



Statement by the Prime Minister on Raoul Wallenberg Day



Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau

This Week's Torah Portion: Va'era

 *Candle lighting - 4:46 pm*

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Last week Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, issued the following statement on Raoul Wallenberg

Day:

"Today, we honour Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat in Budapest in the 1940s who put himself in harm's way to save tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from persecution and death during the Holocaust.

"Mr. Wallenberg was a true humanitarian and hero, who led an important rescue effort that saved more Jews from the horrors of the Nazi regime than any other individual, organization, or government. A man of incredible bravery and courage, he went to great lengths to provide special protective passports – Schutz-Passes – to thousands of Jews, saving them from deportation to concentration camps. Mr. Wallenberg also created a network of safe havens operating under the protection of the Swedish flag, offering refuge to Jews fleeing persecution.

I am sad to announce the death of our Steve Renov's mother, Syd Renov.

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I am sad to announce the death of our Steve Renov's mother, Syd Renov. Here is the information: Steve's mom, Syd, passed peacefully in her sleep last night. She was amazingly 104 (almost 105). Even that afternoon she was out and about and the people at Sarah Neuman staff loved her as she was always cheerful.

Services are as follows:

Tomorrow, Thursday, January 23, 11AM, Zion Memorial Chapel, 785 East Boston Post Rd. Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Mt. Hebron Cemetery 1PM, 130-04 Horace Harding Expressway Flushing, NY 11367

Shiva:

Following cemetery at our home:

3 Hundt Place West Orange, NJ 4-6 and 7-9

Saturday night at the home of Rhona and Danny Aronstein 7-954 Northfield

"Tragically, Mr. Wallenberg disappeared after he was arrested by Soviet forces near the end of the war. While his fate remains unknown, his legacy lives on. In honour of his heroic efforts, countless awards,

monuments, institutions, and anti-racism campaigns now bear his name. In 1985, Canada also named him as our first honorary citizen.

"Today, I encourage all Canadians to find inspiration in Mr. Wallenberg's remarkable example. Jewish communities in Canada and around the world still face unacceptable acts of antisemitism. We must always stand up to hatred and racism. With compassion and courage, we each have the power to make a difference in the lives of those around us." ✨

Rd. New Rochelle, NY

Sunday at our home, 3 Hundt Place, West Orange 2-4 and 7-9

We say to the family, Hamakom y'nechem etchem b'toch sh'ar avilei tzion virusha-layim, May God comfort you together with all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Congregation Ahavas Sholom

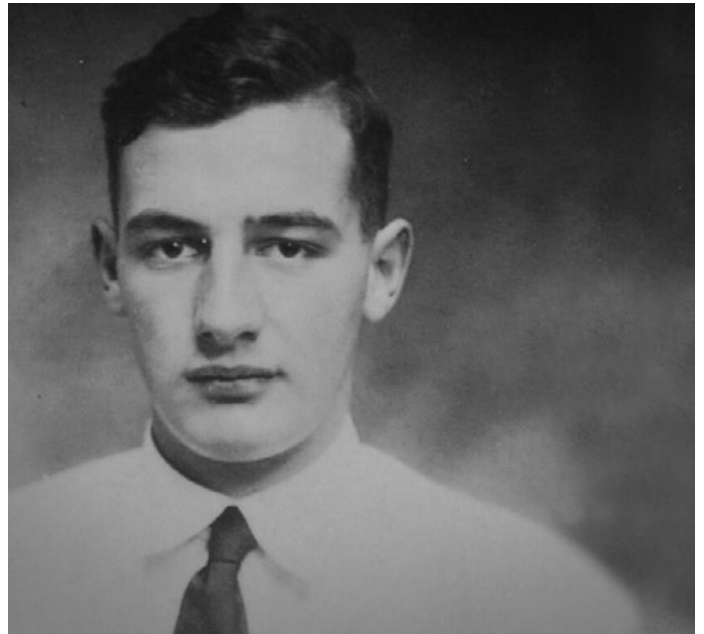
President – Eric Freedman
Rabbi Simon Rosenbach
Cantor – Fred Grabiner
Gabbai - Hooshmand Delshad
Webmaster – Jeff Haveson
Scroll Editor – Bezalel Tim Lee

January 24, 2020

Remembering Raoul Wallenberg

Last week Canada celebrated Raoul Wallenberg Day. While many people are aware of Oskar Schindler's efforts to protect Jews during The Holocaust (chiefly because of the popularity of Steven Spielberg's masterwork, *Schindler's List*) Raoul Wallenberg isn't nearly as well known; however, his efforts were equally, if not more impressive than the before mentioned Schindler. Oskar Schindler is credited with saving approximately 1,200 Jews in occupied Poland. Depending on the source cited, Raoul Wallenberg is credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews in occupied Hungary.

Raoul Wallenberg was born in Sweden on August 4, 1912. His maternal grandfather was a professor and his paternal grandfather was a diplomat. Wallenberg never met his father; Raoul Oscar Wallenberg, who died three months before the birth of his son. After serving in the military, Wallenberg went to Paris to continue his studies. After a year he matriculated at the University of Michigan where he studied architecture. Wallenberg was graduated in 1935. After college he moved around a bit, holding several positions, then, through his uncle, he landed a job at The Central European Trading Company, an export-import trading company owned by Kálmán Lauer. By 1938 The Kingdom of Hungary had begun embracing a negative attitude toward its Jewish population. The government began implementing Nazi inspired laws that restricted, and eventually stripped many Jews of their rights. They restricted travel, prohibited intermarriage, and limited the types of positions Jews could hold. These laws hampered the movements of Wallenberg's employer, Kálmán Lauer, a Hungarian Jew. Increasingly Lauer relied on Wallenberg to travel



Raoul Wallenberg

and act on his behalf in business. Wallenberg also used the trips to look in on members of Lauer's family, who were still in Hungary. Wallenberg's travels took him to many European countries including Nazi Germany and occupied France. While spending time in these places Wallenberg observed the bureaucratic nature of Nazi operations.

Wallenberg first became aware of the plight of Europe's Jews while traveling on business. While in Haifa (then part of the Palestine Mandate) Wallenberg encountered several Jews, who had escaped the grasp of the Third Reich. They shared snippets of their stories; but, in truth, didn't really want to talk about it. They were just happy to be safe. In 1939, Wallenberg read Hitler's infamous *Mein Kampf*, which laid out his twisted ideology and nefarious intentions for dealing with the 'Jewish question.' While Hungarian Jews faced persecution and anti-Semitism it was still far safer than many other countries that had fallen under the influence or

rule of the Nazis. Jews from Germany Poland Austria, and Czechoslovakia flocked into Hungary, pushing the Hungarian Jewish population to approximately 750,000 by 1944.

Although the Hungarian government fell under the sway of Nazi anti-Semitism, they proved unreliable allies in the Nazi plan to eliminate the Jews. Despite their willingness to marginalize and persecute Hungary's Jews, they were less comfortable with deporting them; consequently, the Jewish population was not shrinking, quite the opposite, it was actually growing. In 1944, impatient with Hungary's lack of progress in deporting its Jewish population, Germany, using the ruse of protecting its southern border, sent in troops. They occupied Hungary and installed a puppet government beholden to Nazi Germany's priorities. Before 1944, Hungary's Jewish population was subjected to persecution; but, not necessarily deportation and imprisonment. That all changed when Nazi Germany took power. With the arrival of the Nazis, life for Hungary's Jews became much more perilous. Under the direction of Adolf Eichmann, the Hungarian government began the deportation of its Jews to concentration camps in earnest.

By the time Wallenberg arrived in Budapest on July 9, 1944, over 400,000 Jews had already been deported or relocated to ghettos. As noted by former UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, in his book 'Courage,' prior to this time, there was nothing particularly remarkable about Wallenberg, nor had he exhibited a penchant for bravery; but, if history has taught us anything; it's that in troubling times there are always seemingly unremarkable men who rise to the challenge and do remarkable things. The assault on Hungary's Jewish population transformed Wallenberg from a meek businessman to an iron-willed liberator of thousands

of Jews.

Outraged at how Jews were being treated, Wallenberg longed to do something to stop the persecution and deportations; but what could a diplomat of limited power do to stop it?

Late in 1944, U.S. President Franklin D Roosevelt established The War Refugee Board to address what was happening to the Jews and other peoples under Nazi control. Roosevelt believed the presence of foreigners, in an official capacity, would deter Nazi atrocities. Only one neutral European country agreed to participate in the plan – Sweden.

Using his status as a diplomat of the Swedish legation in Budapest, Wallenberg began issuing protective Swedish passports to Jews; any Jew with even the slightest tie to Sweden could get a passport. Hungarian authorities were persuaded (more likely bribed) into creating thousands of additional passports.

As the war wore on and the Russian army continued its advance deeper into German occupied territory. Hitler and Eichmann pushed even harder for the elimination of the Jews, but because of the passports and Wallenberg's pass (Shutzpass) system thousands escaped his grasp. He and other officials had also petitioned, Hungarian regent Horthy to resist Eichmann's plans. When Eichmann was eventually forced to flee Budapest he left orders that all remaining Jews in the city were to be shot, Wallenberg place himself in danger by personally informing one of the remaining commanders that he would see to it that they would be charged with war crimes –the mass execution was called off.

A few days later, when the Russians entered Budapest, 69,000 Jews had survived.

With the success of his mission well in hand a cruel twist of fate befell Raoul Wallenberg. On January 17, 1945, He was called to the office of Russian General Malinovsky's headquarters to answer questions on his possible involvement in espionage.

He was never seen again. In the end, Raoul Wallenberg helped somewhere between 30, 000 and 100,000 Jews survive the Holocaust. ✡



The No Hate, No Fear March attracts thousands to NYC

Last Week, The No Hate, No Fear March drew thousands of marchers to New York City. According to The Forward, 25,000 people gathered and marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to call for an end to the hate, anti-Semitism, and intolerance that has marred New York

City over the last few months. Several of our own Congregation Ahavas Sholom members braved the cold to call for peace, understanding, and mutual respect for all.

The march was organized to highlight the frightening

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rise of Anti-Semitic attacks that have rocked the New York area over the last few months; the most recent attacks being the senseless massacre of four Jews, at Jersey City's JC Kosher Supermarket and a knife attack on the Monsey, NY home of an Hasidic rabbi during a Hanukkah celebration that resulted in the injury of five Jews.

According to The Center for The Study of Hate and

Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, the recent spike in anti-Semitic attacks will not only not subside; but, will most likely continue to spread across the country. While, when hate rears its ugly head no Jew is immune from attack; Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox Jews, who outwardly are the most recognizable as Jews, tend to be the targets of choice. While the latest two attacks were hugely newsworthy and, will garner days even weeks of coverage, the fact remains, for every big story there are countless other instances that go underreported or not reported at all. In 2018 the NYPD received over 200 reports of anti-Semitic incidents. Unlike many of us within the Jewish community, anti-Semites don't judge Jews by movement affiliation or their level of observance; nor do they care if you relish or disdain the governmental policies of Israel; to an anti-Semite a Jew is a Jew, is a Jew. Orthodox Jews are more likely to be attacked simply because they are visibly Jewish and most anti-Semitic attacks are attacks of opportunity. ✡



SIMON

SAYS

Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

There is not Simon Says column this week; however the rabbi would like to share a few announcements.

1 - The first announcement is that we are having a special Shabbat services on February 1, 2020. The service will

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start as usual at 9:30, but at 10 we will devote an hour to discussing the Amidah. At 11, we will read Torah and finish the service. I am preparing a lesson plan that I will e-mail to all congregants, and we will explore the history of the Amidah, the structure of the Amidah, the choreography of the Amidah, and meaning of all the prayers. I hope that the discussion will enhance your appreciation and the meaningfulness of the Amidah.

2 - The second announcement is that we will again participate in the World Wide Wrap on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, 2020. We will daven Shacharit (at a time to be decided, either 9 or 9:30), and you will have chance to put on tefillin. In the last few years, we have had a minyan, so we don't want to break the streak.

3 - I am sad to announce the death of our Steve Renov's mother, Syd Renov, at the age of 104 ✨



Help us Remodel Our Kitchen

We need \$ 60,000, to remodel our kitchen properly.

**April Modlinger, a long time pillar of Ahavas Sholom, got us started
with a generous pledge of \$10,000. Others have also pledged;**

but we need more!

**With your help the congregation will soon have a kitchen
that will serve us all for years to come.**

**Please, Make your
Pledge Today!**

The Drama of Modern Jewish History

Tikvah Open University

Professor Allan Arkush



[Click Here to Register](#)

Dates: March 4, 11, 18, and 25

Time: Wednesday evenings, 6:30 PM

Cost: \$100 registration fee

Location: The Tikvah Center, [165 East 56th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY](#)

This course is open to anyone interested in Jewish history and Jewish ideas. Space is limited.

The 18th century ushered in nearly two hundred years of dramatic transformation in Jewish life. This period saw the beginnings of large-scale assimilation, the rise of Reform Movement and the Orthodox response, and the first stirrings and remarkable growth modern Zionism.

In this new mini-course, noted Jewish historian **Allan Arkush** will explore the dramatic story of modern Jewry, from its emergence "out of the ghetto" in the mid-1700s to the outbreak of pogroms in 1881.

[Click Here to Register](#)

For more information, please write us at info@tikvahfund.org. We hope you'll join us!

January 24, 2020

Ed Berger Closing Reception/MLK Celebration at JMNJ is a Huge Success.

A Day of Art, Music, and Reflection garners JMNJ a full house.



Joanne Leone leads a group of enthusiastic artists to start off the day's MLK festivities at JMNJ.

There are a few photos from wonderful MLK event and closing of the Ed Berger; Jazz Photographer exhibit at The Jewish Museum of New Jersey (JMNJ) with NJPAC; and a special shout out to all those who made this such a special day. Eric Freedman, Donna Walker-Kuhne, Jeff Haveson, Joanne Leone, Max Herman, Janice Leslie Hochstat-Greenberg, and keynote speaker, Shais T Rishon, aka MaNishtana. ✨



Alan & Joan Podnos, enjoying the show



MaNishtana gave a powerful, insightful, and occasionally humorous presentation, while honoring Dr. King at JMNJ.



Attendees were also treated to the premier of a new play chronicling the early career of Sarah Vaughn.



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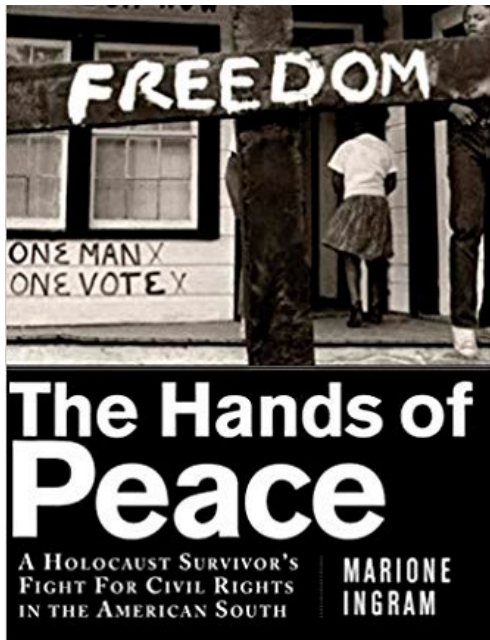
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The Book Shelf

As part of the Martin Luther King Junior celebration JMNJ assembled a panel to discuss the bond between African-American and Jews during the civil rights era. It's only appropriate that this week the CAS Scroll feature a couple of books on the era.

Call Me Phaedra: The Life and Times of Movement Lawyer Fay Stender *by Lise Pearlman* *hardcover, 502 pgs*



Born in Hamburg in the 1930s, Marione Ingram survived the Holocaust in Nazi Germany, only to find when she came to the United States that racism was as pervasive in the American South as anti-Semitism was in Europe.

Moving first to New York and then to Washington, DC, Marione joined the burgeoning civil rights movement, protesting discrimination in housing, employment, education, and other aspects of life in the nation's capital, including the denial of voting rights. She was a volunteer in the legendary March on Washington, where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, and she was an organizer of an extended sit-in to support the Mississippi Freedom Party.

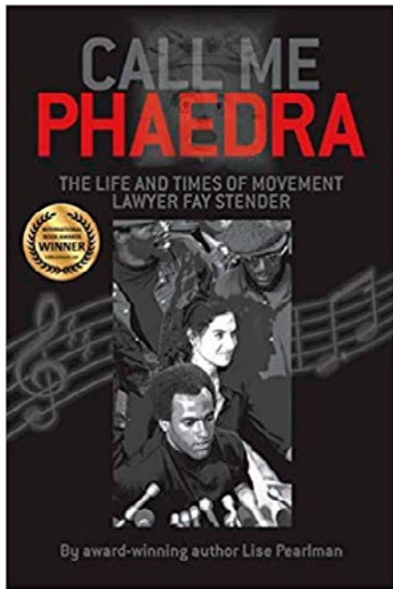
In 1964, at the urging of civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer, Marione went south to Mississippi. There, she

worked for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and taught African American youth at one of the country's controversial freedom schools. With her boldness came threats—white supremacists made ominous calls and left a blazing cross in front of her school—and an arrest and conviction. She narrowly escaped a three-month prison sentence.

As a white woman and a Holocaust escapee, Marione was perhaps the most unlikely of heroes in the American civil rights movement; and yet, her core belief in the equality of all people, regardless of race or religion, did not waver and she refused to be quieted, refused to accept bigotry.

This empowering, true story offers a rare up close view of the civil rights movement. It is a story of conviction and courage—a reminder of how far the rights movement has come and the progress that still needs to be made.

Call Me Phaedra: The Life and Times of Movement Lawyer Fay Stender by Lise Pearlman, hardcover, 502 pgs



Who was Fay Abrahams Stender? A giant among Movement lawyers from the McCarthy Era to the 1970s intent on forcing society to change. Friends could easily picture her as the heroine of a grand opera. A child prodigy, she abandoned the concert piano to become a zealous advocate for society's most scorned and vilified criminal defendants: from the Rosenberg espionage case during the Cold War to militant black clients, Black Panther Party leader Huey Newton and revolutionary prisoner George Jackson, to prisoners in the "Dachau" of

maximum security. Stender achieved amazing legal successes in criminal defense and prison reform before she ultimately refocused with similar zeal on feminist and lesbian rights.

In May 1979, an ex-felon invaded her home and shot her execution-style after forcing her to write a note saying she betrayed George Jackson. She barely survived. Wheelchair bound and under 24-hour police protection, she then became the star witness in her assailant's prosecution. Awaiting trial in a secret hideaway in San Francisco, Fay told the few friends she let visit her there to "call me Phaedra," a tragic heroine from Greek mythology. Shortly after the trial, like Phaedra, she committed suicide.

Set against a backdrop of sit-ins, protest marches, riots, police brutality, assassinations, death penalty trials and bitter splits among Leftists, this book makes for a compelling biography. Yet it delivers on a broader goal as well – an overview of the turbulent era in which Fay Stender operated under the watchful eye of the FBI and state officials. We not only relive Stender's story, but that of a small cadre of committed Bay Area activists who played remarkable roles during the McCarthy Era, Civil Rights Movement (including Mississippi Freedom Summer), the Free Speech Movement, Vietnam War protests, and the rise of Black Power.

Besides revolutionaries Huey Newton and George Jackson, Fay's life intertwined with: Jessica Mitford (who dubbed Fay her "frenemy"), Bob Treuhaft, Charles Garry, Bob Richter, Stanley Moore, Tom Hayden, Jane Fonda, Stokely Carmichael, Cesar Chavez, Mario Savio, George Crockett, Joan Baez, Willie Brown, Ron Dellums, Jerry Rubin, Max Scherr, Jean Genet, Elsa Knight Thompson, Kay Boyle, Bobby Seale, David Hilliard, Angela Davis, Eldridge and Kathleen Cleaver, and Mike Tigar, among others.

By the fall of 1970, Stender had gained international press coverage as the most sought-after Movement lawyer in America. She had just achieved spectacular successes against all odds for two black revolutionary clients. The book also describes Stender's ultimate failure to surmount class and racial differences to make her clients' cause her own and how, as in a Greek tragedy, hubris led to her downfall. Fay's tragic end served as a sobering lesson to her Movement friends of the personal risks many of them had run. For many, her death symbolized the end of an era.

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*