



CAS Scroll – The weekly newsletter of Congregation Ahavas Sholom

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The Woman's March Changes its Leadership; Will It Truly Matter?

In this week's Scroll



Tamika Mallory (left), Linda Sarsour, and Bob Bland have been replaced by 17 new board members.

The women's March changes, Leadership will it matter?
Iconic Minnesota Synagogue Totally Destroyed by Fire
On the Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Massacre, Let's
Show Up for Shabbat
The Kosher Kitchen
The Book Shelf
Shabbat Services, Kiddush, & CAS News

The Women's March, the grass roots organization that rose to prominence, in the wake of the election of

Donald Trump as U. S. President, announced a change in leadership this week. The organization's founding leaders Linda Sarsour, Tamika Mallory, and Bob Bland were removed from the board and 17 new board

members were added. The organization has been dogged with accusations of anti-Semitism and a subsequent split that has frayed the once promising left-leaning organization.

One of the main problems was Mallory, Sarsour, and Bland's anti-Semitic sentiments, coupled with their support of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan had become a distraction. Their refusal to condemn, or even distance themselves, from his frequent caustic attacks on Jews and Israel, exacerbated the situation and threatened to undermine The Women's March's viability and goals. According to reports, the change actually took place on July 25; but, was only acknowledged this week. The Women's March also denied continued charges of anti-Semitism contributed to their departure. They recently tweeted, "Despite reports saying otherwise, our outgoing board members have simply served out their terms and are moving on to new ventures. We are more unified than ever and we thank them for their groundbreaking work and sacrifice. Another founding member, Carmen Perez-Jordan will continue to serve on the board.

The Women's March has been saddled with accusations of anti-Semitism since its inception. In a 2018 New York Times article, Vanessa Wruble, a Brooklyn-based activist and Jew described how she was treated during one of the organization's earliest planning meetings. According to Wruble, when she started to explain how Judaism informed and fueled her desire to heal the world (Tikkun Olam) Tamika Mallory and Carmen Perez cut her off saying, Jews needed to confront their own role in racism. Wruble went on to serve as Head of Campaign Operations of the 2017 Women's March. The women went on to organize a massive and historic protest march in Washington D.C. Unfortunately, the organization's

success didn't heal the rift created during that first meeting; it worsened it. Ms. Wruble said she believes her Judaism was a major factor in her being forced out of the organizations shortly after the march. Wruble went on to found 'March On', a grassroots coalition made up of the many organizers and groups responsible for hundreds of women's marches across the country in both 2017 and 2018. March ON promotes itself as a wholly inclusive women's organization that rejects anti-Semitism and all other forms of bigotry. Its mission statement reads as follows, "MARCH ON condemns bigotry in all forms and welcomes anyone committed to this mission to join us."

Ironically, it was Wruble who recruited Carmen Perez, Linda Sarsour, and Tamika Mallory, to work with her and Bob Bland to insure the organization's leadership embraced diversity and inclusiveness. Tamika Mallory disputes Wruble's allegations, saying, "That conversation did not happen. I didn't say that at all."

To address the accusations against it, The Women's March Inc. has added 17 new board members to take the reins and lead the organization into the future. Whether the change in board membership will alter the unofficial stance within the organization is at best, dubious. Among the newest board members is Zahra Billoo, a civil rights attorney and executive director of

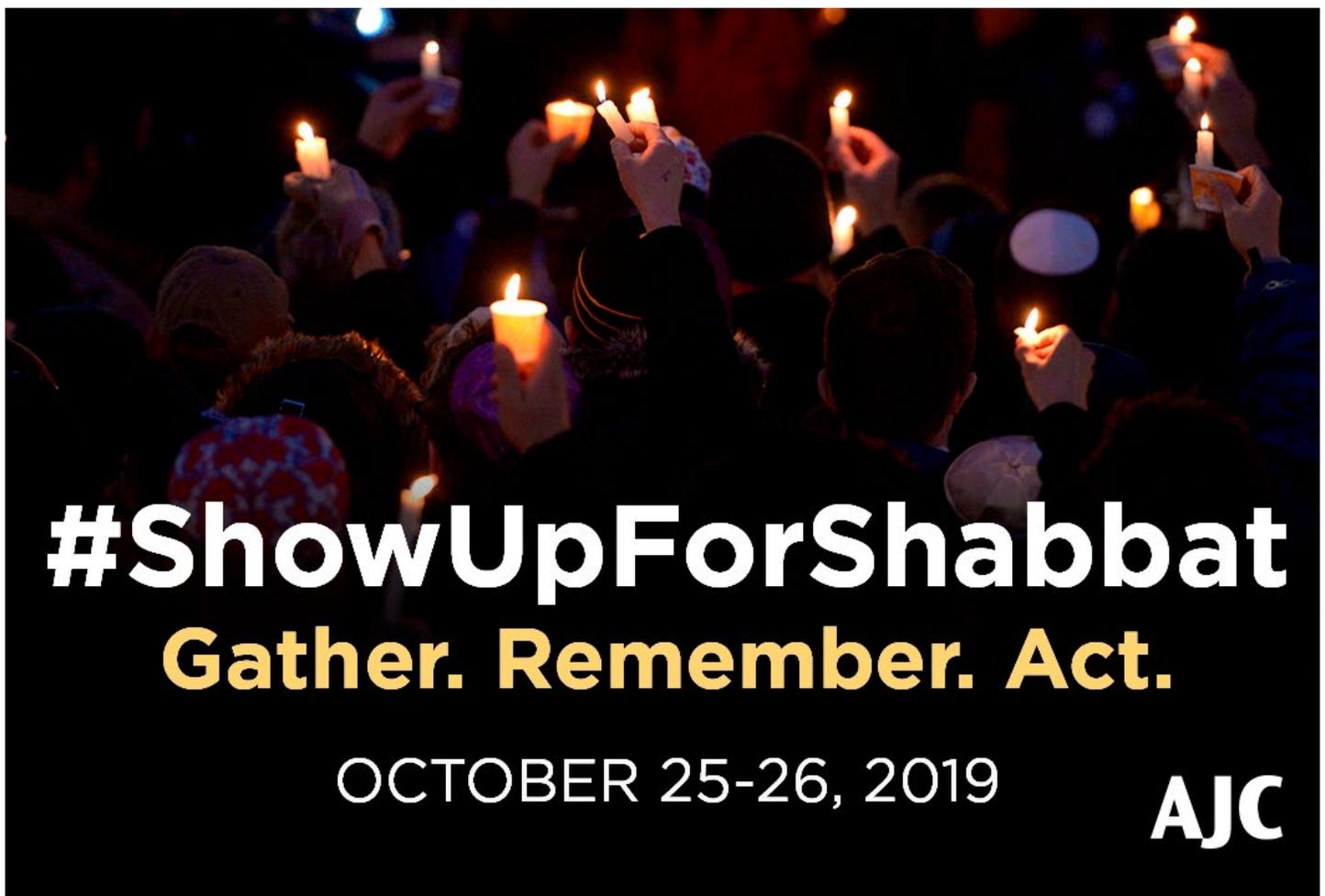
Congregation Ahavas Sholom

**President – Eric Freedman
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the San Francisco Bay area chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, who apparently hasn't even attempted to hide her anti-Israel sentiments. In a series of recent tweets she has referred to Israel as, "a 'racist' state that 'engages in terrorism', and has also tweeted, 'I'm more afraid of racist Zionists who support Apartheid Israel Than of the mentally ill young people the FBI recruits to join ISIS, not to ignore her glee in tweeting, "Watching a Farrakhan church speech, while at the gym. Another new member, Samia Assed, a Palestinian American activist who serves on the board of the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice, has posted pictures with Sarsour and retweeted a video with the caption, "Israel = worse than the devil part 2." She has questioned Israel's existence and declared it effectively an illegitimate state. Assed's Twitter account has recently become private and only view-

able to approved followers, which assures me she's on the up and up and has nothing to hide (wink-wink.) Another new member, Charlene Carruthers, is also a fervent Farrakhan fan.

This is not to imply there are not some promising people joining the board; but, for an organization attempting to dispel accusations of anti-Semitism, they have made several questionable choices. I don't dispute anyone's right to disagree with the Israeli government's policies (or any other government for that matter;) but, while I acknowledge being pro-Israel should not be a prerequisite for being on the Woman's March board; there is a fundamental difference between not necessarily being a friend; and being an active enemy. ✨



#ShowUpForShabbat

Gather. Remember. Act.

OCTOBER 25-26, 2019

AJC

Iconic Minnesota Synagogue Totally Destroyed by Fire



Adas Israel Congregation a 119 year old synagogue was destroyed by fire



On September 9, 2019, an historic Minnesota synagogue was destroyed by fire. Arson was immediately suspected in the destruction of the 119 year old, Adas Israel Congregation synagogue in the city of Duluth. At a press conference authorities announced the arrest of Matthew James Amiot, a homeless man who had been spotted in the area. Amiot, 36 who had taken shelter near the synagogue admitted to setting the fire. According to the criminal complaint, Amiot used his lighter to ignite a variety of combustible materials. A few minutes later he was caught on video surveillance leaving the premises. He told authorities he had tried to use his spittle to put the fire out; when that failed he walked away.

Currently, authorities have no evidence that the fire was the result of a hate crime. While advising it was still

an open and active case, Duluth Police Chief Mike Tusken said, "Based on all the information that I have reviewed, that I've read, and the investigators I have talked to; at this moment in time there is no reason to believe that this is a bias or hate crime." While that is welcome news in a year that has been rife with anti-Semitic incidences; it doesn't lessen the tragedy or the tremendous loss suffered by the congregation and the community at large.

Amiot has been charged with one count of one felony count of negligent fires and a gross misdemeanor count of negligent fires resulting in a human being injured. A firefighter, Ben Gasner, was struck by falling debris and knocked unconscious while fighting the blaze and is recovering from a concussion. According to court records Amiot, has previous convictions for misdemeanor shoplifting and trespassing, is currently in custody, his bail set at \$20,000.

According to local news reports, the fire totally destroyed the building, roughly valued at \$117,000 and an estimated \$250,000 in religious items, including, six Torah scrolls, and other holy artifacts. If convicted, Amiot faces up to three years. ✨

**Remember the victims of the Tree
of Life Synagogue & all the other
victims of anti –Semetic hate
[#showupforshabbat](#)**

Join us at Congregation Ahavas Sholom for Selichot Services & a Movie



After Selichot services we'll be viewing the last suit; winner, The Best Feature Film Award at the 2018 Atlanta Jewish Film Festival.

September 21, 2019 8pm
Congregation Ahavas Sholom

On the Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Massacre AJC Asks Us To - Show Up for Shabbat



11 worshipers were gunned down at the Tree of Life synagogue last October.

American Jewish Committee (AJC) is urging people of all faiths to join with Jews in synagogues for Shabbat services on October 25 and 26, to demonstrate solidarity on the first anniversary of the massacre at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh.

#ShowUpForShabbat was initiated by AJC following the cold-blooded murder of 11 Jewish worshipers on October 27, 2018, during Saturday morning services. Exactly six months later, on April 27, the Chabad House in Poway, near San Diego, California, was attacked, leaving one Jew dead, also at a Shabbat service.

“The sanctity of Jewish houses of worship, the sense of American Jewish security, changed dramatically after these fatal terror attacks,” said AJC CEO David Harris.

“But the outpouring of support from political and religious leaders, as well as participation in #ShowUpForShabbat, was energizing, demonstrating Americans’ determination to come together to fight hate, in this case hatred of Jews.”

AJC’s #ShowUpForShabbat initiative was the largest expression of solidarity with the Jewish community in American history. More than 250 million people engaged with the hashtag on Facebook and Twitter. Millions of people attended services at synagogues in the U.S. and abroad on Friday evening and Saturday morning, November 2-3.

“One year later, we wish to remember the victims of maniacal hatred and unite with people of good will in the struggle against rising antisemitism,” said Harris.

There is a growing list of synagogues participating in #ShowUpForShabbat. AJC’s 22 Regional Offices are reaching out to communal partners and government officials across the country to encourage participation on October 25-26.

“When our core values as a nation are tested by the attacks on Pittsburgh and Poway synagogues, and assaults on Jews elsewhere, we stand united with all who are determined to ensure that love triumphs over hate, good over evil, unity over division. That’s our America,” said Harris. ✡

The Kosher Kitchen

Jamie Geller and JChef Launch Kosher Meal Kit Collaboration



Jamie Geller (Jewish food and lifestyle expert and author of six best-selling cookbooks) and JChef.com (the largest meal kit service for the kosher consumer) teamed up to offer a limited-time 'Jamie Geller Menu' Meal Kit, available September 5-30th. Launching with a capsule menu featuring a selection of seasonal favorites and globally-inspired Jewish comfort foods trending in the Jamie Geller digital community of 1.5 million, the recipes are perfect for every day and can be ready in 30 minutes.

The Jamie Geller Menu launches with eight options, including Pomegranate Harissa Chicken and Couscous Herb Salad, Shawarma Skillet Dinner and the uber-trendy make-at-home Mediterranean Merguez Shakshuka with fresh pita and creamy hummus topped with chickpeas, sumac and olive oil. The selections include

vegetarian, gluten-free and allergy-aware options and subscribers can choose from a variety of plans that suit their need based on family size and number of weekly meals. New recipes will be added each week throughout the collaboration.

"What kosher consumer hasn't silently wished for Jamie to appear in their kitchen to prep dinner?" said Gabriel Saul, founder of JChef. "This is the next best thing! Jamie has created the recipes, chosen ingredients and provided easy prep instructions with her community in mind. This is like @JewishbyJamie and your entire Instagram food feed coming to life, delivered directly to your door. We look forward to the feedback and helping consumers with everything needed to cook easy and amazing kosher meals."

The Jamie Geller Menu is available for delivery to more than 30 markets nationwide. Selected kits arrive one week after menu selection in recyclable, insulated (72-hour certified) boxes and contain pre-portioned, freshly sourced ingredients and easy-to-follow recipes. Meal kits start at \$72 for the classic two-night box including four servings per recipe. Consumers can choose monthly membership or the flexibility of a weekly purchase, there is no contract, with the option to pause a subscription at any time.

For more information about The Jamie Geller Menu for JChef.com, please visit [JChef.com/JamieGeller](https://www.JChef.com/JamieGeller) ✨

The Volunteer: One Man, an Underground Army, and the Secret Mission to Destroy Auschwitz

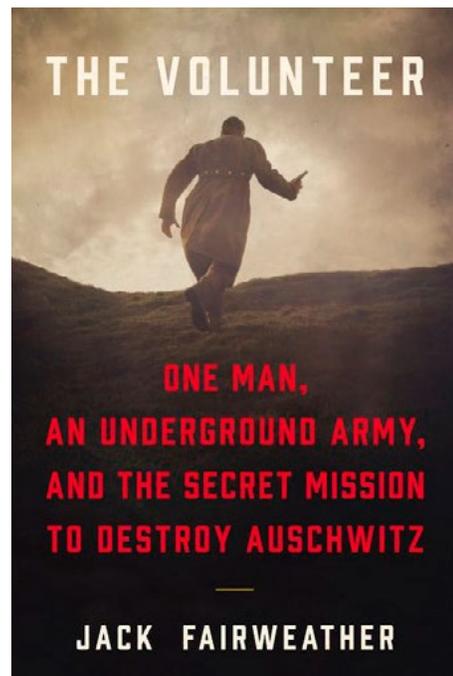
“Superbly written and breathtakingly researched, The Volunteer smuggles us into Auschwitz and shows us—as if watching a movie—the story of a Polish agent who infiltrated the infamous camp, organized a rebellion, and then snuck back out.”

The Volunteer is the incredible true story of a Polish resistance fighter’s infiltration of Auschwitz to sabotage the camp from within, and his death-defying attempt to warn the Allies about the Nazis’ plans for a “Final Solution” before it was too late.

To uncover the fate of the thousands being interred at a mysterious Nazi camp on the border of the Reich, a thirty-nine-year-old Polish resistance fighter named Witold Pilecki volunteered for an audacious mission: assume a fake identity, intentionally get captured and sent to the new camp, and then report back to the underground on what had happened to his compatriots there. But gathering information was not his only task: he was to execute an attack from inside—where the Germans would least expect it.

The name of the camp was Auschwitz.

Over the next two and half years, Pilecki forged an underground army within Auschwitz that sabotaged facilities, assassinated Nazi informants and officers, and gathered evidence of terrifying abuse and mass murder. But as he pieced together the horrifying truth,



The Volunteer is a true story of courage, selflessness, & determination.

that the camp was to become the epicenter of Nazi plans to exterminate Europe’s Jews, Pilecki realized he would have to risk his men, his life, and his family to warn the West before all was lost. To do so, meant attempting the impossible—an escape from Auschwitz itself.

Completely erased from the historical record by Poland's post-war Communist government, Pilecki remains almost unknown to the world. Now, with exclusive access to previously hidden diaries, family and camp survivor accounts, and recently declassified files, Jack Fairweather offers an unflinching portrayal of survival, revenge and betrayal in mankind's darkest hour. And in uncovering the tragic outcome of Pilecki's mission, he reveals that its ultimate defeat originated not in Auschwitz or Berlin, but in London and Washington.

About the Author

Jack Fairweather is a graduate of Oxford University and

has been a correspondent for the Washington Post and the Daily Telegraph, where he was the paper's Baghdad and Persian Gulf bureau chief. His reporting while an embedded reporter during the Iraq invasion won him the British Press Award (the British equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize). He now lives a quieter life, writing history books while raising his three daughters in Vermont. He the author of A War of Choice and The Good War. ✨

This and other books can be found and purchased through the [Jewish Book Council](#)

*The Weequahic High School
Alumni Association*



*cordially invites you to join us for
our 22nd Anniversary and Hall of
Distinction Induction Ceremony*

Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6 pm

Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel
1000 Spring Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey

Tickets: \$100

*Proceeds to be used for
scholarships and student activities*

WHS Alumni Association
P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 923-3133 / weequahicalumni@gmail.com

The Weequahic High School Alumni Association HALL OF DISTINCTION INDUCTEES

- Warren Grover, 1955** - Author, historian, and co-founder of the Newark History Society.
- Stanley Markowitz, 1955** - Educator, professor, activist for peace and social justice.
- Eli Hoffman, 1956** - President of the Jaqua Foundation in NJ.
- Paul Tractenberg, 1956** - Founder of Education Law Center and Institute on Education Law and Policy.
- Jacob Toporek, 1963** - Executive Director NJ State Association of Jewish Federations, WHS Note newsletter.
- Steven Dinetz, 1965** - CEO of Next Media, President of the Chancellor Foundation.
- Wilfredo Nieves, 1966** - Educator, President of Capital Community College in Hartford, Connecticut.
- Carrie Jackson, 1968** - Jazz vocalist, producer/arranger, recording artist, CEO of C-Jay Records.
- Honorable Sheila Oliver, 1970** - NJ Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the NJ State Assembly.
- Antoinette Baskerville-Richardson, 1970** - Chief Education Officer for the City of Newark.
- Hisani Dubose, 1971** - Film producer, screenwriter, director and founder of NJ Movie Maker's Network.
- Dr. Frederick Tyson, 1972** - Scientific Program Director at the National Institute of Environmental Health Services.

Deceased

- Dr. Nathan Weiss, 1940** - Longtime President of Kean University, graduate school named after him, and author.
- David Schechner, 1946** - Attorney, leader in Jewish community, synagogue historian, WHS Alumni trustee.
- Hal Braff, 1952** - Attorney, civil rights activist, co founder of the WHS Alumni Association and avid Mets fan.
- Dr. Eleanor Lutzke Lewis, 1959** - Social and consumer justice advocate who worked with Ralph Nader.
- Dr. James Oliver Horton, 1961** - Professor Emeritus, scholar of African American history, and author.
- Sadie Rous, Faculty, 1935-1968** - Popular and well-respected Social Studies teacher for 33 years.
- Coach Burney Adams, Faculty, 1968-2002** - Legendary football coach and mentor for 34 years.

An Israeli Spy Infiltrates Netflix

Israel must be hot. Another Israeli-based show premiered on television last week. The new Netflix series, *The Spy*, stars Sacha Baron Cohen, of *Borat* fame, as Eli Cohen, an Egyptian born Israeli engineer recruited by Mossad to spy on Syria's political and military elite.

Syria. Cohen had tried to join Mossad while in the army; but was turned down. Now Mossad was coming to him to complete a special mission. Under the guise of a successful Syrian businessman returning home after years in Argentina, Cohen was ordered to immerse himself in Syrian high-society, solicit information from high ranking officials and report his findings to Mossad. Ordered not to reveal his mission to anyone, not even his Iraqi born wife, Nadia, played by Hadar Ratzon Rotem (*Homeland* & *The Gordin Cell*), Cohen tells his wife he's working for Israel's Defense Ministry; but lies about the details of the assignment. It's not easy; though Cohen's fluent in Arabic, one of the reasons he was selected, he speaks with an Egyptian accent and must learn to speak convincingly like a cultured Syrian. He first travels to Argentina to make a name for himself and garner contacts. Once in Syria his mission truly begins. He hosts a series of lavish parties for high-powered Syrian men. Flush with women and booze, the parties create opportunities and masks Cohen's efforts to uncover the plans,



Sacha Baron Cohen is riveting as an Israeli spy, gathering information for Israeli intelligence.

motives, and tactics of the Syrian government. This is not a flashy, sexy girl laden James Bond series, it's a hard hitting realistic drama. This engrossing espionage story is all the more compelling because it's true. The information passed on by Cohen was instrumental in Israel's decisive victory over Syria during the 1967 Six-Day War. One interesting side element is Cohen was an Egyptian Jew and his wife, an Iraqi Jew; what we would consider Mizrahi Jews (Oriental Jews.) Since Eli Cohen was allowed to return home from time to time we get a refreshing glimpse of Mizrahi culture, life, and tradition in Israel. Most Jewish or Israeli stories I've come across center and concentrate on Ashkenazi Jewish life and traditions almost exclusively. ✨

Kiddush Sponsorship Shabbat Services

Sponsoring Kiddush is \$150.00, which barely covers the cost of the lunch. Our goal is to have every Kiddush sponsored. To sponsor a Kiddush email Rabbi Rosenbach or contact Allah Eicheldinger at alla7815@yahoo.com. You can also help by shopping; which doesn't cost money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you. Whatever you can do will be appreciated, greatly.

Join us at Ahavas Sholom this Saturday for Shabbat services. Strangers, visitors; friends - old & new - our doors are open to you. Looking for a new home? New members are always welcome at Congregation Ahavas Sholom. Shabbat services start at 9:00am. Our congregation is open and welcoming; feel free to pay us a visit, anytime.



*Join us at Congregation
Ahavas Sholom this
Shabbat and help us
make minyon*