



☆ BAT KOL NEWS ☆

מאי ססמגור? אמר רבי אבא: בת קול.

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION SHAAH HASHAMAYIM OF OCEANSIDE, NY
SHUL FOUNDER: RABBI ELIHU KASTEN ZT"l PRESIDENT: LES GARDONYI RABBI: AVI KASTEN
EST. 1964 TEVES 25, 5775 JANUARY 16, 2015



Who Were the Four Jews Murdered in Paris?

Source: ARUTZ SHEVA-1/13/2015



Paris protest sign reads, "I'm dead because I'm a Jew"

A rap fan, a student, two family men: below are the profiles of four Jews who were murdered in last Friday's Islamist terrorist attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris. Buried on Tuesday in Jerusalem with thousands in attendance, they were slain by jihadist Amedy Coulibaly during a five-hour hostage siege that ended when commandos launched an assault on the store, killing the attacker.

Yohan Cohen, 20

In the days before his death, Cohen joined millions of other Facebook users in posting "Je suis Charlie" (I am Charlie) on his page, in homage to the 12 people murdered in last Wednesday's bloody attack by jihadists on satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo. Two days after that strike, Cohen was among those killed in the assault on the kosher supermarket, where he had worked for about a year. According to the daily Le Parisien, Cohen had taken a gap year to earn money to finance his studies. Born in October 1994, Cohen lived in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles - known locally as "Little Jerusalem" - which was rocked by anti-Semitic violence last July. A fan of rap and a basketball player, Cohen was the grandson of Jewish Tunisian singer Doukha, who died in December. His Algerian father and his Tunisian mother settled in Sarcelles in the 1960s.

Yoav Hattab, 21:

A student pursuing his education in Paris and the son of Tunisia's chief rabbi, Hattab was sent to France by his parents on the belief that life for a Jew would be safer there than in Tunisia. Heroically he tried to disarm Coulibaly when he burst into the store, but after a brief struggle in which he was unable to take away the terrorist's gun, he was shot in the head, becoming the first of the four victims. Initial reports suggested that Cohen was likely the one who tried to disarm the terrorist, but it appears that it was Hattab instead. One of seven children born to the rabbi of the Great Synagogue in Tunis and headmaster of the city's Jewish school, Hattab lived with his aunt in Paris, where he arrived less than a year ago. His family is no stranger to loss: in 1985 a Tunisian soldier opened fire at the Ghriba synagogue in Djerba killing five people, including the sister of Hattab's mother, who was 17.

Francois-Michel Saada, 63

Born in Tunis, Saada was a retired senior manager, and a father of two, both of whom live in Israel. Saada had planned on visiting Venice this week to celebrate his wife's 60th birthday. "He was an extremely upright man, who led his life for the happiness of his family, who never made a fuss. An exemplary husband and dad," one of his friends said. His son Yonatan lit a torch of remembrance at the funeral on Tuesday, saying his father longed to make aliyah (immigrate) to Israel. "He was in love with Israel, he wanted to live here," he said, his voice breaking. "He's here now."

Philippe Braham, 45

Braham was an advertising manager at a computer consultancy. A religious Jew who attended the Cachin synagogue south of Paris, his children attended a Jewish school in another southern Parisian suburb, Montrouge, where Coulibaly killed a policewoman a day before launching his attack on the supermarket. Braham is the brother of the rabbi of Paris's Pantin synagogue, and is described by a friend as "someone who was dedicated, always ready to help others." U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry laid a wreath at a kosher supermarket near Paris where four people were killed on Jan. 9.

Va'eira

Exodus 6:2-9:35

G-d reveals Himself to Moses. Employing the "four expressions of redemption," He promises to take out the Children of Israel from Egypt, deliver them from their enslavement, redeem them, and acquire them as His own chosen people at Mount Sinai; He will then bring them to the land He promised to the Patriarchs as their eternal heritage. Moses and Aaron repeatedly come before Pharaoh to demand in the name of G-d, "Let My people go, so that they may serve Me in the wilderness." Pharaoh repeatedly refuses. Aaron's staff turns into a snake and swallows the magic sticks of the Egyptian sorcerers. G-d then sends a series of plagues upon the Egyptians. The waters of the Nile turn to blood; swarms of frogs overrun the land; lice infest all men and beasts. Hordes of wild animals invade the cities; a pestilence kills the domestic animals; painful boils afflict the Egyptians. For the seventh plague, fire and ice combine to descend from the skies as a devastating hail. Still, "the heart of Pharaoh was hardened and he would not let the children of Israel go, as G-d had said to Moses."



Va'eira Haftarah

Ezekiel 28:25-29:21.

This week's haftarah begins with a mention of the ingathering of the exiles, echoing G-d's promise mentioned in the Torah portion: "I will take you out of the suffering of Egypt." The prophet then goes on to discuss the decimation of Pharaoh and Egypt, reminiscent of the primary theme of the Torah portion—the devastation G-d wrought upon Egypt. Ezekiel begins with a description of what will occur during the ingathering of the exiles. "When I gather in the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they have been scattered, and I have been sanctified through them in the eyes of the nations, then shall they dwell on their land that I gave to My servant, to Jacob. And they shall dwell upon it securely..." The prophet then proceeds to convey a prophecy regarding Pharaoh and Egypt, foretelling the fall of the Egyptian empire. Egypt merited this punishment for two reasons: a) They had reneged on their promise to come to Israel's aid against the attacking Babylonians. b) They had incredible arrogance, considering themselves un-reliant on G-d, instead attributing their success to the bounty their deified Nile afforded them. Therefore, Ezekiel warns: "And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and in ruins, and they shall know that I am the Lord! Because he [Pharaoh] said, 'The river is mine, and I have made it.'" G-d warns that the land of Egypt will be empty and desolate for forty years, after which G-d will return the people to the land to re-inhabit it, but it will no longer be an important nation to be reckoned with. The haftarah ends with another prophecy wherein G-d informs Ezekiel that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, will be the one to conquer Egypt and take its spoils. This is a reward for his effort in defeating the wicked nation of Tyre.

'Wonder if Al-Jazeera is hiring': Jim Clancy out at CNN after nutty anti-Israel tweets

Source: JTA-1/16/2015

(JTA) – Veteran CNN anchor Jim Clancy stepped down on Friday, one week after a series of Twitter posts in which he mocked pro-Israel tweeters on a thread discussing the Charlie Hebdo massacre. Neither CNN nor Jim Clancy gave a reason for his departure, which was reported by AdWeek. Clancy had worked at CNN for 34 years. On Jan. 7, Clancy posted a tweet arguing that the cartoons posted by the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, which was attacked last week by Islamist gunmen who killed 12, did not mock the Muslim prophet Muhammad. “The cartoons NEVER mocked the Prophet,” he wrote. “They mocked how the COWARDS tried to distort his word. Pay attention.” Challenged on the accuracy of the statement by Oren Kessler, a deputy director of research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Clancy tweeted, “Hasbara?,”. Clancy - whose obsession with Israeli settlement policy is well-known among CNN viewers - angrily responded to one of his detractors with the word, “Hasbara?” (“Hasbara,” the Hebrew word for “explaining,” is often invoked by Israel’s opponents to dismiss views with which they disagree, even when, as in this case, the matter at hand has nothing to do with Israel.) In the ensuing debate, Clancy argued that “Pro-Israel voice [sic] try to convince us that cartoonists were really anti Muslim” and accused a pair of Twitter accounts of being part of a public relations campaign for Israel. One of those accounts, called Jews Making News, is an anti-Semitic account “Dedicated to fingering #Jewish main players & their minions in news stories.” Clancy later told the Twitter account for Human Rights News, “Get a grip, junior. It’s my Friday night. You and the Hasbara team need to pick on some cripple on the edge of the herd.” Jay Ruderman, head of the Ruderman Family Foundation, which is dedicated to advocacy and inclusion for the disabled, demanded an apology from Clancy and CNN. Ruderman said the use of the term “cripple” was insensitive.

German daily apologizes for running fake Charlie cartoon about Holocaust

Source: JTA-1/16/2015

BERLIN (JTA) – One of Berlin’s daily newspapers apologized for printing a caricature deemed anti-Semitic on its front page last week. In an open letter to readers published Thursday, the editors of the Berliner Zeitung apologized for the “regrettable error” in which they published a cartoon by Joe Lecorbeau on Jan. 8, one day after the murderous terror attack on the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, the satirical French magazine. According to the Deutsche Welle news service, the illustration – a fake Charlie Hebdo cover – shows an Orthodox Jew with an enlarged nose, under the banner “Shoah Hebdo.” He is saying, “1 million rebate out of six, for Palestine.” The Israeli Embassy in Berlin contacted the paper to complain about the cartoon.

At Tel Aviv housing fair, high demand for homes near Gaza

Source: JTA-1/16/2015

(JTA) – Areas near Gaza were in highest demand by prospective homeowners who participated in surveys of housing preferences in Israel. In one survey conducted at a housing fair last month, a total of 98 families indicated they would like to move to one of two districts, Eshkol and Sha’ar HaNegev, that are adjacent to the Gaza Strip and are routinely targeted by Hamas rockets. The next most desired are was the Eilat region, followed by Beersheva. The survey of 315 families was conducted at a fair held last month by the Ministry for the Development of the Negev and Galilee in Tel Aviv, which drew 3,000 visitors. Of those who preferred to move to the targeted regions, 56 indicated they would like to live in Sderot, Ofakim or Netivot, towns which have absorbed thousands of rockets fired from Gaza over the past few years. During Israel’s war with Hamas last summer, countless rockets and mortar rounds were fired at population centers near the Gaza Strip, with some landing in the Tel Aviv region. In a separate survey about housing preferences in northern Israel, the Golan Heights emerged as most popular area, with 140 families out of 514 indicating it as their first choice.

Give some Jews guns, Jewish group urges EU ministers

Source: JTA-1/15/2014



(JTA) – A Jewish lobby group asked European governments to facilitate the issuing of weapons permits for guards from within Jewish communities. Rabbi Menachem Margolin, director of the Brussels-based European Jewish Association, or EJA, made the plea in a letter he sent Tuesday to the interior ministers of the European Union, he told JTA. “We hereby ask that gun licensing laws are reviewed with immediate effect to allow designated people in the Jewish communities and institutions to own weapons for the essential protection of their communities,” he wrote. The call was issued following the slaying of four last week in a terrorist attack by an Islamist on a Jewish kosher shop near Paris. Since 2012, a total of 12 people have been killed in similar attacks in France and Belgium. “After each terrorist attack against a Jewish community, European politicians respond by vowing to fight anti-Semitism and deploying police outside Jewish institutions for a few months,” Margolin said. “It’s time for more drastic measures.”

Influence of the Lamedvavniks

From: JEWISH STORIES by L. Grunfeld

Prologue:

36 Lamedvavniks figured in kabbalistic folk legend of the 16th-17th centuries and in hasidic lore from the end of the 18th century. At times of great peril, a lamedvovnik makes a dramatic appearance. Using hidden powers to effect the fate of the world, after which the Lamedvovnik returns mysteriously to obscurity.

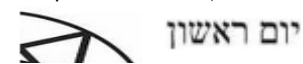
CHAPTER #1- A Find

“What is that you’ve found?” asked the curious young man with the yarmulke. “It’s some rusted pendant with a spooky symbol” said the elderly man with the metal detector. He’d been scavenging the sands of New York’s Long Beach for the past two years since Hurricane Sandy. Lots of metal can tops, nails, coins and an occasional piece of jewelry would turn up. Easy pickings with little more work than a walk on the beach. In fact he shied away from most physical exertions that didn’t involve cashing a check.

“Rust means clean-up work for me and frankly, I’m a bit superstitious and don’t really like to hold on to these trinkets -you want it?”

“Sure. I’ve never had a real ‘rusty treasure’ before. Thanks!”

When he got home, the young man inspected the pendant and began to scrape some of the rust from its surface. A multi-triangular figure began to take shape. He immediately thought that it might be a Mogen Dovid and went to the kitchen sink for a quick brush-over with some steel-wool. But the symbol he was hoping for didn’t materialize. In fact, instead of a star with six points, there were nine. Oh no, he thought, probably some cultish symbol. And as he was ready to toss the pendant, he saw what looked like a Hebrew letter gleaming through the porous rust at one of the points of the star. More work with the steel-wool and soon his curiosity was rewarded: a “Yud” formed the beginning of some words. As the rust started to crumble away, the words “Yom Rishon” were now legible at one point of this strange symbol. He began to puzzle over the implication of “days”. What nine days were being depicted here? Was this some memorial or a calendar? Nothing came to mind. Maybe the rabbi knows? The phone rang. It was time for minchah and a tenth person was needed this Sunday evening. He’d have to finish cleaning up the pendant later. (To be continued...)



BAT KOL NEWS

Editor / Graphic Arts: Les Gardonyi
Contributing articles & opinions welcomed.
Contact info: TEL: 516-978-9453

Email: batkolnews@yahoo.com
Web: batkolnews.yolasite.com

NEXT WEEK’S SERVICES*

FRIDAY Minha / Maariv	4:40 PM
SATURDAY morning	9:30 AM
SATURDAY Minha / Maariv	4:40 PM
SUNDAY	8:10 AM
TU B’SHVAT	FEB 4

*Subject to change per Rabbi’s announcements.
** See article above “IN JEWISH HISTORY”

AMIT needs your help! צדקה



Founded in 1925, AMIT educates and cares for Israel’s youth, including the most vulnerable children in Israel. The AMIT schools promote religious tolerance, service to the state and the recognition that every child is blessed with unique talents and abilities.

Contact: Rabbi Avi Kasten



שבת שלום