

Muslims, white racists up anti-Jewish game



A man promotes an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory near the former World Trade Center site on Sept. 11, 2011, the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Luigi Novi via Wikimedia Commons

Report finds violence rising across the USA

By Sean Savage, JNS.org

Nearly 70 percent of the major attacks against American Jews and Jewish institutions during the last five decades have been carried out by white supremacists and Islamic terrorists, according to an unprecedented new report released this week by the Community Security Service (CSS), a Jewish security organization.

"What is most concerning is that those who intend to harm the Jewish community are becoming increasingly brazen in their attacks," said Yehudit Barsky, the report's author.

"We hope that readers understand the nature of the threat, the ideologies and impulses behind the threat, and that this leads to greater emphasis on security within the [Jewish] community," said CSS Executive Director Jason Friedman.

Titled "Terrorist Incidents and Attacks See **Muslims** on page 6



Sufganiyot on display in Jerusalem's Central Bus Station. Ben Sales

Chanukah without sufaniyot?

Health minister urges Israelis: Skip the donuts

JERUSALEM — Israel's health minister this week called on the public to refrain from eating the traditional Chanukah treat *sufganiyot*.

"I call on the public to avoid eating *sufganiyot*, which are rich in fats," Yaakov Litzman of the Haredi Orthodox United Torah Judaism party said Sunday during a conference to promote healthy eating, Ynet reported.

"You can find alternatives for everything nowadays and there is no need for us to fatten our children with *sufganiyot*, which are not in line with the principles of health and proper nutrition."

Sufganiyot — traditional jelly donuts — are deep fried and covered with powdered sugar, although variations include other fillings and toppings. They are ubiquitous in the weeks leading up to the holiday, with bakeries frying them on the street and selling them fresh to passersby.

"If I had to say this today, I'd say *sufganiyot* out," Litzman said. "You can eat them, of course, because it is part of the holiday's customs, but there are alternatives."

On Monday, he pulled back slightly, stating, "I am not saying it should be prohibited ... but one shouldn't eat a mountain of them. Eat one on Chanukah and that's it."

YeshivaWorldNews said that when it was pointed out to him that eating jelly donuts is a *mitzvah*, he responded that there are far more important *mitzvos* to fulfill and that one should not be *machmir* regarding the donuts.

Not easy being zayde

5 Towns considers the Orthodox grandparent

The Orthodox Union's Department of Synagogue and Community Services will host an unusual panel discussion this Shabbos on "The Cost of Grandparenting in the 21st Century Torah World."

The panel, moderated by Steven Savitsky, a popular speaker who is former president and chairman of the board of the OU, on will be held at Congregation Bais Tefillah in Woodmere, Friday evening, Dec. 16, at 7:45 pm.

Panelists include Rabbi Ephraim Polakoff, leader of Congregation Bais Tefillah; Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky, *rosh yeshiva*

of Yeshiva of South Shore in Hewlett; Reuben Maron, executive director of the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway; Asher Mandsdorf, past president and current member of School Board District 15, and Avi Lauer, Esq., vice-president for legal affairs, secretary and general counsel, Yeshiva University.

"Being a grandparent today in the Orthodox Jewish world is far different than it was in previous generations," Savitsky said. "There are more responsibilities, roles and opportunities. Hopefully, in our panel discussion, we can address all three."



Witness on Staten Is.

Wagner College student Sophia Spengler performs a monologue as Lodz ghetto survivor Dora Luba Malz. Dora's son Abraham Malz attended the play. See story, more photos, on page 14 in SCHOOLS section.

Jewish Star employment opportunities

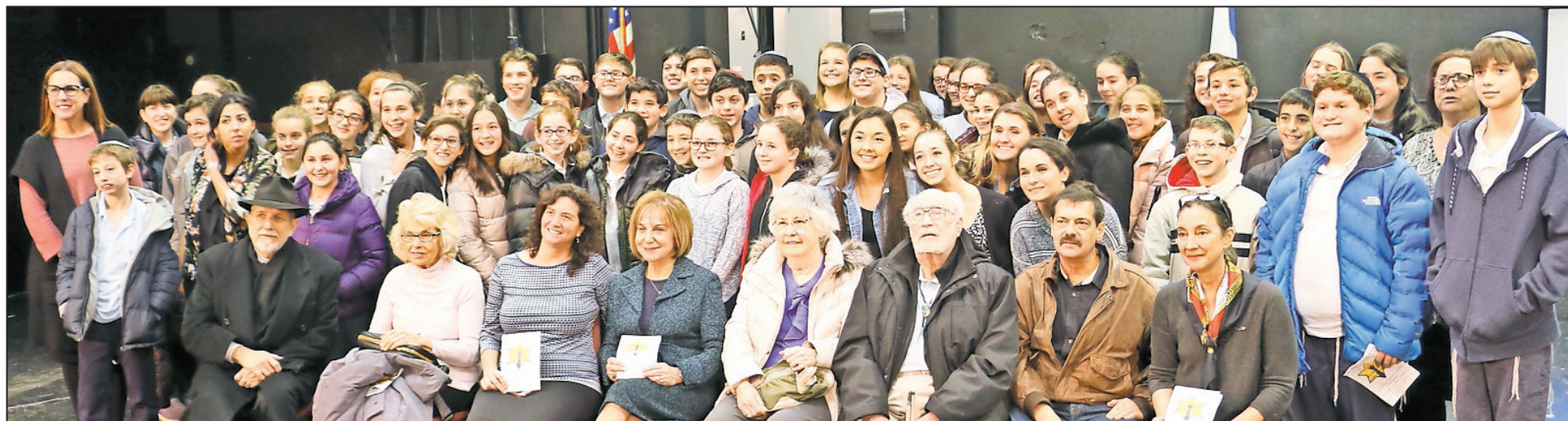
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The audience — including students from the Manhattan Day School on the Upper West Side — and cast, at the performance of “We Will Carry the Word” by theater students at Wagner College on Staten Island.

Shoah voices spoken at Staten Island college

MDSers, at secular Wagner, hear ‘We Will Carry the Word’

Eighth grade students at Manhattan Day School traveled to Staten Island last week to view an original Holocaust play, “We Will Carry the Word,” performed by 20 students of Wagner College.

The performance at the secular institution, in which most of the actors were not Jewish, featured monologues of local Holocaust survivors delivered in the multifaceted style developed by Anna Deveare Smith.

“At a moment of escalating distrust and hate crimes in our nation, it is urgent to promote empathy between students of all faiths and a shared commitment to not be bystanders,” says Lori R. Weintrob, director of the Holocaust Education Center at Wagner College. “We’re thrilled to see that our work is drawing the attention of students and organizations outside Staten Island.”

Attending the performance marked the beginning of a unique partnership between MDS, a Modern Orthodox elementary school on the Upper West Side, and Wagner College.

The two schools have decided to pool their resources in the area of Holocaust study in order to expand their collections of survivor interviews, increase the visibility of their Holocaust study programs, and provide students with a more global view of this period of history. It is a step by both institutions to make their commitment to Holocaust study even stronger.

“It was so important for our students to hear the stories and learn about the Holocaust from another perspective,” says Judy Melzer, associate principal and director of the Holocaust curriculum at MDS.

The Wagner faculty and students were equally excited to have the eighth graders attend the show.

The presentation was the culmination of a semester of research and study of the Holocaust using survivor eyewitness testimony.

In a rehearsal process guided by Theresa McCarthy, professor of theater at Wagner College, students came to embody and give voice to an individual Holocaust survivor from testimony drawn primarily from the archives of the Shoah Foundation.

McCarthy explored with students techniques for creating character that are the opposite of traditional method acting, with its emphasis on psychological analysis of character’s desires.



Wagner student Anais Mazic portrays Rachel Roth (of Warsaw ghetto, Auschwitz survivor), whose picture is displayed in the background.



MDS students Benjamin Platovsky and Max Jankelovits speak to Holocaust survivor, Benjamin Wayne.



Lori R. Weintrob, director of the Holocaust Education Center at Wagner College (left) and Theresa McCarthy, Professor of Theater at Wagner College..



Wagner students performing (from left): Ruth Kupperberg, Mackenzie Hart, Anais Mazic and Genna Cypher.

ter’s desires. The performers were inspired by the work of modernist theatre artist Anna Deveare Smith, whose documentary performance works have revolutionized the actor’s approach to character.

“Because these survivors are real people, I want to honor their true expressive testimony,” says McCarthy. “Students have studied their subjects’ video interviews and observed the nuance and details that can be heard in their voice, the accent and the inflection, the tempo of their speech in every gesture. Through this deep study and practice, students created a live documentary performance of their survivor.”

The course was inspired by a joint project of the National Jewish Theater Foundation and the Shoah Foundation entitled “This is What I’ve Scene.” In addition, there are scenes from Tony Kushner’s “Bright Room Called Day” and Charlotte Delbo’s “Who Will Carry the Word.”

“I thought it was a powerful way to convey the message of the Holocaust, not to be a bystander, and to learn from history,” says Rachel Halpern, MDS student. “Not just to tell the story and tell the facts but to really show it with the accents, with the acting.”

The Wagner College undergraduates are bringing to life the experiences of Holocaust survivors who live on or have had a connection to Staten Island: Harry Bloxenheim, Margot Capell, Gabi Held, Betty and Emil Jacoby, Luba Dora Malz, Rachel Gottlieb, Brenda Perelman, Rachel Roth, Suzanne Sauers, Irene Rosenberg, Edith Golden, Romi Cohn, Hannah Steiner — some from Germany, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Slovakia.

Most survived Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen or other Nazi camps, while a few survived in hiding. Several survivors were in attendance at the performance.

Among the performers, the Wagner first-semester students come from other countries including Ireland, India, Sweden and Austria, and many U.S. states, including Hawaii. Only three students are Jewish.

“It’s about the power of hate ... how it can grow into something uncontrollable and unimaginable if you don’t control it and stop it,” says Wagner student Ruth Kupperberg. “It’s all about learning to stand up and speak out because we don’t want to have more occurrences or more situations like this in the future.”

The mission of the Wagner College Holocaust Education Center is to awaken future generations to the ramifications of anti-Semitism, prejudice and racism as well as the dynamism of Jewish culture and heritage.

For more information about the Holocaust Education Center at Wagner College, visit the website wagner.edu/holocaust-center