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Happy 4th of July

Candlelighting DENVER 8:14 p.m. BOULDER 8:16 p.m. ASPEN 8:20 p.m.

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Thinking in St. Louis

What Jewish journalists are asked to think about today

By HILLEL GOLDBERG
IJN Editor and Publisher

ST. LOUIS — The images jar: A live, direct interview with an attendee at the Bahrain peace roll out, alongside every imaginable picture of St. Louis Cardinals ball players going back more than a century; a video of Jews

'The best way to overspend is to underspend'

saving Arab lives and of Arabs saving Jewish lives in dire emergencies, alongside heaps of luscious food from Simon Cohen's kosher store; a chilling, first-person account of confronting the Poway, Calif. murderer, alongside beautiful memories of the previous night's tour of St. Louis' famous arch.

At the Hilton St. Louis at The Ballpark, the American Jewish Press Assn. gathered for its 75th anniversary this week. The editorial and business sessions were filled with the usual bromides ("they don't care what you know until they know that you care"; "mass media is dead, everything is niche'd"; "the best way to overspend is to underspend"), but along the way were pointed presentations of interest way beyond the borders of journalistic shop talk.

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LOCAL EVENT

Crypto-Jewish Studies

The Society's 28th annual conference runs Sunday-Tuesday at the Doubletree Hilton in Greenwood Village.

'Kill Jewish candidate' Homeless in Seattle

By BEN SALES

JTA

SEATTLE — When Ari Hoffman opened his front door after the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, he saw a note from the police. Anti-Semites were targeting him online, it said. Was he safe?

Hoffman, 38, a candidate for City Council, was safe. But he learned that his neighbor was posting messages on 8chan, a forum friendly to the far right, noting that Hoffman had an Israeli flag in front of his house and asking what he should do.

One of the responses: "Kill [him]. Literally kill [him]. Burn the flag along with [him], dead or alive."

Another user found a photo of one of Hoffman's children and posted that he "literally looks like a anti-semitic caricature." The posts were flagged by the Middle East Media Research Institute, a pro-Israel media watchdog.

The American Jewish Committee condemned

the threats. One week later, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan wrote in a statement that "I condemn and reject any anti-Semitic attacks and threats of violence on Mr. Hoffman and his family."

"It's pretty scary when you see that kind of stuff," Hoffman said. "It's not easy on my wife. She's taking it pretty hard."

He also had harsh words for the mayor.

"I think it's ridiculous how long it took the mayor to actually say anything," Hoffman said. "I think it's crazy that no City Council member has weighed in on this."

Hoffman is used to criticizing the mayor and city government. For more than a year, he has been protesting vandalism and drug use in his local Orthodox Jewish cemetery, which he

SEATTLE

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Peace begins in Bahrain

Or at least so it is hoped by Trump administration

By RON KAMPEAS

JTA

WASHINGTON — Days ahead of a workshop where Jared Kushner will seek tens of billions of dollars for his Middle East peace plan, the White House unveiled an outline of its economic portion, including proposals, like a Gaza-West Bank travel corridor.

The "Peace to Prosperity" plan authored by a team led by Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, was posted on the White House website on June 22.

It does not outline the political portion of the peace plan, which the architects say will come in November, after Israel's September elections.

The conference officially launched Tuesday, June 25, in Bahrain's capital city of Manama.

The economic plan's 40 pages enthusiastically endorse expressions of Palestinian identity, from Palestinian food to universities, and hint at political outcomes that could complicate Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plans to forge a coalition with parties to the right of his Likud Party.

Not mentioned, however, is Palestinian statehood.

In addition to the Gaza-West Bank link, which would inevitably cross Israeli territory, there are proposals to register Palestinian ownership of land and to allow Palestinian farmers greater access to water and arable land.

These outcomes could put Netanyahu in a squeeze: He has been unremitting in his embrace of Trump, who has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, pulled out of an Iran nuclear deal Netanyahu loathes, defunded the Palestinians and effectively campaigned for Netanyahu in

PEACE PLAN

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Trump's Iran policy Supporters answer critics



Brian Hook, the US special representative for Iran, r, testifies before a House subcommittee, June 19. Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images

By RON KAMPEAS

JTA

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says he is "very prepared" for Iran.

"We're looking at Iran," he said June 18 when a reporter asked him what he had planned beyond sending another 1,000 US troops to the area as tensions there appear to be escalating.

"We have a lot of things going with Iran. We have — we're very prepared for Iran. We'll see what happens. Let me just say this: We are very prepared. Regardless of what goes, we are very, very prepared."

Trump was short on details, which has unnerved Democratic members of Congress and presidential candidates, who have derided Trump on the campaign trail for an incoherent foreign policy that they say is escalating ten-

sions.

Rep. Ted Deutch, D-Fla., an Iran hawk within his party who opposed the 2015 Iran nuclear

Trump policy questioned for coherence

deal, convened an oversight hearing, June 19, by the Middle East subcommittee he chairs to address Trump's Iran policy.

"I question its coherence, its impact on our international leadership, its effectiveness and, at times, its recklessness," Deutch said.

Among the concerns Deutch outlined:

- Mixed messages on regime

change (Trump explicitly opposes it, yet his national security adviser, John Bolton, was a staunch regime change advocate before he took this job and has indicated it is the outcome he still favors);

- A failure to bring allies on board since Trump pulled out of the Iran deal a year ago;

- The fact that Iran seems to be escalating, not tamping down, tensions.

The day after the oversight hearing, Iran's Revolutionary Guard said it shot down an "intruding American spy drone" after it entered into the country's territory, CNN reported, citing the state-run Press TV.

A US official confirmed to CNN that a drone had been shot down,

IRAN

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Cyber defense: Iran a major threat

About 25% of all global investments in cybersecurity go to Israeli companies

By ARYEH SAVIR

TPS

“Iran and its proxies continue to pose a main cyber threat in the Middle East,” said Yigal Unna, director general of the Israel National Cyber

68% experienced at least one cyber attack

Directorate, but “Israel is prepared for cyber threats; we have the capability to respond forcefully to cyber-

attackers, and not necessarily on the same vector as the attack.”

Unna was speaking on Wednesday, June 26, during Tel Aviv University’s Ninth Annual Cyber Week.

Some 400 speakers from about 80 countries are sharing the latest innovations in the world of cyber defense and data security, as well as urgent cyber issues in the international arena.

Unna presented data according to which the Iranians are among the top five state actors active in cyberspace.

The data shows that the Iranians are constantly and extensively active in a wide range of attacks, including attacks aimed at gathering intelligence, attacks meant to shape opinion, and attacks aimed at harming and destroying systems.

Iran is among the few countries that carry out attacks of destruction, especially against the Gulf States, he said.

Among the new and current trends of cyber-attacks Unna presented were the targeting of supply chains, ransom attacks against large corporations, a substantial increase in revelations of vulnerabilities in various technological infrastructures, and a substantial decrease in the amount of time between the discovery of a vulnerability and its exploitation.

Unna presented the results of a survey led by the National Cyber Directorate among 300 Israeli companies in the private sector, which shows that 68% of the companies experienced at least one cyber-attack or an attempt at one in the past year.

Some 63% of those who reported cyber events also noted that no damage was caused.

The survey also found that 84% of the companies allocate a budget for cybersecurity, and 80% said that the issue of cyber protection is given a high priority in their company, especially among information and communications companies and



NEW RECORDS

Yigal Unna, director general of the Israel National Cyber Directorate.
Chen Galili/Cyber Week

among companies with international activity.

In addition, 75% of companies already have a cyber administrator, and about 60% of the surveyed organizations update their board of directors at least once a quarter on cyber protection.

Israel is considered a global leader in the cybersecurity business. Approximately 25% of all global investments in cybersecurity go to Israel.

Israel signed the second-largest number of cybersecurity deals internationally, according to a report by New York data firm CB Insights published in April, 2018.

The US came first.

Israel came in second place with 7%, ahead of the United Kingdom with 6%, Canada with 3% and China with 2%, according to the report.

Unna said that the Israeli cyber industry is on its way to breaking new records in raising capital this year. In the past half-year, 40 Israeli cyber firms raised \$850 million, compared to \$1.1 billion in 2018.

Likewise, in the past half-year, Israeli cyber firms recorded seven exits, totaling a sum of \$1.5 billion.

Israel has developed advanced security protocols, as cyber-attacks on Israel have risen exponentially in the past several years, reaching up to two million attacks against crucial Israeli infrastructure on a daily basis.

Israel’s rise as one of the world’s leaders in cybersecurity has been boosted by cooperation between the military, government, education and private sectors, a level of partnership unmatched in the Western world.

Eliot Engel faces newcomer who backed Ocasio-Cortez

NEW YORK (JTA) — The progressive group that helped get New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez elected is supporting a political newcomer against veteran Jewish congressman Eliot Engel.

Justice Democrats announced that it would back Jamaal Bowman, a middle school principal and former teacher in the Bronx, against Engel in the city’s 16th Congressional District.

Engel, who has served in the House of Representatives since 1989, is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He is facing three primary challengers, all to his left, according to BuzzFeed.

Bowman, according to the report, is running on a platform focused on investing in public schools, free college, Medicare for all, the Green New Deal and criminal justice

reform.

“Our grassroots movement shocked the country last year with AOC’s upset victory, and we are prepared to do it again in New York’s 16th District,” said Alexandra Rojas, the executive director of Justice Democrats. “It’s time to usher in a new generation of progressive leadership into the Democratic Party.”

Engel is close to the mainstream pro-Israel community and has initiated a number of pro-Israel bills over the years.

On June 16, he said at the Jerusalem Post Annual Conference in New York that support for Israel should not be politicized.

“We have to make sure that there is a strong majority to help the State of Israel,” he said. “I don’t think it helps to make it a political football. We have 33 Jewish congressmen, and 31 of them are Democrats. ■

Live from St. Louis: Hazon, United Hatzalah, Beth Din . . . the Cardinals

AJPA

From Page 1

Rabbi Marc Schneier, speaking directly from Bahrain, outlined three reasons why Bahrain, of all countries, would be interested in hosting the Trump administration’s roll out of its economic peace plan for Israel and the Palestinians:

- Bahrain and the US have a common enemy: Iran.

- Bahrain is undergoing an internal transformation of its economy, so that it is not exclusively based on oil revenue. Bahrain looks to Israel as a model of a small, resourceless state that harnessed technology for national economic success.

- Bahrain wants to be in the good graces of the US generally and of the Trump administration particularly.

Oscar Stewart, who charged the murderer in Poway, Calif. and lived to tell the story, says he doesn’t think murderer’s gun jammed. Stewart says he simply ran out of ammunition. Stewart, a veteran of the US Navy and US Army, says that all the kinks have been worked out of the AK-47. It doesn’t jam.

Stewart’s take on synagogue security: It’s not the armed guard standing outside — who will just take the first shot — it’s the physical security. Prevent the shooter from getting in the front door.

Segue to **Scott Blondo**, the community security director of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis. He says that contrary to popular opinion, the overwhelming majority of perpetrators of mass shootings come

in the front door.

Mark Gerson, chair of United Hatzalah of Israel, began with a video — which has garnered 50 million views! It shows secular and religious Jews, Palestinians, Druze, men and women saving each others’ lives via the “ambucycle.” Its battle cry is “90 seconds.”

The ambucycle is a small, nimble, medically equipped motor scooter, not stopped by traffic jams. It reaches victims of terror, accidents or health emergencies a few minutes quicker than an ambulance. Those few minutes can make the difference between life and death, before a fully equipped ambulance arrives.

Gerson says that in Israel United Hatzalah gets 1,500 calls a day and at least 10% of them save a life.

This organization began with Jews saving Jewish victims of terrorist attacks. But when Arabs saw how it worked, they wanted in. The current US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, wrote the first check for the Arab unit of Hatzalah in East Jerusalem.

Now, United Hatzalah in Israel is inter-ethnic throughout. The goal is to reach any victim within 90 seconds of receiving the emergency call.

A United Hatzalah medic requires 240 hours of training and the willingness and ability to drop whatever he or she is doing upon receiving a call. And there’s no compensation. It’s all volunteer.

Nigel S. Savage founded Hazon, which fosters “sustainable commu-

nities,” from farms to alternative Jewish communal start-ups in Israel, the US, South Korea and elsewhere.

Savage is a charmer. He’s speaking to progressive Jews while being unabashedly pro-Israel. Hazon has taken some 2,000 students to Israel.

Hazon is not anti-establishment; Savage just wants to reach Jews currently unreached by current Jewish frameworks, and to do so in a “sus-

Allen Fagin likes numbers, like the OU operates in 80 countries

tainable” framework.

Among the members of his umbrella are Ekar Farm in Denver, the Milk and Honey farm in Boulder and the “Frum Farm” on the Western slope. He’s arranged for serious “farmer training,” which can take a year.

He’s often asked, “Is there a place for me in Hazon?” Maybe the questioner is pro-Israel or not so pro-Israel, or an environmentalist or someone who just feels left out. Savage says “yes” and finds a way to bridge divides. He calls it “Hakhel,” after the post-Sabbatical year gathering, and a word that means “gathering” or “intentional community.”

Allen Fagin likes numbers.

The executive vice-president of the Orthodox Union says that OU kosher operates in 80 countries; that NCSY touches 27,000 teens

year; OU educator couples are on 23 campuses.

But it’s other numbers — new numbers — that he’s really interested in. The total of \$1 billion in direct government aid to day schools, in one form or another, that the OU has successfully advocated for in the past six years.

That is aid for STEM education, kosher (and *halal*) meals, security funding (cameras, fences, windows, doors, gates) — all to ease what he calls the major crises in the Orthodox Jewish community: high day school tuition.

Along the way, there is a lot of joint lobbying with Muslim communities.

Fagin says: “We get a nice letter from a parent of a kid who went on one of our summer trips, and we feel really good. But we can’t have management by anecdote.” Therefore, he’s backing an OU center for communal research, to secure data on which programs work and which don’t. “Are we spending money efficiently? We need social science research about our community.” In other words, he needs real numbers.

Fagin managed a very large law firm before he came to the OU. He managed hundreds of lawyers. He’s applying what he learned there to Jewish communal life.

Rabbi Shlomo Weissmann, representing the Beth Din of America, talked about the bread and butter, yes; the conversions, the divorces, the prenuptial agreements, the stuff people typically associate with “Beth Din.”

Then he launched into “commercial cases.” The Beth Din of America, based in New York, has nurtured a large cadre of rabbinic arbitrators, who are joined by commercial lawyers, to handle disputes ranging from hundreds of dollars to millions of dollars.

Litigants sign an arbitration agreement which is enforceable in the secular courts. Speaking of which, the Beth Din, a locus of Jewish law, will often rely on secular law. Example: A contract between two parties may call for resolution of any dispute “in accordance with the laws of New York.”

Which means: the Beth Din must know and follow those laws. The Beth Din must employ secular law experts.

But if so, why go to a Beth Din at all? Why not just sue in a New York court?

Answer: The Beth Din process is both much, much less expensive and much, much quicker. No years of appeals and billable hours in the tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Such are the items that spiced up the valuable shop talk at the American Jewish Press Assn. annual meeting, which, by the way, honored our esteemed colleague, **Bob Cohn**, who is in his 50th year with the **St. Louis Jewish Light**, and who was president of the Jewish press association for many years and headed its ethics committee.

Cohn also taught Sunday school for decades and couldn’t make an enemy even if he tried. ■