrality of the Palestinian issue.

The Saudis have harmed the peace process by funding Hamas and the PLO, encouraging their violence against Israel. But the Saudis also have further under mined stability in the region by their refusal to normalize ties with Israel.

Yet recent events — from Saudi Arabia allowing the US flight to fly to Israel in its airspace, to MBS publicly comparing Iranian leader Khamenei to Hitler, to constant media provocation of the Iranians, are feeling pretty joyous.”

Said the Saudis in Egypt during the deadly 10th plague (the killing of the firstborn), has its fair share of mind-boggling traditions. Here are eight customs, one for each day of the holiday:

1. The Burning of the Chametz. It’s not e new this year going to be different from all other years? Because this year, you can stump your guests with the meaning behind many of the mysterious rites that comprise the Passover Seder.

Let’s face it, you finally wrap up those branied days of cleaning and cooking your guests arrive (Passover is an even bigger family reunion than Rosh Hashanah). And by the time you pass out the Haggadahs and the Seder actually begins, you’re ready to dessert. Passover is celebrated for eight days outside of Israel, with Seders held on the first and second nights of the holiday. Israelis celebrate for seven days, and hold just one Seder the first night.

This year, Passover begins after sundown on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nisan, correlating to Friday, March 30, which is also Shabbat. But Pesach, or Passover in English, which refers to G-d “passing over” the households of the Hebrews in Egypt during the deadly 10th plague (the killing of the firstborn), has its fair share of mind-boggling traditions. Here are eight customs, one for each day of the holiday:

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Impressions.

Continued from Page A2

Trump establishment and against the desires of both Jewish and Middle Eastern politicians. This resolution has been published in Commentary, The Wall Street Journal and Haaretz. His writings have been published in The New York Post, Haaretz, The Wall Street Journal and many other publications.

On February 27, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) revealed that there were 1,986 antisemitic incidents reported across the United States in 2017 — representing a 57% increase from 2016. This is the most significant single-year increase on record.

Furthermore, this statistic should concern any American citizen that values diversity and disdains every manifestation of bigotry. What’s even more disconcerting is that the NYU Student Government Assembly is inadmissible.

The NYU campus. Photo: File.

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The NYU campus. Photo: File.
Notice of formation of 194 WIMAN LLC (LLC) Name: 194 WIMAN LLC, Agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: 194 WIMAN LLC, 421 Home Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10305. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: VOYAGER DRONES COMPANY, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 12/11/2017. Office location Kings county-SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: 7041 13th Ave, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: Pipe Organ 24 LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 01/31/2018. Office location Kings county-SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Pipe Organ 24 LLC, 553 Graham Avenue, Apt 3, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: BMW BUS SERVICE LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/31/2018. Office location Kings county-SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: 1413 Resedale Ave 1F Bronx, NY 10472. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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Pesach is the oldest and most transformative story of hope ever told. It tells of how an otherwise unidentified group of slaves found their way to freedom from the greatest power on earth, and their emprise of their time, instead of any time. It tells the revolutionary story of how the supreme Power intervened in human history to literally bring it to powerlessness. It is a story of the defeat of probability by the force of possibility. It defines what it is to be a Jew: a living symbol of hope.

Pesach tells us that the strength of a nation does not lie in horses and chariots, armies and arms, or in colossus and building, but in the demonstration of power and wealth. It depends on simpler things: humility in the presence of the God of creation, trust in the God of redemption and history, and a sense of the non-negotiable sanctity of human life, created by God in His image even the life of a slave or a child too young to ask questions. Pesach is the epitome of a narrative not engraved on tables of stone, but shaped by human hands to cohere and consume their fellow humans.

It is the story more than a hundred generations of our ancestors handed on to their children, and they to theirs. As we do likewise, millennia later, we know what it is to be the people of history, guardians of a narrative not engraved in hieroglyphs on the walls of a monumental building but carried in the messages, symbols and dreams of human beings who, for longer than any other have kept faith with the future and the past, bearing witness to the power of the human spirit when it opens itself to a greater power, becomin us to a world of freedom, responsibility and human dignity.

Pesach is more than simply one festival among the many in Jewish life. It is from April 10 to 14, six days in which we commemorate a series of anticipations of the exodus, focussing our attention on, and heightening our anticipation of, what would eventually take place in

Judgment for Index #12164-13. Aaron Maslow, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, 520 West 47th Street, Suite 3000, New York, NY 10036. Plaintiff against MARCO FREUND, A.K.A., MARCUS FLERD. FRENES, and MARCUS FRENES (REFUSED FIRST NAME), et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure for Index No. 540086/2015, entered on February 28, 2018. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in the Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on the 26th day of April, 2018 at 2:30 PM, premises known as 1325 East 89th Street Brooklyn, NY 11216. Premises will sell subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #502745/14. (continued)

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Survey: A Full 97 Percent of Israeli JewsHost or Join a Seder

BY JNS.org

The survey confirms that similar to the Rosh Hashanah (New Year’s) dinner, the Passover Seder is one of the only practices of Jews in Israel that is almost equally observed across the spectrum of Jewish sectors, including 93 percent of “totally secular” Jews.

As such, JPPI’s senior fellow and sociologist Dr. Shlomo Fischer commented: “The Passover Seder of Israelis has remained a highly traditional Jewish ritual.”

JPPI, founded by the Jewish Agency, is a nonprofit think tank that, according to its website, hopes “to ensure the thriving of the Jewish People and the Jewish civilization by engaging in professional strategic thinking and planning on issues of primary concern to world Jewry.”

Their newest study seeks to better understand what “participation” in Jewish rituals, such as reading the Haggadah, means for different Jews. The Institute found that 64 percent of Israeli Jews read “the entire Haggadah, including the part that is read after the meal,” making Passover one of the most common practices of both Israeli and non-Israeli Jews.

A majority of Jews from all seven sectors of Jewish Israeli society (except “totally secular,” 22 percent of whom read the entire Haggadah and 71 percent of whom read parts of the Haggadah) reported that they read the entire Haggadah.

While the “totally secular” group is the outlier in the study, it is the largest sector of Israeli society, making up 31 percent of Israeli Jews.

JPPI also found that those who read the Haggadah in its entirety do not necessarily keep other Passover laws, such as keeping kosher for Passover; in fact, 13 percent of Haggadah readers do not keep kosher for Passover. Conversely, 85 percent of those who keep kosher for Passover read the Haggadah in its entirety, meaning that 56 percent of Israeli Jews both read the entire Haggadah and keep kosher for Passover.

When asked why Israeli Jews uphold traditions like the Passover Seder, 25 percent responded that the “Torah says so.” Others said “that’s how my family behaved throughout the generations,” “that’s how I express my Jewish culture,” and “it makes me feel like I am taking part in history.”

According to a Jewish People Policy Institute survey of 3,000 respondents, 97 percent of Israeli Jews say they either host or participate in a Passover Seder, compared to the 2013 Pew Study’s finding of 70 percent of American Jews who participated in the Seder the prior year.

In Israel, only one Seder is held on the first night of the holiday.

George Clooney to Narrate New Shimon Peres Documentary

BY SHIRYN SOLNY

Actor George Clooney will narrate a new documentary about late Israeli statesman Shimon Peres, Variety reported on Tuesday.

“Never Stop Dreaming: The Life and Legacy of Shimon Peres” will be produced by Moriah Films, the film division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC).

Clooney, who met Peres several times, agreed recently to sign on as the film’s narrator. The documentary was first announced in August 2017, and includes interviews with former Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, as well as ex-British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and singer Barbara Streisand.

The film’s director, Oscar-winning documentarian Richard Trank, said there is a screening of ‘Never Stop Dreaming’ scheduled for June 13 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the film’s general release will most likely coincide with the second anniversary of Peres’ passing, on Sept. 28.

Peres, a former Israeli president and prime minister, asked Moriah Films to create a documentary about his life story nine months before his September 2016 death at the age of 92, Trank previously revealed.

Moriah began working on the film in January 2016 and Trank said, “We deferred production on our documentary about David Ben-Gurion to start working on ‘Never Stop Dreaming’. We wound up with about 50 hours of footage of Shimon and was struck by how he wanted to keep learning. He said that dreams are what kept him young.”

“Never Stop Dreaming” will be the 16th documentary produced by Moriah Films. The production company releases documentaries that “focus on the 3,500-year-old Jewish experience as well as contemporary human rights and ethical issues,” according to its website. Two of Moriahs’ films, “Genocide” and “The Long Way Home,” have been the recipients of Academy Awards for Best Feature Documentary.

Moriah Films is headed by SWC founder and dean Rabbi Marvin Hier, who is also a two-time Oscar winner and the only clergyman who is a voting member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, according to Variety.

Shimon Peres Documentary

George Clooney. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

TV Host Mario Lopez Visits Western Wall in Jerusalem During Israel Visit

BY SHIRYN SOLNY

Television host and actor Mario Lopez toured Israel this week and stopped by the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

A photo of the ‘Extra’ host at the holy site was posted on Instagram by America’s Voices In Israel, which organizes week-long missions to the Jewish state for Hollywood stars and other well-known figures.

Lopez also filmed a video in Jerusalem, which he later posted on social media, in which he admitted to crashing a Jewish couple’s wedding photo. He shouted “Mazal tov” to the couple off-camera and said, “I’m getting a lot of love here in Israel. They’re very, very nice people.”

Lopez arrived in Israel on Sunday with his Jewish manager, Mark Schulman, and another friend. His itinerary included a visit to the Sea of Galilee, and he was baptized in the Jordan River.
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the days of Moses.

Second, remembering 'that you were once slaves in Egypt’ is the single most frequently invoked reason for the command [of the exodus]. The command to create reveals a fundamental society of the Israelites were called into why Judaism is as it is. The single most frequently invoked you were once slaves in Egypt” is Pesach Haggadah.” He opened it up, and asked: “Rabbi, what’s going on here?... how could this have happened with several tragedies, a young man gained star status as an “evil eye” of Giza, the tallest man-made monument of danger for the Ashkenazi world. Learning at Boston College, says, “As we’re dipping, and why we’re... questions have to be stored... answers erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block FMW Lot 52. Approximate amount of judgment is $328,267.43 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 1601/2013. Philip Kamaras, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Bank, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff(s) 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14621 (877) 779-1835 Dated: February 28, 2018 Referee(s) for the Plaintiff(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale (S) for Plaintiff(s) (S) (S). Purpose: all awful activity AL 3/30, 4/6/20/27, 5/6

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Questions represent suffering, and charoset symbolizes the cement — the elbow grease it takes to make bread. The Passover is a way to get kids to ask about the drama of God’s rescue of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, that’s the way Daniel Dressin’s family operates, and the 10-year-old from Owings Mills, Maryland, is gearing up for some successful negotiating this year. “It’s fun competing against my brothers and cousins to try to find it,” says Daniel. By the way, here is a bonus question for your guests.

What exactly is that mysterious (and expensive) round, crisp shmurah matzah? It is matzah monitored (‘guardianed’) throughout the entire making and baking process by an observant person (and not a machine) to ensure that no leavening transpires.

Celebrity Jewish cookbook author Joaonathan weizs in “These so-called ‘watched matzah that we can buy today... used to be just matzah before the Age of Industrialization, when Manischewitz created a machine-made square matzah in the [United] States and earlier in France. Before Passover, people went to a matzah oven, either in the synagogue or the community. And wealthy homeowners even had their own matzah ovens.”