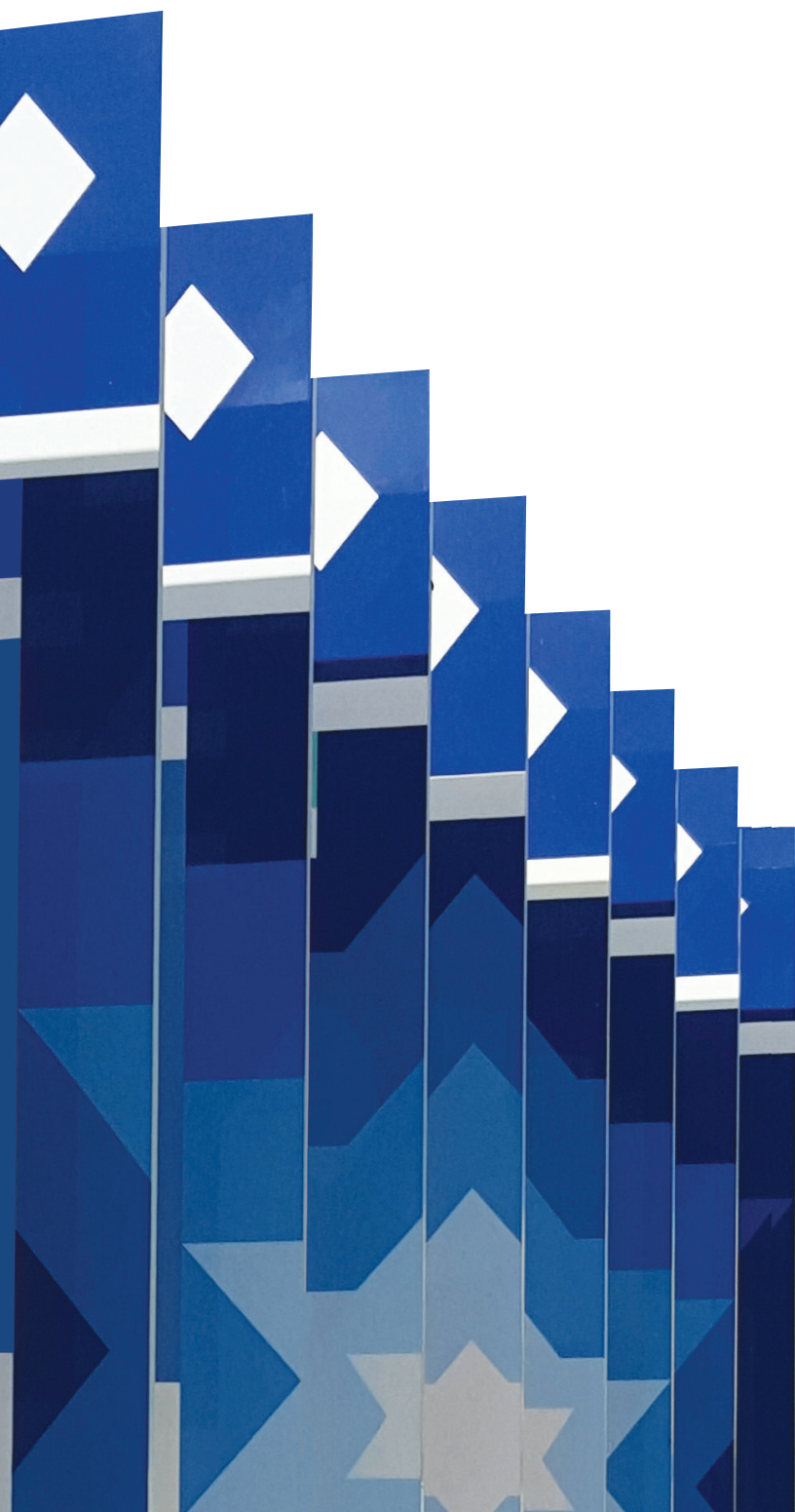
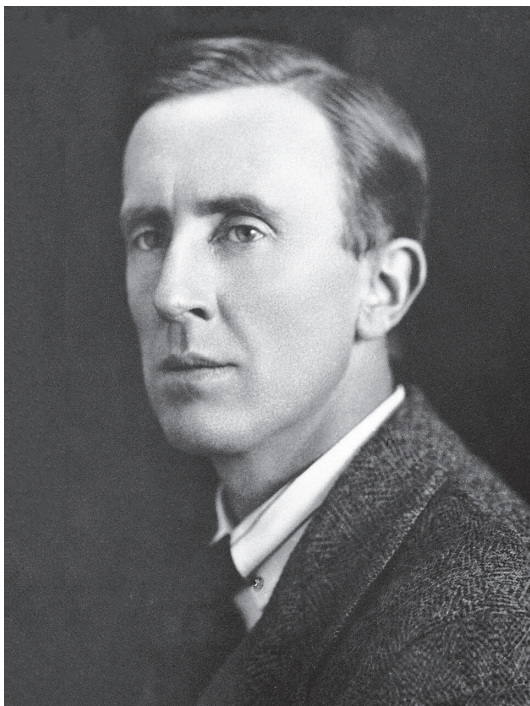


THE GROSS FAMILY CENTER
FOR THE STUDY OF
ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST
2026-2027 SPEAKER SERIES





The "Lord of the Rings" was one of the best selling novels ever written, selling over 400 million copies. The author of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and many other works, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892-1973) was approached by his German publisher, Rutten & Loening, in 1938 with a burning question: was he of Aryan descent? Tolkien pointed out that history would judge the publisher and other antisemites harshly. He wrote the following in a letter to his British publisher, Stanley Unwin, refusing to work with the German publishing house: "If I am to understand that you are inquiring whether I am of Jewish origin, I can only reply that I regret that I appear to have no ancestors of that gifted people. My great great grandfather came to England from Germany in the 18th Century...

if impertinent and irrelevant inquiries of this sort are to become the rule in matters of literature, then the time is not far distant when a German name will no longer be a source of pride....I trust you will find this reply satisfactory, and remain yours faithfully,"

J.R.R.Tolkien



Inside the Musée d'Orsay. Photo: ZUMA Press Wire via Reuters Connect

The Musée d'Orsay in France opened a new permanent exhibition room on Tuesday dedicated to works of art that were owned by Jews and looted by the Nazis across Europe during World War II before being returned to France after the war.

The new gallery room is titled "To whom do these works belong?" and will feature rotating installations of works of art recovered after World War II also known as *Musées Nationaux Récupération* (National Museums Recovery) pieces. Provenance investigators and researchers are still working to identify the original owners of these MNR artworks.

"Over time, the room is intended to evolve to present to the public the discoveries resulting from this research, some of which could allow new restitutions," said the museum. "It thus constitutes a space of memory, transparency and active research, at the heart of contemporary issues related to the history of the collections."

Now on display in the exhibition are 13 works, including the 1879 painting "Dinner at the Ball" by Edgar Degas, according to The Times. The painting was previously owned by Fernand Ochsé, a Jewish merchant and art collector living in France who was murdered in the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Holocaust along with his wife. The painting was among thousands of artworks stolen by the Nazis or forcibly sold to Nazi occupiers in France. Also on display in the exhibit is Pierre-Auguste Renoir's portrait "Madame Alphonse Daudet" from 1876.

The new gallery room and research done by provenance investigators is being funded with support from the nonprofit organization American Friends of Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie (AFMO). According to the organization, 60,000 artworks looted by the Nazis during World War II around Europe were returned to France by 1950 and 224 of those recovered artworks are housed at the museum and in need of further provenance research to find their original owners. Fifteen MNRs kept at the Musée d'Orsay have already been returned to its rightful owners.

Over the next few years, AFMO will fund a team of art historians and researchers, led by provenance expert Dr. Ines Rotermond-Reynard, and they will focus on finding the owners of the 224 recovered artworks in the Musée d'Orsay's collections, but also approximately 200 additional pieces acquired by the museum after 1933.

Program Schedule

Fighting the Rise of Antisemitism in America

Sunday, November 15, 2026 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Congressman Randy Fine

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

The Jerusalem Sovereignty Brief

Sunday, November 22, 2026 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Jacques Gauthier Ph.D

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Israel at the Crossroads: A New Middle East

Sunday, December 6, 2026 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Ambassador Ido Aharoni Aronoff

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Building the Future of Israel's Resilience: The Trajectory of the IDF post October 7

Sunday, December 13, 2026 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Col. Richard Kemp

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

In Cooperation with FIDF

From Victims to Victors

Sunday, January 10, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Avi Abelow

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Israel, Iran and the Gulf States: A Changing Map

Sunday, January 24, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Jonathan Schanzer

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Program Schedule

The Dark History of France's Embassy in Iraq goes on Trial in Paris - for the 2nd time

Sunday, February 7, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Philip Khazzam

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

The Middle East in 2027: Power, Pressure, and the American Choice

Sunday, February 21, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Gregg Roman

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Marching Toward Violence: Analysis of the US Anti-Israel Protest Movement

Sunday, March 7, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Scott Walter

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

**In Cooperation with The Capital
Research Center**

Between Sight and Vision: A Suggested Roadmap for Jewish Education

Sunday, March 21, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. Zohar Raviv

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

In Cooperation with Birthright

The War After the Wars: Holding the Jewish Line in Courtrooms Around the World

Sunday, April 4, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Speaker: Nitsana Darshan-Leitner

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

About the Speakers



AVI ABELOW

From Victims to Victors

Sunday, Jan. 10, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Avi Abelow, CEO & Host of *Pulse of Israel*, is one of the most fearless and respected voices defending Israel on the global stage. Avi Abelow brings bold, no-nonsense analysis of Israeli affairs, cutting through media distortion to speak truth with clarity and conviction. As the founder of *Pulse of Israel*, his daily videos and commentary inspire Jewish pride, strength, and a vision for peace rooted in security. A former financial professional who left his career to advocate full-time for Israel following the Gush Katif struggle, Avi is also the producer of the acclaimed documentary *Home Game* and a frequent contributor to major media outlets including *The Jerusalem Post*, *Newsmax*, *Human Events*, and more.



AMBASSADOR

IDO AHARONI ARONOFF

**Israel at the Crossroads:
A New Middle East**

Sunday, Dec. 6, 2026 - 11 a.m.

Ido Aharoni Aronoff is an Israeli diplomat, advisor to global companies, public speaker, university lecturer and writer. He was born in Tel Aviv to a family that settled in the Land of Israel in the 1870's and spent his entire diplomatic career in the United States, on both coasts. He is a 25-year veteran of Israel's Foreign service, a public diplomacy specialist, founder of the Brand Israel Program (2002), and a well-known political marketing, positioning and place branding practitioner.

About the Speakers



NITSANA DARSHAN-LEITNER

**The War After the Wars:
Holding the Jewish Line in
Courtrooms Around the World**

Sunday, April 4, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Israeli activist attorney Nitsana Darshan-Leitner has been a leading voice defending Israel on the global legal stage for over 20 years. As head of Shurat HaDin-Israel Law Center, a Tel Aviv-based civil rights organization, she develops innovative legal strategies to counter campaigns aimed at delegitimizing Israel and threatening its security, including offensive litigation against terrorism, supporters of terrorism, BDS initiatives, antisemitic libels, and hostile actors targeting the Jewish state.



CONGRESSMAN RANDY FINE

**Fighting the Rise of
Antisemitism in America**

Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026 - 11 a.m.

Randy Fine earned himself the moniker, THE HEBREW HAMMER as the only Jewish Republican in the Florida Legislature, leading the fight to make Florida the safest state in America for Jewish families and people of faith, and for his work opposing terrorism and combating antisemitism. Congressman Fine was most recently elected to represent Florida's 6th Congressional District in April 2025 after serving years in the Florida House and Senate. The son of two public school teachers, Randy graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and later earned his MBA from Harvard Business School, where he graduated with high distinction as one of the youngest Baker Scholars in decades.

About the Speakers



DR. JACQUES GAUTHIER

**The Jerusalem
Sovereignty Brief**

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2026 - 11a.m.

Dr. Gauthier is a Canadian international lawyer and scholar. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Geneva. He has served as legal counsel to many

governments including that of France, Spain, Mexico and Canada. In 2000, he was knighted by the President of France as Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite and in 2015 appointed Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. Dr. Gauthier has presented lectures around the world, from London (House of Commons), to Washington (US Congress), Rome (Italian Senate), New York (United Nations), Brussels (EU Parliament), Tokyo (Japanese Parliament), Ottawa (Canadian House of Commons), The Hague (Dutch Parliament), in addition to Jerusalem, Basil, Geneva, Toronto, San Remo and beyond.



PHILIP KHAZZAM

**The Dark History of France's
Embassy in Iraq goes on Trial in
Paris - for the 2nd time**

Sunday, Feb. 7, 2027 - 11a.m.

Philip Kazzam is a Montreal-born McGill University graduate with a distinguished background in international business. After joining the family's nuts and dried fruits

import company in 1982, he founded his own thriving enterprise in 2000 and recently completed the sale of a major stake to a leading European competitor. Today, he shares a compelling and deeply personal story: his family's multi-decade legal quest for compensation from the French government for unpaid rent on what was their family home - the French Embassy compound in Baghdad - a property his family was forced to abandon over 55 years ago. Through his representation by prominent human rights attorney Jean-Pierre Mignard, his case raises important questions about justice and restitution for the thousands of Middle Eastern Jews displaced between 1948 and the present. His fight may illuminate a path forward for others who lost homes and livelihoods in one of history's most significant diasporas.

About the Speakers



COL. RICHARD KEMP

**Building the Future of Israel's
Resilience: The Trajectory of
the IDF post October 7**

Sunday, Dec. 13, 2026 - 11 a.m.

Colonel Richard Kemp was a soldier for 30 years, commanding British forces in some of the world's worst conflict hotspots, including Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. He was also the head of the International Terrorism Intelligence Team at the British Prime Minister's Office. Kemp was wounded in a terrorist attack in Northern Ireland, and his name appeared on an Al Qaida kill list found in Syria. Now a media commentator, writer, and public speaker, Kemp frequently defends Israel against lies, bias, and distortions around the world, including at the United Nations.

In Cooperation with FIDF.



DR. ZOHAR RAVIV

**Between Sight and Vision:
A Suggested Roadmap
for Jewish Education**

Sunday, March 21, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Dr. Zohar Raviv is the International Vice President of Educational Strategy for Taglit-Birthright Israel, where he helps shape one of the most influential Jewish educational initiatives of the 21st century. A leading voice in contemporary Jewish thought and pedagogy, Dr. Raviv focuses on values-driven education that embraces complexity, meaning, and moral responsibility.

In Cooperation with Birthright

About the Speakers



GREGG ROMAN

The Middle East in 2027:

**Power, Pressure, and
the American Choice**



Sunday, Feb. 21, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Gregg Roman is the Executive Director of the Middle East Forum. In 2014, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency named him one of the “ten most inspiring global Jewish leaders.” He previously served as the political advisor to the Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel and worked for the Israeli Ministry of Defense. A frequent speaker on Middle East affairs, Mr. Roman appears on international news channels such as Fox News, i24NEWS, Al-Jazeera, BBC World News, and Israel’s Channels 12 and 13. He studied national security and political communications at American University and the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, and has contributed to *The Hill*, *Newsweek*, *the Los Angeles Times*, the *Miami Herald*, and the *Jerusalem Post*.



JONATHAN SCHANZER

**Israel, Iran and the Gulf States:
A Changing Map**

Sunday, Jan. 24, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Jonathan Schanzer is Vice President of Research for the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the author of the new book *State of Failure: Yasser Arafat, Mahmoud Abbas and the Unmaking of the Palestinian State*. His previous book, *Hamas vs. Fatah: The Struggle for Palestine*, is still the only book on the market that chronicles the Palestinian civil war. Previously, Dr. Schanzer served as a counterterrorism analyst at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

About the Speakers



SCOTT WALTER

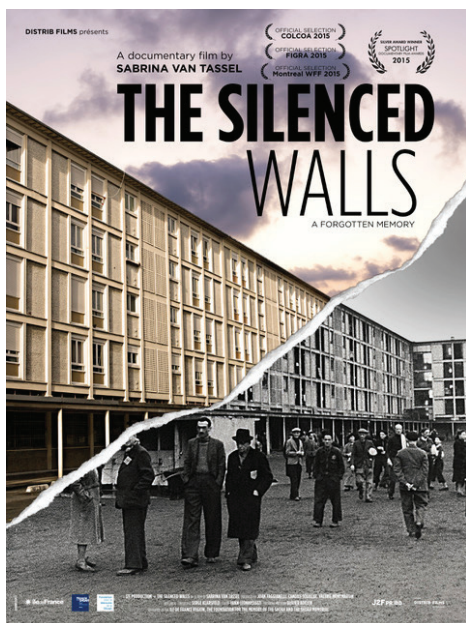
**Marching Toward Violence:
Analysis of the US Anti-Israel
Protest Movement**

Sunday, March 7, 2027 - 11 a.m.

Scott Walter is the President of Capital Research Center. He served in the George W. Bush Administration as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and was Vice President at the Philanthropy Roundtable. Walter has testified to six committees in Congress and to the IRS and numerous state legislatures. He has written for and been quoted in such outlets as *the New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *the Chronicle of Philanthropy*. A Georgetown graduate, Walter served as Senior Fellow at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and as Senior Editor of AEI's flagship publication. He is the author of *Arabella: The Dark Money Network of Billionaires Secretly Transforming America*.

In Cooperation with The Capital Research Center

THE GROSS FAMILY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF **ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST**



“La Murette” (the mute) is the name of a low-income housing project in the suburbs of Paris. There are thousands like it in the Paris area. However, the walls of this building have been hiding a terrible secret for 85 years.

At first glance, nothing seems strange. Tenants live in this four story concrete building with walls that cover the original walls that hold the keys to what came before. As one fearless documentarian discovered, this unchanged building in 1941 “hosted” the concentration camp of Drancy where almost 80,000 Jews were kept until most of them were deported to Auschwitz and murdered.

Today, it is one of the only internment camps transformed into housing in all of Europe. Director Sabrina Van Tassel’s “The Silenced Walls” explores the building that in 1940 became the central internment camp for Jews during the Nazi occupation of France. It was guarded by the French police until 1943. Its current residents know nothing of its grisly past.

This Distinguished Speaker Series is presented by The Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust, a program of the Gayle and Paul Gross Family Foundation

Lauren Gross
Director

LAGpalmbeach@gmail.com