

NEWS

Egypt Spends \$22M To Restore Historic Alexandria Synagogue

| July 7, 2017 | By [JTA](#)



([JTA](#)) — The Egyptian government reportedly has approved a \$22 million plan to restore a 160-year-old synagogue in Alexandria.

The Ministry of Antiquities' Project

Sector on Wednesday approved the funds for restoring and developing the Eliyahu Hanavi Synagogue, according to the head of the Islamic and Coptic Monuments Department, al-Saeed Helmy Ezzat, The Egypt Independent [reported](#) from a translation of the Arabic-language daily Al-Masry Al-Youm.

The synagogue was forced to close several months ago after part of its ceiling fell down, The Independent reported.

Ezzat said the government will pay for the restoration even though Egyptian law requires the community to cover such work.

The Eliyahu Hanavi Synagogue can seat over 700 people and is considered to be one of the largest synagogues in the

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the number of Jews living in all of Egypt at fewer than 50.

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Mom Posts Fake Photo Of Dimple-Pierced Baby To Make Circumcision Point

| July 7, 2017 | By [Jesse Bernstein](#)



facebook

Endina Vance shared a photo on Facebook of her infant daughter with a newly pierced dimple with a stud.

“I’m the parent, she is MY CHILD, I will do whatever I want!! I make all of her decisions until she’s 18, I made her, I own her!,” the caption read. Soon, the post

had racked up thousands of comments and reactions, some calling Vance an “abusive and an unfit mother,” and others reporting calls to Child Protective Services.

[Just one problem—the photo was a fake.](#)

The photo, Vance said, was created to make a point about about circumcision, which she opposes. Still, she was surprised by the backlash.

“I seriously can not believe how many people missed that this was purely satirical,” she said, “I actually used the hashtag #sarcasm lol[...].”

“How is it so triggering, so enraging to see my baby with a pierced dimple, but actually knowing a baby is being strapped down & forcibly having his most sensitive & innervative portion of his penis amputated, seems perfectly ok??” she wrote in a follow-up. “How can society threaten death over one, but encourage & support the other? Piercing is bad, but cutting is accepted as the norm?”

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Devout Martial Arts Expert's Funeral Draws Fighters And Orthodox Jews

| July 7, 2017 | By [Ari Feldman](#)



Aaron Rajman's funeral near Boca Raton, FL.

Twitter

At his funeral on Thursday Aaron Rajman, a professional Mixed Martial Arts fighter who was shot and killed in a home invasion on Monday, was mourned by Chabad rabbis and MMA fighters alike. The “matzoh brawler,” who had turned 25 in June, led a life of faith, friendliness and, of course, fighting.

“He didn’t have an enemy that I knew of. Ever,” Emily Imber, Rajman’s former girlfriend, told the [Palm Beach Post](#).

“He helped me raise my kid for those five years, and afterward he still played a role in his life,” Imber said Wednesday. “I’m heartbroken. I can’t believe there would be anybody that would do this to him.”

Rajman was one of the few Orthodox Jews in MMA, a sport that combines boxing, jiu-jitsu and other martial art forms. His professional record was 2-2.

A GoFundMe crowdfunding campaign organized shortly after Rajman’s death raised over \$25,000 to cover funeral costs, including \$10,000 to pay for a grave plot next to Rajman’s father’s grave. Rajman’s father died of lymphoma

in 2011.

In a [blog post](#), Rabbi Avraham Granat, a teacher at a day school in Coral Springs, wrote that Rajman would yell “Shema Yisrael!” before every fight, wearing a prayer shawl and boxing gloves. Granat learned the Israeli martial art *krav maga* from Rajman, who also taught the martial art to children and policemen in Boca Raton.

“His calm and subtle demeanor belied this expertise in what could be considered a violent lifestyle,” wrote Granat.

Contact Ari Feldman at feldman@forward.com or on Twitter [@aefeldman](https://twitter.com/aefeldman).

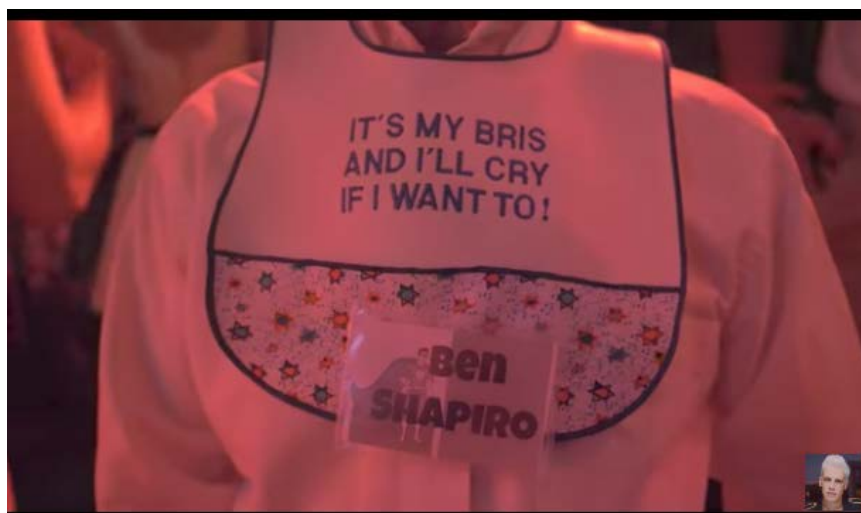
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Milo Yiannopoulos Hires Dwarfs Wearing Yarmulkes To Mock Rival

| July 7, 2017 | By [Ari Feldman](#)



The bib on a dwarf impersonating Ben Shapiro.

youtube

Disgraced alt-right provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos hired dwarfs wearing yarmulkes to perform at a New York book launch party as part of an elaborate stunt to mock an observant Jewish rival.

Yiannopoulos used the dwarfs to ridicule Ben Shapiro, the editor of the conservative website The Daily Wire, at a Thursday night shindig for his new book “Dangerous.”

The dwarfs wore “Ben Shapiro” name tags and bibs that read “It’s my bris and I’ll cry if I want to” at the party.

“They’re a little tall for Ben Shapiro impersonators, but they’ve got the yarmulkes, they’re doing a good job,” Yiannopoulos [reportedly](#) said.

The two onetime Breitbart.com colleagues are locked in a bitter feud on the far right wing of the conservative movement.

Shapiro resigned as editor-at-large of Breitbart.com, last year over its handling of a Breitbart reporter’s allegations of sexual assault by Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski. Yiannopoulos and others saw that as a betrayal of Trump and his acolyte Steve Bannon.

Yiannopoulos also [left Breitbart](#) in February after making approving comments about sex between men and under-age boys.

The Lower East Side party also featured a dunk tank with a Hillary Clinton impersonator in the hot seat, and strippers who began their routine in floor-length burqas.

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Jewish Mayor of Charlottesville Girds For KKK Rally

| July 7, 2017 | By [Aiden Pink](#)



Wikimedia

The statue of Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville, Va.

The Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan plan to rally in Charlottesville, Virginia this on Saturday to protest the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from a city park.

The city approved the rally in Justice Park on free speech grounds. But Mayor

Michael Singer encouraged most people to stay away.

“This rump, out-of-state chapter of a totally discredited organization will succeed in their aim of inciting controversy only if folks take their putrid bait, and that begins with the media,” he told *The Washington Post* in an email. “I encourage everyone to ignore this ridiculous sideshow and to focus instead on celebrating the values of diversity and tolerance that have made Charlottesville a world-class city.”

White supremacists including [Richard Spencer](#) rallied in the college town, home of the University of Virginia, for the same reason on May 13. That event precipitated anti-

Semitic, online harassment against Singer.

Another rally is scheduled for August 12. Former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke referenced the August event in a Wednesday Twitter message, [encouraging](#) his followers to “Be there -> the fake news will be.”

Some liberal activist groups plan to hold a “BlocKKKparty” protest around the Klan rally, the Charlottesville *Daily Progress* [reported](#), while churches and other organizations have scheduled a [series of educational and social events](#) around the city throughout the day.

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Jewish Politicos Flay Trump Over ‘Disgraceful!’ Podesta Tweet At G20

| July 7, 2017 | By [Ari Feldman](#)



9:59 AM - 7 Jul 2017

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The start of John Podesta's tweetstorm after Trump said Podesta was the talk of the town at the G20 summit. *Twitter*

Donald Trump has provoked confusion, ridicule and sarcasm from the Twittersphere after tweeting from the G20 that “Everyone here is talking about why John Podesta refused to give the DNC server to the FBI and the CIA. Disgraceful!” The tweet, which was [thoroughly debunked](#), was roundly mocked by Jewish politicians.

“Yes, I’m sure that’s the big talk at G20. Not climate change or trade, but why didn’t John Podesta give a server that wasn’t his to the CIA,” [tweeted](#) Representative Adam Schiff.

David Axelrod [echoed](#) Schiff’s disbelief: “THAT’s what everyone is talking about?!? Not trade, climate change, refugees, North Korea, Syria ...they’re talking about JOHN PODESTA?!?”

Podesta, who apparently realized he was being tweeted about by the president while on a road trip, called Trump a “whack job.” “Dude, get your head in the game,” Podesta [tweeted](#).

At least one vocal Trump support had a more cynical take on Trump’s tweet: “And with one tweet, President Trump

gets the entire media talking about John Podesta on the day he meets Putin. Well-played,” tweeted Jack Posobiec, who is not Jewish.

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