



Throughout her life, she has supported various Jewish community organizations, including Hadassah, for which she also served as president of the Long Branch chapter; the former Ruth Hyman JCC of Greater Monmouth County; Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County; and the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, now merged into the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey.

Hyman's gift to the Red Bank-based Visiting Nurse Service established the Ruth Hyman Spiritual Support in the Jewish Tradition Hospice Program and the Ruth Hyman Advanced Care Institute.

She received the Jewish American Heritage Award as a major supporter of Aish International as part of the U.S. Senate's Congressional Jewish Heritage Celebration. Along with the many other honors she has received, Hyman had her list of accomplishments read into the Congressional record last year by N.J. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-Dist. 6).

## Dominican presidential candidate vows to move embassy to Jerusalem

L. RAMFIS DOMINGUEZ-TRUJILLO, the leading presidential candidate in the Dominican Republic, told NJN in an exclusive interview that if elected he would move his country's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"We have been talking with a lot of different friends here and if President [Donald] Trump is also moving the American embassy to Jerusalem, what's the big deal?" he asked. "It's a bilateral move that makes sense."

Dominguez-Trujillo also made the startling declaration that "I am a Jew," saying he had researched his ancestry and found he has some Jewish blood. Many Sephardic Jews who fled Spain and Portugal during the Inquisition in the 15th century settled in Latin America and the Caribbean.

His grandfather, Rafael Trujillo, was a brutal dictator who ruled the island nation from 1930-1961, killing many of his own people and about 25,000 Haitians. Yet he took in hundreds of Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis during the Holocaust, though his intentions were not altruistic: He hoped Jews would intermarry and lighten the complexion of his people.

After world leaders met at the Evian Conference in 1938 to discuss increasing numbers of Jewish refugees, Trujillo offered to take in 100,000 Jews, the only country willing to admit a substantial number. In the end, only 854 immigrated to Sosua in the tropical island nation, where they lived out the Holocaust in safety. After the war, most of them moved to the United States, although Sousa still retains a small Jewish population.

Dominguez-Trujillo was attending the 39th annual Founders Day Dinner March 13 at Rutgers Chabad in New Brunswick. Prior to the start of the event, he met privately with Dani Dayan, Israel's consul general in New York.

The candidate was first introduced to Chabad by Pedro Montalvo-Vientos, a Sephardic Jew from Puerto Rico who now lives in Monmouth Junction. In a phone interview with NJN, Montalvo-Vientos said he was contacted by a friend asking for help in vetting the candidate on Jewish issues, and so he spoke with Dominguez-Trujillo.

"One of the first things I asked him is about the connection the Dominican Republic has with Israel," said Montalvo-Vientos. "I knew the Dominican Republic has not had a very good history in voting in favor of Israel at the United Nations."

After being assured of Dominguez-Trujillo's pro-Israel stance, he set up a conference call with Rabbi Mendy Carlebach, administrator of Rutgers Chabad and religious leader of the Chabad of North and South Brunswick, located near Montalvo-Vientos's home.

On the day of the Chabad dinner, Montalvo-Vientos asked Dominguez-Trujillo if he considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

"He told me once he was president one of the first things he will do is sign an executive order moving the embassy to Yerushalayim," said Montalvo-Vientos, noting polls show the candidate with strong support in the Dominican Republic and among expatriates.

Dominguez-Trujillo was born in New York to Dominican parents and raised in Miami; he said he never met his controversial grandfather, who was assassinated in 1961. He maintains homes in both Miami and the Dominican Republic, which because of his family's history, he was barred from visiting until 2000.

The Dominican Republic is a representative democracy, and its current president is Danilo Medina. Dominican citizens residing abroad can vote in the May 2020 election. Dominguez-Trujillo has formed his own political party — Partido Esperanza Democratica, the Democratic Party of Hope — which has offices in New York City because of its large expatriate Dominican population.

Said Montalvo-Vientos, "I'm really happy I was able to bring such a strong supporter of Israel to the Jewish community."

DEBRA RUBIN

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**Yovanys Dominguez**  
March 19, 2018

Good move Mr. Montalvo Ramfis, es Dominguez y Martinez ambos apellidos son Judios, estamos segura que será el próximo presidente de la República Dominicana y el mejor aliado de sus ancestrales pariente Israeli. Un gusto haber sido la persona que facilitó este enlace directo con la diáspora Hebrea.

**Jewish Defense Organization**  
May 04, 2018

The Jewish Defense Organization supports the candidacy of L. RAMFIS DOMINGUEZ-TRUJILLO a friend to the Jewish people.

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