

*New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.*

3905 Arthur Avenue North, Seaford, N.Y. 11783

CRACOW

# FRIENDSHIP

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



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## **The Power of Our Stories Part II: Intergenerational Trauma**

The New Cracow Friendship Society invites you to a live panel to explore intergenerational trauma. Elizabeth Rosner will guide us toward understanding of what intergenerational trauma is and lead our panelists in a discussion. We will hear about the direct effect that inherited trauma has had on their lives. a Q&A will be held at the end.

May 6, 2021 7:00 pm Eastern time

Go to our website to register.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org](http://www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org)

תחי מדינת ישראל ועם ישראל

LONG LIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

## NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

President Simone Hilfstein Scheumann

Editor Bernice Slutzman

[www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org](http://www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org)

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### EDITORIAL

Another spring has arrived and we are still facing uncertainty with the pandemic still with us. Much has occurred since this time last year when we were practically locked in our homes, daring not to venture out and have contact with other people, strangers. We have since added a new accessory to our wardrobes: the mask. Not too high a price to pay to be able to venture forth. Scientists the world over have worked diligently to create a vaccine to combat this dread plague. Many of us have already received the two shots necessary from Moderna or Pfizer or the single injection from Johnson & Johnson. Hopefully in the not too distant future we may even be able to hold our get togethers in person..

Last month, despite the pandemic, we did hold our annual Commemoration for the Liquidation of the Kraków Ghetto. A major difference was, of course, that it was a webinar. Never before had our observance been attended by so many people in so many different places. It was truly an international event. People, survivors and 2 and 3gs, from the United States, Poland and Israel "attended." [For those who were unable to join, you can go to our website, [newcracowfriendshipsoc.org](http://newcracowfriendshipsoc.org), and click on the link to see it on You Tube.)

After opening remarks, the highlight of the event was a live tour of the site of the ghetto in Kraków. Part of the wall that surrounded the ghetto is still standing. The tour guide walked us through the streets of the city where many of our parents lived and were incarcerated.

At the infamous Plac Zgody, a meaningful candle lighting ceremony was held while the names of those who died in the ghetto, which were supplied to us by members, were read. At the end of the program, the names of our members who are inscribed on our monuments at Beth Moses Cemetery were scrolled.

More information about the webinar appears in this issue.

Although there were some technical issues which were resolved in a timely manner, the program itself was beautiful and most meaningful. A sincere "job well done" to all those who were involved in bring the program to fruition.

Our next endeavor, as you saw on the front page, will be an online panel on the topic of **The Power of Our Stories Part II: Intergenerational Trauma**. We urge you to register and join.

The Editor

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Your society is hard at work with the board members and society's subcommittees meeting virtually every month to plan innovative programs. Since we are planning additional virtual events, we will post information on our websites [www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org](http://www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org)\* and our Facebook page, in addition to using email and phone communications. The best way for us to reach members in a timely fashion these days is by email or telephone. To this end, please send your current email address and mobile phone number to [ncfs@newcracowfriendshipsoc.org](mailto:ncfs@newcracowfriendshipsoc.org) or [ncfs.org@gmail.com](mailto:ncfs.org@gmail.com). Expect to receive program notification through our new address: [ncfs@newcracowfriendshipsoc.org](mailto:ncfs@newcracowfriendshipsoc.org). Save this address in your contact list so our notices do not go into a spam folder.

This year we successfully gathered virtually on March 14, 2021 to commemorate the 78<sup>th</sup> Liquidation of the Krakow Ghetto. The program included a live tour of the Ghetto and a Memorial service. The program was well attended and received positively by our membership and friends. Congratulations go out to Anna Scheumann Gallegos and her husband Aidan, Steven Radwan and his wife Toby, and Elizabeth Szancer who partnered with the JCC Krakow, Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow and the Steven Wise Free Synagogue in Manhattan to put this all together.

Let us join the world in celebrating and remembering all our survivors. They overcame great adversity to rebuild their lives, making a good life for their families and enriching the lives of others.

Our next virtual program will occur the first week of May 2021, bringing together guests to discuss "Power of Our Stories: Intergenerational Trauma". You can now view our past programs by visiting [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRpIyYExWoYfoyp4WoS3lBg) and searching for New Cracow Friendship Society or typing in: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRpIyYExWoYfoyp4WoS3lBg>

Please consider making a charitable donation through our secure website so our society can continue to support survivors and members in need that reside in the USA, Israel or Poland, support Holocaust educational initiative such as our virtual programs. Of course we will continue to accept donations via snail mail. Thank you to our members and friends that have donated to our society in the past several months. You make a big difference!

I'm optimistic that vaccinations for Covid-19 will become more readily available in the coming months and the pandemic will loosen its grip on us all. I pray that you and your families are doing well. My deepest condolences go out to those who have lost a loved one in the past months. May their memory be a blessing.

\*Our website posts past newsletters, links to do

ancestry research, calendar of events, plus so much more. I update the site every few weeks. Check it out!

I hope everyone had a good Passover (chag Pesach samech) with family and friends whether in person or virtually. Stay well and keep in touch.

Respectfully,

Simone

[ncfs.org@gmail.com](mailto:ncfs.org@gmail.com)

**As a reminder please keep your membership current. Dues can be sent through our website or by mail to our membership chairperson.**

**We are currently looking for an individual who can maintain our Facebook page and our phone calling service. Contact me at [ncfs.org@gmail.com](mailto:ncfs.org@gmail.com)**

#### **LISTING OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Cemetery	Bernice Slutzman <a href="mailto:brei513@aol.com">brei513@aol.com</a> Leon Hilfstein <a href="mailto:Leonh74d@gmail.com">Leonh74d@gmail.com</a>
Commemoration	Bernice Slutzman <a href="mailto:brei513@aol.com">brei513@aol.com</a>
Membership	Ida Lewis <a href="mailto:Idale747@gmail.com">Idale747@gmail.com</a>
Outreach	Dolores Berkowsky <a href="mailto:doloberko@gmail.com">doloberko@gmail.com</a> Steven Radwan <a href="mailto:sterad22@aol.com">sterad22@aol.com</a>
Social Action	Anna Gallegos <a href="mailto:socialaction.ncfs@gmail.com">socialaction.ncfs@gmail.com</a> Steven Radwan <a href="mailto:socialaction.ncfs@gmail.com">socialaction.ncfs@gmail.com</a>
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Telephone Tree	Leon Hilfstein <a href="mailto:leonh74d@gmail.com">leonh74d@gmail.com</a>
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Welfare	Renata Farahnik <a href="mailto:Teacherspet130@hotmail.com">Teacherspet130@hotmail.com</a>

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dear Members,

I hope this Newsletter finds you in good health.

Since our editor has continued our policy of publishing the NCFS Newsletter 6 times per year, it feels like hardly any length of time has passed since I wrote the last report. But 2 solitary Covid conscious months have

come and gone already. As a youngster, the days seemed so long and time appeared to move so slowly. It seemed endless until the school year finally closed. However, six decades have already passed since elementary school wrapped up for me and somehow childhood doesn't seem so long ago. Ask any one from ages 40->100 and s/he'll probably agree. Interestingly, ask any child now whether days and weeks seem long or short and the answer might be an interesting take on these times.

Other thoughts come to mind which I'd like to share. Just yesterday, I found a "Get Well" card written to my father, zlv. in 2009 by fellow member, Leon Green, zlv, who recently passed. Both men are gone now but some things still remain. For a 2nd Gen, there's an underlying feeling that many an adult child of survivors has shared... knowing that one's birth is truly a miracle and a unique creation. Surely there must be great purpose in each of us besides the sole responsibility to rebuild the nation? We have been blessed to experience our parents ascent from the unfathomable depths of darkness and behold their abilities to grow and produce vibrant families. We can and have witnessed so many other wondrous divine connections, if our eyes are open. I googled St. Valentin and Ebensee today, both severely cruel concentration camps connected to Mathausen. My uncle, grandfather and other family members died there. Whose picture popped up on the site? None other than that of Leon Green, zlv! Serendipitous. The 2 friends are hanging out in shamayim now.... along with most of their chevreh!

Let us consider a few concurrent events. A sizable number of holocaust programs have been appearing online lately, on videos and TV specials, in films, & documentaries. I receive multiple notices daily of Holocaust productions addressing numerous interesting topics. Many are created as university study programs or other institutional Holocaust Education courses. I hope you had a chance to watch the "78th Commemoration of the Liquidation of the Krakow Ghetto", the online Zoom our Society partnered with for the anniversary of remembrance. The tour of the former Krakow Ghetto took us to the neighborhood of Podgorze, where my father grew up. I visited Krakow twice (1980 with my father & 2005 with "Bearing Witness") both awesome experiences... and now again in 2021 virtually. To walk the steps of our forebears is truly a privileged experience.

Our Society was created 56 years ago out of a desire and need to connect and do good. NCFS quickly became a thriving organization with an active membership of hundreds. It allowed a generation of recovering survivors (and their children who attended & participated) to enjoy numerous social events, regular meetings, philanthropic endeavors, extended family, and provided a time and space for memorializing our dearly departed as a whole community. When many survivors were in their 40's, the Society purchased a huge lot at

Beth Moses Cemetery for a future time when it would be needed. It is now practically full! A 2nd lot was purchased and plots are being bought at very reasonable prices (for members only). One senior member told me she argued with my father against buying a cemetery plot back in the 1960's because she "wanted to think only of living!". She admitted to me (after he passed) that he was right. She rests there now.

So here we are... It has been said, "You can't know where you're going unless you know where you came from". That can be interpreted many ways. It's time now to see more involvement on the part of the 2nd and 3rd generations in an endeavor that is very dear to us... to preserve the memories of the past and create new memories for the future. So won't you please participate with us and let us know what you are interested in sharing, giving, and receiving by your membership in the New Cracow Friendship Society? We are a unique and special group of people.... born out of the hellfires of yesterday and into the light of a brighter day and tomorrow.

Please send in your 2021 membership dues and any outstanding dues you owe now. Please fill in "all" the requested information on our renewal card so we can contact you for any future events in a timely manner. We need your home phone #, cell phone #, address & notice of new address, e-mail address, additional family contacts. If you choose not to be on the Phone Tree, do let us know. But please, give us an e-mail address so we can let you know of more upcoming programs. Mailings take time, cost money and waste paper. We'll be going more paperless in the future.

We welcome our newest members:

Leo (survivor) and Gloria Slawin from Floral Park, NY.  
Michael and Lisa Gingold-Greenberg (3G) from NYC.  
Hoping you had a sweet and kosher Pesach. May we all meet afterward.

Best regards,  
Ida Lewis  
Membership Chair  
718-380-3574.

**THE MAKING OF THE NEW CRACOW  
FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY'S COMMEMORATION  
OF THE 78<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
LIQUIDATION OF THE KRAKOW GHETTO  
MARCH 14, 2021**

At last year's Commemoration of the liquidation of the Kraków Ghetto held on March 8, 2020 marked two occurrences that changed our annual commemoration. The first was a momentous one. For the first time in our Society's long history, all three of our speakers were third generation members. The second was our general lack of knowledge of how widespread Covid-19 really was. We knew not to hug and kiss each other, but we were

unaware of social distancing, or masks. Just mere days later we learned the spread of Covid-19 reached pandemic proportions, and the USA and most of the world went into lockdown.

Now, let's fast forward about nine months, Covid -19 was dictating our lives and at an extremely heavy price. At a Board Meeting, the subject of how we were going to commemorate the liquidation this year came up. Since we were meeting via Zoom, we knew that the event had to be conducted via Zoom, but what programming could be presented posed a question.

About two weeks later the NCFS was invited by the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue to view a virtual tour of the Plaszów Concentration Camp via Zoom. That tour was an eye opener for us. It started us thinking, why can't we have a tour of the Krakow Ghetto, especially because this year's commemoration would fall on almost the exact date of the actual liquidation.

As part of the Outreach Committee, Elizabeth Szancer and I went to work. Through Elizabeth, we contacted Jakub Nowakowski on February 4<sup>th</sup>. He is the director of the Galicia Jewish Museum. We wished to gauge his interest in such a project. Fortunately he was immediately interested and eager to join with the NCFS in such an endeavor. It was Jakub who enlisted the participation of all those who appeared in the program. We continued to stay in touch through Zoom and made adjustments as needed. As part of the adjustments we evaluated our needs in order to make this as meaningful and memorable a commemoration as possible.

Those adjustments included asking Rabbi Natov and Cantor Singer of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue to be a part of our ceremony. The synagogue was so happy to be a part of this event that the synagogue's president graciously sang Eli, Eli.

Now that the people and place were set, what next? We needed a way to present the program. Our Zoom was limited as it was the one where everything is free. After hearing our opinion, the Board of Directors authorized payment for a larger capacity program for viewers to stream our event. It became a webinar. The new format required us to practice its use. Anna Scheumann Gallegos joined our team and enlisted the aid of her husband, Aidan, to do the technical work.

The rest, as we say, is history.

Steven Radwan

**THE AFTERMATH OF THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS  
ROUND 4: MAKING SENSE OUT OF THIS MESS**

When I got the reminder call for this periodic article, I asked if I could wait until after the Israeli elections to put it together. I thought, at the time, that rather than speculating before the election, following the election it might be easier to speculate on where we are

headed. Ten hours after the election and with my editorial deadline in sight, I will do my best to try and make some sense out of what is to me at least, a certified mess. I realize that by the time you read this it is likely, though not definite, that the situation will be clear, perhaps we will even have a new government. But as of the time of this writing, nothing is final, things can change, and in fact are changing back and forth throughout the morning. It is a 60-60 tie, with neither the pro or anti-Netanyahu in a position to form a government. But given that this will likely change, most important would be that if Naftali Bennet would bring Netanyahu to 61, what would he do? And though most commentators seem sure that Naftali Bennet will in the end, following difficult negotiations, join Netanyahu's government, it is far from being a done deal.

As of this morning, with 85% of the votes counted, not including some 400,000 votes of people such as soldiers, diplomats and others, who didn't vote at the regular voting stations, Netanyahu's Likud has 30 seats, by far the largest party. The next closest party is Yesh Atid with 17. The two Haredi parties together have 17 as well. Lieberman has 7 as expected. Then come all the surprises.

Benny Gantz, who wasn't even projected to pass the minimum 3.25% threshold, has 8 seats, in itself a stunning upset. The Labor party, that just weeks ago wasn't expected to pass the threshold has 7. The same can be same about Meretz which was fighting for its survival, it came back with 6.

But the most shocking results relate to the remaining parties. And this in a nutshell, is the main story line of these elections. If Naftali Bennet's Yamina party and Gideon Saar's New Hope Party were billed as the main opposition to Netanyahu, this never happened. Several months ago, both of these parties were polling at 20 seats. In the end, Saar all but disintegrate and has 6. And Bennet only has 7.

Bezalel Smotrich's National Religious Party, which, thanks to Netanyahu also includes Itamar Ben Gvir's Kahanist faction, is sitting now at 6 seats, which is a huge win for them, but potentially disastrous for the country. And finally, the biggest story of the night, the Joint Arab List, which in the last elections had 15 seats, has this time only 6, while the split off from the list Ra'am, has 5.

Each of these amazing results has its own story line. But when taken as a whole in terms of the blocks, which is the only important thing in the final analysis, as of this writing it is a 60-60 split. Naftali Bennet with his 7 seats is still likely to be the kingmaker. His decision as to which side he will join will likely put that side over the top and reach the 61 seats needed to form a government.

At this point, we need a reality check. There are very few commentators across the political spectrum that believe that Bennet won't ultimately join Netanyahu and

give him his government, if it brings Netanyahu to 61. Bennet is a right winger, in many ways, more so than Netanyahu himself. But he has also been viciously critical of the Prime Minister and the way he handled the Corona pandemic. He views himself as an alternative, a Prime Minister, not as a fourth wheel in a government of radical right wing and religious fanatics, which he is not. There is very, very bad blood between Bennet and Netanyahu. How sweet would the revenge be if he didn't hand the keys over to Netanyahu?

But can he withstand the pressure which will be unprecedented? There is an opportunity to form a full-fledged right-wing government, which in theory, can provide the stability the country needs and avoid a 5<sup>th</sup> election which it cannot afford. Would Bennet take on himself the responsibility to deny that government or force yet another election? It is hard to see that happening.

And yet, which is why we can only speculate this morning as to what will happen in the end. The scenario I will describe here becomes more likely if even with Bennet, Netanyahu doesn't reach 61, which is the current reality in the constantly and rapidly changing situation based on the vote count. But even if Bennet brings Netanyahu to 61, the scenario remains possible. Bennet with his 7 seats could be asked to lead an alternate government in which he would be Prime Minister. This government could include his Yamina (7), New Hope (6), Yesh Atid (17), Ganz (8), Labor (7), Meretz (6), Lieberman (7)- bringing us to 58. Perhaps, Smotrich would split from Ben Gvir (it was a technical union of two parties for election purposes) or even the Haredi parties might join if this was the only realistic alternative. If this is the case, perhaps Lieberman and Meretz wouldn't be there, but there would still be a government. Bennet, while being careful not to rule out sitting with Netanyahu, has only pledged not to sit in a government headed by Lapid. But what if he was heading it? In any case, you get the idea, it is possible but very difficult to envision. Yet at this stage it can't be ruled out.

More likely though, if the math works that with him Netanyahu reaches 61, is that Bennet will join Netanyahu, despite all the bad blood and criticism. But if he does, it won't be an easy negotiation. He will demand the moon and being the key to the government, he is likely to get everything he wants other than being Prime Minister. How far will Netanyahu go? People like me fear he will go pretty far.

And we fear, he will go far to make Itamar Ben Gvir happy too. Netanyahu pledged not to have the Meir Kahana supporter who has a picture of mass murderer Baruch Goldstein on his living room wall as a minister in his government. But that promise is about as valuable as the one he made to Benny Gantz to honor the rotation deal. No one believes it. And Ben Gvir has some very heavy demands to join the government including passing

legislation to cancel Netanyahu's upcoming trials, overriding the Supreme Court, annexing territory and more, all of which will put Israel on a collision course with the US, the EU, the International Court in the Hague, not to mention the democratic process itself. And he is not the only one with crazy demands. The Haredi parties will demand a law to override the Supreme Court's decision to recognize Reform conversions done in Israel setting the stage for yet a further rupture of relations between Israel and Diaspora Jewry. There are plenty more dangerous demands, which include firing the current Attorney General to finding ways to get Netanyahu out of his legal woes. I'll spare you the details. This scenario is the cause for at least half the population to lose sleep about what might happen here if Netanyahu ultimately forms a narrow government of 61 based on the demands of Ben Gvir, Smotrich, the Haredi parties and Bennet. The word "squeeze", will take on a new meaning. And Netanyahu has never done well preventing being squeezed. And now his political life will literally depend on giving in to all these demands.

The other major story lines is that many parties fared radically different than what they were expected to fare in the polls and the Arab vote literally changed the face of the elections. Both of these are driven to an extent by the lower voter turnout, the lowest of all the four election cycles. It seems people are tired of this process and that apathy, may have given the election to Netanyahu. No where is it more apparent than with the Arab parties.

In the last election, they had 15 seats. In this election, part of the Joint Arab List(Ra'am) split off and ran on its own ticket. As of this morning, the Ra'am party passed the threshold (after a long night that didn't have them pass), and is currently polling at 5 seats, dramatically change the political map. Without Ra'am in, the potential Netanyahu coalition with Bennet was at 61. With Ra'am in, it is now only at 60. But like I've said, the situation is fluid. Time will tell. For now, even with Ra'am in, the Arab parties lost 4 seats, and while some of them went to the other left wing parties which strengthened here (Labor and Meretz), the gap will likely be the single most important reason that Netanyahu will win if he ultimately pieces together the government. What's crazy is that the Arab community had never been as courted by the Zionist parties as they were in this election.

Finally, there are the parties that did much better than they were expected to do. Benny Gantz, Meretz and Labor, literally went from falling below the threshold to receiving, 8, 6 and 7 seats respectively, an incredible success for them. The center-left block didn't lose its standing, in certain ways it actually gained, but it still may fall short of blocking Netanyahu from forming what will be the most radical right wing/national religious

government in the country's history.

The bottom line this morning is that the chances are still the highest that Netanyahu will ultimately form a government, though this is far from certain. Even if he does, this will not be the type of government he had hoped for, one in which he will always be dependent on every voting hand in the coalition that will squeeze him for everything he is worth. Netanyahu will also be the most moderate, left leaning element of such a government. It is far from clear if he will be able to navigate the rough waters Israel faces (Iran, a new Administration in the US, the International Court case against Israel, improving the economy and emerging from the Corona pandemic, etc...) In the end, it will depend on Naftali Bennet and what he decides. Which factors will be most important to him in his decision – the chance to be Prime Minister and replace Netanyahu or pay the price of the disappointing results of this election from his perspective and be a right wing team player, hoping for another opportunity in the future. From my perspective, two things are for sure: 1) I don't envy Naftali Bennet 2) I don't envy the State of Israel which is headed for more difficult times ahead.

Barry Spielman  
Oranit, Israel, March 2021

## HI THERE

Dear Krakowians,

I am writing you from Haifa, Israel, I am a member of the local Krakowians Association under the chairmanship of our Dear Lili Haber.

I am sending you the only photo which survived the Holocaust, picturing Makkabi Kraków soccer team of 1938 in which my uncle Samuel, Smilek Pemper was the goalkeeper.

I know that among those 12 team members there are also the following names : REDER, HAUPTMAN, LUBERMAN

... however regrettably I don't know their faces.



My name is Ami Stefan Pemper. I was born in Nowy Targ in June 1943 - under Polish identity - ie na aryjskich papierach .

In September 1943 my father Wiktor Pemper and his young brother Shmilek ( the goalkeeper) were murdered in Legionowo (near Warsaw ) once their false Polish identity was uncovered.

In 1957 my mother and I made aliya to Israel . My wife Bilha and I have three children and 6 grand children .

I am related to Victor Lewis (Lezerkiewicz) who in the 1980s acted as Chairman of the Membership Committee of the NYC's Kraków association. My father Wiktor Pemper and Victor Lewis were named after Wiktor Messinger their joint forefather, whose daughters married into the Krumholz family into which my paternal grandmother Eleonora Krumholz - Pemper was born.

Kind regards,  
Ami Stefan Pemper

**DEAD SEA SCROLLS DISCOVERIES ARE FIRST ANCIENT BIBLE TEXTS TO BE FOUND IN 60 YEARS. A 6000 YEAR-OLD SKELETON OF A PARTIALLY MUMIFIED CHILD AND A 10,5000 YEAR-OLD BASKET WERE ALSO DISCOVERED.**

March 16, 2021, 10:06 AM EDT / Updated March 16, 2021, 11:03 AM EDT

By Patrick Smith

A new set of Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient fragments of biblical texts dating back almost 2,000 years and thought to have been hidden during a Jewish revolt against Rome, have been found in the West Bank.

The Israel Antiquities Authority announced Tuesday that a four-year archaeological project uncovered portions of the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets, including the books of Zechariah and Nahum. It was the first such discovery in 60 years.

Also uncovered was a 6,000-year-old skeleton of a partially mummified child and a 10,500-year-old basket, which Israeli authorities said could be the oldest in the world. A CT scan revealed the child's age was between 6 and 12 — with the skin, tendons and even hair partially preserved.

Among the recovered texts, which are all in Greek, is Nahum 1:5–6, which says: "The mountains quake because of Him, And the hills melt. The earth heaves before Him, The world and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before His wrath? Who can resist His fury? His anger pours out like fire, and rocks are shattered because of Him."

The authority said these words differ slightly from other Bible versions, shedding a rare light on how biblical text changed over time from its earliest form.

The first set of Dead Sea Scrolls to be discovered were found by a Bedouin shepherd in the same area in 1947 and are considered among the most important archaeological finds of the 20th century, although biblical scholars disagree on their authorship.

Most of those scrolls are in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem but both Jordan and the Palestinian Authority have disputed their ownership. Qumran in the West Bank, the site where they were found, is part of land seized by Israel in the 1967 war and would be part of a future Palestinian state.

The Scrolls Fragments before conservation in the IAA Lab.

"It is very exciting to see these finds and expose them to the public, finds which shed great light on our history," Avi Cohen, CEO of the Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage, said. "These finds are not just important to our own cultural heritage, but to that of the entire world."

Other items include a cache of coins bearing Jewish symbols, including a harp and a date palm, arrowheads and spearheads, woven fabric, sandals and lice combs — all thought to date from the end of the Bar Kokhba Revolt (132-136 A.D.), in which Jews fought against Roman rule in Judea.

The treasures were found in what the Antiquities Authority called the "Cave of Horror" in the Judean Desert, which was discovered in 2017. The area's unique dry climate means documents found there have survived in unusually good condition.

Using methods more likely to be seen in a Hollywood movie than in an archaeological project, researchers had to rappel down a precarious cliff face to reach the cave opening, which is 262 feet below a cliff top and flanked by gorges on either side. Drones were also used to survey hard-to-reach parts of caves. The authority was keen to point out in its announcement Tuesday that accessing the cave is forbidden on safety grounds.

The remarkable discoveries were made during an Israeli project to prevent looting in the Holy Land, which experts says has been a constant threat to undiscovered artifacts since the first Dead Sea Scrolls discovery.

Antiquities Authority Director Israel Hasson, who launched the operation, urged the Israeli government to do more to protect other undiscovered treasures.

"The newly discovered scroll fragments are a wake-up call to the state. Resources must be allocated for the completion of this historically important operation," he said.

"We must ensure that we recover all the data that has not yet been discovered in the caves, before the robbers do. Some things are beyond value."

*Patrick Smith is a London-based editor and reporter for NBC News Digital.*

*Paul Goldman contributed.*

## **PANDEMIC FUELED ANTI-SEMITISM, WITH VACCINE FIRM HEADS LIKENED TO NAZIS**

Times of Israel April 2021

Coronavirus lockdowns last year shifted some anti-Semitic hatred online, where conspiracy theories blaming Jews for the pandemic's medical and economic devastation abounded, including likening Israeli and Jewish executives in vaccine companies to the Nazis, Israeli researchers reported Wednesday. That has raised concerns about a rise in anti-Semitism in the post-pandemic world.

The findings, which came in an annual report by Tel Aviv University's researchers on anti-Semitism, show that the social isolation of the pandemic meant that Jews weren't generally in close physical proximity to people who wished to harm them.

The number of violent incidents toward Jews across some 40 countries dropped last year, from 456 to 371 — roughly the same levels the researchers reported from 2016 to 2018.

Online, the scene was very different, researchers reported — a potential warning sign that as pandemic restrictions ease, hateful conduct toward Jews could intensify as it has during some of humanity's other historic struggles.

"Anti-Jewish hatred online never stays online," said Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress. "We have to be prepared that anti-Semitic conspiracy theories could lead to physical attacks on Jews when lockdowns end."

Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry releases its report every year on the eve of Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day, which begins Wednesday at sundown.

The research team found that anti-Semitic conspiracy theories blossomed as soon as the coronavirus began spreading around the world in February 2020

When the world's health authorities declared a pandemic in March, people were forced inside and away from each other. But there, they went online and many were exposed to conspiracy theories blaming an array of ethnic and religious groups for the catastrophe, including Jews.

The false theories generally went like this, according to the report: Jews and Israelis created and spread the virus so that they could rescue the world with lucrative vaccines.

The trend echoed an ancient form of anti-Semitism that blamed Jews for spreading illnesses and other tragedies.

The report said: "The advent of the vaccines, coupled with Israel's vast vaccination campaign, assisted by Israelis and Jews who hold prominent positions in the companies that produce these vaccines (such as Tal Zaks, Chief Medical Officer at Moderna, and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla), was used to reinforce these accusations: Israelis and Jews join hands so that Israel may be the first to recover from the pandemic, while the rest of the world stands in line and begs the Jews for help."

Bourla has spoken frequently about being the son of Holocaust survivors.

Researchers also noted that conspiracy theorists drew false comparisons between the health restrictions and vaccines and the Holocaust, in which the Nazis murdered more than 6 million Jews.

The anti-Semitic trend waned in the summer, the report said, but surged in the fall with news of the development of vaccines. A divisive presidential election campaign in the US, meanwhile, served as fertile ground for the rise of conspiracy theories, it said.

Online, anti-Semitic messages spread, including worrying anecdotal evidence that those repeating them hailed not just from extremist circles but from "populations with no well-defined political or ideological identities," the report said. Those blamed included the Rothschild family, billionaire George Soros and ultra-Orthodox Jews who flouted safety rules and among whom the virus surged.

Meanwhile in 2020, the number of physical injuries in anti-Semitic incidents decreased by 37%, from 170 in 2019, to 107. Damage to private property also dropped by 35%, from 130 to 84 incidents, according to the report. But other evidence suggests that hateful sentiment still existed, the report found. Worrying trends included gradual rises in violent incidents in the United States and a sharper increase in Germany. In both countries, vandalism accounted for most of the incidents.

Desecrations of Jewish cemeteries and other memorials rose by a quarter in that time period. The number of vandalized synagogues also increased, by 19%. Big media platforms like Twitter and Facebook, meanwhile, cracked down on racist and false postings. But that only drove conspiracy theorists to the darkest corners of the web, where they are hard to quantify, the report said.

The report said the attacks escalated in aggressiveness and verbal abuse as extremists batted about false theories about the spread of the virus, the collapse of world economies, and who was to blame. Among the cartoons



and false theories it documented, the report noted a phenomenon it referred to as “zoom-bombing,” in which extremists would break into video conferences among members of synagogues, Jewish community centers and educational organizations. The goal appeared to be posting swastikas and delivering anti-Semitic presentations and speeches, the report found.

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## SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

### HAPPY EVENTS

#### Anniversaries

##### March

Drs. Lillian and Gary Chubak  
Mr. & Mrs. David Geller 52

Mr. & Mrs.. Steven Radwan 49  
Mrs. David and Dr. Gita Silberstein 51

##### April

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Bukiet  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Forster 48  
R. & Mrs. Roman Hartman

Mr. & Mrs. Oskar Matzner 63  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederic Rothenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sass

### REFUAH SHELEIMA

Please inform us of any members who would appreciate their names being mentioned for prayers and thought of healing

### DONATIONS

Throughout the past years we have not mentioned in our Newsletter any donations gifted with annual membership dues except in cases of Yahrzeit or a special occasion. This practice will be changed starting with this issue. If you wish for your contribution to be anonymous, please indicate that on your card, check or PayPal with a note.

Please keep your support going with your thoughtful tzedaka. We are grateful for all your generous contributions and we thank you wholeheartedly.

Jack and Fay Gingold, Leon Schagrin fund \$200

Bernard Horowitz, thank you for a very moving presentation of the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cracow Ghetto liquidation, \$78

Richard Hyman, in honor of the program on the Kraków Ghetto, \$25 [The Zimmerspitz Family lived in Skawina and Gdow before the war.

Barbara Lewis Kaplan, in memory of the first Yahrzeit for my dearly beloved sister, Bonnie Lewis Rodney, daughter of Leon Lesek Lewis, zvl. \$54

Jeffrey Krul, \$36

Edward Mosberg, \$475

Gloria Reich, in memory of her dear mother Betty Reich on her Yahrzeit Adar 5.

Barbara Rosenstock, \$36

Please send us your good news, i.e. births, b'nei mitzvot, engagements, marriages, graduations, etc. We love to share good news with our members.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy spring  
Ida Lewis 718 380-3574 Email: idale747@gmail.com  
Eva Pfau 718 464-0932

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We belatedly regret to  
inform you of the passing  
of our  
Dear Friend and Member

**HALINA BLUMENFRUCHT**

To her family  
Our Sincerest Condolences

We regret to  
inform you of the passing  
of our  
Dear Friend and Member

**LEO RECHTER**

To his family  
Our Sincerest Condolences

**MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN EVERLASTING PEACE**

