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Ketanji Brown Jackson Brings Up a Black-Jewish Civil Rights Alliance in Confirmation Hearing - By Ron Kampeas



Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson testifies during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee in the Hart Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill, March 22, 2022.

Credit: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

March 22, 2022

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Whether he meant to or not, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz gave Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Joe Biden's Supreme Court nominee, an opportunity for a breather in the middle of a contentious day of confirmation hearings on Tuesday.

Cruz, who spent most of his 30-minute questioning session trying to corner Jackson on issues such as critical race theory, asked what Jackson meant when she says she praises the "social justice" values that are exemplified by the private school her children attend.

In her response, Jackson said she was proud to serve as a board member — and opened up about the school's origins as a Jewish-Black civil rights alliance.

"Georgetown Day School has a spe-

cial history that I think is important to understand when you consider my service on that board," Jackson told Cruz.

She went on:

The school was founded in 1945 in Washington, D.C., at a time at which by law there was racial segregation in this community. Black students were not allowed in the public schools to go to school with white students. Georgetown Day School is a private school, that was created when three white families - Jewish families - got together with three Black families and said that despite the fact that the law is set up to make sure that Black children are not treated the same as everyone else, we are going to form a private school so that our children can go to school together. The idea of equality — justice — is at the core of the Georgetown Day School mission.

Georgetown Day School's history page on its website notes that it was founded in 1945 by seven — not six — families, and that it was the first integrated school in the nation's capital, but does not add detail.

There appear to be at least three Jewish, or partly Jewish, families involved in its founding: Edith Nash (née Rosenfels), who was a Jewish poet married

to Philleo Nash, an anthropologist and a senior official in Democratic administrations, whose daughters attended the school; the parents of Arthur Goldschmidt, who became a noted scholar of Middle East history; and the parents of Judith Martin (née Perlman) who launched the famed "Miss Manners" etiquette column.

The school sustained a Jewish flavor. Nash, who went on to become the school's second director, once recalled that in the 1950s, the school had an annual Seder Lunch, a parent-student event to mark Passover. Next month, the school's calendar features Passover Freedom Assemblies for the entire lower and middle schools.

The school's most influential director, Gladys Stern, who led the establishment from 1975-1996, was also Jewish.

The school, which is on spring break, did not return a request for comment.

On Monday, the first day of her testimony, Jackson credited her Jewish high school debate coach, the late Fran Berger, with instilling her with confidence and making her believe she could succeed as a lawyer. Jackson also credited Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, who is Jewish, for whom she clerked and whom she would replace. **HW**

Madeleine Albright, First Female US Secretary of State, Dies of Cancer at Age 88



U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat at the Wye River Conference Center during the Wye River Memorandum talks, Oct. 16, 1998. Credit: U.S. Government, Department of Defense via Wikimedia Commons.

"The impact she has had on this building is felt every single day in every single corridor," said U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price.(JNS) Madeleine Albright, the first woman to hold the position of U.S. secretary of state, has died of cancer at the age of 84.A statement posted on Twitter said that Albright was "surrounded by family and friends" and that she was "a loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend,"

as well as a "tireless champion of democracy and human rights."

Born Marie Jana Korbelova in Prague—then Czechoslovakia in 1937—she came to the United States as a refugee in 1948. She eventually rose to the heights of American foreign policymaking as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from 1993 to 1997, and

Continued on page 3



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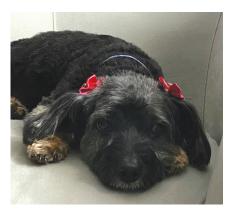
An Apology from the Father of the Editor

Jewish Scene Magazine and The Hebrew Watchman will be late in publishing due to an unfortunate horror that my daughter, Susan, and her husband, Larry, experienced last week.

While vacationing in Florida Larry and Susan decided to take their little dog Tiki for a neighborhood walk. Out of nowhere charged a non-tagged, non-collared pitbull, and it attacked Susan to get at Tiki. Susan held Tiki high above her head and received many bites on her arm from the pitbull. The pitbull finally knocked her down and that is when he got a hold of Tiki. Larry pried the pitbull's mouth open to get Tiki released from his jaws and received bites on his fingers.

Susan is still in the hospital getting intravenous antibiotics and is in terrible pain from trauma to her arm. Susan and Larry are also both getting rabies injections.

Tiki was in so much pain with broken bones and puncture wounds that it was more humane to put her to sleep than for her to suffer.



Tiki

Surely there are many more details to this story that are gory and need not be printed. I am just happy that my little girl, Susan, is going to heal and be well. She will not forget this trauma so quickly but at least she is alive and not permanently maimed.

Susan will for sure make up the lost time in publishing for all of the advertisers and readers of both publications.

- Joel Heitner Delray Beach, Florida

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RJC Endorses 14 More Candidates for 2022 Midterms

(JNS) The Republican Jewish Coalition released its second list of 2022 midterm candidate endorsements on Monday, including 10 incumbents and four challengers.

The organization previously endorsed six candidates, bringing its total number of endorsements to 20.

According to a news release, the recent incumbent candidates endorsed by RJC include Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Reps. David Schweikert (R-Ariz.), David Valadao (R-Calif.), Andy Harris (R-Md.), Peter Meijer (R-Mich.), Don Bacon (R-Neb.), Yvette Herrell (R-N.M.), Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) and Nancy Mace (R-S.C.).

The challengers include Esther Joy King who is running for Illinois's 17th Congressional District seat; Monica De La Cruz, who is running for Texas's 15th Congressional District seat; Wesley Hunt, who is running for Texas's 38th Congressional seat; and Derrick

"The American people have had enough of the Democrats' failures from skyrocketing inflation, to rising crime, to capitulating on the world stage. Our families have been hurt, and our economy and national security have been weakened by the 'progressive' agenda that Democrats have shoved through the House and Senate in the last 15 months," said **RJC** executive director Matt Brooks in a news release.

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Van Orden, who is running for Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District seat.

"The American people have had enough of the Democrats' failuresfrom skyrocketing inflation, to rising crime, to capitulating on the world stage. Our families have been hurt, and our economy and national security have been weakened by the 'progressive' agenda that Democrats have shoved through the House and Senate in the last 15 months," said RJC executive director Matt Brooks in a news release.

'We need Republicans in Congress who will fight for America's freedom, security and prosperity, and who support our ally, Israel," he added.

Brooks noted that the endorsed candidates will bring "much-needed sanity" back to Congress. HW



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Madeleine Albright, Continued from Page 1

secretary of state from 1997 to 2001 under President Bill Clinton.

However, it was not until after she became secretary of state that she learned that her family was Jewish, and her parents had converted to Roman Catholicism during World War II. She also discovered that 26 family members, including three grandparents, were murdered in the Holocaust.

"The impact that she has had on this building is felt every single day in just about every single corridor," U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said of Albright.

In her positions within the Clinton administration, Albright played a key role in major foreign policy decisions, from the Rwandan genocide to the conflict in the Balkans. As the U.S.'s top diplomat, she made little progress in implementing the 1993 Oslo Accords that established self-rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. However, she played a leading role with the Wye Accords in 1998 that turned over control of roughly 40 percent of the West Bank, also known as Judea and Samaria, to the Palestinians. She also spearheaded a failed effort to negotiate a 2000 peace deal between Israel and Syria.

In a statement, officials of the Democratic Majority for Israel mourned her passing, saying they were "heartbroken."

"As our nation's top diplomat, she broke barriers and fought for human rights at home and abroad," said DMFI co-chairs Ann Lewis and Todd Richman, and president and CEO Mark Mellman.

"A refugee from Nazi Germany and Soviet communism, she was tough, courageous and a clear-speaking believer in democracy. Her moral leadership and courage will be an inspiration for generations to come," they continued.

"We're indebted to her for her service to America."

Israel's President Isaac Herzog also expressed his condolences on her passing.

"Saddened by the passing of Secretary Madeleine Albright, a groundbreaking diplomat, feminist icon and outstanding leader, whom I always admired. Our last correspondence was when she graciously congratulated me on my election. She was a true friend of Israel and we will miss her." **HW**

Rhodes College Communities in Conversation Series to Present Lecture on "How to Fight Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia"

At Rhodes College on Thursday, April 7, at 6 p.m., Dr. Mehnaz Afridi, director of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center at Manhattan College, and award-winning historian Dr. Ethan Katz willdescribe, historicize, and analyze how anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish racism overlap and diverge. The scholars will also consider how anti-racists can confront and help to disable both Judeophobia and Islamophobia.

Free and open to the public, the event is part of Rhodes' Communities in Conversation lecture series. It will be held in Hardie Auditorium in Southwestern Hall and will feature a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by a dialogue and exchange between Afridi and Katz.

Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Afridi is an assistant professor of religious studies and a Muslim, who is deeply invested in interfaith work both in her scholarship and work at the Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center. Her scholarship puts into question the problems of religious bias, competition, and identity, as well as focuses on shifts in Islamic models of social life from its advent to post-colonial contexts and

The Rhodes College event will bring these two scholars into dialogue with one another and with members of the college's Jewish, Islamic, and Middle East Studies program before opening onto a broader conversation with the audience.

on how Muslims understand the Holocaust. Afridi is author of Shoah Through Muslim Eyes (Academic Studies Press, 2017).

Katz, an Orthodox Jew, is an associate professor in the Department of History and the Center for Jewish Studies at University of California, Berkeley. He is a historian of modern Europe and the Mediterranean with specialties in modern Jewish history and the history of modern France and its empire. To date, his scholarship has focused in four principal areas: the history of Jewish-Muslim relations and the nature of belonging and exclusion in modern France and the Francophone world; the history of Jews in colonial societies; Holocaust Studies; and the relationship between the secular and religion in modern Jewish life. His book The Burdens of Brotherhood: Jews and Muslims from North Africa to France (Harvard University Press, 2015) won numerous prestigious awards, including the J. Russell Major Prize from the American Historical Association for the best book in French history. His co-edited book (with Lisa Moses Leff and Maud Mandel) Colonialism and the Jews (Indiana, 2017) offers the most extended examination to date of Jewish history in light of the new colonial history (and vice versa).

The Rhodes College event will bring these two scholars into dialogue with one another and with members of the college's Jewish, Islamic, and Middle East Studies program before opening onto a broader conversation with the audience.

Those with specific inquiries about Communities in Conversation or upcoming events can contact Dr. Jonathan Judaken, the Spence L. Wilson Chair in Humanities at Rhodes, at judakenj@ rhodes.edu or (901) 843-3292. Find Communities in Conversation at Facebook.com/Communities.in.Conversation, on Twitter @Rhodes_CiC, or on Instagram @rhodes_cic HW

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PAGE 4 | MARCH 31, 2022 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

Zelensky Offers New Details About His Family's Holocaust History, Igniting Debate Over Ukrainian Holocaust Memory- By Philissa Cramer

March 22, 2022

(JTA) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's great-grandparents died when the Nazis burned their village, he said in an interview on CNN Monday.

Speaking through a translator with Fareed Zakaria, Zelensky said, as he has many times before, that his grandfather and his grandfather's brothers all entered the Soviet Red Army, and only his grandfather survived.

He also offered details about what happened to his grandfather's parents that have not previously been reported in English.

"His father and his mother were killed in a terrible fire. The Nazis set ablaze the entire village where they lived and where my grandfather was born," he

Zelensky did not name the village. But massacres by fire were part of the Nazi army's playbook in Ukrainian territory and elsewhere. In one well known case, the village of Koryukovka was burned in 1943 after its residents were shot in retaliation for partisan activity based there; the Jews of Koryukovka had largely been deported and murdered

Zelensky also did not mention the Holocaust or the fact that his grandparents were Jewish, even as Zakaria asked him to comment on Russian President Vladimir Putin's "denazification" agenda as "somebody who is of Jewish descent." Instead, he talked about "the war."

"When Russians are telling about neo-Nazis and they turn to me," he said, "I just reply that I have lost my entire family in the war because all of them were exterminated during World War II."

RELATED: All of our ongoing Jewish Ukraine coverage

Jews from the former Soviet Union said Zelensky's way of speaking about his family history was not surprising.

"Soviet policy after the war was one narrative: the Soviet people suffered greatly. The government would not acknowledge that the Nazis targeted the Jews specifically for extermination. They punished Soviet Jews who did not toe the party line," Alex Zeldin, who was born in the Soviet Union and goes by Jewish Wonk online, wrote in a Twitter thread that has been shared thousands of times.

"As a result of Soviet persecution and limiting the distribution of information about the Holocaust, later generations of Soviet Jews came to understand their family history as part of the war, even if it didn't sound like other experiences (e.g., why did Jews have to hide?)," he added.

Zelensky's interview with Zakaria — in which he relayed that he has "distant relatives" in the United States, Poland and Israel — came a day after he addressed Israeli lawmakers, some of

whom were rankled by Zelensky's characterization of Ukrainians as having saved Jews during the Holocaust.

While 2,673 Ukrainians have been recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial and museum, for their efforts to save Jews, Ukraine was also the site of notable collaboration between locals and their Nazi occupiers in the effort to murder Jews.

Zelensky's speech reflected his strategy of devising pleas for support that are tailored to each of the countries he addresses. Both Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid indicated that while they did not agree with Zelensky's characterization of Holocaust history, they also were prepared to cut him slack because of the desperate situation his country faces. HW

Congressman Says Israel's Lack of Support for Ukraine Could Determine Aid

(JNS) A Republican member of Congress suggested that future aid to Israel from the United States could be at stake if Israel does not begin supporting Ukraine against its invasion by Russia.

On Sunday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressed the Knesset, where he criticized Israel's neutrality on the conflict, preferring to mediate between the two sides.

His main questions were why Israel has not joined the West's sanctions regime against Russia and if the Jewish state could provide use of the Iron Dome missile-defense systems.

Retweeting a summary of Zelensky's speech by an Israeli journalist, outgoing Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) tweeted that Israel's reaction to Ukraine should have an effect on future aid from the United States.

Despite criticism, Kinzinger later doubled down on the ultimatum in more detail, while clarifying his support for Israel.

"I deeply support our relationship with Israel. But supporting friends

doesn't mean we look past differences," he tweeted. "We have stood with Israel and will continue to do so. But at the moment, there is a battle between good and evil—between a world based on raw power or one based on the post-World War II rules. Everyone must pick a side

"At the moment, there is a battle between good and evil—between a world based on raw power or one based on the post-World War II rules. Everyone must pick a side," said Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-III.).

"The outcome of this fight," he continued, "will impact the world my son grows up in, and now is the time to call

anyone to the carpet who does not do their utmost. If we don't want to directly attack Russia, then our leverage is in the world uniting in sanctions and assistance for the people of Ukraine. This includes everyone, and Israel doesn't have a special exemption."

Kinzinger's statements met with a mix of support and criticism with some pointing out the number of refugees Israel has taken in, as well as aid such as erecting a field hospital across the Ukraine-Poland border.

Zelensky's speech had a mixed reception in pro-Israel circles.

International-law expert Eugene Kon-

torovich hit back on Zelensky's attempt to guilt Israel to support Ukraine.

"How dare you lecture Israel about its national moral responsibility and urge it to take on additional dangers. As we speak, the West is about to give genocidal Jew-killers a nuclear bomb. Have you ever spoken out against this?" he tweeted. "As the leader of a country that was the site of some of the greatest Jew massacres, in which your countrymen were all too often eager perpetrators, don't you have a 'moral duty' to use your newly minted celebrity to call out the Iran deal? No, got your hands full? Us, too." HW



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Inspired By Family Traditions, Sydney and Jack Shanker Contribute to Federation's Ukraine Emergency Fund

Last week, a local family's tzedakah tradition led to a surprise visit from two generous students bringing a baggie of dog-eared dollar bills to Jewish Community Partners' offices, a generous donation to Memphis Jewish Federation's Ukraine Emergency Fund, held by the Jewish Foundation of Memphis.

When Sydney (16) and Jack (13) Shanker were asked what inspired them to donate to a cause happening half a world away from them, they were quick with their answer: family. Their grandmother, Andie Uiberall, who had driven them, beamed and nodded in agreement.

"For the past few years, my family usually has Shabbat dinner with our grandparents," said Sydney. "They started giving me, my brother Jack, and our cousin Harper dollars every Shabbos to put into tzedakah boxes they gave to us as gifts. At the end of every year, we donate the money to a cause, and the tzedakah boxes start filling up again."

Andie and her husband, Michael Uiberall, share a history of activism and charity in Jewish Memphis. Their philanthropy supports Jewish organizations in the community, and they have deep connections to giving through Federation's Annual Community Campaign and through their Jewish Foundation of Memphis Donor Advised Fund. Their daughter, Jill Shanker, and her husband, Scott, followed their lead, committing similarly to giving through Federation and Foundation, and now this tradition is taking root in the next generation. The family also lends their time and talents; Andie and Jill are both members of Federation's Board of Directors, where they have learned first-hand about the impact made in Ukrainian Jewish communities through Federation, even before the Russian invasion.

While the current emergency support is coming at a crucial time to meet needs arising in the wake of war, the structure is built on decades of effort in Ukraine through Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)'s global partners. The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), The Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), World ORT, and others have long had a presence in Eastern Europe, working with vulnerable seniors, offering engaging programs for young people, and breathing new life into Jewish communities that all but faded away after the Holocaust.

Quickly after war broke out in Ukraine, JFNA launched the \$36 million emergency campaign to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Jewish populations, designed to empower these same partner organizations to pivot and expand their efforts as needs shifted and grew.

Answering the call, Jewish Memphians from all corners of the community have stepped up to contribute, and at the time of this writing have contributed over \$430,000.

100 % of funds collected are being put to swift and targeted use, supporting urgent necessities like community security, shelter for the displaced, emergency needs in Jewish schools and aliyah-related assistance.

"We usually donate our tzedakah at the end of the year, but we hadn't yet this year," said Jack. "I'm glad, because (the Ukraine crisis) ended up being a greater cause than what we were going to donate to originally." "When we got back from spring break, Jack and I agreed that it was time to donate and the situation in Ukraine was the most pressing need," said Sydney. "I know that if I was in their place, I would hope people would help me. It felt right to help, and we decided to donate to Ukraine through Federation. But really it was all because of our grand-parents."

Clearly proud of her grandchildren, Andie thinks the family connection to their story of tzedakah in the face of this tragedy is broader than that, with more recent generational connections, as well as echoes from more distant ancestors.

"Their great-great-grandfather escaped from a little town outside of Kiev, to avoid being conscripted in the Russian army back in the early 1900s," said Andie. "He was 17 and walked, literally, across to Poland and managed to get to the United States. One by one he brought his brothers and sisters over.

"Sydney and Jack's parents, my daughter and son-in-law, both set extremely good examples, and I'm sure Sydney and Jack will go on to make good examples for their own children one day," she continued.

Emergency funds are desperately needed. Visit jcpmemphis.org to learn how to contribute. **HW**



Inspired by their parents and grandparents, Memphis teens Sydney and Jack Shanker donated more than a year's worth of contributions to their tzedakah boxes to Memphis Jewish Federation's Ukraine Emergency Fund, held by the Jewish Foundation of Memphis.





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Hillel's Holiday Hamentashen Bake - Photos and Story By Eli Ostrow



Rabbi Wende interacting with a member of ZBT

On Monday, March 14, 2022, University of Memphis's Hillel hosted a Hamentashen Bake along with the Kollel and the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity.

More than 25 attendees participated – a great turnout. Guests learned about the Purim holiday, why we celebrate it, and even had the opportunity to make their very own hamentashen from scratch.

"Everyone is having a good time and the hamentashen smell amazing!" said

.....

Rachel Chernitzer, student director of social media, during the event.

"Based on the turnout the event was success and makes me optimistic for future Hillel events." said Student President Aaron Bardos.

After the bake was finished the learning began. People had opportunities to ask Rabbi Wende, who leads Memphis Kollel, questions about Purim.

Special thanks to all those who helped make the program possible. **HW**



Right Jennifer Moscovitch (r) and Tahlee YichyeTamar Estrano

Baron Hirsch Purim Celebration is Fun for the Whole Family - Photos and Story By Eli Ostrow

On Monday, March 14, 2022, UniversitOn Sun., March 16, 2022, Baron Hirsch hosted a Purim celebration for all ages featuring bounce houses, delicious food and music.

Everyone was in great spirits and dressed up in creative costumes, from Leprechauns, to clowns, to actors and even bugs.

Attendees were amazed with how much was able to fit in the Baron Hirsch social hall.



Cantor Ricky Kampf and wife Anat Kampf

"The kids had a good time, and the foods were really good," said party-goer Chaim Chafetz. "I didn't know you could fit this many inflatables in here."

"Thankfully everyone is able to come back to the shul [now because of COVID], so we figured we'd go all out with the party," said Youth Directors Eitan and Dina Selter.

Everyone agreed that the event was a success and fun for the whole family. **HW**



Youth Directors Eitan and Dina Selter

Beth Sholom's Mardi Gras-Themed Purim

Beth Sholom Synagogue hosted its annual Purim celebration on Wed., March 16. The Mardi Gras-theme night began with a children's event at 6:15 in the chapel. The kids were greeted by children's event coordinator Mrs. Ariel Figueroa who read the story Sammy the Spider, after which the children danced to and sang several silly Purim songs.

The festivities continued in the social hall where kids made paper masks and drew pictures.

The reading of the Megillah began at 7:15 pm. Guests were welcomed by a stunning arrangement of Mardi Gras-



Sophie and Lindsey Rossen

themed decorations surrounding the room. Rabbi Abe Schachter-Gampel beautifully chanted the Megillah while rocking his Memphis Zookeeper costume.

After the Megillah reading, the party began. Guests enjoyed amazing foods, drinks, and Purim-themed music. One of the standout features was a Mardi Gras-themed photo booth with several silly props.

Vice President of Development Jeffrey Kay was overjoyed with the party saying, "everyone is having fun, and it is awesome that we are able to safely be together again." **HW**



Jeff Kay

.....

Mordechai's Masquerade Ball at Temple Israel - Photos and Story By Eli Ostrow

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Almost Famous Memphis

On Wed., March 16, 2022, Temple Israel held its first in-person large gathering at the synagogue since the beginning of the pandemic over two years ago.

The Purim ball featured live music by Almost Famous Memphis, a dance floor, several sweets and treats, a photo booth and a bar.

The event had an awesome turnout of 125 people, who were all there with a common purpose: to have a good time

and celebrate the holiday and to dance their hearts out.

"It's feels really great to see everyone in person, the weather is beautiful, it's like the whole city is coming back to life," said chairwoman Leah Gafni.

"It feels great, it's nice to be back at temple and around everyone we care about," said attendee Jay Strasberg.

Special thanks to event chairs Karen Franklin and Hallie Charney and Leah Gafni. **HW**



Banana Jackie Evans with Rabbi Micah Greenstein and gorilla Alex Evans

Chabad's Mexican Purim was Definitely Something to TACO'bout - Photos and Story By Eli Ostrow

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Chabad Lubavitch held its annual Around the World Purim Celebration on Thurs., March 17, 2022. This year's Purim in Mexico featured several elaborate decorations, tasty eats, a piñata and live music.

Before the festivities began, Rabbi Levi Y. Klein read the Megillah to 250 guests.

Once the Megillah reading was finished the celebration began and the energy was ecstatic. Several guests could

not stop talking about how amazing the party was.

"The event's great, they just do so much to involve the community here at Chabad no matter where you are in your Jewish journey," said guest Vivian Arendall.

"It's nice," said young Cecile Laor. "I like the food and the decor and the hats. My favorite food is the guacamole and chips."

The musical entertainment featured Los Cantadores Mariachi Band. The band beautifully serenaded the crowd with Mexican classics.

The kids enjoyed the piñata filled with candy. After several whacks the piñata burst, and they all rushed to grab the candy as it spilled out.

Special thanks to Mrs. Rivki Klein, the whole Klein family, and all those who helped make the party possible. **HW**



Rabbi Levi Klein reads the Megillah

Young Israel of Memphis Celebrates its First Purim in New Shul - By Rabbi Akiva Males

Purim 5782 / 2022 saw much activity at YIOM. With a variety of Minyan and Megillah leining options, our Shul was once again the hub of Purim excitement that we know and love! YI extends its sincere appreciation to Yossi Horowitz, Ari Rashkin, and Rabbi Dovid Safier for each sharing their Megillah reading expertise with us again this year.

On Purim night, YI held its second annual Youth Megillah Experience. This program enabled boys and girls up to age 8 to attend a fun-filled abridged Megillah reading. This program was brought to life – and made so enjoyable – by Ari Rashkin's unforgettable

rendition of several sections of Megillas Esther. Ari's unique reading had the children (and parents) entertained and paying close attention throughout his leining.

Furthermore, our extra space allowed us to create exciting new children's programming opportunities that we were not able to explore in the past. Please see the delicious pictures from YI's pre-Purim Hamentash Bake that took place on Sunday, March 13.

Thanks to the efforts of Havah Schneider, Sarah Bracha Wogan, Elana Kahane, Sarah Ardestani, Penina Morris, Yocheved Naftel, Talia Schneider, Jamie Gibber and Shoshi Ryp, this delightful program was a huge success! It was beautiful to see the Shul's Moss Grand Foyer bursting with so many happy children enjoying each other's company. All the kids had a great time, and everyone went home with pans full of beautiful Hamentashen to bake. YI thanks everyone who helped organize, set up, run and clean up after this event.

May the excitement of celebrating Yom Tovim in our Shul's beautiful new facility never fade!

Young Israel of Memphis' Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbi@ yiom.org. HW



Scenes from YI's pre-Purim kids' Hamentashen

Jews are Joining the Fight to Defend Ukraine — We've Been Here Before - By Robert Zaretsky

March 16, 2022

On February 26, just two days after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Embassy in Israel issued an invitation to its "dear compatriots, brothers and all caring citizens of Israel."

This was an unusual invitation: it was directed to all of those "who wish to participate in combat actions against the Russian aggressor. The response sparked such "extraordinary excitement" that the embassy soon deleted the post.

Of course, the call for volunteers to battle fascism was not limited to Israeli citizens. The day after the Ukrainian Embassy's call to arms, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy formally invited all foreigners "wishing to join the resistance against the Russian occupiers."

Zelenskyy's invitation went out to all those who wished to "come to our state and join the ranks of the territorial defense forces.

"A separate unit is being formed from foreigners — the International Brigade of the territorial defense of Ukraine," Zelenskyy said.

No doubt Zelenskyy had already made plans to send his address to the world when his embassy officials in Israel were already posting their call to arms. Yet the impression, even if accidental — that Ukraine had turned first to Jews for help before the rest of the world — is intriguing. This is especially true when set against the original war against fascism, one that brought into being the original International Brigades.

It was little less than a century ago that the Spanish Civil War exploded into existence — a war that drew combatants from far and wide. In response to an attempted military coup against the democratically elected government of Spain's Second Republic — a coup aided by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy — thousands of men and women from all points of the globe packed their bags, made for Spain, and enlisted in the International Brigades. By 1939 and the war's bitter end, between 35,000 to 40,000 volunteers had joined this transnational army.

Jews played a considerable and courageous role in these brigades. Of course, precise numbers are elusive. Volunteers were not asked their religious affiliation, and not all Jewish volunteers identified as Jewish to others or even to themselves. Nevertheless, in his meticulously researched account, "Jewish Volunteers, the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War," the historian Gerben Zaagsma estimates that one of every ten volunteers — between 3,500 and 4,000 — was Jewish. (Other estimates of Jewish volunteers place the number as high as 7,000.)

These volunteers — mostly men in their twenties — largely hailed from the Old World. Many of them were already accustomed to packing their bags, having migrated westward across the continent to escape the pogroms and persecutions in the east and settling in places like Paris, Amsterdam and London. But a large contingent of Jewish volunteers also came from the cities and towns in the New World. Of the 3,000 mostly

young and mostly idealistic men who joined the Abraham Lincoln Brigade — the iconic contingent of American volunteers who fought in Spain — about 1,000 were Jewish.

Historians have long debated the reasons Jews joined the war in Spain. Did they enlist because they were Jewish? Or did they do so because of their political or ideological convictions? Wait a second: it gets even more complicated. If these volunteers were driven by such convictions, did they nevertheless come to them because they were Jewish? If they enlisted because they were Jewish, what did they mean by being Jewish?

(There is yet another layer to this palimpsest of purposes and principles. Regardless of the volunteers' actual motives, Zaagsma argues that in the postwar period, a "decisive shift" occurred in the portrayal of Jewish involvement in the Spanish Civil War. Both volunteers and historians now tended to present their involvement as a "particular Jewish response to fascism and the Nazi onslaught.")

In his recent and remarkable "The International Brigades: Fascism, Freedom and the Spanish Civil War," the historian Giles Tremlett mostly and wisely avoids these questions. Instead, he lets the volunteers speak for themselves. In a moving portrait of two Jewish brothers from Amsterdam, Piet and Emiel Akkerman, we glimpse both the need to assert Jewish courage and the need to affirm universal principles.

In a long letter sent to his mother before he left for Spain in 1936, Piet, who had been a diamond worker and labor organizer, declares, "I grew up in a society rife with injustice and oppression. I have suffered both as a worker and as a Jew. I was downtrodden, but I never bowed to those terrible blows."

Yet Piet then shifts registers. "I have not come to Spain out of selfish interest," he tells his mother. "I just had no right NOT to come — on seeing that in Spain lay the powder keg that was about to set fire to the entire world, that would perpetuate oppression, scientifically institute mass murder, and trample and animalize the whole of humanity.

"Once I'd seen THAT," he concludes, "how could I NOT go? How could I hesitate, even with my scarce abilities, to help prevent another world war and to defeat fascism?" Both brothers were killed in Spain within a month of one another shortly before the year was out.

In the three weeks since Zelenskyy announced the creation of an International Brigade, between 20,000 to 30,000 volunteers appear to have answered the call. According to an article published a week ago in Haaretz, the actual number of Israeli volunteers is unknown. But one researcher believes that dozens of volunteers from Israel were already among these men and women.

As one Russian-speaking Israeli volunteer remarked, his knowledge of Russian can help the effort. But he also felt he had no choice but to join the "battle for the entire free world, against the despotism and tyranny of Putin." As with Spain, so too with Ukraine: while the reasons are many, the moral is the same.

A professor at the University of Houston, Zaretsky is also a culture columnist at the Forward. His new book, "Victories Never Last: Caregiving and Reading in a Time of Plague" will be published in April by University of Chicago Press. **HW**





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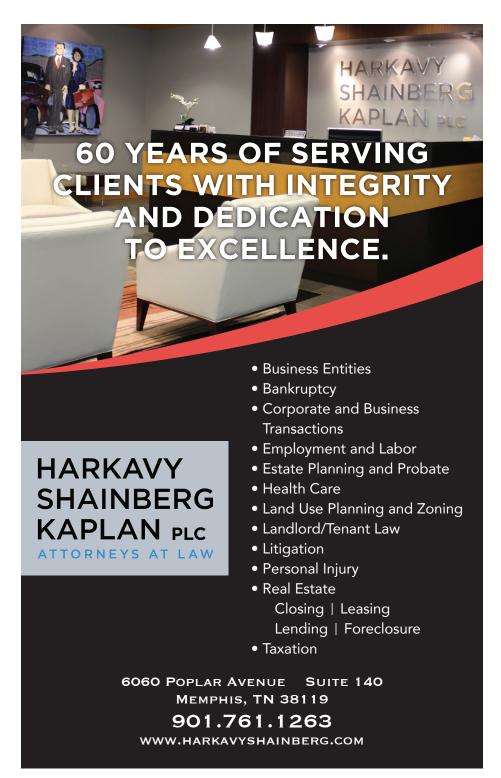
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When Buying Is Easy, Paying Later Can Be a Problem

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

If you shop online, you might have noticed a growing number of buy now, pay later (BNPL) services that offer the option to spread out the payments on your purchases. Buyers who make one partial payment upfront and agree to several additional interest-free installments can receive their orders right away. This is a key difference from the layaway plans of the past: Shoppers had to wait until the balance was paid to take their goods home. Many stores discontinued layaway plans in the 1980s when the use of credit cards became widespread.

BNPL plans are more popular with younger consumers trying to stretch their paychecks, partly because they are more comfortable shopping online (and particularly on smartphones). At first glance, it may seem like a worthwhile convenience, but there are good reasons to think twice before committing to installment purchases.

Credit Is Credit

BNPL plans are essentially point-ofsale loans. Applying for the financing is quick and easy, which seems like a plus when time is tight.

However, speedy access to credit also provides instant gratification and allows for more impulse buying. It might tempt you to overspend on things you don't really need and probably wouldn't buy if you had to save up and/or pay 100% of the cost upfront. And if you make a lot of smaller purchases across multiple services, it may be harder to keep track of how much you are actually spending.

By one estimate, BNPL amounted to nearly \$100 million — or about 2.1% — of all global e-commerce transactions in 2020. This share is projected to double to 4.2% by 2024.

Source: Worldpay Global Payments Report, 2021

In fact, one criticism of BNPL services is that they make it easier for consumers to fall into debt. As with credit cards, you would face financial consequences such as late fees and/or high interest rates if you encounter a financial setback and can't pay the installments on schedule.

Another point to consider is that credit-card companies report on-time payments to the credit bureaus, so using credit cards responsibly can help you build a positive credit history. In contrast, some BNPL lenders may not bother to report on-time payments — though they will surely report missed payments and collections. Before you use any BNPL service, read the fine print carefully to make sure you understand the terms and conditions and the company's credit reporting policies.

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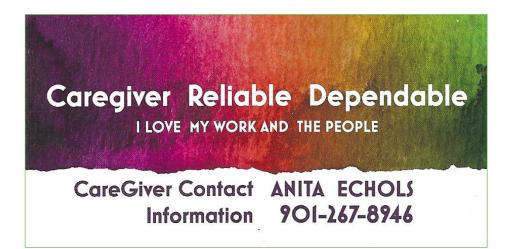
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Federation Commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassination with Memphis-Shoham Partnership Webinar Museums as Catalysts for Change







Memphis Jewish Federation's Memphis-Shoham Partnership presents Museums as Catalysts for Change, Tuesday, April 5 at noon via Zoom. Featured panelists include Omer Deutsch from The Israeli Museum at the Yitzhak Rabin Center, Ryan Jones of the National Civil Right Museum, and Temple Israel's Senior Rabbi Micah Greenstein.

In commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, Memphis Jewish Federation's Memphis-Shoham Partnership is presenting Museums as Catalysts for Change, Tuesday, April 5 at noon via Zoom.

Featured panelists include Omer Deutsch from The Israeli Museum at the Yitzhak Rabin Center, Ryan Jones of the National Civil Right Museum, and Temple Israel's Senior Rabbi Micah Greenstein, also a board member of the National Civil Right Museum. Memphis Partnership committee member Marci Hirsch and Shoham Partnership Chair Arela Hamou will facilitate the program, which will explore how museums can act as agents for social change and how they keep pace with ever-changing cultural norms while fulfilling their educational missions.

"The Partnership sees the importance of museums and sharing the impact of the National Civil Right Museum with Shoham and Shoham sharing the impact of the Yitzhak Rabin Center with Memphis," said Marci.

Born and raised in Shoham, Israel, Omer Deutsch has a master's degree in education. After a decade in the formal education system, she branched out into Israel's non-formal education system as an educator at The Israeli Museum at the Yitzhak Rabin Center in Tel Aviv.

"I'm a firm believer that Israeli society has to continue growing and striving to make a difference," she said. "As Yitzhak Rabin said, we must 'keep what's worth keeping, to change what needs to be changed,' and there's a lot that needs to be changed."

Ryan Jones serves as educator and historian at the National Civil Right Museum, which occupies the former Lorraine Motel in Memphis, the site of Dr. King's assassination on April 4, 1968. In his role, Jones reviews and validates all interpretive and historical content shared by the Museum. A native Memphian, he attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, and is currently writing a dissertation on racial violence in Mississippi and Alabama, focusing on little-known cases that impacted Civil Rights legislation in the 1960s.

A long-time advocate and activist on behalf of civil rights, Temple Israel's Rabbi Greenstein has served as an executive committee member and continues to serve on the board of directors for the National Civil Rights Museum. In recognition of his noted work in interracial reconciliation and interfaith initiatives, Rabbi Greenstein was elected to the National Board of Directors of the NAACP.

He has been recognized for his advocacy of human rights, with the Memphis City Council naming him Humanitarian of the Year in 2011. In 2016 he received Shelby County's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Be The Dream Legacy Award. In August of 2021, Rabbi Greenstein dedicated the first non-Orthodox synagogue in the City of Shoham, at which Israeli leaders noted how this milestone achievement would never have materialized were it not for the leadership and commitment of Rabbi Greenstein and Temple Israel.

"I'm proud of the role Temple Israel has played in effectuating positive change within the land of Israel as a revered partner in the Israel Movement for Reform Judaism and the Israel Religious Action Center," he said.

A sub-committee of the Memphis-Shoham Partnership Steering Committee consisting of Michele Buring, Marci Hirsch, Liz Rudnick and Chair Keri Unowsky met with their Shoham counterparts to plan this fascinating look at two museums both honoring the memory and legacy of leaders who were assassinated while fighting for social change.

To register, visit jcpmemphis.org/ Memphis-Shoham-partnership or call 901-767-7100. **HW**

Bomb Threats Target 'Jew Filth' at Jewish Centers in a Number of States - Ron Kampeas

March 23, 2022

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Security officials are reporting a spate of bomb threats targeting Jewish institutions in a number of states.

The threats came into Jewish community centers around the country in recent weeks, most recently in Pennsylvania and Missouri, according to Michael Masters, who directs the Secure Community Network, a consultancy that works with national Jewish groups.

Other JCCs targeted have been in Oklahoma, Arizona and New Jersey. The threats come through online contact forms and have similar language.

The two most recent threats, in Missouri and Pennsylvania, both began, "I'll be there at 12 to bomb your facility you ukranian jew filth i got bombs there now."

The Anti-Defamation League said Wednesday on Twitter that it is tracking the threats. "We remain in ongoing contact with local and federal law enforcement, and continue to work with partners on the ground to ensure safety for the Jewish community," it said.

Masters said that the perpetrators appear frustrated when the targeted institution does not shut down after security officials determine that the threat is not credible.

"We think that these guys are doing other calls because they're not getting the outcome that they want, which is to potentially shut down the facility or sow discontent or fear," he said. Masters said that the targeted JCCs are working with his organization, Jewish federations and the JCC Association of North America as well as with local law enforcement.

The Anti-Defamation
League said Wednesday
on Twitter that it is
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"We remain in ongoing
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continue to work with
partners on the ground
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Jewish community,"
it said.

In 2017 hundreds of bomb threats were called into JCCs, sowing wide-spread fear; a 20-year-old American-Israeli man was eventually convicted of making those calls. In 2020, more than 50 Jewish community centers in 23 states received emailed bomb threats. None proved credible. **HW**



Jewish institutions have faced a spate of bomb threats sent in through online contact forms. (Flickr Commons)



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INSIGHTS FROM ISRAEL Reflections on Multiple Existential Threats

- By Howard Weisband

Maybe you saw it. Earlier in March, Israel was shown to be the ninth happiest country in the world, ranked for the first time in the top 10, in the 2022 World Happiness Index, sponsored by the UN, the University of Oxford and Columbia University.

The report considered six key variables that support well-being: income, freedom, trust, healthy life expectancy, social support and generosity. Those factors rocketed Israel higher in the Index than any non-European country, higher than New Zealand, Canada, the U.S. and the UK!

Fascinating while a true irony. At the same moment, Israel is juggling multiple existential threats, some on a geopolitical basis, and some on a serious individual level.

For example, Israel currently stands behind Ukraine in its existential struggle for national survival.

As I write, NATO is convening in Brussels with U.S. participation. The purpose: "We condemn Russia's aggression in the strongest possible terms and call on Russia to immediately cease its military action." But the invasion occurred over a month ago. Where was NATO then, even before in not believing Putin and foreseeing the tragedy of the upcoming war? What will NATO decide and implement now that can bring an end to the war and halt Putin's expansionism?

I feel a strong pride, as do many others, with the immediate response to the humanitarian crisis on the part of Israel and several global Jewish organizations. Volunteers are on the scene to receive people leaving their homes and fleeing the war zone, providing food and shelter, and medical aid. A major field hospital has been established by Israel's Health Ministry, staffed by Israeli doctors, nurses and technicians.

Personally, if I were younger and still professionally involved, I surely would be on the scene as well.

We feel further pride as Israel is receiving and absorbing some thousands of new olim and refugees, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

However, I feel a certain frustration. As Israel quickly stepped up to meet these and other needs, Lahav Harkov reported already on March 15 in the National Review: "Israel has been accused of not taking a side in this conflict that has united the West in opposition to Russia. However, Jerusalem has pushed back against the claim that it has been neutral or silent on Ukraine. Indeed, the situation is more complex than some Western media reports have suggested."

Many in the Western media and in the Jewish community have not understood that complexity, which represents an existential threat in Israel's north and throughout the country. Harkov continues her explanation: "The Russian Army has been the dominant force in Syria since 2015, thanks in part to American unwillingness to get involved and enforce its "red lines" in the war-torn state that shares a border with Israel. The other major force in Syria is

Many in the Western media and in the Jewish community have not understood that complexity, which represents an existential threat in Israel's north and throughout the country.

Iran, whose leaders regularly threaten to destroy Israel. In "the war between wars," the Israeli Air Force has struck at Iranian bases and weapons convoys in Syria to prevent the Islamic Republic from entrenching itself too close to Israel's border or arming Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Lebanese terrorist group also bent on Israel's destruction. But before Israel does that, it contacts the Russian military so that it can get its soldiers out of the way. Russia doesn't support Israel's strikes, but it doesn't want its men dying unnecessarily."

Clearly, Israel's relationship with Russia is both complex and necessary to maintain for strategic and geopolitical reasons. Prime Minister Bennett understands that we can show our support for Ukraine and supply humanitarian aid, without condemning Russia publicly or providing military equipment to Ukraine.

Thus, because the Prime Minister walks that tightrope successfully, he has been able to be a mediator between Presidents Putin and Zelensky, the only national leader to date who has been able to do so on the global stage.

Meanwhile, existential threats coming from Iran have increased, and a new U.S. – Iranian nuclear agreement is reportedly close to being concluded, one that may not be meeting Secretary Blinken's original promise of "longer and stronger."

Perhaps more on that existential threat in coming weeks.

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**

Poll: Americans Becoming Less Pro-Israel, More Pro-Palestinian

JNS) While Americans continue to favor the Israelis over the Palestinians, 55% now sympathize with Israelis and 26% with the Palestinians, according to a new Gallup poll.

That percentage of Americans who side with the Palestinians represents a new high. The slight dip in support for Israelis and the increase for the Palestinians is based on a 2022 survey conducted from Feb. 1-17.

The poll also found that 77% of Republicans sympathize more with Israelis while only 13% with the Palestinians. Among independents, 54% side with Israelis and 26% with Palestinians. And with Democrats, 40% favor the Israelis and 38% the Palestinians.

Still, the favorability of the Jewish state itself remains high, according to the poll, with 71% of U.S. adults saying they have a favorable view of Israel

Some 55% now sympathize with Israelis and 26% with the Palestinians, although the favorability of the Jewish state itself remains high.

while 27% have a favorable opinion of the Palestinian Authority.

The 71% viewing Israel favorably today matches the average since 2013, while the 27% favorable to the Palestinian Authority exceeds the 22% in that period and continues the upward trend seen in this sentiment over the past decade. **HW**

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B'nai Tzedek Teens Present \$10,000 in Grant Awards



On Monday, March 21, students, parents, grandparents, and members of the greater Jewish community gathered to attend the Jewish Foundation of Memphis B'nai Tzedek Grant Reception. Students in the teen philanthropy program presented awards to agency representatives.

On Monday, March 21, students, parents, grandparents and members of the greater Jewish community gathered to attend B'nai Tzedek's Grant Reception. Sarah VanderWalde, director of programs at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, facilitates this annual event, when students in the teen philanthropy program present awards directly to agency representatives.

As part of B'nai Tzedek programming, teens are given the opportunity to participate in a formal grants process from start to finish equipped with \$10,000 to donate back into the Memphis Jewish community. This year, the teens reviewed 11 applications before deciding how to allocate the grant money. Nine grants were awarded including funding the crisis in Ukraine, community newcomer welcome bags and Dignity Grows through Memphis Jewish Federation, the Sandwich Project for Baron Hirsch Congregation, Creative Aging in the Mid-South programs for Plough Towers' residents, Maccabi Summer Games, inclusive summer camp and JFamily for the Memphis Jewish Community Center.

"How many people in the community will benefit?" "Is this truly needed for your organization or is it nice to have?" Those were the types of questions discussed among the group of seventh thru 12th graders and ultimately posed to the agencies who applied for grants. Then the students ranked each application on a variety of criteria including consistency with Jewish values, creativity and clarity, whether the project is needed in the community, and whether it will change the lives of those it serves.

Talya M. and Dahlia S., ninth graders at the Margolin Hebrew Academy, presented the award to Baron Hirsch for the Sandwich Project. They mentioned how B'nai Tzedek has funded the program in the past and have actively participated by making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. "Just yesterday, 17 of us got together at Baron Hirsch and made 450 sandwiches," said Dahlia.

"Did you know, nearly 30% of girls and women in the U.S. suffer from period poverty?" said Meredith E. and Natalie S., eighth-grade students at Riverdale and Bornblum Jewish Community School. They presented \$1,500 to Dignity Grows, an initiative that provides a one-month supply of period and hygiene products to those in need.

"Our B'nai Tzedek group already packed 150 bags on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Those bags were distributed to Ridgeway High School and Room in the Inn," said the girls.

Memphis Jewish Federation recently became a chapter of Dignity Grows "Our B'nai Tzedek group already packed 150 bags on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Those bags were distributed to Ridgeway High School and Room in the Inn," said the girls.

and received enough money from B'nai Tzedek to fill and donate 100 more tote bags to community partners.

Receiving its first B'nai Tzedek grant was Beth Sholom's Tikkun Olam committee for the Journey Coleman School Gift Shop Project. Kyra J., Eve P., and Wallis R., ninth-grade students at St.

Mary's Episcopal School, presented the grant award to Susan Moinster who accepted the grant on the committee's behalf. The students explained the program and how they decided to allocate \$1250 instead of the \$750 that was requested in the grant application. "The Journey Coleman school, a K-8 school is in Raleigh, an area of Memphis that most of us had never heard of before," they said. "We learned that this school is Title 1 and in a low economic area. Every year around the holidays, Beth Sholom creates a Gift Shop in the school's gym. Beth Sholom volunteers fill the gym with hundreds of holiday gifts. We learned from the grant proposal that there are 675 students at the school... when we saw that the grant asked for \$750, we did the math and decided that these students deserve more."

Benny F., Nathan G., Jack K., Shoshanah K., Ilan L., Jonathan M., Brooke S., Jack S., and Ethan V. also presented grants during the reception.

"B'nai Tzedek is a great way for the youth of our community to learn about tzedakah," said Jewish Foundation of Memphis Board Chair Anthony Morrison. "This is the 20th year of the program, and it's incredible watching the impact it has had on our students and community."

Any teen who has become bar or bat mitzvah can join B'nai Tzedek at any time. Fill out the form online jcpmemphis.org/teen-philanthropy or contact Sarah VanderWalde at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis at svanderwalde@jcpmemphis.org for more information and to sign up. HW



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