

# *Shelters for Israel*

# **REP** **ORTER**

*December - January 2017*

*Since 1948*

*Shelters for Israel*

C/o Mrs. Handa Stark  
236 South Highland Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

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# Shelters for Israel

SheltersforIsrael@gmail.com • SheltersforIsrael.org

## From the President...

### Dear Shelters Family,

First of all, a late but heartfelt Shana Tova!!! Just before the luncheon in September, I spent five weeks in Israel, touring with my family, and visiting some of our projects. One of the highlights, of course, was my family's visit to our newest project: Desert Shanti in the Northern Negev. What an incredible place!. It is a Moroccan styled large youth village comprising facilities created in order to help the young people who arrive there, having been abused

and sometimes living on the streets, pursue their decision to "choose life" and get the tools they need to live.

In September we had our annual Shelters for Israel Luncheon. It was really successful both as a fundraiser for our Shelters for Israel Education Center Project at Desert Shanti, and also as a way for old and new friends to connect. It was especially gratifying to look around the room and see so many young people.

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The program at the luncheon was very moving; Desert Shanti founder, Mariuma Ben Yosef, brought a Shanti alumnus who spoke so movingly of the abuse he suffered at home and how Shanti allowed him to "choose life" and become a productive and happy member of society. After serving in the army, he returned to work at Shanti to help others like him. I can tell you that everyone was very moved by his story and we also felt that much more encouraged in our efforts to help this worthy organization. We were so pleased to honor Katalin Weinberger and to see her large and beautiful family share in her honor. Volunteers like Kati are the reason that Shelters continues, year after year, to fund and support our many important projects in Israel.

I am very happy to announce that we have nearly reached our goal and therefore we are able to commit to Desert Shanti that there will be a Shelters for Israel Workshop/Dormitory in the Education Center. Additionally, the Board chose to immediately provide a generous donation to Shanti's "24 Hour Program" to make sure that these young people in crisis get the help they need when they need it.

We are still adjusting to being without a Reporter editor, so if you are so inclined, we could use some help in putting together and laying out the Reporter, which comes out every couple of months...usually!!!

So, Happy 2017 and thank you all again for your generosity and support of Shelters for Israel and its projects.

**Myra Gabbay**

## Advertising Opportunities

To place a greeting in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or to advertise your business, please send all information by the 27th of the month to Mrs. Handa Stark at 236 S. Highland Ave., Los Angeles 90036

1/8 page \$25 1/2 page \$100

1/4 page \$50 Full page \$200

**Dear Shelters for Israel Family,**

Hanukkah is just around the corner and once again we are reminded of the miracle that is the State of Israel. We at Shelters for Israel continue to sponsor, build and support many worthwhile projects in Israel. **EVERY CENT YOU DONATE GOES TO ISRAEL** because we don't have overhead like office space or a paid staff; we are ALL volunteers.

Since our first projects at the very beginning of Israel's existence, almost 70 years ago, projects ranging from housing and preschools, to ambulances, and playgrounds and so much more, proudly carry the Shelters for Israel name and the names of our donors. Please continue to help us to carry on this proud legacy!

Please visit [SheltersforIsrael.org](http://SheltersforIsrael.org). There you will be able to watch the documentary about 'Shelters' and also a video about our newest project. You may also donate to us with a credit card via Paypal.

At our recent annual luncheon in September, we heard from Mariuma Ben Yosef of Desert Shanti Village for At-Risk Youth in the Negev. She brought with her an alumnus from Israel, who moved us with his ultimately triumphant story of going from attempted suicide to serving in the IDF, thanks to Shanti's program.

Our current project, Desert Shanti's Education Center will serve to educate visitors and introduce the program to educators and students from Israel and all over the world. MOST IMPORTANTLY, this center will allow Desert Shanti to become independent financially.

Please give to the Shelters for Israel project at Desert Shanti and contact us if you would like more information. **ANY AMOUNT** is most appreciated.

**Checks may be sent payable to Shelters for Israel, and mailed to:  
Karen David, Treasurer, 228 S. Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.**

**You may also email us at [SheltersforIsrael@gmail.com](mailto:SheltersforIsrael@gmail.com) or call 310-803-9551  
if you wish to give your credit card information by phone.**

We wish you a Happy Hanukkah and a VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2017  
and thank you for your continued support of Shelters for Israel,

**Myra Gabbay, President**

**Building Projects Committee:**

David Jackson, Robert Rosenberg, Madeleine Rosenberg,  
Agi Schwartz, Rosie Silverstein



In Memory of  
**Agnes Holtz**

With Deepest Sympathy  
to her daughters  
**Vivian and Nora**

---

*Vera Matyas*

In Loving Memory of

**David Stark**



*Mike Himmelstein*

Thank You

**Naomi Vanek**

For Your

Very Generous Donation

In Honor of Handa Stark

Supporting the Good Work of  
**Shelters for Israel**

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*Susan Lutske*

In Memory of

**Monis Hasson**

**Césarine Hasson**

**Clement Hasson**



***Josette Hasson Slutzky***



In Loving Memory of

**Rachel Gabbay**

We Miss You

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*Myra and Alain Gabbay*  
*Peter, Cece, Ben and Ethan*

In Honor of My Grandchildren;

**Itay, Noa, Linzi, and Sara**

---

***Tova Rimon***

*To My Friends at Shelters for Israel:*

I wish Everyone a very Happy and  
a Healthy New Year!

I Have Moved and Have a New  
Phone Number and Address.

Please contact Shelters for Israel For that Information.

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***Irene Lowy***

# American and Israeli Jews: Twin Portraits

STEVEN M. COHEN

(edited for the Reporter)

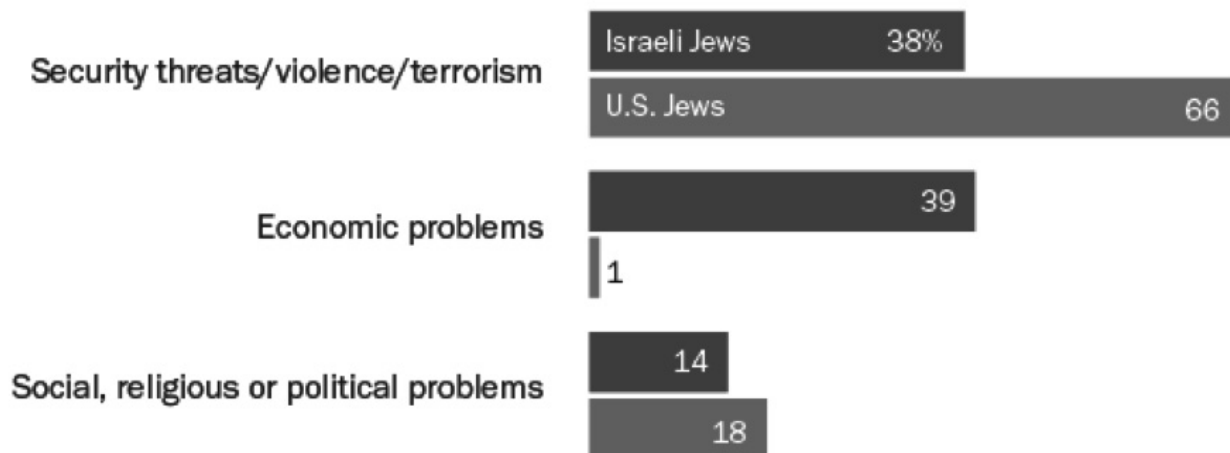
September 2016

If you are Jewish, odds are that you live in Israel or the United States. Four out of every five Jews in the world live in these two countries, with approximately 6 million Jews in each.

## Differing perspectives

Pew Research Center has surveyed Jewish adults in both places, and has found deep bonds between them. Nevertheless, their experiences and perspectives are very different. For instance, we asked Jews in Israel to describe, in their own words, the biggest long-term problem facing their country. They were as likely to cite economic concerns (such as Israel's high cost of living, or a shortage of affordable housing in Tel Aviv and other cities) as they were to mention military or national security issues (such as terror attacks or Iran's nuclear program).

*% of Jews who say the most important long-term problem facing Israel is ...*



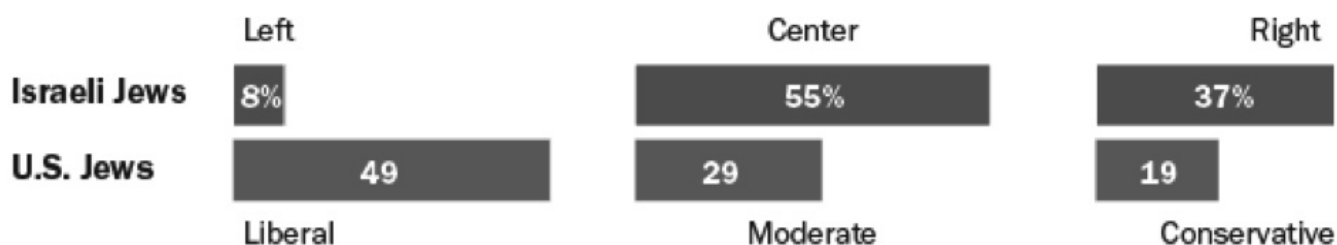
In many respects, Israel is a red state and American Jews are a blue country.

Yet when American Jews were asked to name Israel's biggest long-term problem, fully two-thirds cited a military or security issue, and hardly any (1%) mentioned economic difficulties – which suggests that many Jews in the United States either don't know much about Israelis' day-to-day economic challenges or don't worry much about them.

Israeli Jews aren't simply Pollyannaish about their security problems. In fact, Jews in Israel are much less optimistic than Jews in the United States about the prospects for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Fewer than half of Israeli Jews (43%) polled in 2014 and 2015 said they believe "a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully with each other," compared with a clear majority of American Jews (61%) polled on the same question in 2013.

Clearly, Jews face a different constellation of political and economic issues in Israel than they do in the United States. But it's interesting to note that on the Israeli political spectrum, most Jews place themselves in the center or on the right, while on the American spectrum, most Jews identify with the center or the political left.

### *% of Jewish adults who identify their political ideology as ...*



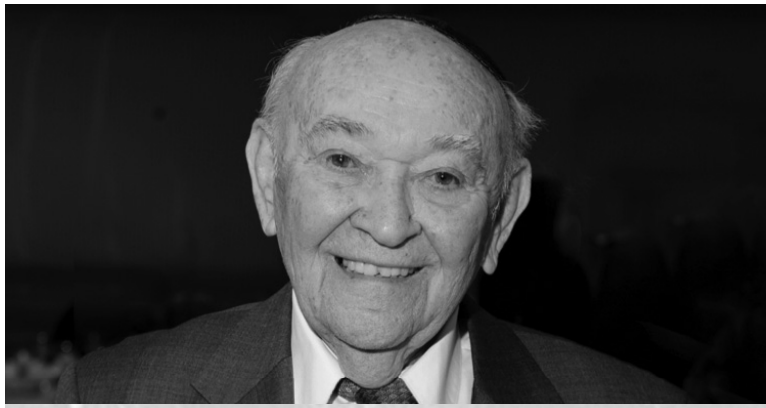
In our 2013 survey, one out of every five Jewish Americans said they do not identify with any religion, even though they also said they had at least one Jewish parent or were raised Jewish, and they consider themselves Jewish in other ways aside from religion (such as culturally or ethnically). In Israel, by contrast, nearly all Jews say their religion is Judaism.

## **Drawing together**

For two populations that live an ocean apart – both literally and metaphorically – Israeli Jews and American Jews remain remarkably close in other ways. About four-in-ten American Jews have traveled to Israel at least once (many have done so more than once), and a similar share of Israeli Jews have visited the United States.

Jewish Americans feel a strong emotional connection with the Jewish state: A solid majority say they are either "very" or "somewhat" attached to Israel and that caring about Israel is either "essential" or "important" to what being Jewish means to them. The connection is felt both ways: Most Israeli Jews say Jewish Americans have a good impact on the way things are going in Israel. In addition, most Israeli Jews say that a thriving diaspora is vital to the long-term survival of the Jewish people and that Jews in the two countries share a "common destiny."

Jews are a people who often look back and feel pride in a long, resilient history. When Jews in both Israel and the United States look ahead, many see their counterparts in the other country – despite all their differences – as fellow passengers on the same journey.



You are cordially invited to a brunch  
**Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem**  
**And to commemorate Lou Kestenbaum's <sup>z'l</sup> First Yahrzeit**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Rabbi Steven Weil

**PERFORMANCES**

The Shalhevet Choir

Cantor Netanel Baram - Mike Burstyn - Cantor Arik Wollheim

Cellist Ruslan Biryukov - Duo Reim

**MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES**

Alice Schoenfeld

**Sunday, February 26, 2017, 10:30am**

The Luxe Sunset Boulevard Hotel

11461 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles

**ORGANIZED BY**

American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem

and

NA'AMAT USA (formerly Pioneer Women)

(there will be no solicitation for contributions)

\$36.00 – Open seating

\$100.00 – Reserved seating and hosted valet parking

**RSVP**

310-229-0915 - [www.acsz.org/LouKestenbaum](http://www.acsz.org/LouKestenbaum)

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To Shelters For  
Israel Members**



**ShantiHouse**  
A Warm Home for Youth At Risk

## **24 hours family Program – Shanti House association**

### **Organization Description**

Shanti House operates as a warm home for homeless and runaway youth in Israel. Acting as both a short- and long-term framework, youth between the ages of 14-21 benefit from Shanti's care regardless of race, gender, nationality, religion, or socio-economic status. Our youngsters are orphans – even though their parents are still alive. Arriving from all across the country, our youth are in immediate, life-threatening danger of becoming homeless victims of abuse (physical and sexual), extreme neglect or abandonment, prostitution and crime. Shanti House welcomes them all, and provides what truly is a home – a place of safety and human warmth where these young people receive the kind of love, compassion, guidance and support they've never experienced before. Most importantly, our young people are given therapeutic, academic and professional opportunities to fulfill their dreams of returning to normative society as happy, independent, self-sufficient citizens.

### **Detailed Description of the “24-Hour Family” Program**

The 24-Hour Family program is the beating heart of what makes Shanti House so unique and is directly responsible for its continued success and impact. This program includes several subcategories that correspond with the features characteristic of its operation.

#### **24 Hour, Immediate Shelter:**

Shanti House is the only organization in Israel focusing on providing immediate, life-saving shelter 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Young people between the ages of 14-21 may show up at any time of the day or night and receive a bed, a hot meal, and once settled, benefit from the wide array of programming and aid available at Shanti House. Owing to the dangers synonymous with homelessness, Shanti House makes itself completely accessible by not requiring official referrals, or instituting waiting-times or predetermined lengths of stay. Many of our youngsters find their own way, arriving with nothing but the shirts on their backs, in a last and desperate attempt to find safety and serenity.

#### **Timeline:**

The 24-Hour Family project is ongoing and continuous.

- Over 2,180 homeless and runaway youth were rescued from the streets in 2015. 100% of them will benefit directly from the 24-Hour Family program.
- 90% of Shanti House graduates will successfully reintegrate into normative society as self-sufficient, independent citizens.
- 90% of the youth will be able to support themselves financially before leaving Shanti House.
- 90% will integrate into high-school frameworks or enlist in the Israeli army (IDF) depending on their age.
- 90% will learn to take responsibility for their actions by finding their inner center of self-control.
- 100% will totally avoid loitering, violence, drugs, alcohol and crime during their stay.