PAGE 1 | DECEMBER 16, 2021 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

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Hebrew Watchman

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Temple Israel's Light Up the Night Community Chanukah Concert

Brought Music and Culture to All Memphians at Crosstown Theater



Craig Taubman (I) was accompanied by the harmony and musical support of The Brother Brothers

On Saturday, December 4, members of Temple Israel joined the greater Memphis community for the first-ever Chanukah Community Concert at Crosstown Theater. Music from Jewish music heavy-hitter Craig Taubman was accompanied by the harmony and musical support of The Brother Brothers, twins from Brooklyn who alternated playing the violin, guitar and cello. Rabbi Micah Greenstein ended the evening by lighting the menorah and leading the blessings. The concert was later streamed on JLTV.tv to thousands of viewers to enjoy.





The following Sunday, December 5, the final night of Chanukah was set aglow by a candle lighting in the Atrium Under Glass at Temple Israel. Each person and family brought a menorah that was meaningful to them. Their stories were told – one menorah was purchased more than four decades ago on a trip to Florida with a spouse, another menorah was fashioned together just that morning – and as the candles were lit and the blessings were said, a peaceful moment of togetherness was enjoyed by all. HW

MHA-FYOS Students had a Busy and DeLIGHTful Chanukah





Students at Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstone Yeshiva of the South had an incredible eight days of Chanukah celebrating and learning about the holiday. Programs were held school-wide and within each division.

Following school tradition, pre-k through 12th grade students gathered in the gymnasium for Chanukah dancing. Everyone was dressed in Chanukah spirit wear, and the room was filled with ruach. Students from the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys (CYHSB) formed their own band, which served as the musical entertainment for the morning. The band even had a special guest singer, high school Judaic Studies Principal Rabbi Yonasan Gersten, who made an appearance dressed as Elvis and sang Chanukah songs. After dancing, everyone enjoyed homemade sufganiyot made by Bat Ami Memphis.





All students and faculty participated in a very special symbolic chanukiah lighting. Rabbi Brett Oxman loaned MHA-FYOS a chanukiah that he had made by Jewish volunteers in 1991 while in the U.S. Armed Forces. This chanukiah has been all over the world, and it runs on jet fuel. Everyone in attendance sang "Al Hanisim" together as the chanukiah was lit (without saying a blessing, as it was before sundown).

In addition to the school-wide celebrations, each division had a plethora of programs. Early Childhood students hosted their parents for a Family Chanukah Party. They also had Chanukah story times, made latkes and held a Chanukah-themed Torah time.

Students in grades 1-4 had several fun learning opportunities including a Cha-

(See MHA-FYOS Page 2)

Bornblum Spreads Chanukah Lights Throughout Community



Leigh Hendry accepts a handmade Chanukiyot on behalf of Plough Towers

Life was a little brighter around the Memphis Jewish community thanks to the dedicated efforts of Bornblum Jewish Community School students. Students crafted unique Chanukiyot (Chanukah menorahs) to distribute to Jewish agencies and businesses around Memphis.





Handmade Chankiyot captured the spirt of each recipient.

Inspired by an idea from Michal Almalem, Jewish Studies principal at Bornblum, students set out to make Chanukiyot that captured the spirit of the recipients.

"At Bornblum, we spend a great deal of time teaching empathy and asking students to consider things from other people's perspectives. These beautiful art pieces gave students a chance to learn about agencies and businesses that serve the Memphis Jewish community and capture what they learned through art," said Almalem.

Third graders chose to make a Chanukiyah for Ricki's Cookie Corner. They researched the requirements of a kosher Chanukiyah and then designed a bakery-themed piece. Using the Hornick Family Pottery Lab, students created tiny challahs, cookies, pizzas and more to decorate the Chanukiyah.

Middle schoolers Mia Friedman,

Markos McCargo and Emma Berger created a Chanukiyah for Plough Towers depicting the senior housing facility with the candle holders on top.

Excited to receive the students' work, Leigh Hendry, executive director of Plough Towers said, "Oh my gosh, the menorah is so beautiful and personal to us."

Plough Towers will display the Chanukiyah in the glass display case at the entrance to the building.

Other classes and students made Chanukiyot and other Judaic gifts for other agencies. For example, students delivered a Chanukiyah and dreidel box to Thrive Memphis. Memphis Jewish Community Center's Seniors and Early Childhood Departments also received student creations. In addition, students made a tzedakah box for Jewish Family

(See **Bornblum** Page 2)

Plough Towers Celebrates Endings and Beginnings



Plough Towers residents gather for the last night of Chanukah candle lighting

By Harleen Tague

December is a month of celebration at Plough Towers. Residents celebrate the ending of a year filled with many memorable moments; both challenging and uplifting; of working together and isolating to keep residents, friends, and family safe, while it continues to be the inclusive community that Plough Towers represents. Not only does December bring Chanukah and Christmas, but also the New Year, with all its hopes, dreams and resolutions to look forward to.

Plough Towers began December with lighting the Chanukah menorah each night through December 5. Chanukah is not only about sacrifice, but also about giving, and in many ways, we celebrate the spirit of Chanukah throughout the month. We are reminded of this whenever we stroll by Plough Towers' beautiful Fedovation Jewish Holidays display

cial Shabbat Chanukah party with live music, dreidels and welcomed Temple Israel Rabbi Jeremy Simon to help celebrate this special time. Thanks to Creative Aging of the Mid-

On December 3, residents had a spe-

Thanks to Creative Aging of the Mid-South, on December 22 the famous saxophonist, Oscar Sueing will offer his special holiday sounds. During this month-long holiday celebration, Creative Aging will also provide and help residents paint with acrylics with Judith Weintraub and host a Drum Circle with Frank Schaeffer. Not to be outdone, the New Year Celebration will end 2021 and welcome 2022 with dancing to the music of the Beverly Brothers.

And, as always, friends, family and volunteers are always welcome. For more information about Plough Towers, please visit ploughtowers.org. **HW**

MHA-FYOS...

(Continued From Page 1)

nukah game day, enjoyed a Chanukah Carnival organized by Bat Ami and Kollel Torah MiTzion, and daily Chanukah classes and surprises.

Grades 5-8 enjoyed Chanukah parties at the homes of their teachers, plenty of Chanukah learning at school, and Chanukah games and assessments to test their knowledge.

The high school, CYHSB students participated in a variety of amazing programs including a Chanukah breakfast, a Chanukah Shiur with Rabbi Gersten, and a "Chanukah Spectacular" dinner. They also volunteered at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab to bring Chanukah cheer to the residents.

The Goldie Margolin School for Girls (GMSG) students had several special opportunities to celebrate

and learn about Chanukah. One of the highlights was Chanukah Chesed Day. The girls went to Brookdale Dogwood Creek, a senior living facility, and played dreidel with the residents. They participated in a learning program, Sushi and Shteig, where they heard a special shiur by Mrs. Layala Males. The grand finale was an exciting Chanukah-themed luncheon at Mrs. Malka Harris's house. The girls competed in Greek-style Olympic competitions all related to Chanukah, where they used their ingenuity and cheer to have so much fun.

Overall, it was an incredible holiday for everyone at MHA-FYOS, and the school looks forward to enjoying many more exciting events throughout the rest of the school year. **HW**

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Established September, 1925

By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

MAILING ADDRESS THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Memphis and Mid-South \$36 Out-of-State \$50 Payable in Advance

Submissions

Send editorial submissions (calendar items, news releases, event photos, and letters to the editor) at least 9 days prior to publication date to info@hebrewwatchman.com

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The Hebrew Watchman is a Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Jewish News Service

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PUBLISI (USPS #807-360) is published THE HE

weekly every Thursday
for \$36 per year by

JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc.
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
PO Box 770846

Memphis, TN 38177-0846 Periodical postage paid at Memphis, Tenn.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to: THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayechi

Bornblum...

(Continued From Page 1)

Service and created a mosaic tile Chanukiyah for Jewish Community Partners, representing the fact that JCP serves the entire "mosaic" of our community.

"It was so amazing to see our students think about Chanukah from the perspective of others in our community and to use their creativity to spread the light of Chanukah around town," said Daniel R. Weiss, Bornblum's head of school. "We are so proud of all of our students and faculty." HW

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Bernstein Scholarship Fund

Wendy and Avron B. Jewish Family Service (Fogelman JFS) at Memphis Jewish Community Center is now accepting applications for the Bernstein Scholarship Fund.

In 2001 Nate and Minnie Bernstein set up the scholarship fund to assist Jewish students with educational ex-

Fogelman JFS has been administering that fund since the inception.

The open enrollment period begins on January 1 and ends March 30 during which time Fogelman JFS will be accepting applications for the fund.

Recipients will be notified in May of

the amount of their award if they have been selected to receive an award. All award disbursement checks will be made out to the educational institution that the student will be attending.

To be eligible applicants must be Jewish and must reside in the Memphis area. Also, the funds must be used for educational expenses, and recipients of other scholarship funds administered by Jewish Community Partners are ineligible for this fund.

For more information or to obtain an application for the Bernstein Scholarship Fund contact Fogelman JFS at 901-767-8511. HW

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Red Cross: Donors needed now to address historically low blood supply

Limited-edition long-sleeved T-shirts for those who come to give around holidays

Nearly two years into the pandemic, everyone has earned a holiday break with their family and friends. But as the nation gathers again for celebrations this season, the American Red Cross, which provides 40% of the country's blood, is facing historically low blood supply levels.

Busy holiday schedules, breaks from school and winter weather all contribute to a drop in blood and platelet donations this time of year. Those factors, combined with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, make it vital for donors to make an appointment to give as soon as possible. If more donors don't come forward to give blood, some patients requiring a transfusion may potentially face delays in care.

Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting Red-CrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). There is no blood donation waiting period for those who have received a flu shot or a Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine or booster, so long as they are symptom-free.

To encourage donors to help address the historically low blood supply this holiday season, all who come to give Dec. 17-Jan. 2 will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions - including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 17-Jan. 2

Tennessee **Shelby County**

Collierville 12/20/2021: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Collierville Community, 4674 Merchants Park Circle

Memphis

12/21/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mid-South Red Cross, 1399 Madison Ave.

12/28/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mid-South Red Cross, 1399 Madison Ave. Save time during donation

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a Rapid-Pass®, follow the instructions at Red-CrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements. **Health insights for donors**

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease who require trait-negative blood. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. **About the American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross. HW

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Jewish Leaders, Organizations Mourn Passing of World War II Vet, Longtime Senator Bob Dole



World War II veteran and longtime senator Bob Dole receives the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 17, 2018.

Credit: Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead.

By Dmitriy Shapiro

(JNS) – Former longtime Kansas Republican senator, leader and 1996 GOP nominee for president Bob Dole died on Dec. 5 at the age of 98.

Dole's death was announced by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation last Sunday morning, saying that Dole died in his sleep after it became known early this year that he had stage IV lung cancer.

His passing was met with words of respect from a bipartisan swath of the Jewish community.

Dole was the recipient of the Jewish Federations of North America's 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award, recognized for his bipartisan work on the Americans with Disabilities Act during a Jewish Disability Advocacy Day. Although Dole was unable to attend the JDAD ceremony to receive his award in person, he wrote a letter thanking JFNA for the honor, saying that the act was a great example of what leaders from both sides working together can accomplish.

JFNA tweeted last Monday that it mourned the statesman's passing.

The Anti-Defamation League also recalled Dole with admiration for the American leader.

"ADL mourns the passing of former Sen. Bob Dole, a valiant fighter for disability rights from his leadership in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act to his support for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. May his memory be a blessing," the organization tweeted last Sunday.

"May Sen. Dole's memory forever be a blessing," the Republican Jewish Coalition also tweeted.

"Sadly, the passing of Bob Dole marks the passing of an era of political leadership in this country based on patriotism, love of country, honor, decency and a commitment to public service," said RJC Executive Director Matt Brooks. "Bob Dole represented the best that this country has to offer – whether it was on the battlefield in World War II or serving the American people in Congress.

"He really was a man of principle; he was a man who stood up for what was right; and above all, he put country above partisanship," continued Brooks. "That is one of the things that we sorely miss today. There are too many people putting partisanship over country; hopefully, Dole's legacy will be an example going forward of what we should strive for."

AIPAC tweeted that Dole was an American hero who gave his life to the nation: "Sen. Dole was an outspoken supporter of security assistance to Israel and was the lead sponsor of the Jerusalem Embassy Act."

Mort Klein, national president of the Zionist Organization of America, told JNS that he worked with Dole to pass the Jerusalem Embassy Act in 1995, which recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and ordered the U.S. Embassy to be moved there from Tel Aviv, which eventually occurred in May 2018 during the Trump administration.

At first, he said, few senators supported the bill

He and former Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) visited Dole, who at the time was running for president, to convince him to support the bill. Because of Dole's agreement, more senators and Jewish organizations joined to support the measure.

"Although Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona deserves tremendous credit for the bill to move the embassy, it would never have happened without Robert Dole's support and lobbying. Dole was the key to having made this happen. If Dole didn't support it, we wouldn't have this bill. So he deserves credit for it," said Klein.

William Daroff, CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who worked for Dole in 1996, said he was saddened to hear of the news and that Dole was a "war hero whose passing marks the end of an era."

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said he was saddened by Dole's passing, calling him a war hero and true friend of Israel.

Received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star

Robert Joseph Dole was born in Russell, Kansas, on July 22, 1923, the son of the owners of a small creamery. After graduating from high school, he went on to study at the University of Kansas, where he was recruited to play on the school's basketball team. He was also a member of the school's track and football teams.

His stint at the university was interrupted by World War II when he enlisted to serve in the U.S. Army Enlisted Reserve Corps in 1942.

He was seriously wounded in combat in Italy in 1945 when a German shell struck his upper back and right arm, shattering his collar bone and part of his spine. He was at first left for dead by fellow soldiers due to the extent of his injuries.

Paralyzed from the neck down, he was transported to a military hospital near Kansas, where he was expected to die of his injuries. He recovered with the help of a then-experimental drug and multiple surgeries but would forever have limited mobility in his right arm and numbness in his left arm. He was medically discharged from the Army in 1947, receiving two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with a "V" for valor.

Dole then attended the University of Arizona and Washburn University where he completed his bachelor's and law degrees.

After serving in the Kansas state legislature and as county attorney, Dole was elected to Congress in 1960 and was re-elected three more times.

In 1968, he defeated primary and general election opponents to win an open seat in the U.S. Senate, to which he was re-elected four times, serving as GOP leader for 11 years before resigning in 1996 to focus on a run for president.

He ran unsuccessfully as vice-presidential running mate to incumbent President Gerald Ford in 1974, and, after two unsuccessful attempts in 1984 and 1988, became the Republican presidential nominee in 1996. At 73, Dole was the last presidential nominee of either major party to have served in World War II.

Dole lost to incumbent Democratic President Bill Clinton, who captured 49.2 percent of the vote to Dole's 40.7 percent and Independent candidate Ross Perot's 8.4 percent.

After his election defeat, Dole spent part of his time as a lobbyist and was involved in a number of volunteer organizations. He was heavily involved in raising funds for the National World War II Memorial.

In the 2016 GOP primaries – after his first two choices of presidential candidates former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) dropped out of the race – Dole became the only former GOP presidential nominee to endorse then-candidate Donald Trump.

In January 2018, Dole was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony in the U.S Capitol. **HW**



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Rep. Kustoff Votes to Properly Fund our Military

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Congressman David Kustoff (TN-08) voted for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). It boosts our defense topline by \$25 billion, ensuring growth of 5%, to provide our military with the necessary resources and tools to defend our nation. The NDAA authorizes a 2.7% pay increase for servicemembers, extends military recruitment and retention bonuses and special pay authorities, and provides nearly \$1.5 billion to improve servicemember family housing. It also authorizes funds to conduct counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan, prohibits the Department of Defense (DoD) from providing any financial support to the Taliban, and prohibits the use of DoD funds to conduct research in China or with any entity controlled by the Chinese Communist Party.

Many of the problematic provisions from the initial House version have been successfully taken out of this bill, such as the requirement for women to register for the draft, and the "red flag" laws that unlawfully target law-abiding veteran gun owners by stripping their Second Amendment rights based on legal allegations that lack due process, reasonable suspicion, and probable cause.

"The federal government's number one priority is to ensure the safety and security of the American people. This year's NDAA will provide the necessary resources to continue to rebuild our military's readiness, develop new technologies, and properly defend our nation," said Rep. David Kustoff. "Importantly, this legislation gives our brave servicemen and women a well-deserved 2.7 percent pay raise, supports servicemembers and their families, and holds the Biden Administration accountable over its disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. For over 60 years, Congress has come together to pass this critical legislation to ensure the safety and security of our nation. I look forward to this bill becoming law." HW

Land of Israel Takes Root at Bornblum





Students in all grade levels learned about the land of Israel and its plants and vegetables

Students at Bornblum Jewish Community School have engaged in abundant, hands-on learning about the land of Israel this fall. The project, made possible by a generous grant from Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund, featured both classroom learning as well as giving students the opportunity to get their hands in the soil and plant and care for vegetables that grow in Israel.

The semester began by introducing each class to Israel's landforms where students explored the outcome of shifting of tectonic plates that created a wide variety of agricultural regions, from the rain shadow desert, which leads to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, to inactive volcanos and basalt stone of the Golan heights.

Over the course of the semester, each class explored an agricultural region in Israel, learning about the soil characteristics, as well as the plants, vegetation, and farming that occurs in that region. Classes also planted vegetables that grow in their Israel region, explored the history of those vegetables, and researched both the nutritional value and significance of their vegetables to Israeli cuisine.

As part of their learning for example, kindergarten learned about the seven biblical species that grow in the central mountains of Israel. They explored the limestone in the region and how it creates caves, stalagmites and stalagmites when conditions are ideal. They also learned about the flowers of the central mountains and the pine trees that Jewish National Fund (JNF) planted to create beautiful forests.

"I think the eggplant was one of the big stars of the Bornblum gardens this fall," according to Jewish Studies Principal Michal Almalem. "Third grade and middle school planted and harvested abundant eggplants. They made babaganush after learning in Hebrew class all the vocabulary they needed to work in the kitchen and exploring some interesting facts about Chatzilim (eggplants in Hebrew)."

Other grades studied the work of pioneers in modern Israel who came to the land after 2000 years in exile and had to determine what would grow. The pioneers learned that grapes and citrus grew well in the shfellah (plains), and students then explored the work of the pioneers that led to today's high-tech agricultural operations in Israel. Students will use this information to plan their gardens for the spring semester.

According to Daniel R. Weiss, Bornblum's Head of School, "This kind of integrated, hands-on learning is a hallmark of a Bornblum education. We want our students to have relevant experiences that inspire them to explore the world around them."

This spring, classes will plan and plant new plants from Israel, including both vegetables and native flowers. They will also continue to nurture three etrog trees and two olive trees and plan projects to present at their Land of Israel community fair at the end of the school year.

"The goal is for students to learn so much about their own region of Israel that they can teach the other classes, and all those who attend the fair, unique and interesting aspects of Israel's land and agriculture," added Almalem. HW





New Medical Director Joins MJHR



Dr. Ed Hines

By Shoshana Cenker

There's a changing of the guard at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR). After 20 years of dedicated service, Dr. Robert Burns and his team will retire from providing care to patients and residents at MJHR.

"Dr. Burns was a tremendous asset to our team, and he will truly be missed," said Bobby Meadows, MJHR executive director. "I not only speak for our staff, but also the residents and patients, in saying that we are genuinely thankful for the care he's provided and relationships we've all built with Dr. Burns and his staff over the many wonderful years together."

The MJHR team is excited to welcome its new Medical Director, Dr. Ed Hines.

"MJHR is such a beautiful facility with a great reputation. I've known of the Home for over 35 years, back when it was a B'nai B'rith facility," Dr. Hines noted. "It's a great blessing to do this work, I feel I was called to do it. This is what G-d meant for me to do. And I'm so excited to join MJHR!"

A native Memphian, Dr. Hines earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Christian Brothers University and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences College of Medicine here in Memphis. He went on to residency training at the University of Tennessee/St. Francis Hospital Family Practice Residency Program.

Dr. Hines has several certifications, many hospital appointments and is a member of professional societies including the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Medical Association and American Medical Directors Association.

He brings extensive experience to his new role at MJHR, with many years of providing care in the long-term setting. Colleagues often refer to him as the "walking textbook for geriatric care." For 35 years, he's served as the medical director of other notable local institutions and has run a private practice since 1987.

"I'm looking forward to focusing on the rehab aspect of patient care – to help make people better, and then send them home," Dr. Hines said. "I love sending people home! It's such a thrill to help people get stronger. It's often slow at first, but they gain speed as it goes, like a bolder."

Dr. Hines and his wife, Bettye, have been married for 40 happy years and have three adult children – one daughter is a physician at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, another daughter is studying to become an optometrist, and their son is a professional musician who's also taking classes at the University of Memphis. They love taking hiking trips, and Dr. Hines enjoys singing with his church group, riding his Peloton and playing with his 8-month-old granddaughter.

"I have known and admired Dr. Hines for many years, having represented numerous skilled nursing facilities at which he has served as medical director," said Howard Hayden, MJHR board president. "He is dedicated to his patients and committed to the delivery of exemplary patient care." HW

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Furthering Israel and Global Jewish Engagement, Memphis Hosts JAFI and JDC



Ilana Kwartin at Board Meeting

As part of Memphis Jewish Federation's strong commitment to Israel and global Jewry, Federation recently hosted its liaisons from overseas partners, Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), to brief leadership and others in the Jewish community on its activities.

Dr. Ilana Kwartin, JAFI's regional director of Western U.S. and Elisheva Massel, JDC's director of Strategic Partnerships, visited Memphis together in mid-November. JAFI and JDC are longtime partners of Federation, making up the bulk of its overseas granting. In addition to supporting the core programs of both agencies, Federation directs funds to JAFI's Memphis-Shoham Partnership and to JDC's Kharkov program aiding impoverished and elderly

Jews in Ukraine.

A lawyer and women's rights activist, Dr. Kwartin began her visit with a 'Lunch and Learn' for Jewish Communal Women Professionals on November 17, where she spoke about Israel's new government and current women's issues. She then delved into her own academic research and activism focusing on the hidden phenomenon of women in coercive, controlling relationships.

"Dr. Kwartin is clearly an expert in her field and has so much to offer us about the intersection of law, politics, and gender in Israel," shared Rabbi Sarit Horwitz of Beth Sholom Synagogue. "Her lecture was engaging, thoughtful, dynamic ... She has so much to offer to our community, and to me personally as a feminist and a Zionist."

At a special briefing for major donors,



B'nai Tzedek teens met with JDC's Elisheva Massel

board members and Jewish leadership, Dr. Kwartin explained the intricacies of the Israeli political system and highlighted the unprecedented coming together of diverse political parties in the current government.

Later that evening, at a joint board meeting of Jewish Community Partners, Jewish Foundation of Memphis and Federation, both Dr. Kwartin and Elisheva Massel updated leadership on the critical work both agencies do in Israel and all over the Jewish world in caring for at-risk and vulnerable Jews and in strengthening Jewish identity.

Together, they updated Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund Committee the next morning on Lemsky-funded projects in Israel that are helping Holocaust survivors, at-risk elementary school children and young adults, and Israeli soldiers grappling with their Jewish identity.

Twelve students who are part of the B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy program at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis participated in two case studies facilitated by Elisheva Massel later that day. After the teens learned about what the JDC does and how it focuses its humanitarian work on countries outside of North America, the teens split into two

groups.

One group discussed a situation of a natural disaster and how to survive. The second group had a more complicated experience when tasked with trying to figure out a way to leave a country being ruled by a dictator. After presenting their solutions to these precarious scenarios, the students heard firsthand how Elisheva herself left South Africa with her family. This was a unique experience for the teens who normally partake in learning about philanthropy locally, rather than on an international scale.

"I really enjoyed going to the recent B'nai Tzedek meeting where we listened to Elisheva from the JDC," said Kyra J., a ninth-grade student at St. Mary's. "It was incredible learning about all the important work that they do. They help Jews in over 70 other countries. They provide assistance to elderly Jews and those living in poverty. They also help rescue Jews in danger and provide emergency funds for natural disasters."

To learn more and to get involved with Federation's Israel and global Jewry work, please contact Federation Executive Vice President Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein at 901-767-7100 or bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis. org **HW**



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PJ Library Held a Candel-Making Program Before Hanukkah

Emily Saslawsky and her daughter, Ellie, at PJ Library's Hanukkah Candle Making program held on December 1 at Bornblum Jewish Community School. Children were invited to make colorful Hanukkah candles, enjoy delicious donuts and revel in the holiday festivities. More than 60 kids participated in this event, and Bornblum's Head of School, Dan Weiss, led a menorah lighting. HW





Come Zoom The History of Jewish Summer Camps in the South with the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South



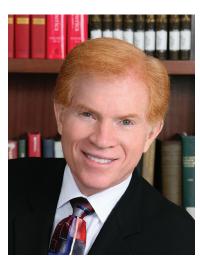


David Fleischhacker



Anna Herman





oins Gary Phillip Zola

Rachel Brill

The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South will present a special Zoom panel entitled "The History of Jewish Summer Camps in the South," on Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 2 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Rabbi and renowned historian Gary Phillip Zola, the executive director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, will give a historic overview of the Jewish summer camp movement and how "camping emerged in this region of the country," said Rachael Brill moderator of the panel.

Rachel, who has been the associate director of Camping at the Union of Reform Judaism for the last five years, will introduce the panel members and lead the discussion. Other panel members are David Fleischhacker, executive director of Baron Hirsch Congregation in Memphis, representing Camp Darom; Anna Herman, the director of the URJ Henry S. Jacob Camp in Utica, Miss., and Audrey Robbins Siskind, community leader, representing Camp Barney Medintz in Cleveland, Ga.

Gary is also the Edward M. Ackerman Distinguished Professor of the American Jewish Experience and Reform Jewish History at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. He received both his Rabbinic Ordination and his Ph.D. in American Jewish History from HUC-JIR. He is the editor of the Marcus Center's award winning bi-annual publication, the American Jewish Archives Journal. Among his many published volumes are A Place of Our Own: The Rise of Reform Jewish Camping (co-edited with Michael M. Lorge.) He has received many awards and honors including appointments by President Barak Obama to serve as a member of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. Gary and his wife, Stefi, reside in Cincinnati and have four grown children and three grandchildren

Rachael Brill is the North American director of Israel Immersive Programs

at the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) and in her former role as associate director of Camping at URJ, she has helped oversee 15 overnight camps across North America. Before coming to the URJ nine years ago, Rachael was the U.S. manager of Recruitment and Community Outreach at Nesiya Institute, a six-week Jewish teen summer program in Israel. She grew up in Massachusetts and received her bachelor's in Political Science from Tufts University. After being in New York City for nearly a decade, she recently relocated to Memphis this past spring with a Goldendoodle, Abby Pond, after her husband, Rabbi Jeff Dreifus, became Temple Israel's first director of Innovation, Engagement & Strategic Partnerships.

David Fleischhaker has served as executive director of Baron Hirsch Congregation since 2003. A native Memphian, David has been connected to the synagogue ever since he was a child. He attended Camp Darom, the first overnight Orthodox Jewish summer camp in the South started by Rabbi Rafael Grossman z"l, spiritual leader of the congregation; and later David served the camp as director and in many other capacities. He received his MBA from Baruch College in New York and a Bachelor of Science from Yeshiva University. He is married to Chani, who is an art teacher at the MHA/FYOS and a teacher for students with special needs at Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. They have three grown children in New York and in Israel.

Anna Herman is the director of the URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp. Anna grew up in Dothan, Ala., and began attending the camp at age 11 and later became a counselor and a unit head. Following graduation from the University of Alabama, she became the assistant director of Jacobs as well as later serving in several capacities for the camping system. She met her husband, Nadav, at Jacobs, and surrounded by family and many

friends from Jacobs and the URJ, married at the chapel at Lake Gary.

Audrey Robbins Siskind was two weeks old when she went to Camp Barney Medintz for the first time. From 1964-1967, Audrey spent the first four summers of her life at the camp as the daughter of Madelyne and Eddie Robbins. She later returned in 1988 as a waterfront staff member and again from 2004-2012 as an office staff member while her three daughters were campers there. She attended UT Knoxville and the Yeshiva University School of Social Work and has held many positions of service to the Jewish community including the Community Relations Council director and campaign associate at the Nashville Jewish Federation and president of Anshei Sphard Beth El Emeth Sisterhood. As a first-generation Holocaust survivor, she has also served on the Memphis Jewish Federation's Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial committee and Rhodes College Hillel committee. She and her husband, Greg, have three grown daughters.

"The community is invited to attend this unique program – Zoom with 'a cup of hot chocolate and smores,' to appreciate the special role camps have played to instill Jewish values, to connect and engage the younger generation and to create memories that stay with you forever," said Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South President Lorraine Wolf.

"We welcome you to stay on after the panel, donned in your best camp T-shirt and with some hot cocoa in hand, to schmooze and tell your own camp stories," added Rachel. "It promises to be an afternoon full of learning, ruach (spirit) and nostalgia!"

For more information and Zoom links, go to jhsmem.org. **HW**





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Year-End Investment-Related Tax Planning Checklist

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors

Using this checklist will help ensure you're working toward your financial goals and prepared for the upcoming tax season. Keep in mind most investment-related strategies to help manage this year's tax bill must be implemented no later than December 31, 2021.

- 1. Review your portfolio with your financial advisor to help ensure your asset allocation still aligns with your goals. Market activity may have created a need to rebalance your portfolio by selling some investments and purchasing others to bring it back to your intended allocation.
- 2. Ask your financial advisor for a realized and unrealized gain/loss report to assess the income and capital gains or losses you may receive this year.
- 3. Determine whether the 0% capital gains rate may apply to your situation. Add your net long-term capital gains and/or qualified dividends to your other taxable income net of deductions. If the sum is \$40,400 or less (single filers) or \$80,800 or less (married/joint filers), your long-term capital gains and/or qualified dividends may be taxed at 0%. For sums above these thresholds, 15% and 20% capital gains tax brackets apply.
- 4. Review tax-loss selling strategies if you have realized capital gains. If you wish to realize a loss but keep your exposure to the security, remember that November 30, 2021, is the last day to "double up" a position (buy additional shares of the investment you want to sell to realize a loss) while avoiding a wash sale.
- **5. Meet** with your tax advisor to prepare preliminary tax projections and evaluate whether to

- accelerate or defer income and expenses.
- **6. Determine** if any adjustments are needed to your tax withholding or estimated tax payments.
- 7. Make maximum contributions to your employer-sponsored retirement account, such as a 401(k) or 403(b); if contributing to your IRA, the deadline is April 15, 2022.
- **8. Develop** a plan to complete charitable and family member gifts by year-end.
- 9. Consider funding a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and/or Health Savings Account (HSA) during your employer's annual benefits enrollment period, if you're eligible. Also, review FSA balances. Remember, FSAs typically operate on a use-it-orlose-it basis, which means you could lose any money left in the account after year-end.
- **10. Prepare** for filing tax returns by organizing records or receipts for income and expenses.

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'It's About Hanukkah,' Fox News Host Says About Christmas Trees After Her Network's Burns Down



Fox anchor Ainsley Earhardt interviews Kathie Lee Gifford during "Fox & Friends" at Fox News Channel Studios in New York City, Nov. 14, 2019. Credit: John Lamparski/Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – For one thing, Hanukkah is over. For another, you mark the holiday by burning candles, not entire fir trees.

Maybe that was what Fox News host Ainsley Earhardt was getting at when she said that the man arrested for allegedly burning down the Christmas tree outside Fox News Channel headquarters in New York was attacking, among other things, Hanukkah.

"It's a tree that unites us that brings us together, it is about the Christmas spirit, it is about the holiday season, it is about Jesus, it is about Hanukkah," Earhardt said on Fox & Friends, the morning show she co-hosts. "It is about everything we stand for as a country and being able to worship the way you want to worship, it makes me so mad."

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Jewish temple several cen-

turies before the birth of Jesus. The two holidays, Christmas and Hanukkah, are coincidental in their midwinter timings, but in little else.

There is suggestive evidence in the New Testament that Jesus attended a Hanukkah event. The party, described in John 10:22, was not the most successful of mixers: Some angry Jews confronted Jesus about his claim to messiahhood, and it almost ended in a stoning. The apostle does not report any tree-burnings, however.

One man has been arrested in the Fox News tree-burning, which fully engulfed the 50-foot structure shortly after midnight last Wednesday. The right-wing network had dedicated its "All-American Tree," which had been decorated with red, white and blue ornaments, over the weekend. **HW**



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PREMIUM FEATURE

Stronger Financial Legacy

Ed Shames, 'Band of Brothers' vet who toasted son's bar mitzvah with Hitler's cognac, dies at 99



Ed Shames, attends the American Veterans Center's "2019 American Valor: A Salute to Our Heroes" Veterans Day Special in Washington DC Oct. 26, 2019. Credit: Paul Morigi/Getty Images

(JTA) – When Ed Shames described his Jewish self, he used the term "tough SOB."

Shames, the oldest surviving member of the legendary Easy Company parachute infantry regiment, could also have added "patient."

Shames, who died Dec. 3 at age 99 at his home in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1945 secured bottles of cognac designated for Hitler's use only from the palace of the man who wanted to wipe the Jews from the earth. He waited until 1961 to open one: The occasion was a bar mitzvah — his son's commitment to a Jewish future.

The exploits of Easy Company were immortalized in the 2001 HBO miniseries "Band of Brothers."

In a 2015 interview with the Jewish News of Southeastern Virginia, Shames described how growing up Jewish on the Virginia coast shaped him.

"Things were tough at that time for Jewish boys," he said. "There were times when you had to fight your way through. One thing people learned about me ... they never called me 'dirty Jew' twice. I was a tough SOB; not mean, just tough."

Being Jewish saw him through excruciating training, he said.

"Because I was a Jew, I didn't want to wash out, and lots of guys did," he recalled in the interview, conducted when he was 94. "Heck, they had 7,000 volunteers they had to whittle down to 2,500 soldiers. They wanted to discharge me after I hurt my knee on my first parachute jump. I wouldn't let them. After walking 149 miles from our training base at Camp Toccoa to Ft. Benning in full gear over three and one-half days, there was no way."

His determination to give antisemites no quarter carried over into his military service. He recalled organizing an outing to a Passover seder for Jewish troops while they were training in England ahead of D-Day.

"We had 18 men from the regiment sign up and this officer made a disparaging remark about Jews," he said. "I could have received a general court-martial for what I told him."

Easy Company saw some of the most consequential battles during World War II; Shames was at Normandy on D-Day and at the Battle of the Bulge, among other pivotal battles, the obituary posted on the funeral home's website said. He was a noncommissioned officer who got his officer's stripes on the battlefield. He retired as a colonel.

Shames was one of the first U.S.

Margaret (Marsha) E. Norvell

Margaret (Marsha) Norvell, 95, of Williamsburg, Virginia, (formerly of Memphis, Tennessee) passed peacefully on December 7 at home. She is survived by her daughter, Myrna Kaye (Edward) of Williamsburg, Virginia, as well as grandchildren Samuel Kaye (Emily) and Ronald Kaye and great-granddaughters Charlotte and Margaret. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Julius Norvell, her parents, Abraham and Rose Evensky, her brothers, Harry Evensky and Jake Evensky, and her sisters, Miriam Wener, Ida Sauer and Mary Wiener.

She was born in Memphis on January 28, 1926, and lived there until the last few years of her life when she moved to Williamsburg to be close to her family. Family and friends were what was most important to her.

She was a member of Baron Hirsch Synagogue and Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation (ASBEE). She was a lifetime member of Hadassah. She worked as the bookkeeper as AS-BEE for over 50 years.

Services were held at Baron Hirsch Cemetery on Friday, December 10. **HW**

troops to enter the Dachau concentration camp but would not speak of the experience. About his prize of Hitler's cognac, he was more voluble.

"When Germany surrendered, Ed and his men of Easy Company entered Hitler's Eagle's Nest where Ed managed to acquire a few bottles of cognac, a label indicating they were 'for the Fuhrer's use only'," the obituary said. "Later, he would use the cognac to toast his oldest son's bar mitzvah."

Revenge served cold in a shot glass seemed worth it, although Shames said the bottle he opened at his son's bar mitzvah was soon gone.

"My buddy Lee Kantor finished that bottle and I threw it out," he said in 2015. "Do you know it would be worth \$15,000 today?"

After the war, Shames worked for the National Security Agency. His wife Ida, whom he married at Temple Beth El in Norfolk, predeceased him after 73 years. She too was pretty good at keeping a secret.

"Before heading to England I visited her where she was working as a hospital volunteer," he recalled. "She gave me a goodbye kiss on the cheek and that made an impression on me. At the time, Ida was engaged to a Naval officer from New York named Joseph. I got to her just in time after the war. You know, to this day, she won't tell me his last name."

Shames' survivors include two sons, four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. **HW**

OBITUARIES



Edna Kantor Weiner

Edna Kantor Weiner, 81, died November 17, 2021, after a long illness. She passed away at home, with her loving family by her side. It's no coincidence she left us on the fifth anniversary of the death of Allan, her husband and best friend of 54 years. It's the only possible ending to a love story that started when they were both teenagers. Her friends and family are convinced that she waited until that day to take her last breath, and have no doubt that Allan was there, waiting to help her cross over. Edna and Allan always made the best team, and it appears that hasn't changed.

Edna was born April 13,1940, in Forest Hills, New York, where she grew up surrounded by many relatives and extended family. She met Allan in 1953, when they were just 13 years of age. They were married in 1962 and were by each other's side the remainder of their lives

After graduating from New York University, Edna began her career as a special education teacher in her hometown of New York City. Allan's sales job ultimately brought the couple to Memphis, Tenn., where Edna continued teaching at Auburndale School and received hermaster's degree in special education from Memphis State University – now known as the University of Memphis. Edna's knowledge and expertise even-

tually led her to become the director of education at Lakeside Hospital, where she dedicated more than 20 years of her working life to helping others. During that time, Allan and Edna co-founded and operated the clothing stores Designer Petites and The Garment Center.

Edna enjoyed traveling with family and friends – most recently in 2017, when she took her three daughters on an Alaskan cruise.

Although Edna loved teaching, her first love was spending time with her family. She and Allan cultivated an environment in which their children and grandchildren were ridiculously in love with each other's company. Edna was a dedicated mother first and foremost, a loyal friend, devoted daughter and a loving wife. She treasured her children and especially loved her role as Grandma. She had a vivacious personality, cared deeply for others, and always made people around her feel included and important. She made friends everywhere she went and had the ability to make you feel like you were the only person in the room when having a conversation with her. She spoke the truth without sugarcoating it, but always managed to do so with love and kindness. Hers was truly a life well lived.

Edna was preceded in death by Allan and by her parents, Helen and Jack Kantor. She is survived by her children: Lynn Weiner, Jill Asher (Scott), and Amy Brode (Robert). She also leaves her adoring grandchildren: Emily, Margaret, Josh, Phillip, Gordon, and Millie. A small memorial service was held at Temple Israel on Friday, November 19.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that Edna's kindness and compassion be carried forward. In her honor, they ask that each of you reach out to someone in need, repair a relationship that needs mending, or even buy someone's coffee without their knowledge. The best way to honor Edna's memory is to continue her kindness and compassion. **HW**

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Willow and Her Big Brother



Editor's note: This story is being reprinted in memory of Ted Roberts in appreciation of his longtime service as a newspaper columnist.

By Ted Roberts

In spring, when we look down instead of up to find the Creator of all, Nature Lovers like to tell the story of Willow.

Once, many years ago, a young tree named Willow grew in the forest. The wind that cooled the forest in the summer and carried the gossip of the blue jays had brought her seed to this shady spot in the forest.

It was not the best location, since it was next to a much older oak tree who towered over Willow like a big brother. He was so high and leafy and strong that most of the birds chose him as a nesting place; Willow only had a couple of caterpillars who lived in one of her leaves. But what bothered her most was that this Jolly Green Giant blocked most of her sky.

"If I had three wishes like you get in fairy tales, I'd wish for an open spot on the meadow, an open spot on the meadow, an open spot on the meadow," murmured Willow when the wind blew through her leaves. This little tree didn't want any big brother blocking her sun and rain

All summer long Willow twisted and bent to find the sun. Trees need sun, like

we need love, or they dry up and die. But that tall oak decorated with birds' nests blocked the direct rays. Only pale, yellow fingers of light touched Willow. And when fall came and most of the trees began their six months of rest, Willow slept poorly because huge acorns rained down on her from the heavy limbs of the oak. Like hail they fell. Each one could rip off a leaf. After this hailstorm of acorns, she dozed. But not for long, for soon a blizzard of leaves from the giant oak overwhelmed her. They piled up on the forest floor almost taller than her. She could barely breathe.

What bad luck, thought Willow? If only my seed had landed in that open spot over by the brook, I could have all the sun I wanted and only the sweet rain, not acorns with pointy ends, would fall upon my leaves and roots.

But what Willow didn't know was that every tree needs a big sheltering friend just like children need brothers and sisters and friends. The young trees who tried to grow in the open places were often washed into the brook by the rainstorms. And when it didn't rain, the sun burned them up and turned them into dead, dry sticks. And without a big tree to shield you from the wind, one wild blast and you could lose every leaf you own.

But Willow continued to doze the fall away and wish for the rain and sun and wind she wanted. One day she awoke suddenly from her favorite dream in which lightning had toppled the big oak, bird nests and all, and left a big, blue empty space in the sky. She heard voic-

es – happy, laughing voices of children.

Well, before Willow was fully awake, these children, with the help of a sharp shovel, had pried her roots from the earth and dumped her in a wagon.

What an experience. Lying on her side, her roots all exposed. And the movement made her dizzy. Soon she was well out of the forest – even past the brook.

And now the children put her back into the earth, only her new home was their back yard.

She was the only tree in the yard. The sun and the rain and the stars at night were all hers. At night she could look up and see every star in the sky twinkle down on her. Better yet, during the day no leafy branches blocked her sun. "This is living," thought Willow, smiling up at the warmth. "If only I had a few bird nests, life would be perfect." That's what she thought at first.

But soon she began to miss the big oak – because the sun was awful hot. And when the clouds came to block it, that meant rain would follow. A little rain tasted good, but sometimes the rain turned the backyard into a swamp that suffocated her roots. She was scared. It was no fun being the only tree in the backyard, thought Willow.

It was lonesome, too. There was nobody to talk to except the telephone pole on the street. And he just made a silly shrill noise in the wind. What could a dead telephone pole say to a young tree? But when the breeze from the forest fanned her branches, she could almost hear the gossip of the blue jays and the

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news of her old friends.

Then as the years passed something happened that the other young trees in the forest had whispered about. Willow grew seeds; and the willing wind soon carried them away and one of them happily arrived at the very spot where Willow had lived – beneath the giant oak

He would have looked down and said hello if he'd known how. Instead, he kept the sun from burning her up; and gently filtered the rain and never let the wind pull at the little sister that lived under the shelter of his limbs. Big brothers aren't all bad.

The syndicated humor of Ted, the Scribbler on the Roof, has appeared in newspapers around the U.S., on National Public Radio, and numerous websites. **HW**

Insights from Israel

Athens and Jerusalem Then, Tehran and Jerusalem Now

By Howard Weisband

We enjoyed a wonderful Chanukah, with much time spent with family and friends. Finding a bit of time to do some reading, I came across an excellent column by Rabbi Moshe Taragin, "The Intellectual Battle Between Athens and Jerusalem About Time." He writes: "Four major empires descended upon earth to confront our people and our faith: Babylonia, Persia, Greece and Rome. Each empire, at some point, dominated civilization and threatened the overall moral and religious state of humanity."

I was drawn immediately to ponder again the current conflict emanating from the Iranian regime in Tehran confronting Israel, the Jewish People, the United States, and all of the Western world. Iranian leaders, better tyrants, while marching toward nuclear military capability, often threaten global democratic existence and Israel particularly. Most recently, an Iranian general was quoted: "We will not back off from the annihilation of Israel, even one millimeter. We want to destroy Zionism in the world."

Some years ago I was invited to attend a briefing provided by an Israeli army intelligence officer in which he succinctly stated that when a leader in the Middle East says something, believe him. He went on to say that American and Western listeners tend to analyze: what did he mean, let's read between the lines. No, take him at his word. Do not over think. That advice had an impact; it has stayed with me.

I write not as a political decision maker, and certainly not as an expert in military affairs. I am a dual citizen, Amer-

ican and Israeli, who chose to make Aliyah over 35 years ago. Like all Israelis and concerned Americans, I watch with great discomfort the so-called talks and negotiations in Vienna, wherein Americans and Iranians are not even sitting in the same room. Neither Israel nor any other Middle Eastern country in proximity to Iran is directly involved in these indirect negotiations.

We look for a diplomatic solution that will end Iran's race toward nuclear military capability, but we remain quite skentical

Israel is less than one thousand miles from Iran. That's a short distance in air travel, nothing for a guided missile. More so, we are surrounded by Iranian proxies, what Iranian leaders might see as their "empire," Syria and Hizbullah to the north and Hamas to the west, with their many operatives in the West Bank. Hizbullah has been armed by the Iranians with some 100,000 missiles, many with guided precision. The Israeli Air Force is operating often in Syria to destroy the flow and stockpiles of such weapons. We also have an excellent missile defense system.

We take confidence in statements by our Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Defense Minister, and Head of the Mossad that Iran will never have nuclear weapons. In addition, the public indications from the Biden Administration that all options are on the table are supportive of that goal. Our confidence is emboldened by the reported preparations on the part of the Israel Defense Forces, and the latest indication that the IDF and the US military are planning

joint drills to thwart the Iranian nuclear effort.

The infamous and important Begin Doctrine, implemented in the past when Iraq and Syria had nuclear military designs, unfortunately is not so operative in this different and much more complex Iranian situation.

In a poignant column on October 4, "Did the Begin Doctrine Just Die?" Daniel Gordis wrote: "The Begin doctrine stated that Israel will never allow one of its enemies to obtain a weapon of mass destruction. That was why Menachem Begin destroyed Osirak in 1981 and Ehud Olmert destroyed a Syrian reactor under construction outside Damascus in 2007."

The Iranians are much more sophisticated within their nuclear ambitions. A single tactical strike will not destroy their facilities and their strategy. The Begin objective is the same. But it cannot be accomplished as quickly nor necessarily alone.

During Chanukah we celebrated the victory over Athens and the Greek empire some two thousand years ago. A similar victory must now be accomplished against Tehran and Iran.

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

Congressman Cohen Mourns "the Loss of the Supreme Court"

In floor speech, says politicized rulings have diminished the high court

WASHINGTON – December 2, 2021 — Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-09), a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, addressed the House of Representatives and condemned the politicized rulings that he said have "diminished" the Supreme Court's stature.

In his remarks, Congressman Cohen said:

"I mourn the loss of the Supreme Court of the United States of America. As a lawyer, I've always had respect for the court as the highest court in the land dispensing justice. But starting with Bush v. Gore, it became more political. And in Shelby County v. Holder, it emasculated the Voting Rights Act, destroying Section 5 and taking the basic, fundamental principles of democracy away from so many people. In Citizens United (v. Federal Election Commission), it gave the rich and the powerful more and more money. And then yesterday, it took away women's right to choose...The court is diminished." HW

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How the Memphis Jewish Community Inspired Me to Make a Difference in the World: An Interview with Rob France



Rob France
By Ashley Jamieson, MJCC
marketing director

Sometimes people have an experience in their lives that is so powerful, that it leads them to do great things. A community can have such an impact on a person that they end up making a difference in the world.

Sports legend Leon Brown once stated, "Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch for the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow."

For Rob France, chief program officer of Encounter, the Memphis Jewish community was just that. Rob states, "My opinion of what good community means was influenced by my work in the Memphis Jewish community."

Memphis Jewish Community Center's (MJCC) Ashley Jamison sat down with Rob to learn more about his work and how the Memphis Jewish community led him to where he is today.

Tell us a little bit about your background

I am from Wilmington, Delaware. I graduated from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in International Relations. After graduating, I was proud to join Teach For America as a corps member in Memphis, where I taught for two years and later worked on Teach for America – Memphis's staff. During my summers as a teacher in Memphis, I decided to work at Jewish summer camp at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. I dedicated my

summers to the MJCC and loved every minute. After my experience of Jewish communal work at the MJCC, I switched career paths. My first job was as the assistant director at Penn State Hillel. After three years, I worked at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America as director of Campus Initiatives. There, I designed, led, and expanded the Institute's suite of programs for Jewish campus professionals and student leaders. I joined the Hartman Institute staff after participating in the Hartman Campus Fellowship. I am currently the chief program officer of Encounter, which is an educational organization committed to informed, courageous, and resilient Jewish communal leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We educate and equip Jewish communal and civil society leaders with the experiences, networks, and resources they need to proactively and positively shape their constituents' engagement with Israel as it relates to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Tell us about your roles at the MJCC?

I started working at the JCC when I moved to Memphis in 2006 for Teach for America. I would look forward to every summer, because I loved to work outside and have fun with the kids. I was assistant director of Summer Camp in 2007 and coached Maccabi. In the summer of 2012, I was still an assistant principal at a charter school. Something in me realized that I wanted to do Jewish communal work full time. I decided to call Betsy Weinblatt Lynch at the MJCC, and she helped me find a parttime job in the athletics department as a soccer coach.

What is one of your favorite memories of the MJCC?

One of my favorite memories was walking back and forth between camp and my office feeling like everyone was my friend. Color war and any type of scavenger hunt were my favorite camp activities.

What did your work at the MJCC mean to you?

Right away, I was really struck by the

responsiveness of the team and community of the MJCC. They truly cared for me, which was a major moment in my Jewish life. The entire Jewish community was just so welcoming. This was my first experience in a Jewish community anywhere outside of Wilmington, Delaware. It was just striking how Memphis made it so easy to meet people. Everyone was introducing me to people – and the community was what convinced me to stay in Memphis for eight years. I learned what it means to be a strong Jewish community member - every community should be like that. I got more and more involved in the Jewish community to where my career change happened. I left K-12 education and went into Jewish engagement - I knew it was where I belonged.

How did your time in Memphis influence you to work in Jewish communal work?

Do not overlook the many powerful things about the Memphis Jewish community – because that is not how other communities are. Memphis taught me about the caring part of a Jewish community. The work that I do in my current job and the work I did in the Memphis Jewish community have many commonalities. I care about the global Jewish community, and my opinion of what good community means was influenced by my work in the Memphis Jewish community.

What would you say to our Memphis youth who are interested in Jewish communal work?

We need you. Your Jewish community needs you. I would say that the Palestinian conflict is one of the foremost things that challenge Jews today. The question that the Jewish people need to face and address today is how to hold sovereign power over the State of Israel. We are living in unprecedented times, and we have to figure that out. Anyone who wants to go into global Jewish communal work needs to start with the Torah and find the wisdom. Our challenges while new have also happened before in ancient history.

The MJCC thanks Rob France for his insight and story. It is amazing to think that the Memphis Jewish community is so close, so inspiring, so powerful, that it can lead someone to change the world for the better. For information on working at MJCC summer camp or joining the MJCC team visit www.jccmemphis.org/jobopenings. **HW**

Palestinian Car Ramming Attack Injures Israeli Border Guard and Puts Border Crossings on High Alert



Israeli soldiers guard at a checkpoint in the West Bank city of Hebron, Dec. 3, 2021. Credit: Wisam Hashlamoun/Flash90

By Shira Hanau

(JTA) – A Palestinian teenager rammed a car into an Israeli border police officer at a checkpoint early last Monday morning, seriously wounding the officer. Officers at the checkpoint opened fire on the driver, who was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

According to The Times of Israel, Palestinian media identified the assailant as Muhammad Nidal Younis, a 16-year-old from the Palestinian city of Nablus in the West Bank. Younis drove the car into another car at the Te'enim checkpoint around 1:20 a.m. and hit a 34-year-old guard. He was then shot by other Israeli officers stationed at the crossing.

The car ramming came just one day after a stabbing attack in the Old City last Saturday and just over two weeks after a Hamas gunman killed an Israeli man in the Old City of Jerusalem Nov. 21. In all three cases, the assailants were killed by Israeli officers.

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz ordered checkpoints between Israel and the West Bank to operate on high alert in the wake of the attacks.

"The defense minister ordered a comprehensive investigation, that the lessons be learned and level of alertness and readiness be raised in all crossings in the area of Judea and Samaria," Gantz's office said, according to The Times of Israel. **HW**

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