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ISRAEL PRIDE

NEWS FROM OUR JEWISH HOME

Today in Israeli History

Dec. 15, 2016: President-elect Donald Trump announces that he will nominate New York bankruptcy lawyer David Friedman, who advised the campaign on Israel policy, to serve as the U.S. ambassador to Israel.



Eliezer Ben-Yehuda is remembered as the father of modern Hebrew, although the language never stopped being used for religious and nonreligious purposes.

Dec. 16, 1922: Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, often considered the father of modern Hebrew, dies of tuberculosis at 64 in Jerusalem. He founded the Va'ad ha-Lashon, the forerunner of the Academy of Hebrew Language, in 1890.

Dec. 17, 1993: Shlomo Goren, the first head of the IDF's Military Rabbinate and the Ashkenazi chief rabbi from 1973 to 1983, calls for soldiers to disobey orders to remove Jewish settlers from the West Bank, Gaza Strip or Golan Heights.

Dec. 18, 1947: Gila Goldstein, among the first Israelis to have sex reassignment surgery, is born in Turin, Italy. The family immigrates to Israel, and Goldstein begins identifying as a girl by 1960. She becomes a leading LGBT activist.

Dec. 19, 1903: Max Nordau, who co-founded the World Zionist Organization, escapes unharmed when a would-be assassin, angry over the Uganda Plan, fires two shots at close range during a Chanukah party in Paris.

Dec. 20, 1976: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labor-led coalition falls apart as he fires two members of the National Religious Party from his Cabinet and sees a third resign. Without NRP's 10 Knesset members, Rabin lacks a majority.

Dec. 21, 1973: A Middle East peace conference opens in Geneva under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union. Syria skips the event because Israel refuses to recognize the PLO. The conference ends Dec. 29.



The Rambam Health Care Campus opened in 1938 as the British Government Hospital of Haifa. // By Alfred Bernheim, Israel Museum

Dec. 22, 1938: The British Government Hospital of Haifa, now the Rambam Health Care Campus, opens with 225 beds at the foot of Mount Carmel. The British high commissioner says the hospital reflects Haifa's growth and multicultural mix.



Count Stanislas de Claremont-Tonnerre argued that Jews as individuals but not as a people deserved the rights of French citizens. // Painting by Adolf Wurtmuller

Dec. 23, 1789: The French National Assembly spends three days debating Jewish rights without a decision. Count Stanislas de Claremont-Tonnerre says, "The Jews should be denied everything as a nation but granted everything as individuals."

Dec. 24, 1920: Meeting in London, the World Zionist Congress launches Keren Hayesod (The Foundation Fund) to raise money for the Zionist movement and help fulfill the Balfour Declaration's promise of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Dec. 25, 1918: Anwar Sadat, the president who leads Egypt into the 1973 Yom Kippur War and signs a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, is born in Mit Abu al-Kum, Egypt. He is assassinated during a military parade in 1981.

Dec. 26, 1864: Yehoshua Hankin, who personally buys 30% of the land owned by the State of Israel at independence in 1948, is born in Ukraine. He makes his first land buy in 1890 when he purchases a plot that becomes Rehovot.

Dec. 27, 2008: Israel launches Operation Cast Lead after Hamas breaks a six-month cease-fire. The 22-day operation aims to stop rocket fire at civilians, stop Hamas terrorism and stop weapons smuggling into Gaza.

Dec. 28, 1917: Gen. Edmund Allenby names Ronald Storrs the military governor of recently captured Jerusalem. An advocate for Arab interests and a weak Zionist, Storrs remains the governor of Jerusalem and Judea until 1926.



JNF's first chairman, Yona Krementzky, implemented the idea for the organization's iconic blue tzedakah boxes to collect coins from families.

Dec. 29, 1901: The Jewish National Fund, known in Hebrew as Keren Kayemeth L'Israel, is launched after an impassioned speech from Theodor Herzl inspires the Fifth Zionist Congress to approve the idea on a 105-82 vote.

Dec. 30, 2002: The Israeli Supreme Court rules that IDF reservists may not refuse to serve in the West Bank and Gaza because those who agree to military service give up the right to be conscientious objectors on locations.

Items are provided by the Center for Israel Education (israeled.org), where you can find more details.

