

Want to grab the growing attention
The Hebrew Watchman is gaining?
Learn more about our advertising
opportunities at 901.767.2215 or
info@HebrewWatchman.com



THE

Hebrew  Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM23 ADAR I, 5782FEBRUARY 24, 2022VOL. 100, NO. 25

In Ukraine, Young Jews are Torn Between Fighting for Their Country — and Leaving for Another



A member of the Ukrainian State Border Guard stands watch at the border crossing between Ukraine and Belarus, Feb. 13, 2022.
Credit: Chris McGrath/Getty Images

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) – As world powers work to defuse the military buildup between Ukraine and Russia, Vlodymyr Zeev Vaksman, a Jewish father in Odessa, is focusing on a personal arms race.

“I put off making any big purchases. I want to buy weapons,” Vaksman, the 40-year-old chair of Odessa’s Tiferet Masorti community, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last Monday.

Vaksman, who works as a tour guide,

is typical of many young Ukrainian Jews: Attached to their country, they’re hesitant to abandon it when it’s threatened. But, mindful of how quickly it can descend into violence, sometimes along sectarian lines, they also are unwilling to leave their family’s safety to the authorities and chance.

“Everyone is worried,” Vaksman told JTA about his circle of Jewish friends. “Some want to resist and join the de-

fense units. Some want to leave.”

Russia has been amassing troops on the Ukrainian border since November, leading many to fear that the country could be headed for a bloodier version of what happened when Russia invaded in 2014 and seized Crimea.

Like the United States, Israel is exhorting its citizens who are in Ukraine – there are as many as 15,000 of them – to vacate the country. Last Tuesday, the Israeli airline Arkia was scheduled to dispatch one of its passenger planes on an emergency flight to Kharkiv, an eastern Ukrainian city. It left empty and planned to return with any Israeli interested in returning.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Agency is reportedly making contingency plans to evacuate Jews who wish to leave in the event that tensions erupt into a full-blown war. Ukraine has about 43,300 people who self-identify as Jews and about 200,000 eligible to immigrate to Israel under its Law of Return for Jews and their relatives, according to a 2020 demographic study of European Jewry.

A prominent Israeli rabbi is using the crisis to convince Ukrainian Jews to make aliyah, or immigrate to Israel. But on the ground, most Ukrainian Jews

appear to be approaching the situation pragmatically, not ideologically.

“It would be good” for anyone who so desires to leave Uman for “a vacation until it is safe,” Rabbi Ya’akov Djan, who is also an Israeli, wrote to Jews in the city where a predominantly Israeli Jewish population has grown up around the burial place of Nachman of Bratslav, an 18th-century Hasidic rabbi. But he added that anyone who does not wish to leave should not feel pressured to do so.

Among those on vacation in Israel right now are the wife and daughters of Chaim Chazin, a real-estate professional who was born in Israel and has been living for several years in Uman with his wife, Liat, and their seven children. They left two weeks ago for a family event and decided to extend their stay in Israel “just to be on the safe side until the situation stabilizes,” Chazin said.

Chazin himself says he is confident in the leadership of Ukraine’s Jewish president, Vlodymyr Zelensky, and believes that the current tensions are overblown.

“There’s fuel in the fuel stations, food in the markets, toilet paper and medicine in the stores,” Chazin told JTA.

(See **Ukraine** Page 5)

One Year Since Launch of Jewish Children’s Library of Memphis

This February marks a big anniversary for the children of Memphis. A year ago, the Jewish Children’s Library of Memphis (JCLM), an initiative of the Memphis Kollel, launched.

In the words of Ariella Caplan, a happy Library goer, “Reading is my favorite hobby. With the Jewish Children’s Library, I get to read books and learn Torah values at the same time.”

The JCLM opened its doors last February with 275 high-quality Jewish books. As word of this new resource spread through the community, more and more families became members. In just one year the library has more than doubled in size and now has 675 titles

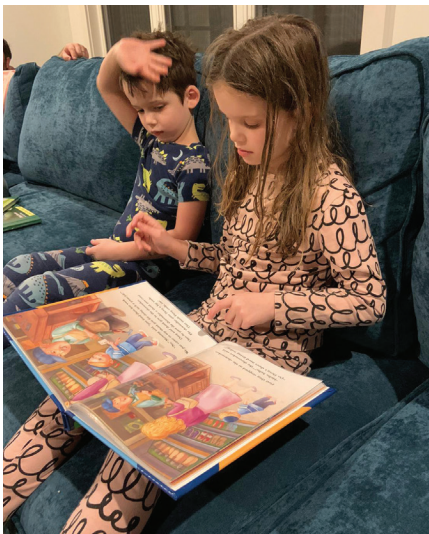
from which the children of Memphis can choose.

Each week, children of all ages excitedly file through the door in anticipation of getting their hands on new reading material.

“Every time I mention the Library, my daughters jump with joy,” shared a parent. “As soon as we walk in the door, they can’t wait to read the new books we picked out. The Library has been a special addition to our home and community.”

The JCLM has benefited from the adept and loving leadership of Sarah Davis, in whose home the library is housed.

“A year ago, families stepped up and



Left: Ella and Avery Stahler enjoy a book from the Jewish Children’s Library of Memphis

invested in a dream that has brought a year of smiles to the young families of Memphis,” said Sarah. “As we look forward to the second year of the JCLM we hope to add to and upgrade the library’s offerings so that the JCLM can continue being the valuable communal resource on which parents can rely to learn and bond with their children.”

Sarah shares a touching story that highlights just how much a part of life

(See **Library** Page 5)



Wedding Bands for Him

Our collection of beautiful wedding bands includes famous designer rings as well as our own exclusive designs ■ From classic to embellished with diamonds, shown in white, rose, or yellow gold, and in platinum

MEDNIKOW

I 8 9 I

474 Perkins Extended

mednikow.com

My Teen Israel Story



During a NFTY program in Israel last summer, Jordan Infeld, second from the right, climbed Masada with his friends Louis Reagler, Gabriel Freedman, Micah Unowsky, and Jacob Shapiro

Jordan Infeld, son of Stephani and Dr. Jason Infeld, is a senior at Memphis University School. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemksy Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of his NFTY program in Israel.

By Jordan Infeld

This past July, I had the opportunity of a lifetime, a three-week adventure in Israel with other Jewish teens from around the Mid-South. We all gathered in Newark, New Jersey, to fly to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, an 11-hour flight. On arrival, we went through the necessary security checkpoints in the airport, then drove to an office building in a nearby city for a required COVID antibody test. Before the blood draw, we ate weirdly sweet, cheese pizza from Pizza Hut in the parking lot of the office building. After the blood draw we arrived at the place we stayed for the first few nights while in quarantine.

Our hotel was in a community that can be best described as a zoo. There were pens of cows, goats, deer, and wild animals such as cats and peacocks. Exploring the area surrounding the hotel kept us entertained for the first two days before we were permitted to begin our adventures. The first week was a whirlwind of tourist activities from seven in the morning to six at night. We visited historical sites such as the Western Wall, King David's Palace, and the biggest shuk (market) in Jerusalem.

The pace of our adventures kept up as we left the comfort of our hotel for a three-night trip to the Negev Desert in the southern part of Israel. For one night, we stayed in the tents of the Bedouin, a nomadic Arab culture. That night, we rode camels and ate some of the best food of the entire trip.

The following morning, we left for my favorite part of the trip, the hike up Masada. Determined to be first in line,

we woke up at three in the morning. As the gates to the park opened, we disembarked the bus and sprinted to the foot of the mountain. The 20-minute hike up as the sun slowly rose above the horizon was surreal. When we reached the top, we sat on the south side of the mountain and listened to our tour guide tell us the story of the Jews that had killed themselves rather than submit to the Romans two thousand years prior. The hike down was much harder than the way up. The trail was accurately named the Snake Path and was a very steep, windy, and rocky path. The heat of the newly risen sun made the hour hike feel like an eternity, but I would do it again.

We spent the next two nights camping in the cool night air of the desert. Early in the morning and late at night, we hiked various trails around the campsite. My favorite trail led to the top of a mountain where you could see settlements in Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, and on the side, hidden by rubble, was an abandoned military sniper bunker. During the day, we visited the Dead Sea, the Red Sea, and the southernmost city in Israel, Eilat. The most disappointing experience of my trip was the Dead Sea. The 110-degree heat was unbearable, and the sea itself was no less than one hundred degrees. Although floating is cool, the immense amount of salt in the sea makes your skin feel like it's on fire. After 10 painful minutes, I had to get out and shower the salt off.

After our time in the desert, the trip began to slow down. We visited various cities in the northern part of Israel, sightseeing and shopping. In the last leg of the trip, we returned to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. We made a final visit to the Western Wall, visited the military cemetery Mount Herzl, and had a night out at the ports of Tel Aviv. The trip concluded with the most disorienting thing I have ever experienced, another 11-hour

THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

Established September, 1925
By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

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

Office: 901.763.2215
Direct: 901.827.7244

info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman
Editor and Publisher

Rebecca Miller
Social Media Director
Web Development

Larry Nieman
Advertising Sales Director

Toni Nieman
Subscription Manager

Herman I. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

Barbara B. Goldberger
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

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

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

Advertising
For advertising rates and specs, contact Larry at 901.299.7376 or info@hebrewwatchman.com

Simchas
Weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, birthdays, engagement, anniversaries
info@hebrewwatchman.com

Obituaries
901.763.2215
info@hebrewwatchman.com

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

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN must give permission for any material contained herein to be copied or reproduced in any manner without express permission of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. The publication of any advertisement in this edition does not constitute an endorsement of the advertisers' product, kashrut or services by this publication. The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. Nor can the publishers be held responsible for any errors.
2/24/2022



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. Feb. 25, 2022 / 24 Adar I, 57825:34 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. Feb. 26, 2022 / 25 Adar I, 5782 6:30 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayakhel

MOVING?
PLEASE LET US KNOW
BEFORE YOU GO!
901.763.2215
info@hebrewwatchman.com

TED HAS A NEW
REVISED BOOK
50% new stories

The Scribbler
On The Roof
By Ted Roberts

The best of Ted's
work—a collection
of stories designed
to make you laugh
and cry



\$10.95
AVAILABLE AT LULU.COM

BRIT-MILAH RITUAL CIRCUMCISIONS



Rabbi Levi Y.
Klein

Certified Mohel
Pediatrician Recommended
Over 20 Years of Experience

Member of the American Board of Ritual Circumcision

Mohel@JewishMemphis.com
901-754-0404



Brian Lurie

Broker, Vice-President, GRI, RENE, MMDC, CRS

Cell: 901.315.2298

Office: 901.260.4780

BLurie2003@Gmail.com

BestRealEstateAgentInMemphis.com

www.BluffCityBuilders.com



Official Real Estate Agent of The Memphis Tigers

SOLD
CRYE-LEIKE,
REALTORS®

CRYE-LEIKE.COM 901-260-4780

I Am Your
Real Estate Man!

ASBEE Sisterhood Purim Tzedakah Project to Establish Linda K. Joffre Memorial Tzedakah Fund

The ASBEE Sisterhood is in full gear, excited to once again be implementing a meaningful Purim Tzedakah project. Last year’s Purim Tzedakah project was extremely successful, raising over \$12,000 for the Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service and the ASBEE Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund.

This year, donations will be given to a new special fund being set up in memory of Linda Joffre, a”h, who was an amazing friend to so many and whose presence is sorely missed in the Memphis community and throughout the world. Our very dear friend, former ASBEE executive director, Sisterhood president, lead organizer and volunteer of countless events for the shul and community, was unquestionably the epitome of giving and friendship. She truly had a heart of gold, constantly doing and giving for others, despite medical challenges she dealt with over the years. Her smiles and hugs continue to remain palpable to the innumerable people whose lives she touched. Images of Linda efficiently organizing meetings and activities, and especially going in and out of kitchens, cooking, preparing, directing and cleaning for a multitude of events, remain embedded in our hearts and minds. Her love and devotion actively assisting with the hamentashen baking and helping run the Purim carnivals are likely memories that especially stand out for many. Linda’s ultimate goal was to bring people happiness, and that she did, through her inimitable warmth and caring for her beautiful family, congregants, co-workers, community and friends all over the world.

Purim, a holiday filled with happi-

ness and smiles, tzedakah and giving, is the perfect time to launch the Linda K. Joffre Memorial Tzedakah Fund. In keeping with Linda’s genuine desire to help others, the donations collected for the fund will be used to assist individuals and families in times of need, whether to assist with education, Israel programs, medical needs or emergency assistance.

As was done last year, anyone who would like to participate in the Purim Tzedakah Project will send in a list of all those to whom they would like to have the ASBEE Sisterhood send a beautiful card, wishes for a Happy Purim, and an acknowledgement that a donation was made in their honor. It’s only a \$4 donation for each name listed. There are options to send the list of names along with payment via an online website or via a handwritten/typed list. There is also an option of reciprocating to those who include you on their list. If you would like to participate in the project and have not received an email or printed letter in the mail explaining specifics of the project, or if you have any questions, please contact one of the project chairs: Cindi Weinstein at wein1088@yahoo.com, 901-230-2217, or Audrey Siskind, audreysiskind@yahoo.com, 901-581-2692. The deadline to send a list of names is March 2.

We hope that you will choose to participate in this mitzvah of tzedakah while sending your friends and families Purim wishes, letting them know that you are thinking of them in this meaningful way. Please note that this does not fulfill the specific mitzvah of Matanot L’Evyonim on Purim day. **HW**

MHA-FYOS to Hold Online Auction and “Space Odyssey” Gala Dinner

Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstein Yeshiva of the South will hold an Online Auction during the week of February 23 - March 1.

The online catalog will be open for viewing on March 18. The auction features several exciting items including gift certificates to restaurants, Memphis attractions and local stores. Bidders will also have an opportunity to purchase beautiful pieces of jewelry and art! The online auction will open for bidding at 8 a.m. on February 23 and will close at 10 p.m. on March 1. Please visit www.mhafyos.org to partake in the auction.

“The MHA Auction Gala and Online Auction gets bigger and better every year thanks to the contributions and participation of our incredible volunteers. This constant improvement means so much to the people in our school and community who work tirelessly every day to ensure that no child is unable

to attend our school for monetary reasons,” said Rashki Kaplan, who serves as Auction Committee co-chair with Sarah Ardestani.

In order for potential bidders to get a closer look, auction items will be on display in the MHA office (390 S White Station Rd) during the week of the online auction.

Following the conclusion of the online auction, the school will host a Gala Dinner on Sunday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served and guests are encouraged to dress in the space theme.

Tickets are only \$72 per couple and can be purchased at www.mhafyos.org/auction. The event promises to be a delicious and delightful evening filled with friends, fun, and surprises! All of the proceeds from the auction and Gala Dinner go directly towards the MHA Scholarship Fund, which assures that every child can attend the school regardless of financial ability. **HW**

Watchdog Group Urges Head of UN Inquiry on Israel to Resign Amid Claims of Bias

(JNS) – A watchdog group is calling on the head of a new probe by the United Nations into last year’s conflict between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip to resign due to past statements she made that affect her impartiality in the investigation.

UN Watch submitted a 30-page complaint to the United Nations last Mon-

day and also launched an online petition regarding previous statements made by Navi Pillay, a retired South African judge and former U.N. human-rights chief.

In a joint letter last summer to U.S. President Joe Biden, Pillay decried Israel’s “domination and oppression of the Palestinian people.”

She urged the United States to “address the root causes of the violence” by putting a stop to Israel’s “ever-expanding discrimination and systemic oppression.”

The letter to Biden further called violence last spring at the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem – also being examined by the U.N. inquiry – “aggressive actions by Israeli forces” against “peaceful protesters and worshippers,” which resulted in the “forced dispossession of Palestinians” and is the “latest evidence of a separate and unequal governing system.”

A main focus of the probe led by Pillay, who was appointed to the position by the United Nations last summer, is to investigate the “root causes of current tensions” between Israelis and Palestinians, including alleged “systematic discrimination.”

U.N. Watch also highlighted that while the inquiry will also examine “systematic discrimination” on race, ethnicity or national origin, Pillay has a history of accusing Israel of “apartheid” and describing the country’s treatment of Palestinians as “inhuman.”

“When it comes to Israel, as our legal brief demonstrates, Pillay is the complete opposite of impartial,” said Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch and an international human-rights lawyer. “We are therefore calling on her to do the right thing and to resign immediately.”

He added: “It is frankly impossible to imagine how Navi Pillay could lead an impartial investigation into the events of April-May 2021, as well as into alleged systematic discrimination, given what she has already declared on all of these. A reasonable person would consider Navi Pillay to be partial, thereby disqualifying her from serving as a member of the inquiry.” **HW**

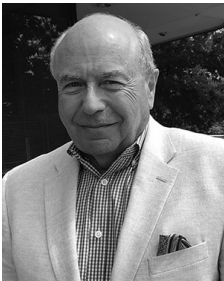
ON THE LAKE



GLENALDEN IN GERMANTOWN

The last building lot available in this prestigious Guard-Gated community across from Dogwood Elementary.
2222 Otterburn Lane. \$290,000. Remember...

When you want the job DONE, call Shel-DONE!



Sheldon Rosengarten,
Broker

REALTOR Emeritus*
*Awarded by the National Association of Realtors
for 40 Years of Service.



Life Member, Multi-Million Dollar Club
Memphis Area Association of Realtors

Office 901.682.1868 • Cell 901.483.0546
shelrose@memphisrelocate.com

Jewish Federations Umbrella Group Updates Policy Priority List



A woman holds a sign as people link arms at a gun reform rally at the Colorado State Capitol in Denver, March 28, 2021. Credit: Michael Ciaglo/Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – The Jewish Federations of North America has removed advocacy for gun control, voting rights and LGBTQ protections from a key priorities document, but a top official says the change does not diminish the organization’s commitment to the issues.

In comparison to recent years, the 2022 “Jewish Federations Public Priorities” document, sent last Monday to constituent Jewish federations, is substantially revised. While the 2021 and 2022 documents are the same length, about 500 words, the more recent version is written in more sweeping language and avoids mention of specific equity issues and legislation.

Whereas the 2021 document included “Promoting reasonable gun violence prevention measures as a means of safeguarding the Jewish community from violence and combating antisemitism,” the 2022 document does not mention guns at all.

Language about LGBTQ protections, part of the annual document for years, and voting rights, which appeared only in the 2021 version, are also notably absent in the 2022 document.

The new document instead says the umbrella group is focused on “Combating all forms of hate, discrimination, racism, and extremism, including by supporting legislation and resources to address hate crimes, policies that ensure justice and equity, and resources to combat abuse and harassment.”

A top JFNA official said the move was not about policy changes but about making priorities more clear to constituent federations and Jewish Community Relations Councils, allowing them to be more “nimble” as they lobby lawmakers. The JFNA and local federations employ lobbyists to advocate for legislation on the state and federal levels.

“We are focusing on the same important bipartisan values that Jewish communities have long held dear, while

approaching our advocacy in a way that allows us to be a more nimble political force as we lead and work across coalitions,” said Elana Broitman, a senior vice president for public affairs at JFNA.

The change comes as the JFNA has faced accusations recently that it is seeking to avoid controversy and identification with causes that political conservatives have objected to – such as the Black Lives Matter movement.

The order in which the priorities appear has also changed annually in recent years. In 2018, the lead focus was on protecting Medicare, at a time when then-President Donald Trump and the congressional Republican leadership were planning substantive changes in healthcare policy; in 2019, the focus was similarly on older Americans. In 2020 and 2021, the lead focus was on Jewish security, in the wake of intensifying antisemitic violence.

This year, the top-listed priority is “Jewish communal security and support for Israel.” A JFNA official who asked to remain anonymous said that was a function of an intensification of anti-Israel criticism and activity in the wake of last May’s Israel-Gaza conflict, in addition to the continued security threat facing Jewish institutions. This official cited the hostage-taking in Colleyville, Texas last month.

The new omissions would not hinder advocacy for gun control, the official said, noting that “Guns would naturally fall under security,” which is the top category in the 2022 document.

The official also noted advocacy last year for legislation that would address gun violence and mental health and said that emphasis would not change.

JFNA officials noted the recent launch of JEDI, a program for “Jewish equity, diversity and inclusion,” that is preparing a curriculum for Jewish professionals on race, LGBTQ and other inclusion issues. **HW**

Free Wills and Estate Clinic at MJCC on March 9

The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law along with the Memphis Jewish Community Center Adult Services Department Presents a Free Wills and Estate Clinic Program, on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 1 p.m.

During the clinic, participants will meet

one-on-one with lawyer volunteers and law students to prepare Estate Planning Documents and have questions answered.

Reservations can be made by contacting Steve Kaplan, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org.

The session will be from 1–5 p.m. **HW**

Louisville Jewish Politician ‘Traumatized Again’ by the Release of His Assailant, as His Case Becomes Fodder for Bail Debates



Craig Greenberg, a Jewish Democratic candidate for mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, spoke to local news station WHAS Feb. 15, 2022, after surviving an attempt on his life the day before. (Screenshot)

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – The Jewish mayoral candidate in Louisville, Kentucky, who was the target of a shooting last Monday said the release of the alleged gunman has left him and his family “traumatized again.”

“Our criminal justice system is clearly broken. It is nearly impossible to believe that someone can attempt murder on Monday and walk out of jail on Wednesday,” Greenberg, a Democrat, said in a statement on Feb. 17 to local news outlets.

Meanwhile, Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who represents Kentucky, is citing the incident as evidence that the Black Lives Matter movement is dangerous.

The suspect, 21-year-old Quintez Brown, had been an organizer with Black Lives Matter Louisville and an independent candidate for the city’s municipal council. The Louisville Community Bail Fund, an arm of the local Black Lives Matter chapter, paid the bail that secured his release, local outlets reported.

“This far-left Black Lives Matter activist and defund-the-police cheerleader walked into a Jewish Democrat’s campaign headquarters and opened fire,” McConnell told Fox News. “Less than 48 hours after this activist tried to literally murder a politician, the radical left bailed their comrade out of jail.” (McConnell’s tweet on the issue omitted the words “Jewish Democrat.”)

Police responded swiftly to the shooting last Monday, in which Greenberg’s clothing was grazed by a bullet but no one was hurt.

Bail reform has been a central organizing tenet of Black Lives Matter as well as the Movement for Black Lives, a coalition that advocates for many of the group’s policy goals. The group opposes cash bail, arguing that allowing only people with access to money to leave jail while they await trial fuels racial disparities.

The mental health status of accused violent offenders has also become a topic of debate. An organizer with Black Lives Matter Louisville, Chanelle Helm, told local media that the group is seeking mental health counseling for Brown, calling him “this young man who needs support and help,” and adding, “Jails and prisons do not rehabilitate people.”

Greenberg, too, suggested that Brown should have access to mental health services. Referencing a claim by Brown’s lawyer that he had been suffering from mental illness, Greenberg’s statement continued, “If someone is struggling

with a mental illness and is in custody, they should be evaluated and treated in custody. We must work together to fix this system. Sadly, like others who suffer from a broken system, my team and family have been traumatized again by this news.”

Greenberg’s statement went on to criticize “the constant threat of gun violence,” and included a call to action to “combat the root causes of crime” while also calling “to invest more in mental health resources in all of our neighborhoods and especially in our jails.”

Greenberg continued, “Mr. Brown and his family are hurting. My family and team are hurting. I pray for everyone involved in this alarming incident.”

The incident has rocketed into national consciousness over the course of the week and has been featured prominently on Fox News. During his appearance last Thursday on Fox, McConnell blamed Brown’s release from jail on “the radical left,” signaling that Republicans might try to use the attempt on Greenberg’s life to stoke pre-existing fears of Black Lives Matter among party voters.

Prominent Kentucky rabbi Shlomo Litvin, co-director of Chabad of the Bluegrass in Lexington and the University of Kentucky’s Chabad-affiliated Jewish Student Center, called Brown an “antisemitic radical terrorist.” As evidence, he pointed to social media posts in which Brown shared Black Hebrew Israelite-related ideology, retweeted someone who identified NFL owners who are Jewish as “plantation masters” and wrote “Dollar democracy?” in reference to a local endorsement of Greenberg. Brown did not explicitly say anything about Jews in any of Litvin’s examples.

For its part, BLM Louisville responded to critics on Twitter in a combative manner, while saying Brown “needed support.” In response to a suggestion that Brown’s attack had been motivated by antisemitism, the group replied, “We absolutely have no idea what the motive was. Everything at this point is speculation until legal presents more.”

Greenberg has not responded to requests for comment from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. A call for comment to the Jewish Community Relations Council of Louisville, which has joined calls for racial justice initiated by Black Lives Matter protests, has also been unreturned. **HW**

SERVICES AVAILABLE

• **Driver**—Courteous and reliable person to take you anywhere you need to go in Memphis and surrounding areas: Dr’s appointments, Shopping, Errands, Airport. Available weekdays and weekends.

• **House Sitting and Dog Sitting**—Responsible adult available to stay with your dogs while you are away. I love dogs!

Contact Rick Danzig: 901-337-6009

Ukraine...

(Continued From Page 1)

“The only ones freaking out are people who are following the conflict from outside Ukraine.”

He said he thought Djan’s letter was intended to encourage tourists who have come to Uman as pilgrims to Nachman’s grave to head home. “We don’t want them becoming the community’s problem in case of complications. Very few of us are leaving,” Chazin said.

Instead, he said, the local community is planning around concerns that, in the case of a Russian invasion, “all the law enforcement will be rushed to the border, and we’ll be left exposed to robbers or whoever.”

Chazin said local Jewish leaders were working with Uman authorities on a plan to set up “some sort of armed guard, maybe with an AK-47 or two. We have some graduates of combat units of the Israel Defense Forces with us.”

In Kharkiv, an industrial city situated a mere 10 miles from the Russian border, the likelihood of an invasion is only now beginning to trickle down, according to Miriam Moskovitz, an emissary of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement who has lived in Kharkiv with her husband, Rabbi Moshe Moskovitz, since 1990.

“There’s been some general talk about how to prepare, but now we’re really sitting down with plans about where people will go in times of danger, in terms of which buildings to put them

in and what to do with the synagogue,” Moskovitz, a mother of 12 originally from Australia, told JTA. “We’re not afraid but we’re definitely sensing the tension right now.”

As with other Jewish communities, the one in Kharkiv, where about 20,000 Jews live, is focusing on making sure the elderly population and other vulnerable groups remain safe if traveling local roads becomes dangerous, she added.

As tensions rise, the Moskovitzs find comfort in the fact that even through the escalation, hundreds of worshipers come each day to the Kharkiv Choral Synagogue – a red-brick complex with a dome that resembles the condensed Jerusalem models of sculptor Frank Meisler.

“We do what we can, what we came here to do: We hold up Jewish life and make it happen no matter what,” she said.

As for Vaksman, he’s not eager to move to Israel, where he says he cannot afford to live. (It is not uncommon for Jewish Ukrainians who have moved to Israel to return because of the cost of living.) But he’s keeping the option open.

In addition to working to procure guns, he said, he has “prepared money, documents for the children and even the cats” to board a rescue flight if they need to. [HW](#)

Library...

(Continued From Page 1)



Assortment of books at the Jewish Children's Library of Memphis

the JCLM has become for its member families.

“Last week shortly before Shabbos a damaging ice storm struck Memphis. Many families in the Jewish community lost power to their homes. Families scrambled to adjust. Community members with power opened their homes to those families without, while others sprang into action to outfit many of the affected homes with generators.

A parent shared: In the mad rush to ensure a safe place for our family to spend Shabbos, the question of our children’s routine was put on the back burner.

Shabbos arrived, and in its calm came the ability to focus on our children. How would we give them the structure and

consistency they need with the craziness brought by the storm?

The answer was right on our shelf. We turned to our recently checked out library books. Thanks to the Jewish Children’s Library of Memphis, we were able to do what we do each Shabbos –study and read together with our children. In the warmth made possible by generous neighbors, we felt right at home.”

Annual membership at the JCLM is only \$25 per family per year. For more information, to make a donation or to secure your family’s membership, please contact Sarah Davis at info@jclmemphis.org or visit us online at www.jclmemphis.org. [HW](#)

Warm Feelings After a Freezing Cold Ice Storm

By Rabbi Akiva Males

On Wednesday, February 2, we began hearing reports of an impending ice storm scheduled to hit Memphis early Thursday morning. Amazingly, the meteorologists were 100% correct in their predictions. A serious ice storm did in fact blanket the Mid-South. While it started off looking beautiful, the situation rapidly changed for the worse. The sheer weight of the ice brought down a startling amount of tree limbs, and in some cases entire trees. This resulted in a staggering number of downed power lines and blown electrical transformers all over our area.

Word immediately began to spread about families in our community losing power, whose homes were suddenly plunged into cold and darkness. Quickly, the most beautiful acts of Chesed (kindness) began unfolding all around us. Families whose homes still had power graciously invited those who were without to move in and join them. Entire family units (and in some cases, multiple family units!) were made to feel absolutely welcome in the homes of others. Hot, nutritious, and plentiful meals (and even generators) were lovingly shared with all who needed them. In some cases, this lasted for days. In other cases, those without power were treated as VIP guests for a week or more!

By now, the hard-working MLGW crews (and the many out-of-state contractors who were brought in to assist) have restored power to everyone, we’ve all moved back into our homes, and tree service teams are out clearing away the debris. Undoubtedly, MLGW and others will spend much time reviewing all that went wrong, and what new measures can be implemented to prevent something like this from reoccurring.

As we catch our breath, and reflect on the events of the past weeks, I hope we’ll always remember the many powerful acts of Chesed that sprang forth so naturally all around us – and for such



Source: Screenshot

an extended period of time! What an awesome testament to the good nature of Memphis’ Jewish community. Layala and I feel proud to call this community home.

Young Israel’s Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbia@yiom.org [HW](#)

SPARK

PRINTING

Ignite Your Brand

Add another dimension to all of your business and personal projects!

901.249.1525 • www.SparkPrinting.com

Locally Owned & Operated | Free Estimates





Comfort Keepers

Elevating the Human Spirit™

FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION

In-Home Care Services

- Personal Care
- Companionship & Housekeeping
- Dementia & Alzheimer's Care
- Respite Care
- Safety Solutions

Contact Us

Memphis: 901-752-1515

Northern Mississippi: 662-393-1110

Covington: 901-296-1200

memphis-169.comfortkeepers.com

Temple Israel Brotherhood in Action at Bornblum Jewish Community School



Eric Efron, TI Brotherhood Trustee, works with students
By David Petersen, TI Brotherhood VP and Dan Weiss, Bornblum Jewish Community School Head of School

On February 1, Temple Israel Brotherhood had the pleasure of sponsoring Bornblum Jewish Community School’s (BJCS) Second Design Day. Guided by the question, “How might we solve a problem in our local community,” BJCS students spent the day engaged in the Design Thinking process. Local non-profits had representatives in each classroom, allowing the students to learn about their organization. The goal for the students was to provide the organizations with solutions to problems that they might be having or to make them better in some way.

Brotherhood sponsored the costs of supplies and lunch for the entire student body, staff and faculty.

After lunch, students brainstormed solutions and created storyboards, culminating when the classes picked their final projects to place into action. Volunteers from Temple Israel’s Brotherhood helped the students during the latter part of the day with storyboarding, designing, and prototyping a solution that fit the needs of their organization.

Each class presented to the entire school and the non-profit leaders of the organizations they met with earlier. A panel of school staff and TI Brotherhood



Marc Taub, TI Brotherhood President works with the students

volunteers chose two projects that will become school-wide initiatives in the coming months. The remaining projects will continue to be developed by each class and the organization they are working with. Those organizations partnering



Students work with TI Brotherhood Member Sam Prager

with BJCS for this event were Memphis Humane Society, Kosher Food Pantry, Wolf River Conservancy, Ronald McDonald House, Room at the Inn, Thrive Memphis, Hillel’s of Memphis and the Memphis Jewish Home Chaplaincy. **HW**

Bat Mitzvah



Emma Lily Berger

Emma Lily Berger, daughter of Jason and Jordana Berger of Memphis, Tenn., will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on March 5, 2022, at Beth Sholom Synagogue.

Emma is in the seventh grade at Bornblum Jewish Community School, where she is on the honor roll and a member of the National Junior Honor Society. Her other interests include travel, reading, tennis, piano, and rock climbing. Emma is also a competitive archer and placed first in Tennessee and fifth in the country for her age and bow type in the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) tournament last February.

For her Mitzvah Project, Emma partnered with Jewish Foundation of Memphis and Memphis Jewish Federation to support Dignity Grows. Dignity Grows empowers Memphians in need by providing them menstrual and hygiene supplies. Last year Emma watched a local news story on period poverty and became very interested in the topic. According to charitable organization Days for Girls, 500 million women and girls, nearly 25% of all menstruators experience “period poverty.” Emma feels passionately that “no female student should have to miss school because they cannot afford basic hygiene supplies.” For more information on Emma’s mitzvah project visit: https://jfm.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=2881.

Sharing in the family’s simcha will be Emma’s proud younger sister, Olivia Berger, grandparents Heidi and Joseph Berger of Montreal, Quebec, Marcia and Michael Kirsh of Edgewater, NJ, Aunt and Uncle Kelly and Steve Annunziato and cousins Madeleine and Oliver Annunziato of Greenwich, CT, Aunt Dr. Jennifer Berger of New York City, NY, Aunt and Uncle Liza and Ross Kirsh and cousins Max and Jesse Kirsh of Boca Raton, Fla., and family and friends from all over the U.S. and Canada. **HW**



Over 6 Million Children Suffer from Allergies

We Can Help!

Tammy McCulley, MD
Ari Zelig, MD
Chrishana Ogilvie, MD
Amanda Nelson, FNP
Shea McCloskey, FNP



McCulley

ALLERGY, SINUS & ASTHMA CENTERS

Care for the Entire Family

Opening Our 6th Location in March!
East Memphis • 5720 Poplar

Germantown, East Memphis, Arlington, Bartlett, Southaven & Olive Branch
901.623.3323 | McCulleyAllergy.com

Have
a
Simcha?

share with
The Hebrew Watchman
readers

901.763.2215
info@hebrewwatchman.com

YI's Women's Circle Hosts Babka Baking & Wine Tasting



Scenes from YI's Women's Circle recent fun-filled Babka Baking & Wine Tasting event

By Rabbi Akiva Males

On Tuesday night, February 1, Young Israel's Moss Grand Foyer was filled with nearly 60 women from across the community enjoying each other's company in a relaxed and fun manner.

"Babka Baking & Wine Tasting" was the second major program organized by the newly formed YI Women's Circle.

The space was beautifully decorated, and the participants enjoyed socializing while learning some new culinary skills and tasting several different delicious wines. All attendees entered a raffle for an incredible-looking Babka Board. The lucky winner chose to share it with YI's Shalosh Seudos, and we thank her profusely!

I've heard much positive feedback about the evening, and I know that many women are looking forward to the group's next program.

YI Women's Circle looks forward to hosting meaningful women's programming on a regular basis. After seeing what this group accomplished again,

I'm certain that many are eager to find out what they're planning next.

Special thanks to event chairs Aliza Gelb, Chana Goldstone, Yocheved Nafetel and Leah Semmel – and each volunteer who put a lot of work into planning, setting up and cleaning up from this fantastic event.

To learn more about YI Women's Circle, please email thewomenscircleyi@gmail.com. **HW**



Massachusetts Man Gets Five-Year Sentence for Putting Lit Firebomb Near Senior Facility



A view of Ruth's House, a Jewish-sponsored assisted-living facility in East Longmeadow, Mass. Source: Screenshot via Google Maps.

(JNS) – A man was sentenced to five years in prison and three years of supervised release for placing a lit firebomb outside a Jewish nursing home in Longmeadow, Mass., and for lying to the FBI about where he was on the day of the bombing attempt.

A U.S. District Court in Springfield also ordered John Rathbun, 37, of East Longmeadow to not enter the complex of the Jewish Geriatric Services Life-care, Inc., for any reason, the Department of Justice announced last Tuesday.

"Mr. Rathbun's hate-filled and ruthless actions put the entire Longmeadow community at risk," said U.S. attorney Rachael S. Rollins. "[This] sentence sends a powerful message that hate and bigotry have no place in Massachusetts. Everyone deserves to live free of fear and authentically and fully as themselves."

On April 2, 2020, Rathbun assembled, placed and lit a homemade firebomb at the entrance of the Jewish-sponsored assisted-living facility. The bomb was

a five-gallon canister of gasoline with a wick made of pages from a Christian pamphlet. Rathbun's DNA was found on the canister and pamphlet.

No one was injured in the incident.

Days later, Rathbun falsely told an FBI agent that he was at home on the day of the bombing attempt, was not familiar with the location of the senior care facility, and that he did not own or even see the fuel canister.

He was convicted by a federal jury in June 2021 of two charges related to the crime. He was also convicted in November 2020 by another federal jury for lying to the FBI.

"There is no way to undo the damage John Rathbun did to the elderly residents of this Jewish assisted living facility, and to the entire community, with his hateful, repulsive, and violent behavior. But today's sentence does hold him accountable for placing a lit firebomb in their path and for lying to us about it," said Joseph Bonavolonta, head of the FBI's Boston office. **HW**

OBITUARIES

The Hebrew Watchman provides obituaries with a photo as a service to the Jewish community at no charge. Please send us your information and we can help you edit.



THE EMBASSY APARTMENTS
A DATTEL REALTY PROPERTY
"Luxury and Location"

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
901-685-8020

505 South Perkins Rd. In the Heart of East Memphis
1BR | 2BR | Penthouses
Utilities Included
See our floorplans
@ embassyaptsmemphis.com

Are you happy with the returns on your CDs, Savings Accounts, or Safe Money?

We have a product that **guarantees you a 2.8% return** with the chance to earn even better.



ANNUITY SPECIALIST
STEVE BAER
...
901.237.4207
stevenfbaer@gmail.com

As always . . .
Your long term care, life and annuity specialist

BLUFF CITY
FENCE CO.

EST. 1972
BLUFFCITYFENCE.COM - 901.767.8080

How to Correct an Error on Your Credit Report

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director – Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors. Questions for Mike? Reach him at 901.761.8151.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), credit report errors more than doubled during the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, the CFPB found that many pandemic protections, which were designed to help consumers, such as loan forbearance periods on federal student loans and federally backed mortgages, ended up negatively impacting their credit reports as a result of complications such as processing delays and suspended payments being marked incorrectly.¹ This is a significant issue for many consumers, because credit report errors may negatively impact creditworthiness and potentially lead to negative financial consequences, such as being offered higher mortgage interest rates or being turned down for a job or an apartment lease.

Fortunately, changes made during the pandemic have made it easier to stay on top of your credit report. Under new expanded rules, you are now eligible to obtain a free weekly credit report from each of the three nationwide credit reporting bureaus until April 20, 2022. To obtain free reports, go to AnnualCreditReport.com where you can fill out an online form, choose the reports you want, and, after answering some security questions, review your reports online.

If you find an error on your credit report, there are steps you can take to correct it. First, contact the credit reporting agency to dispute the error. You can do this online or by mail. Explain why you are disputing the information and be sure to include documentation that supports your dispute. The credit reporting bureau generally has 30 to 45 days to investigate the disputed information. Once the investigation is complete, the credit reporting bureau must provide you with written results. If the credit reporting bureau confirms that your credit report does contain errors, the information on your report must be removed or corrected.

If you do not agree with the credit

bureau’s investigation results, you can ask that a statement of the dispute be included in your file and in future reports. You can also contact the creditor that reported the information to the credit reporting bureau and dispute it with the creditor directly. If the creditor finds that the information is inaccurate, it must notify each credit bureau to which it has reported the information so the information can be updated or deleted. If you believe the error is the result of identity theft, you may need to take additional steps to resolve the issue, such as placing a fraud alert or security freeze on your credit report.

Keep in mind that correcting a credit report error can often be a time-consuming and emotionally draining process. If at any time you believe that your credit reporting rights are being violated, you can file a complaint with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at consumerfinance.gov.

1) Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 2021

This information is not intended as tax, legal, investment, or retirement advice or recommendations, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax or legal professional. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. This material was written and prepared by Broadridge Advisor Solutions. © 2022 Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

Investment and Insurance Products are:

Not Insured by the FDIC or Any Federal Government Agency

Not a Deposit or Other Obligation of, or Guaranteed by, the Bank or Any Bank Affiliate

Subject to Investment Risks, Including Possible Loss of the Principal Amount Invested

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

©2019-2021 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. All rights reserved. [HW](#)

MJHR Announces Baylee Less as New Director of Development



Baylee Less

The Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab is proud to announce the hiring of Baylee Less as their new Director of Development.

A third-generation Memphian, Baylee is excited to work for an organization that has been serving our community since 1927. She states, “It’s an honor to support an institution in our community that provides such meaningful and quality care to our seniors. It’s a stage of life

often overlooked, but one that is no less important to live fully and happily.”

She most recently worked for Youth Villages as their Grants and Development Writer, and before that, as Temple Israel’s Community Engagement Director. Less also serves as the Board Chair for the local nonprofit organization, Music Export Memphis, and volunteers as an advisor for BBYO’s River City BBG chapter.

Bobby Meadows, Executive Director of the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, says, “We are thrilled to have Baylee join the team. Her experience sets her up to excel in the role, and we know she will contribute greatly to MJHR.”

Howard Hayden, President of the board of directors, adds, “We are very fortunate to have recruited someone of Baylee’s experience and talents to come to the Jewish Home. We know she will deepen existing community relationships and build many new ones that will ensure our continued success.”

For more information on how to support the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, contact Baylee Less at bless@memphisjewishhome.org or 901-756-3273. [HW](#)

WELLS
FARGO

Advisors

Plan upstream towards steady income downstream

A little planning today can make all the difference tomorrow. We can help you design a distribution strategy aimed at preserving your savings and helping to ensure your income stream flows throughout your retirement.

Mike Stein
Managing Director – Investments
6075 Poplar Ave
Memphis, TN 38119
Direct: (901) 761-8151
michael.stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com
<https://home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael.stein>

Investment and Insurance Products:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| NOT FDIC Insured | NO Bank Guarantee | MAY Lose Value |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company. © 2020 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. All rights reserved. CAR-0720-03330

Kathryn Kates, Actress Who Played the Babka Purveyor on ‘Seinfeld,’ Dies At 73



Kathryn Kates was known for her role as the bakery clerk who perpetually disappointed Jerry Seinfeld. (Screenshot from YouTube)

By Shira Hanau

(JTA) – When it came to babka, actress Kathryn Kates, who died last month at 73, preferred chocolate, according to The New York Times.

But when Jerry and Elaine finally got to her bakery counter on “Seinfeld,” the only babka Kates had to offer was cinnamon. And that was a problem.

“There’s chocolate and there’s cinnamon,” Kates says in the famous episode, “The Dinner Party,” to a disappointed Elaine after selling the last chocolate babka to the previous customer. Elaine calls cinnamon the “lesser babka,” to which Jerry replies with an impassioned retort.

“Cinnamon takes a backseat to no babka!” Jerry declares as Kates looks on, framed by shelves of fluffy challah.

The babka bit wouldn’t be Kates’ last appearance as the gatekeeper of Jewish New York culinary classics on the sitcom.

She made another appearance in a 1996 episode as the bakery clerk who sells the last loaf of marble rye bread to an older woman ahead of Jerry in

line. After Kates confirms they are out of marble rye, Jerry desperately offers to pay the older customer \$50 for the \$6 loaf. When she refuses his offer, he steals the loaf and runs off.

Kates, who died of lung cancer, also appeared in “Law and Order,” “Orange is the New Black,” “The Many Saints of Newark,” and the “Sopranos” prequel movie.

Kates, who lived in Manhattan, was born in Queens and grew up in Great Neck, N.Y. She studied acting at New York University, and went on to co-found and run The Colony Theater in Burbank, Calif.

Her mother, Sylvia Kates, was also an actor who played a classic New Yorker role in a scene opposite Gene Wilder and Zero Mostel in Mel Brooks’ 1967 film “The Producers.” The elder Kates plays an older woman who guards the first floor of a Greenwich Village brownstone. “I’m the concierge!” she says more than once in a thick New York accent. [HW](#)

Mechaia Wine Blends Italian Grapes with A Yiddish Name

By Alix Wall/JWeekly.Com

Reprinted with permission Forward, this article originally appeared in Jweekly.com.

Yiddish was spoken in Howard Paul’s home until he was 5. That’s when “my father was explaining to a friend some stupid thing I did, and I turned and said to him, I understand what you’re saying. And that ended Yiddish as his code language.”

Fitting then, that the East Bay wine-maker has a red-blend wine named Machaia from Wedgewood Vintners, a boutique winery in Vallejo. The Yiddish word, usually spelled mechaya, “means a gift, a wonderful thing, lovely, delightful or pleasant,” Paul said. “All of those things describe the wine.”

“The absolute best Super Tuscans come from the Bolgheri region of Italy,” Paul elaborated about the 2019 vintage. “Mine is similar to these extraordinarily expensive wines, so what came to mind was Machaia, spelled the Italian way.”

(It is not the only locally produced wine with a Yiddish name; there is also Mensch, from Berkeley’s Covenant Wines.)

Before he became a winemaker, Paul was a psychologist with a private practice in New Jersey and taught at Rutgers Medical School. He also was the book review editor of the professional journal Child & Family Behavior Therapy, and he continues his work there as its editor-in-chief.

His wife, Evelyn, known as Skippy, got the wine bug during a trip to Europe, and Paul became equally enamored. She worked as a nurse and they raised a family, but wine was always a shared passion, going way back.

In 1971, the couple became friendly with the owner of a local wine shop in Highland Park, New Jersey, and soon started hosting wine tastings there. They also wrote and published the Central Jersey Wine Gazette.

Fast-forward to 2003, when they saw an ad offering the opportunity for anyone who wanted to make their own wine. That’s when they started making wine in New Jersey, with grapes they imported from California.

“We just thought it might be fun, and it was,” Paul said. “People began to like the wines I was making and a small cult formed around them.”

Their wine didn’t only pass muster with friends in New Jersey. Wedgewood’s signature 2007 Symphony – a Bordeaux blend – won in a blind tasting when their daughter, Laura, worked in the tasting room at Rock Wall Wine Co. in Alameda, and several of her co-workers chose it as their favorite.

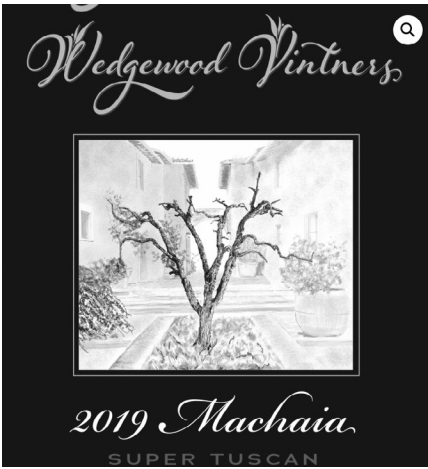
Several of Paul’s vintages have won awards. Most recently Machaia took a silver medal in its category of the San Francisco Chronicle’s wine competition, and Symphony took a gold medal in the same contest.

By the time the couple moved to Vallejo in 2019 to be closer to their children, they were already familiar with many Bay Area wineries because they had been buying their fruit for so many years.

“We came out here frequently and knew the vineyards from which my fruit came,” Paul said. He would always bring a few bottles for the winemakers here to taste.

When Paul asked the owners at the Wooden Valley Winery in Fairfield if he could make his wine there, they said yes.

“I make wine that I like,” Paul explained, and he prefers blends over those made from one varietal. Symphony is



his French blend, similar to a Bordeaux. His zinfandel blend is called Zinfull. And since there is a style referred to as Super Tuscan, he felt there should be a Super American, and that’s his cabernet blend, which he calls “easy to drink.”

Paul says he is able to offer such good wine at fair prices (between \$40 and \$45) because grapes from the Suisun Valley are half the price of Napa Valley’s, which is right next door.

“Making it there, we have Napa-quality wine without Napa prices,” he said.

While Paul is the winemaker, nothing passes muster without Skippy’s approval. They met at the beginning of their careers in medicine, and now in this later chapter of their lives, after 54 years of marriage, they are still working together.

Because the Pauls moved to the Bay Area right before the pandemic, socializing and making new connections hasn’t happened so much. They’ve been set up to sell since January, and Paul is looking forward to introducing his wines to the public. He’ll even deliver to some local addresses. He’s permitted to ship to 13 states and has a wine club.

With the tagline “wines that make your mouth happy,” Wedgewood Vintners wines are available at wedgewood-vintners.com.

When we tried Machaia it was, as expected, a mechaya. More than aptly named, it made our mouths happy, indeed.

This article originally appeared in Jweekly.com and is reposted with permission. HW

**DEADLINES FOR
STORIES AND ADS
WEDNESDAYS
AT NOON
WE ARE HAPPY
TO ACCEPT YOUR
STORIES IN ADVANCE.**

German Dictionary Changes Definition of ‘Jew’ After Complaint from Local Jewish Community



A display in Berlin features signs indicating various Jewish landmarks, including “Judengasse,” or Jews’ Street. Credit: Frans de Wit/Flickr Commons

By Shira Hanau

(JTA) – A German dictionary entry for the word “Jew” has been changed after members of the country’s Jewish community complained that the definition was problematic.

The definition offered by the Duden dictionary, one of the most authoritative German dictionaries, had included a note that the term is sometimes used as a derogatory slur in addition to being the simplest way of referring to Jews. But German Jews pushed back against the inclusion of the use of the word “Jew” as a slur, saying the term is the correct one and should be used without qualification.

“Even if ‘Jew’ is used pejoratively in schoolyards or only hesitantly by some people, and the Duden editors are certainly well-meaning in pointing out this context, everything should be done to avoid solidifying the term as discriminatory,” Joseph Schuster, the head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, told the Associated Press.

The entry was updated last Monday

and included the Central Council of Jews in Germany’s approval of the use of the term.

The word “Jew” has long been considered by some, especially non-Jews, to be derogatory, leading some to instead prefer the adjective “Jewish” to the more succinct or blunt noun, “Jew.” Jewish institutions in previous eras also adopted alternatives to the word “Jew” in their names, preferring terms like “Hebrew” and “Israelite.”

Sarah Bunin Benor, a professor at Hebrew Union College who writes about Jews and language, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in 2020 that people have historically avoided using the word “Jew” to avoid sounding antisemitic, even though the word is not inherently derogatory.

“Many people assume that it’s a slur because they know that Jews are historically a stigmatized group, so they’re concerned about using it because they don’t want to sound offensive,” she said. HW

COLUMBUS MARBLE WORKS

Designers and Builders

HIGHEST QUALITY MONUMENTS AND MARKERS

Associated and Identified with

JEWISH MEMORIALS

For Over 85 years
in Memphis and the Mid-South area

For more information, call
Phone 1-800-647-1055

Located at **2481 Broad Avenue** - Memphis
901-767-0026 - Locally owned by Paul West

Beautifully Crafted Cemetery Monuments

SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
OF MEMPHIS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

Visit us at **WESTMEMORIALS.COM**

Ivan Reitman, ‘Ghostbusters’ Director and Son of Auschwitz Survivor, Dies At 75



Ivan Reitman attends the “Ghostbusters: Afterlife” world premiere, Nov. 15, 2021, in New York City.
Credit: Theo Wargo/Getty Images for Sony Pictures

By Shira Hanau

(JTA) – Ivan Reitman, a Hollywood director and producer who was born in Czechoslovakia and went on to helm “Ghostbusters” and other beloved American blockbuster comedies, died last Saturday at 75. Reitman died in his sleep at his home in Montecito, California, according to the Associated Press.

Reitman’s first major commercial success came in 1978 when he produced “National Lampoon’s Animal House,” but his most famous work was “Ghostbusters,” the paranormal comedy he directed, and which was released to

widespread acclaim in 1984. In a career spanning some 50 years, Reitman worked with some of the most beloved comedic actors of his generation, including Dan Aykroyd, Robin Williams, Danny DeVito, Billy Crystal and Bill Murray, and set the stage for the landscape of movie comedies to follow.

“There are three generations,” Harold Ramis, one of the original stars of “Ghostbusters,” told the Forward in 2007, speaking about the world of comedy to which Reitman belonged. “That makes me the grandfather and

Judd [Apatow] the dad. [Michael] Cera, [Seth] Rogen and [Jonah] Hill are the current generation. Ivan is a part of the grandfather generation.”

Born in 1946 to Jewish parents who survived the Holocaust – his mother having survived Auschwitz, his father having escaped a concentration camp and later fought as a member of the Slovakian resistance – in Komárno, Czechoslovakia, Reitman was four years old when the family left the country. The family made their escape after the communist Czech government began threatening Reitman’s father, a factory owner. The family escaped hidden in a coal barge that made its way from Komarno to Vienna on the Danube, and eventually made their way to Toronto in 1950.

“I remember flashes of scenes. Later they told me about how they gave me a couple of sleeping pills so I wouldn’t make any noise. I was so knocked out that I slept with my eyes open. My parents were afraid I was dead,” Reitman told the Associated Press in 1979.

In Toronto, Reitman displayed an interest in performance from an early age and studied music and drama at McMaster University. His first film, a low-budget film called “Cannibal Girls,” was released in 1973. His big break came in 1978 with “National Lampoon’s Animal House,” which he produced, followed by the summer-camp comedy “Meatballs” in 1979 starring Bill Murray, for which he had moved over to the director’s chair.

“Ghostbusters” in 1984 was where Reitman left his biggest cultural footprint: a unique fusion of smart-aleck comedy and big-budget paranormal special effects that connected with audiences around the globe. It spawned a franchise of films, TV shows and video games that remains popular to this day.

His other big hits included “Stripes,” a 1981 military comedy soon to be rebooted as a TV series; “Dave,” a 1993 political fable starring Kevin Kline as an ordinary guy who is a doppelgänger for the U.S. president; and the 2011 rom-com “No Strings Attached,” starring Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher.

“I love to tell good stories and make people laugh,” Reitman told the Forward in 2007. “I seem to do it okay.”

Reitman married Genevieve Robert, who converted to Judaism in 1976, and the couple had three children. Their son, Jason Reitman, followed his father into directing. Father and son worked together on some films, including the 2009 Oscar-nominated film “Up in the Air,” which was written and directed by Jason Reitman and produced by Ivan Reitman. Last fall, the two teamed up again for the latest “Ghostbusters” installment, with Jason directing and Ivan producing “Ghostbusters: Afterlife,” a film that functioned as a tribute to the father’s beloved original.

At the time of his death, Reitman was in pre-production on a number of other films, including “Triplets,” a sequel to his 1988 comedy “Twins” about genetically engineered twins played by DeVito and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Reitman was proud of his son’s accomplishments and tended to tear up when talking about them. He had even encouraged his son to drop out of medical school in favor of a career in Hollywood, a move that evidently paid off.

“I said: ‘But Dad, I’ll either succeed in your shadow or fail in a spotlight,’” Jason Reitman told the Guardian in a joint interview with his father in Nov. 2021. “And he said: ‘Being scared is not a reason not to do something.’” **HW**

Dutch Universities Pause Investigations into Their Ties with Jewish And Israeli Groups

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) – A group of 14 public Dutch universities are suspending their investigations into their ties with Israeli and Jewish entities.

The Association of Universities in the Netherlands, a trade group that includes the University of Amsterdam, made the announcement last Friday in a joint statement following an outcry among Jewish groups.

The Rights Forum, a pro-Palestinian group founded by a former Dutch prime minister who critics call antisemitic, had issued a freedom of information request, or WOB in the Netherlands, on the topic. The group asked for documents or information on “institutional ties with Israel universities, institutions and businesses and with organizations that propagate support for the State of Israel.”

“The handling and distribution of the Wob request has led to feelings of unrest and insecurity within universities. We regret this,” the group of universities wrote in an additional statement last Tuesday. “We stand for a safe educational, research and working climate for all our employees and students. We take the signals that this has come into question as a result of our approach to the Wob request and confirm that a careful assessment of the request is necessary.”

They did not give a timeframe but noted they will be legally obligated to respond to the request.

“This consideration must be done carefully and will therefore take some time. As soon as more is known about this, we will communicate this via a message,” the statement read.

In the WOB request, Gerard Jonkman, director of The Rights Forum, identified a series of Jewish groups of interest, including Christians for Israel; the Israeli weapons and defense systems producer Elbit; and a right-wing, pro-Israel Dutch-Jewish association.

But the list also includes mainstream Jewish entities from the Netherlands and elsewhere that do not define themselves as Israeli or solely focused on Israel, including the Anti-Defamation League, the Central Jewish Board of the Netherlands, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, B’nai B’rith and even the office of the Dutch government’s own National Coordinator for Fighting Antisemitism, which is headed by Edo Verdonner, who is Jewish.

The Central Jewish Board has called the request antisemitic and urged universities to refuse to comply with it in a statement last Tuesday. Dutch Chief Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs compared it to the conduct of Nazi collaborators.

The Rights Forum has not responded to a request for comment by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The group was founded by Dries van Agt, a former prime minister of the Netherlands whom the Central Jewish Board has called an antisemite. Van Agt has dismissed this as an attempt to delegitimize his criticisms of Israel.

He recently accused Israeli settlers of routinely poisoning their Palestinian neighbors, and in 2008 he compared Israel to Nazi Germany.

Van Agt, who was prime minister between 1977 and 1982, has also said that the Jews “should have been given a piece of land” in Germany instead of Israel. And as the country’s justice minister in the 1970s, he cited his “Aryan” roots in explaining his plan to pardon four Nazi war criminals due to health reasons. **HW**

**DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!
HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR
2021-2022 SUBSCRIPTION?
For inquiries, call 901.763.2215**

**Help Keep Memphis
Jewish Journalism Alive
Subscribe Today, Don't Miss an Issue**

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
In-Town \$36 • Out-of-town \$50
P.O. Box 770846, Memphis, TN 38177-0846
info@hebrewwatchman.com

Send Paper To:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If a Gift Subscription, From:

OBITUARIES

Monte A. Franklin

Monte A. Franklin, passed away on February 6, 2022, at home, at the age of 78. He was born in Memphis and was the son of the late Tillie and Ben Franklin.

Monte was an academic and a brilliant scholar. He graduated with honors from Christian Brothers University, where he received an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering. He also earned a master's degree in mathematics from Georgia Tech. He pursued doctoral studies in mathematics at Florida Atlantic University.

His professional career encompassed engineering, mathematics, research and software design for Fortune 500 companies and not-for-profits including IBM, MITRE Corporation and Cordis. In retirement, he devoted his time to mentoring young students in mathematics, physics and chemistry.

An accomplished flamenco guitarist, Monte studied in Spain with some of the top players in the field, including Paco de Lucia. He traveled and performed with some of the geniuses of the genre, including Jose Greco and other well-known flamenco dancers.

Monte was an avid runner. He competed in numerous marathons including Boston and Miami and continued to run his entire life.

As a collector, Monte had an especially keen interest in stamps, books and guitars. His insatiable curiosity led him to study cosmology and history, especially World War II.

A kind and gentle soul, Monte made friends and got to know people wherever he went, whether in his community or around the world.

He is survived by his sister, Brenda Gold (Robert), and a niece, Lanie Richberger (Rick Rindel). [HW](#)



Marilyn Strauss Kosten

Marilyn Strauss Kosten, 84, passed away February 11, 2022, after a brief illness with her family by her side at Baptist East Hospital. She was born July 2, 1937, to Hilda (Richter) and Sol Strauss in Cleveland, Ohio. Raised in Cincinnati by Hilda and stepfather Harry Bartel, Marilyn graduated from Woodward High School. She then attended the University of Alabama, where she met the love of her life and future husband, the late Herbert Kosten of Memphis, Tennessee. While at university, she was named Corolla Beauty Queen.

Shortly after marrying, Herb and Marilyn moved to Memphis, where she began teaching grade-school, although her first love was fashion.

She went on to work at Frances Wright, a prominent women's clothing store in Midtown. When daughters Julie and Lori began competing in junior tennis tournaments, Marilyn saw a need for fashionable and functional youth tennis apparel. Jokingly called her "third daughter" by friends and family, her business, Little Miss Tennis, was born in 1973 in her East Memphis home. A few years later, she expanded the enterprise into boys' tennis wear and the company became Little Miss Tennis / TV Sports.

Marilyn's clothes were found in prominent fashion stores such as Bloomingdale's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord and Taylor, Neiman Marcus, Bergdorf Goodman, and most of the finest tennis shops, boutiques, clubs, and resorts around the world. She found it quite exciting to tour the tennis circuit, seeing her designs worn by her daughters and the top junior players in the country.

Marilyn designed the pinafore tennis dress, the first of its kind, which was famously worn by Tracy Austin in September 1977 during her U.S. Open debut. The dress, complete with its signature ball pocket, is on permanent display in the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island. Marilyn went on to acquire the U.S. license for Wimbledon girls and boys clothing. A legendary icon of Memphis fashion, Marilyn's accomplishments included receiving the Key to the City of Memphis and induction into the Memphis

Fashion Hall of Fame.

Her favorite pastimes were watching basketball, especially the Memphis Grizzlies, the University of Memphis, the University of Alabama, and men's and women's professional tennis. She was also known for her love of game shows.

Marilyn lived an extraordinary life and did so on her own terms. She was very generous with her family and friends. Marilyn and Herb along with Alan Kosten provided funding for the Kosten Tennis Center at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. A while after Herb's passing due to pancreatic cancer, her daughter, Julie, introduced Marilyn to Frank Saitta, her partner for the final 15 years of her life. Her greatest pleasure was spending time with her family — whether at the dinner table, around the TV, shopping, or on the phone.

Marilyn is predeceased by her husband, Herb, mother Hilda Bartel, father Sol Strauss, and stepfather Harry Bartel.

She is survived by her daughters, Julie Kosten and Lori Kosten Goldberg (Jeffrey); grandchildren Alex Nahon (Charlotte), Carly Nahon and Kosten Goldberg; brother-in-law Alan Kosten (Susan); half-brother Martin Strauss (Arla); and life partner Frank Saitta.

The funeral service was held February 15, 2022, at Baron Hirsch Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts in her memory to the Kosten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research at kostenfoundation.com. [HW](#)

**DEADLINES FOR STORIES AND ADS WEDNESDAYS AT NOON
WE ARE HAPPY TO ACCEPT YOUR
STORIES IN ADVANCE.**

Replica of
Holocaust
Cattle Car Used
to Transport
Jews on Display
In Tallahassee

(JNS) – A remake of a railroad cattle car used by the Nazis to transport Jews to concentration camps during the Holocaust was on display outside Florida's State Capitol building in Tallahassee last Monday, according to local news reports.

Inside the boxcar, visitors were given a 21-minute virtual experience that described the journey Jews made to Nazi concentration camps – for example, how 100 or more people were forcibly packed into the cars with no food or water, with slatted sides, a small window and very little air.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis went inside the boxcar with about 40 people.

"You can talk about the 6 million people that were killed. We all know that's terrible. You can read it on a sheet of paper, but what does that actually mean when you see the tragedy. When you can see videos, when you can see some of the artifacts," DeSantis said standing outside the Capitol building in downtown Tallahassee.

The governor further posted on Twitter: "Florida will continue to be a leader in Holocaust education and in fighting anti-Semitism. We will never forget."

In May 2019, DeSantis signed into law the country's toughest legislation on anti-Semitism. The ceremonial bill-signing took place in Jerusalem while the governor was visiting Israel. [HW](#)

TEMPLE  ISRAEL

You are cordially invited to attend

Mordecai's
Memphis
Masquerade

Wednesday, March 16 | 7:30 PM | Temple Israel

Megillah reading begins at 7 PM

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
TIMEMPHIS.ORG/PURIM22

Tickets are \$18/person before March 8
and \$25/person after that and at the door.

Covid vaccinations are encouraged,
and masks are required inside of the building.

‘Marvelous Mrs. Maisel’ Star Caroline Aaron Made a Career Out of Playing East Coast Jews. But She’s Proud of Her Southern Roots.

By Stephen Silver

(JTA) – When she was cast as Midge Maisel’s mother-in-law in “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” veteran actress Caroline Aaron had no idea that a series about a very particular slice of mid-20th century Jewish life would strike a chord around the world.

But its popularity has gone far beyond Jews and the Jewish-adjacent. Much like “Fiddler on the Roof,” the show has found an audience even in countries where Jewish culture is all but nonexistent.

“After the second season, we went to Milan, to do international press, and there were journalists from all over the world – from China, and India, and all of the European countries, and I was like, what could possibly be of interest?” Aaron said during a recent Zoom talk hosted by The Braid, a Southern California Jewish women’s theater. “But in this show, for people all over the world – and even though they were interviewing us – I had to interview them, just to find out what it was about this show that had enchanted audiences that had no cultural references.”

And what did she learn?
“I think first and foremost, family is a universal. I think no matter how it manifests itself, that deeply resonates with everyone,” said Aaron.

She added that one journalist in Sweden told her that “‘we’ve never seen a show with a young woman who is confident’.... Here is a young woman who is in possession of her ambition, and her dreams, and has a direction.”

Aaron’s talk at The Braid served in part as a preview of the fourth season of “Mrs. Maisel,” which began airing last Friday after a nearly three-year hiatus. In it, she talked about her long career as an actress in films by major Jewish di-



Caroline Aaron
Credit: Noam Galai/Getty Images for Prime Video

rectors, her Southern upbringing, and her thoughts on criticism that “Mrs. Maisel” cast too many non-Jewish actors as Jews.

In a career spanning 40 years, Aaron has appeared in multiple films from major Jewish directors such as Mike Nichols (“Heartburn,” “Working Girl,” “Primary Colors” and “What Planet Are You From?”), Nora Ephron (“Sleepless in Seattle” and “Lucky Numbers”) and Woody Allen (“Crimes and Misdemeanors,” “Alice” and “Deconstructing Harry”). On television, Aaron has appeared on “Curb Your Enthusiasm” and “Transparent,” and since 2017 has been portraying Shirley Maisel. Along with the rest of the “Maisel” cast, Aaron won the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Comedy Series, in both 2018 and 2019.

She has also done notably Jewish-oriented work in the theater. She starred in a one-woman, two-character play about a Holocaust survivor called “Call Waiting,” later starring in the movie version as well. In 2016, she appeared in “Stories from the Fringe,” a play assembled from the voices of more than a dozen woman rabbis and presented at The Braid, then known as the

Jewish Women’s Theatre.
In the Zoom talk, Aaron defended the casting of “Mrs. Maisel,” which includes Rachel Brosnahan as Midge Maisel, Tony Shalhoub and Marin Hinkle as her parents, and Luke Kirby as the legendary Jewish comedian Lenny Bruce. None of them are Jewish.

“I’m very concerned that we are confining the art of acting to ‘you have to be it to play it,’” Aaron said during the talk. “When all of this sort of started to dust up, I wanted to write to every parent in the country who’s writing a check for a performing arts program, to rip up their check... I think that acting in its purest form is taking a walk in someone else’s shoes. And ultimately, isn’t that the definition of empathy?”

When people ask Aaron if Brosnahan is Jewish, Aaron’s retort is that “if you’re asking, then she’s doing her job and she’s doing it well.” She added it goes the other way, too.

“I don’t want to be confined to only playing Jewish women,” Aaron said. “I want to play all kinds of women. And I think that acting is an art form like any other art form.”

Shalhoub is Lebanese-American, but has played numerous ethnicities throughout his career, including Italian-American and Jewish characters. The casting, she suggested, also serves a dramatic purpose. Midge’s ex-husband’s family is played by Jewish actors (with Aaron and Kevin Pollak as the parents, and Michael Zegen as Joel, the ex.) She added that while it may not have been intended that way, the casting serves as something of a meta-commentary on the two families: Midge’s family, the Weissmans, are notably more assimilated than the Maisels.

She also praised the show’s writing

and was clear that while the scenes of Jewish characters “living at the top of their lungs” often appear improvised, the show is scripted “down to the comma.” She contrasted that with her turn early in the run of “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” in which “not a word is written down.”

Aaron has been playing Jewish characters from New York throughout her career (she played Woody Allen’s sister in two different movies), but she actually comes from Richmond, Virginia, and as she made clear in The Braid talk, her Southern Jewish heritage is very important to her. “I didn’t even know, when I was growing up, of [the stereotype of the] New York Jewish mother, or a Jewish girl. I had no idea of where that was coming from, because it wasn’t around me.”

Born Caroline Abady, she took her father’s first name as her last name early in her career because her older sister, Josephine Abady, was already a well-known theater director and Aaron wanted to stand apart. After doing so, Aaron said, she went to see her agent, who told her “now everyone’s gonna know you’re Jewish.”

Aaron’s mother, Nina Friedman Abady, born in Georgia and raised in Alabama, was widowed at a relatively young age. She later became a professor at an historically Black college and a civil rights activist. The Nina F. Abady Festival Park in Richmond is named for her.

Her mother’s example inspired Aaron to write “The Mother Lode,” which was performed last month as part of “Sweat Tea and the Southern Jew,” a Braid production featuring stories of Southern Jews. It was held in person in locations across the Los Angeles area and broadcast live on Zoom.

“I did have something special with my mother,” Aaron said. “And I still cherish it to this day.” **HW**



MISTER TREE

901.300.3938 MisterTree.com

Locally Owned & Operated | Free Estimates