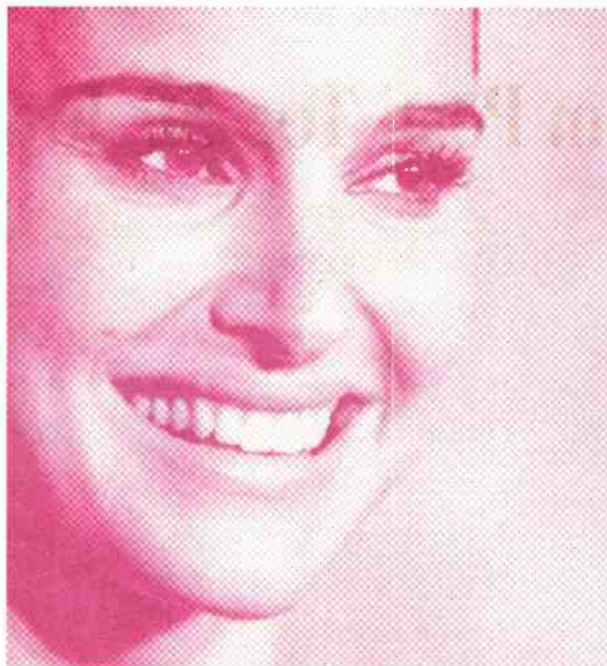
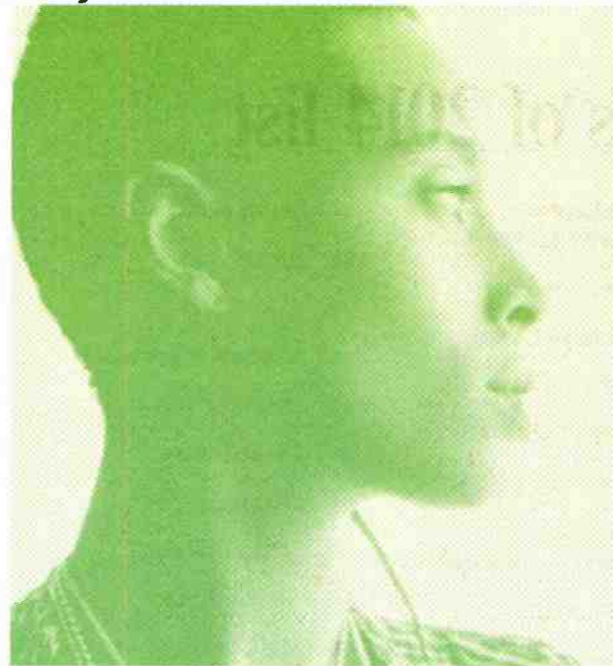
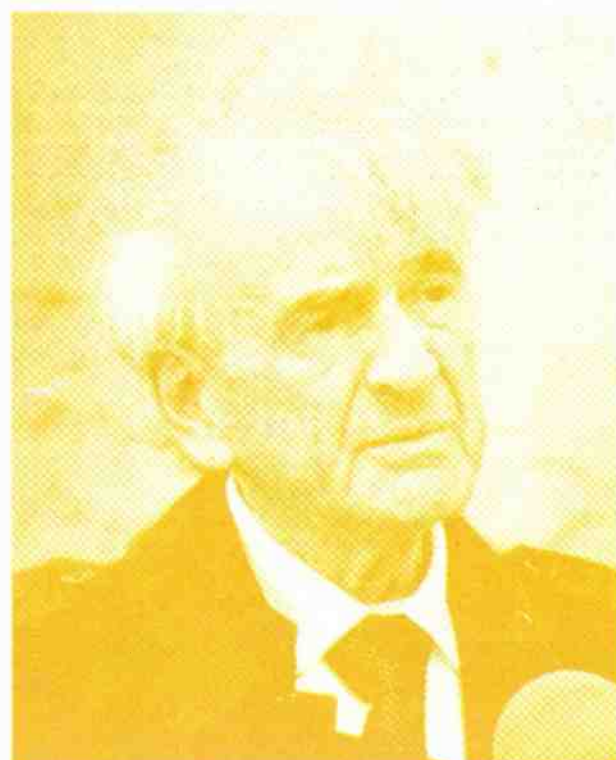


# THE JERUSALEM POST SHAVUOT SUPPLEMENT 5774



## 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL JEWS 2014



JUNE 3, 2014

## 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL JEWS

## 'The Jerusalem Post' Top 50 Jews of 2014 list

1. Jack Lew	11. Elie Wiesel	21. Yosef Abramowitz	31. Moshe Kantor Interview with Moshe Kantor	41. Benny Gantz
2. Janet Yellen	12. Ronald Lauder	22. Lynn Schusterman	32. Hershey Friedman	42. Daniel Gordis
3. Binyamin Netanyahu	13. Steven Spielberg	23. Matthew Bronfman	33. Ephrat Levy-Lahad	43. Ester Rada
4. Shimon Peres	14. Stanley Fischer	24. Karnit Flug	34. Ephraim Mirvis	44. Raphael Mechoulam
5. Sheldon Adelson	15. Shari Arison	25. Joseph Gitler Interview with Joseph Gitler	35. Jonathan Sacks	45. Dalia Dornier
6. Malcolm Hoenlein	16. Rabbi Yechiel Z. Eckstein	26. Nir Barkat	36. Abe Foxman	46. Ofra Strauss
7. Avigdor Liberman	17. Tzipi Livni	27. Natalie Portman	37. Idan Raichel First person with Idan Raichel	47. Chaim Chesler
8. Adina Bar-Shalom	18. Scarlett Johansson	28. Nitsana Darshan-Leitner	38. Lena Dunham	48. David Golinkin
9. Yair Lapid	19. Isaac Herzog	29. Irwin Cotler	39. George Soros	49. Marcie Natan
10. Naftali Bennett	20. Ed Miliband	30. Jeremy Ben-Ami	40. Vladimir Sloutsker	50. Mark Leibler

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## Editor's note

**W**elcome to *The Jerusalem Post's* annual Shavuot list of the world's 50 most influential Jews! The point of putting together such a list is to recognize the achievements of our tribe across the world, people who in one way or another have worked tirelessly for the improvement of humanity and, in doing so, have made their mark on history.

Talent and the ability to use it for the greater good are not necessarily Jewish traits, but Jews have certainly contributed enormously in a variety of fields around the globe, not only in Israel.

Before the creation of the Jewish state, in the throes of rampant anti-Semitism and horrors of the Holocaust, it would have been unthinkable to put together such a list. But today, thanks in great part to the strength and stature of Israel and the unprecedented freedom that Jews enjoy in the United States and elsewhere, there has been a Jewish renaissance.

Rising anti-Semitism in Europe is a worrying trend, and it is especially important that prominent Jews with influence in Europe are supported in their struggle against this phenomenon.

Still, it is an indisputable fact that Jews have brought immense value and worth to the family of nations in every conceivable sphere, as evidenced by the inordinate number of Jews who have won Nobel prizes.

This year's list exemplifies that diversity. It features politicians, of course, but also rabbis and researchers, human rights activists and philanthropists, entrepreneurs and entertainers.

Unlike the previous two years, when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yair Lapid respectively held the No. 1 spot, our list this year is headed by US Secretary of Treasury Jack Lew, who in his position in the cabinet is vital to shaping President Barack Obama's policy. And following closely behind Lew at No. 2 is Janet Yellen, another American Jew who made history this year when she became the first woman ever appointed chair of the Federal Reserve.

Yellen is one of 15 women on the list. This is the same figure as last year, although, with the exception of Shari Arison and Ephrat Levy-Lahad, they are 15 different women.

Israel's importance in the world comes into play with the third and fourth spots, occupied by Netanyahu and outgoing President Shimon Peres respectively, as well as the seventh, ninth and 10th places filled by Avigdor Liberman, Lapid and Naftali Bennett.

In fifth place is the powerful American billionaire, Sheldon Adelson, followed by American Jewish leader Malcolm Hoenlein. A new addition to the Top 10 is Adina Bar-Shalom, daughter of the late Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who has established herself as a leader in her own right.

Putting together a list of the 50 most influential Jews

is a subjective exercise by nature, and requires both juggling and diplomacy. There are good reasons to put certain people on and leave others off, but any decision is bound to cause some waves. It was our intent to offer some new names that have not appeared on our lists before and to honor several of those previously named who have continued to exert influence within their realm.

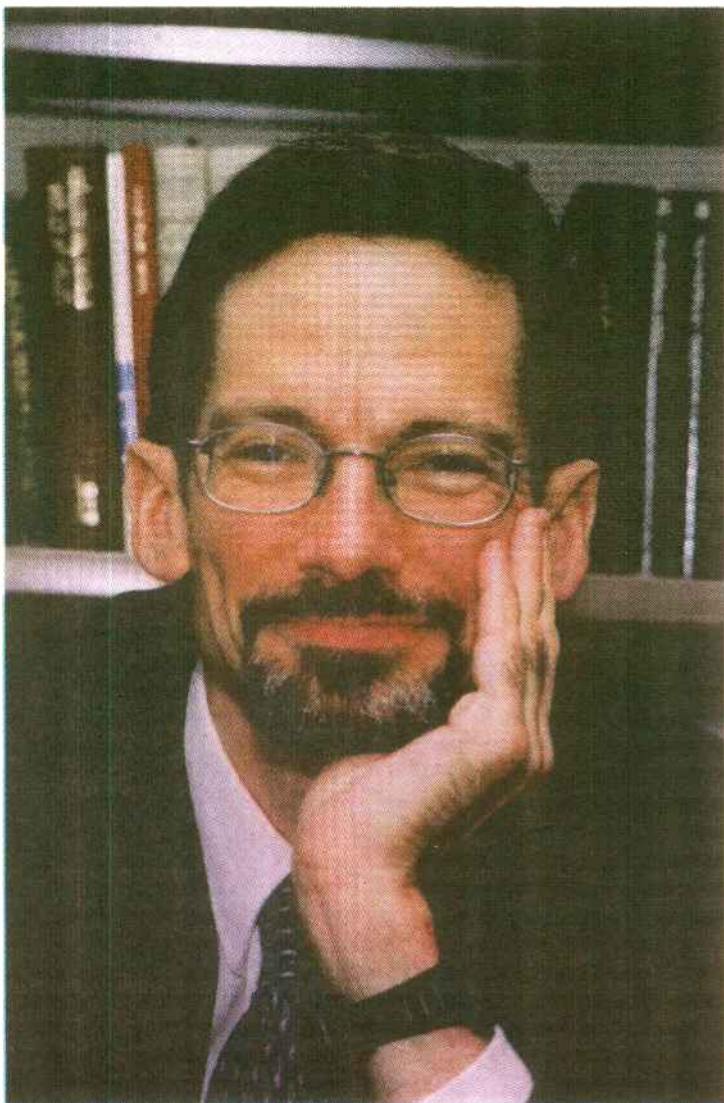
Why is someone in the Top 20 and another worthy inclusion only in the 40s? It's often less an indication of their merit than of an attempt to vary the list between young and veteran, male and female, positions of supreme importance and pop-culture icons.

Have we left important people off the list? Of course. They include several prominent writers for this newspaper, whom we disqualified because we don't want to be accused of promoting ourselves. Have we included some whose presence might be considered controversial? Yes, again. And the fact that they've been included does not mean we support their views. Rather, we have endeavored to present a balanced list of Jews from across the world and the political spectrum.

It is our fervent hope that we have given our readers something to talk about, ponder and debate over the Shavuot holiday. If we've added some more information and possibly some inspiration to your holiday reading, then we have achieved our goal.

## 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL JEWS

## 'The Jerusalem Post' Top 50 Jews of 2014 list



(Courtesy)



David Golinkin  
President of the Schechter  
Institute of Jewish Studies

**RABBI DAVID GOLINKIN** is one of the leading thinkers in the Conservative (Masorti) Movement and a prolific author and writer, and seeks to advance the Jewish approach to modernity within the parameters of Halacha. His relentless activity in the realm of Jewish law

has seen him become one of the most influential figures within the movement, and he has also gained the respect of Orthodox scholars.

Golinkin currently serves as the president and professor of Jewish Law at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, which provides Jewish education to over 50,000 children and adults every year. He also served for 20 years as the chairman of the Law Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly, which writes responsa and gives halachic guidance to the Masorti Movement in Israel.

The rabbi founded and directs the Institute of Applied Halacha at The Schechter Institute, which seeks to create an archive of halachic literature on an array of topics in Jewish law for the Conservative Movement.

He has written or edited 45 books, including *Halakha for Our Time*, *An Index of Conservative Responsa and Halakhic Studies 1917-1990*, *Rediscovering the Art of Jewish Prayer*, *The Jewish Law Watch* and *The Status of Women in Jewish Law: Responsa*. Additionally, Golinkin has published over 200 articles, responsa on Jewish law and sermons.

Along with his other leadership roles, Golinkin is also director of the Center for Women in Jewish Law at the Schechter Institute, dedicated to finding halachic solutions for agunot or "chained women" who are unable to obtain a *get* (halachic divorce) from their husbands, and edited *Za'akat Dalot: Halakhic Solutions for the Agunot of our Time*, a seminal work dealing with the issue and how to resolve it.

• Jeremy Sharon

# DEFINITION OF 'INFLUENTIAL'

## 1. in·flu·en·tial

**(adjective)** \,in-(.)flü-'en(t)-shəl\:

having the power to cause changes : having influence

Full definition of INFLUENTIAL: **ex**erting or **possessing** influence

– in·flu·en·tial·ly (adverb)

### *Examples of INFLUENTIAL*

“His theories have become more influential in recent years.”

“My parents **have** been the most influential people in my life.”

First known use of INFLUENTIAL (adjective): 1570

Related to INFLUENTIAL:

*Synonyms:* authoritative, forceful, weighty

*Antonyms:* helpless, impotent, insignificant, little, powerless, unimportant, weak

*Related words:* cogent, controlling, dominating, masterful; dominant, predominant, regnant, sovereign (also sovran), supreme; eminent, **important**, **momentous**

*Near antonyms:* helpless, impotent, powerless, weak; incapable, unable

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## 2. influential (noun)

Definition of INFLUENTIAL: one **who** has **great** influence

First known use of INFLUENTIAL (noun): 1831

*Merriam-Webster dictionary*