

THE Hebrew Watchman

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Jewish Lawmakers Moved by Zelensky Address, Mixed on Next Steps to Support Ukraine



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressing Congress. March 16, 2022. Source: Screenshot.

By Dmitriy Shapiro

(JNS) – After Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke by video to a joint session of Congress last Wednesday morning, Jewish members were moved by Zelensky’s speech, though expressed slightly varied positions on what to do next.

During his address, Zelensky said that rather than having a dream like Martin Luther King, he had a “need,” imploring the United States to create a no-fly zone over Ukraine to level the playing field or deliver weapons and fighter aircraft for Ukrainians to secure their skies against the Russian military’s bombing campaign.

While no member of Congress called

for a no-fly zone, their statements varied on how much emphasis was placed on providing Ukraine with air defense systems and other military hardware as opposed to diplomacy and further economic sanctions.

Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) argued that the United States should do more to support Ukraine, including providing air defense weapons.

Feinstein said that Zelensky’s speech brought home the suffering of the Ukrainians from Russia’s aggression, saying that the United States must continue to provide for their defensive and humanitarian needs.

“I support President Zelenskyy’s requests for advanced defensive weaponry and believe the United States must continue to lead the way in bringing international diplomatic and economic pressure to bear on Russia to end this war,” Feinstein posted in a tweet. “This war has killed thousands and more than 3 million Ukrainians have already fled their country. We must do all we can to end the suffering and make sure [Russian President] Vladimir Putin understands this is not a war he can win.”

Blumenthal tweeted twice about the speech, which he called “impassioned and impactful,” and argued that the Ukrainians should be provided with the defense capabilities to give itself protection against Russian attacks from the sky.

“My trip to Poland last weekend confirmed the urgency of hugely expanded air defense aid. Sens. [Rob] Portman [(R-Ohio)], [Roger] Wicker [(R-Miss.)] and I urged bipartisan support last night on the Senate floor,” tweeted Blumenthal. “Respond to Zelensky’s plea today with action, not just more words – more anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, anti-air batteries, drones, planes, and more to fight Russia’s bombing reign of terror. Every day matters, as Ukraine bravely struggles for survival. Act now.”

Zelensky was greeted as a hero during his speech and given multiple standing

ovations by the bipartisan audience. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi led the members in a chanting “Slava Ukraini,” or “Glory to Ukraine” while Zelensky watched on, his face projected onto a large screen behind her.

Rep. Jake Auchincloss (D-Mass.) said in a televised interview that the speech is going to be “one of the memories from my political career that I hold closest.”

“It was a battle cry from the frontlines of the free world. And President Zelensky reinforced the moral clarity and urgency of the moment, and he also made specific, actionable requests of Congress, which we do need to follow through on,” Auchincloss said. “In particular providing an air [defense] system that closes the skies and allows the Ukrainian ground forces to get into a fair fight with the Russian ground forces that they’re going to win.”

In the same interview, Auchincloss attacked Republicans who are criticizing U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration for not doing enough to help the crisis.

“I didn’t hear any of this tough talk when [former President Donald] Trump was blackmailing the Ukrainian president in a dirt-for-arms deal that led to his impeachment, and second of all, they’re offering criticisms without ...

(See Zelensky Page 3)

Memphis Jewish Federation Convenes Community for Ukraine Crisis Briefing

Memphis Jewish Federation’s March 14, Community Briefing on the Ukraine Crisis brought the community together to learn how our overseas partners, The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), are addressing critical humanitarian needs in Ukraine and surrounding countries and what community members can do to help.

Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF) Board Chair Cindy Finestone opened

the virtual program. “We are all concerned and alarmed about the crisis happening in Ukraine,” she said. “The purpose of our call is to share what we are doing here in Memphis to support our partners overseas and also learn about the actions being taken to help Jewish Ukrainians abroad.”

Jewish Community Partners President and CEO Laura Linder offered background and context: “On Thursday, Feb. 24, a call went out across the Jewish

Federations of North America’s (JFNA) system, a call to raise \$20 million to provide financial support to our overseas partners working on the ground in Ukraine and its bordering countries,” she said. “These critical funds were needed to provide emergency services for the more than 200,000 Jews living in Ukraine, some of whom were also seeking safe passage to Israel. As always, the Memphis Jewish community mobilized, and within a few days far exceeded the

\$74,000 assigned to our community to raise. It is hard to believe that this was just two weeks ago, and how much worse the situation has become. The needs have grown, the requests for assistance increased, and 166 generous Memphians have stepped forward with over \$400,000 to support JFNA and our overseas partners. We should take great pride that the Memphis Jewish community stepped forward with generosity

(See Federation Page 3)

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Jewish Foundation Professional Advisor Planning Committee Kicks Off 2022



Jewish Foundation of Memphis Professional Advisory Group (PAG) Planning Committee members Patrick O'Hearn, Scott Bendure, Jason Salomon, Garrett Bizzell and Lawson Arney joined Foundation Director of Programs Sarah VanderWalde during a February Zoom meeting.

The Jewish Foundation of Memphis has a robust Professional Advisory Group (PAG) made up of specialists in various legal, financial and insurance fields. These individuals support the mission of the Foundation: encouraging charitable giving, supporting partner agency development, and building and sustaining a vibrant Jewish community.

“We work with many local estate planning attorneys, CPAs, financial advisors and life insurance professionals to help establish charitable gifts. The resources they provide our Jewish community is invaluable,” said Jewish Foundation of Memphis Director of Programs Sarah VanderWalde.

Chaired by Jason Salomon, estate planning attorney at Harkavy Shainberg Kaplan PLC, the PAG currently has 100 members.

“Being a part of the PAG is great opportunity for any advisor to get exposure in the Memphis community,” said Jason. “We also have fantastic events that offer ways to network with other professionals and receive continuing education credits.”

To help plan these events, Jason leads a steering committee that includes Lawson Arney, Vice President of Investments at Raymond James, Scott Bendure, Senior Vice President/Area Manager-Wealth at Pinnacle Financial Partners, Garrett Bizzell, Tax Senior Manager at Dixon Hughes Goodman and Patrick O’Hearn, Senior Investment

Adviser at Kelman-Lazarov.

The group met in February to brainstorm ideas for 2022. First on the agenda was a new Professional Advisory Group Directory. The first directory was created and distributed in 2020 as part of the Foundation’s 25th anniversary celebration. With the pandemic closing down offices, many advisors were unable to take advantage of having the glossy magazine in their office lobbies. In addition, within the last two years, several advisors have retired, switched firms, or been promoted.

“This directory is a great way for advisors to get their names out there, as more people move to Memphis and seek financial or legal advice,” said Jason.

The PAG Directory will include the advisor’s name, firm information, services provided and his/her certifications. A \$75 donation to the Jewish Foundation is required to be a part of the directory. An online form can be found at <https://jcmmemphis.org/pag-signup>.

The directory will be available in the Jewish Foundation offices, delivered to the Foundation’s 400 donor advised fund holders and published online. It was a unanimous decision by the planning committee to move forward with this project.

Next on the planning committee’s agenda was mapping out ideas for events in 2022. Hoping to avoid Zoom, the group is watching the numbers in Shelby County to start planning for in-person social and continuing educa-

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3/24/2022

Memphis Candlelighting Time

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Weekly Torah Portion: Shemini Parah

tion events.

Two events this spring are in the planning stages. There will be a Financial Planning Seminar for Young Professionals in partnership with FedLed, Memphis Jewish Federation’s young adult division, on Sunday, March 27. Although the audience for this program is the greater community of 20s, 30s, and 40s, three members of the committee will be featured speakers: Lawson Arney, Scott Bendure and Jason Salomon. They will be providing an overview on general financial and estate planning topics.

On Thursday morning May 5, estate planning attorney Eddie Thompson will speak for a large group at Memphis Botanic Garden, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis and the Planned Giving Council of the Mid-South. Members of the PAG will be eligible to receive continuing education credits.

“It is great to see how actively engaged and committed our planning committee members are and I look forward to an exciting year of programming ahead,” said Sarah. [HW](#)



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CORRECTION

In the March 17 edition on page 9, the caption should have read:
Joely Cifre (l) of the Red Cross and Tresha Mandel of Beth Shalom delivered enough emergency supplies to fill 208 pillowcases.

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Zelensky...

(Continued From Page 1)

solutions,” Auchincloss said.

But Auchincloss specifically differentiated closing the skies over Ukraine, which can be done by providing Ukrainian forces with air defense systems, against creating a no-fly zone, which would require the United States to engage Russian warplanes directly if the no-fly zone is breached and potentially plunge two nuclear powers into war.

“It is clear that we need to close the skies. We are providing the material and the money necessary to do that,” he said. “But both parties agree that [a] no-fly-zone, which is a declaration of war, that would be an unnecessary and deeply destabilizing escalation.”

Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.) called for both sides of the aisle to come together and give Ukraine what it needs to defend itself and called Russian President Vladimir Putin a murderous dictator. He added that the United States should do everything it can to stop the war.

“Putin has terrorized countless innocent Ukrainian families and children, blocked humanitarian aid, and violated multiple ceasefires,” Gottheimer wrote in a tweet. “In times of great distress, when innocent lives and our allies are being attacked, we have always done best when we’ve stood together, unified. We must continue to show a unified NATO response to Russia’s invasion.”

‘Help de-escalate this conflict as soon as possible’

Other members who spoke out were focused less on the military aspects of supporting Ukraine and instead called for more or continued economic pressure to be applied to Russia.

“My position remains that the United States must use all diplomatic, informational and economic instruments of na-

tional power at our disposal to support Ukraine and deter Russia’s aggression. The purpose and goal must be to help de-escalate this conflict as soon as possible,” Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.) said in a news release, adding that Zelensky’s stand against Putin’s invasion was inspiring and remarkable.

Rep. Brad Schneider (D-Ill.) in a news release, highlighted what Congress had already done to support Ukraine economically and militarily, passing \$13.6 billion for humanitarian, military and economic support for Ukraine, as well as banning imports of Russian oil and creating legislation to revoke Russia’s permanent normal trade relations with the United States.

He also said that the House Foreign Relations Committee, of which he is a member, is investigating the invasion for war crimes.

“We must lead, and we must join with our allies to stand with Ukraine and ensure Putin loses,” Schneider said. “Peace depends on us.”

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) urged the government to further isolate Putin and his oligarchs, urging American companies to divest from Russia to devastate it financially, politically and militarily. She also called on Florida to divest itself of \$300 million in state pension assets in Russian companies, while attacking her state’s Republican governor.

“Gov. Ron DeSantis – who parrots autocrats by demonizing the media, immigrants, protests and democratic voting rights – must act,” she said in a statement. “Any moral abdication sends a chilling message to brave freedom fighters in Venezuela and Cuba, where Putin already funds dictators and oppression. Russia must be punished, not coddled. The people of Ukraine, and every democracy on the planet, are counting on America to make that happen.” **HW**

Federation...

(Continued From Page 1)



Memphis Jewish Federation speakers and attendees of recent virtual Ukraine Crisis Briefing

that is unmatched by any other community of our size.”

“Memphis Jewish Federation is just one of the approximately 150 communities that make up Jewish Federations of North America. I have been fortunate to serve on the board of JFNA, and I am always impressed with the range of resources that they have provided over the years. JFNA not only supports local needs, but the needs of Jews everywhere in the world and is working closely with our international partners like JDC, World Ort, and others who have been on the ground in Ukraine for years. A little over two weeks ago, JFNA launched a national campaign, which has already raised \$29.8 million for Ukraine,” said Cindy when describing the impact of JFNA’s work throughout the onset of

the Ukraine crisis.

Because of Memphis’ contribution of over \$400,000 for this urgent crisis, and the more than \$29 million committed nationally, JFNA has been hard at work staying in close contact with our overseas partners allocating dollars as needed. Grants awarded to JAFI, JDC, and other partners on the ground are having a major impact on alleviating the humanitarian crisis.

Andy Groveman, JAFI board of governors member, immediate past chair of United Israel Appeal and past MJF president, described the critical work the Jewish Agency is doing on the ground, such as helping Jews flee the country, facilitating aliyah for those who wish to move to Israel, and investing in community security to make sure those staying in Ukraine are safe.

Dr. Michael Levinson, a 30-year board member of the JDC, followed with explaining how the JDC works to assist Jews in need. He noted that the organization has been in Ukraine for over two decades now, providing aid and care to more than 200,000 Ukrainian Jews. Michael also emphasized that the JDC has mobilized the infrastructure already in place to provide basic needs like food, water and medicine to those Jews trapped in conflict zones or unable to evacuate.

Representing the B’nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, Ilan Lennon spoke about how B’nai Tzedek teens were unanimously inspired to donate to MJF for the Ukraine crisis \$1,000 of the \$10,000 granted out this year. Ilan credited a November 2021 presentation by JDC professional Elisheva Massel about the JDC’s humanitarian work around the world as contributing, in part, to the teens’ decision.

To join the community donation effort for Ukraine, please visit jcpmemphis.org.

To watch a recording of the briefing, visit <https://youtu.be/l6Gy7lQquSc> **HW**

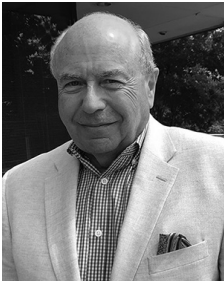
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Physician-Mother to Speak on Challenges of Infertility and Adoption in a Jewish Home



Dr. Erica Kaye

St. Jude and University of Tennessee physician Dr. Erica Kaye, MD, will share her personal story with pregnancy loss, IVF and adoption in an upcoming talk in the Lehrhaus Speaker Series sponsored by Beth Sholom Synagogue on March 29 at 7 p.m. During the event, which is open to the community, Dr. Kaye will also reflect on Jewish infertility perspectives.

The Jewish lens through which she will share her story encapsulates a range of traditions and experiences. These topics include fertility and infertility in the Torah, changing practices around mourning a child in utero, and traditional views on assisted reproductive technologies, surrogacy and adoption.

Dr. Kaye has personal experience with infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss, and she underwent multiple IVF cycles. She also faced challenges navigating adoption as a Jewish family. She and her husband are blessed to have two beautiful daughters through IVF and adoption. Her unique position with her personal struggles to build a family, her Jewish faith and her medical insights will allow her to share an enlightening presentation.

Jewish resources for grief related to infertility and pregnancy loss will be provided, as will guidance for those supporting others facing these experiences. Presence, community and solidarity are powerful elements of strength and healing. As many individuals experience “invisible grief” – the suffering of infertility in silence that she will expound upon – this installment of the Lehrhaus series will allow all community members to become more aware of these challenges and more empowered to provide support.

The in-person audience will have an opportunity to ask questions. Light refreshments will be served. Masks are optional, and only vaccinated individuals are allowed in the building. There will be a virtual option for watching Dr. Kaye’s lecture; please check Beth Sholom Synagogue’s Facebook page and website for details.

Erica C. Kaye, MD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Oncology and Director of the Research Division of Quality of Life and Pallia-

tive Care at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Dr. Kaye received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Yale, her medical degree from Harvard, and her master’s in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She completed her pediatrics residency at Boston Children’s Hospital, followed by two subspecialty fellowships in pediatric hematology-oncology and hospice and palliative medicine at St. Jude.

She has received national awards and recognition for her research from the National Institutes of Health, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and the National Palliative Care Research Center. Dr. Kaye is an advocate for women’s health, with a particular interest in improving access to fertility treatments for healthcare workers. She is the author of recent articles in the New England Journal of

Medicine, advocating for gender equity in medicine and for healthcare systems to prioritize fertility coverage as a key component of health and wellness for clinicians.

Lehrhaus at Beth Sholom takes its inspiration from The Free Jewish House of Learning, the school for Jewish studies and adult education founded by Franz Rosenzweig in Frankfurt in 1920. Lectures in this series are free and open to the general public. [HW](#)



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Hillels of Memphis Annual Yiddishe Cup Fundraiser Returns In-Person April 10



Former Hillel students enjoying Yiddishe Cup together in-person.

It’s finally time to polish up your putt-putt skills for Hillels of Memphis’ 14th Annual Yiddishe Cup Mini- Golf Tournament! A fixture on the Memphis Jewish calendar for over a decade, the fun, community-wide event for Memphians of all ages returns in-person on Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m. at Golf & Games.

After the pandemic forced the cancellation of the tournament in 2020 and transitioned Yiddishe Cup into an online trivia contest in 2021, everyone is excited about returning to the in-person format.

“I originally got involved with Hillels of Memphis because I wanted to be a part of a community that I knew would welcome me, and I also desired close bonds with good people – both of which are hard to come by during a pandemic. Hillel surpassed all my expectations, and I try and get involved

whenever I can,” said student president of University of Memphis’ Hillel, Aaron Bardos. “Supporting and being in Hillel is awesome! Every event is fun, and the food is great. Most importantly, the people and conversations are amazing. I found that the Yiddishe Cup last year was very fun, and I think creating more online activities like that in the future is a great idea, but the in-person Cup is unbeatable. In-person interactions (and mini-golf) are just so important to me, and I am glad to see it returning.”

At Yiddishe Cup, both mini-golf devotees and amateurs will have their turn on the green while competing for the highly coveted first-place finish. Anyone can form a team of four for \$36, and sponsorship opportunities begin at \$118. Teams will have the opportunity to win special prizes for a hole-in-one and other categories.

“Year after year, Yiddishe Cup has served as the primary fundraiser for Hillels of Memphis,” said Hillels of Memphis Director Sophie Bloch. “Funds raised from Yiddishe Cup directly support vital and impactful programming like Shabbat and holiday celebrations, Israel programming and interfaith events at University of Memphis and Rhodes College. Without this critical funding, many of Hillel’s programs could no longer happen. Last year, we raised \$18,000, which is the largest amount to date, and I’m confident that we can meet – if not exceed – that number this year!”

Hillels of Memphis boasts an active and engaged lay advisory council, whose members appreciate the significance of Hillel on college campus.

“Hillel is so important, because it provides young people with a place to share, learn and grow as their Jewish identity continues to develop during the formative years of the college experience,” said Hal Fogelman, co-chair of University of Memphis’ Hillel Advisory Council. “The Yiddishe Cup event is a

lot of fun, and it’s always great to see young people come together, develop friendships, and participate in various Jewish celebrations and activities.”

For Rhodes and University of Memphis students, Hillels of Memphis serves as a Jewish home away from home. All proceeds from the event benefit students on both campuses through educational programming, social events, Shabbat meals, communal programming, and events throughout the year. While 85% of the budget of Hillels of Memphis is funded through a generous endowment, the remaining 15% comes primarily from funds raised through Yiddishe Cup.

The event will take place rain or shine with indoor activities at the facility, located at 5484 Summer Avenue. Masks will be required should rain necessitate moving indoors.

Registration, sponsorships and detailed information about the event may be found at hillelsofmemphis.org/yiddishecup. You may also contact Hillels of Memphis Director Sophie Bloch at 901.452.2453 or email sophiebloch@hillelsofmemphis.org. **HW**

Delta Region BBYO Hosts Alumni Reception and Havdalah

Delta Region BBYO is excited to host an Adult Reception and Havdalah at its Spring Convention on April 2, 2022, at 5:30 – 7 p.m.

While hundreds of teens will gather in Memphis, members invite BBYO parents and alumni to come out for a special evening of surprises.

The event is being hosted by BBYO

alumni Craig Weiss and Scott Notowich and will feature an Adult Reception re-living BBYO memories and catching up with friends; food from Erling Jensen Small Bites and wine and whiskey.

The event will end with alumni joining the teens for Havdalah.

Everyone can’t wait to see what the evening holds for BBYO! **HW**

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The Russian invasion of Ukraine has drawn condemnation and punitive sanctions from the United States, Europe, and their allies. The humanitarian cost of war cannot be measured, and the long-term economic effects could take months or years to unfold. However, the early stages of the conflict pushed oil prices upward and sent the U.S. stock market plunging, only to see stocks bounce back and drop again – with more volatility likely.¹

For now, it may be helpful to look at how the Russia-Ukraine conflict might affect the global oil market as well as U.S. consumers and investors.

Expensive Oil

On February 14, a week before the Russian invasion began, the spot price of Brent crude — the global oil benchmark — exceeded \$100 per barrel for the first time since September 2014, due in large part to the Russian troop build-up on the Ukrainian border. Prices eased with news that sanctions on Iranian oil might be lifted, but the full-scale Russian invasion again pushed Brent crude above \$100 per barrel.²⁻³

Although geopolitical events played a key role in recent price movements, oil prices have been rising since April 2020 as the global economy reopened and demand increased more quickly than production. After a 20% drop in global consumption during the first months of the pandemic, oil producers cut back just as demand increased and have struggled to catch up. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, global production matched consumption in January 2022 and was projected to exceed demand in the coming months, which might pull prices downward.⁴ However, the Russia-Ukraine conflict could upset the balance.

The Russian Threat

Russia produces about 10% of the world’s oil and is the second-largest exporter behind Saudi Arabia. Any disruption of Russian oil exports would have a significant effect on global supplies and drive prices higher.⁵⁻⁶

The United States – the world’s largest oil producer and consumer – imports only about 3% of its daily oil consumption from Russia, which could be replaced by other sources.⁷⁻⁸ The greatest effect of a disruption would be on Europe, which imports about 25% of its oil and 40% of its natural gas from Russia.⁹ Central and eastern European countries would be especially vulnerable.¹⁰

Rising Crude

Oil prices plummeted at the beginning of the pandemic and rose steadily as the economy recovered.

It’s unlikely that Russia would cut off oil and gas supplies unilaterally, because it depends on the revenue as much as Europe depends on the energy.¹¹ In the longer term, however, Russia may shift energy exports from Europe to China, forcing Europe to develop other sources.¹² U.S. and European officials have indicated that sanctions on Russia would not include energy industries, but the exclusion of Russian banks from the SWIFT global payments system could affect the purchase of oil and natural gas.¹³

Other Russian exports that may be affected by sanctions or a prolonged conflict include wheat, corn, and precious metals like nickel, aluminum, and palladium. Ukraine is also a major exporter of wheat and corn, and Russian and Ukrainian grain supplies are essential to many countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. While any breakdown of these supplies would not directly af-

fect the United States, they could cause widespread hardship and place greater strain on the global economy.¹⁴

Pain at the Pump

Theoretically, high oil prices drive inflation because higher expenses for fuel and raw materials for petroleum-based goods may be passed on to consumers. This happened during the 1970s, but the connection has not been so clear in recent years. In 2014, the last time oil prices exceeded \$100 per barrel, annual inflation was under 2%.¹⁵

Oil prices affect gas prices, and high gas prices are exacerbating a broad inflationary trend driven by supply-chain disruptions and high consumer demand. While general inflation increased 7.5% for the 12-month period ending in January 2022, gas prices increased 40%, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict has pushed them further upward.¹⁶ The national average price of unleaded regular gasoline was \$3.61 per gallon at the end of February, about 90 cents higher than one year earlier.¹⁷

With the Russian invasion, it’s likely that gas prices may spike even higher, driven by global concerns rather than any severe supply issues in the United States. Whether prices stay high might depend in part on consumer behavior. If gasoline consumption remains high regardless of price, it would feed the inflationary spiral, whereas if consumers cut back on driving in response to high prices, it could bring prices downward.¹⁸

Geopolitics and the Market

As with inflation, high oil prices theoretically have a negative impact on the stock market due to increased energy costs for businesses and less discretionary income for consumers. However, an older study from the Federal Reserve found surprisingly little correlation between oil prices and stock market performance.¹⁹ Even so, rising prices over the last few months have paralleled a period of stock market volatility and seem to be a contributing factor.

The market ups and downs triggered by the Russian invasion suggest that investors can expect rocky times ahead, but it’s impossible to guess how long volatility might last. Most geopolitical events, no matter how serious, have relatively brief effects on the market, often settling in days. However, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 had a major impact, and it took six months for the market to recover.²⁰

Regardless of how events unfold, the stock market is primarily driven by U.S. business activity. Although high oil prices and armed conflict are causes for concern, it’s important to make investment decisions based on logic rather than emotions. For most investors, it’s wise to maintain a steady strategy designed for their personal goals and risk tolerance.

All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that any investment strategy will be successful.

1) The Wall Street Journal, February 24 & 28, 2022
2, 4, 7) U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2022
3) oilprice.com, February 18, 2022
5, 8, 18) The New York Times, February 14, 2022
6, 11) oilprice.com, February 12, 2022
9, 12, 14) The New York Times, February 22, 2022
10) Bloomberg, February 10, 2022
13) CNN, February 26, 2022
15–16) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022
17) AAA, February 28, 2022
19) Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, September 12, 2008
20) CNN, February 14, 2022

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Kharkiv Yeshivah Takes Direct Hit from Russian Rocket Fire, No One Injured



A boys' yeshivah in Kharkiv, Ukraine, was hit directly by rocket fire on March 15, 2022. Credit: Chabad.org/News.

By Faygie Holt

(JNS) – A boys' yeshivah in Kharkiv, Ukraine, that also serves as a synagogue was damaged last Tuesday after it was hit directly by rocket fire – the third Jewish communal building to be damaged in the city. Chabad-Lubavitch of Kharkiv's kindergarten, the Ohr Avner Jewish day school and the main synagogue previously suffered damage from nearby bombings.

The yeshivah is housed in a historic synagogue that had been in use during Communist times. From 1919 to 1936, the congregation was led by Rabbi Aharon Turmarkin, who had been dispatched to the city by the fifth Chabad Rebbe, Rabbi Shalom DovBer Schneersohn.

After being confiscated by Soviet authorities in the 1930s, the building served as the Kharkiv headquarters of the traffic police, known as the GAI.

The synagogue structure was returned to the Jewish community in the late 1990s, and in the post-Communist era has housed the local yeshivah and other communal institutions.

“Despite the attacks on our institutions ... we will, in the first opportunity, renovate and restore and expand all our buildings and programs more than ever before,” wrote Rabbi Moshe Moskovitz, chief rabbi and the Chabad emissary to Kharkiv since 1990.

The second-largest city in Ukraine, Kharkiv has been the site of frequent rocket fire and bombardments in the last few weeks. Dozens of civilians have been killed, and hundreds of others have been hurt.

Despite the hardship there, Chabad has been working to help as many people in the city as possible.

“We are continuing to evacuate people daily, in addition to giving shelter and food to those who have moved into the synagogue,” he wrote. “We are also sending daily hot meals and medicine to the elderly and needy trapped in their homes.”

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Chabad.org/News. **HW**

A Jewish Google Employee Says Her Activism Against an Israel Contract Got Her Job Moved to Brazil

(JTA) – A Jewish Google employee who has tried to pressure the company to end a contract to build cloud-based data centers for the Israeli government says the tech giant has retaliated against her activism – by asking her to relocate to Brazil.

Ariel Koren told the Los Angeles Times that after she criticized and lobbied other employees against Project Nimbus, a contract worth \$1.2 billion that Google and Amazon Web Services jointly entered with Israel, Google responded by relocating her role from the company's headquarters in Mountain View, California, to its office in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In October, Koren had been one of two Jewish Google employees to spearhead an employee petition against Project Nimbus. The statement objected to the contract by saying the project, which will transfer the Israeli government's data to cloud-based storage centers over a period of several years, "allows for further surveillance of and unlawful data collection on Palestinians and facilitates expansion of Israel's illegal settlements on Palestinian land."

One month later, Koren said she was told her role would be relocating to Sao Paulo, and that she was given 17 business days to commit to move.

“It is clear that the relocation order was an act of retaliation,” Koren told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an email. “Our petition calling on Google and Amazon to end Project Nimbus has over 1,000 worker signatures but I was just one of two Google employees to speak out publicly.”

Koren has filed complaints with Goo-

gle's human resources department and the National Labor Relations Board. Google told the Los Angeles Times it has investigated the case and found no evidence of retaliation.

Koren, who co-founded a worker collective called Jewish Diaspora in Tech and has been active in progressive and anti-Zionist Jewish circles, has linked her activism against Project Nimbus to her Jewish background.

A petition signed by more than 500 Google employees in support of Koren accuses the company of “unjustly retaliating” against her. Rep. Anna Eshoo, a Democratic member of Congress, also wrote a letter to Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai supporting Koren, saying, “employees have a right to voice their objections about the work of their employer, without facing risk of retaliation.”

Koren told JTA she's "overwhelmed by the outpouring of support."

Koren had previously worked out of Google's Mexico City office on projects related to its education arm in Latin America and had taken time away from her job to found the activist group Respond Crisis Translation, which provides translation services for asylum seekers. She also has family in Brazil and speaks Portuguese, along with nine other languages including Hebrew and Ladino. But she said a move to Brazil had never been on the table prior to her criticism of Project Nimbus, and that the required move is unnecessary given the remote nature of her job.

Koren remains employed by Google and based in San Francisco, according to the Los Angeles Times report. Project Nimbus remains on track, as well,

28 Major U.S. Jewish Groups Call on Biden to Accept Ukraine Refugees



A volunteer offers sandwiches to a Ukrainian woman in the building of the main railway station of Przemysl, which has been turned into a temporary reception center for refugees from Ukraine fleeing the conflict in their country, in eastern Poland, Feb. 25, 2022.

Credit: Wojtek Radwanski/AFP via Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – An array of 28 major U.S. Jewish groups spanning the religious and political spectrums urged the Biden administration to expedite the acceptance of refugees fleeing Russia’s war against Ukraine.

The letter sent last Friday, spearheaded by the Jewish community's foreign policy umbrella, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, recommends starting with expediting family reunification refugee requests, a move the Biden administration is already considering.

Refugee acceptance into the United States is an onerous process and can take years as refugee applicants remain in transition in host countries willing to house them temporarily, but not permanently. The letter notes a precedent in the late 1990s, when President Bill Clinton's administration removed bureaucratic obstacles to allow in 20,000 Kosovar refugees from the Yugoslavian

war on its territory.

"We urge you to follow the precedent set by the Clinton administration and welcome, at a minimum, those refugees with close family ties in the United States," said the letter. "And we urge you to do so without delay."

Of the 50 or so members of the Conference, 27 groups signed, including HIAS, the lead Jewish immigration advocacy group; representatives of the Conservative, Reform and Orthodox streams of Judaism; the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee civil rights watchdogs; and groups that skew both right and left on foreign and domestic policy.

Million of Ukrainians have fled in the wake of the violence that began on Feb. 24. Israel has already taken in at least hundreds of Ukrainian Jews and plans to take in tens of thousands more, in addition to tens of thousands of Ukrainians not eligible for Israeli citizenship. **HW**

which Koren continues to object to.

“It’s clear that Google’s contract with the Israeli military and government will directly harm Palestinians using the

technology that Google employees are expected to create," she told JTA. "That is why workers are calling on Google to cancel the contract." **HW**

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OBITUARIES

Hermine Jacobs Davidson



Hermine “Mimi” Jacobs Davidson, born in Gunnison, Miss., on September 2, 1929, to the late Sam and Gertrude Jacobs, passed away early Wednesday morning, March 2 peacefully in her home. She married the love of her life, the late Norman Davidson, on October 19, 1952, and together they built a life in Memphis, Tenn.

Mimi is survived by her daughter, Debbie Davidson Kriger (Dr. Sidney); her two grandchildren, Rabbi Karen Kriger Bogard (Rabbi Daniel) and Dr. Stephen Kriger (Lindsay); and four

great-grandchildren, Gavi Bogard, Ezra Bogard, Noa Bogard, and Nathan Kriger.

Hermine loved to learn and was a proud graduate of the University of Alabama where she was a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority. She served on the board of Temple Israel and Plough Towers and was an officer and board member of Temple Israel Sisterhood. On Friday evenings you could find her in her row at services, and on Saturday mornings you could find her setting up for Torah study and welcoming all the participants. Hermine was such an avid volunteer, people knew they could ask for her time and that she would get the job done. Even though she was active in her local synagogue, Temple Israel, and involved with local and national politics, above all she loved her family and friends. Hermine never met a stranger, and all will miss her joy and love for life.

The funeral was held in the Levy-Cooper Chapel at the Temple Israel Cemetery on Friday, March 4, 2022.

If you would like to make a donation in Hermine’s honor, donations can be made to: Temple Israel, MIFA and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Messages of condolences may be sent to the family at: HermineDavidsonFamily@gmail.com **HW**

Henrietta Weiss Friener



Henrietta “Tootsie” Weiss Friener of Memphis, Tenn., died peacefully Saturday, March 12, 2022. She was born October 18, 1914. The family was blessed to have her for 107 years.

She was a member of Anshei Sphard Synagogue. She is predeceased by her

loving husband of 62 years, Ruben, who passed away in February 2001; her daughter Harriett Sue Beck, who passed away in March of 2019, and sister to Manuel, Teddy and Esther of blessed memory.

She is survived by her brother, Larry Brown, son-in-law Lawrence Beck and three children; Bruce Beck (Lillian) and their children Dyan, Madelyn and Alejandra of Chicago, Ill., Lousia Beck of Memphis and Dana (Eddie Zipperstein) and their two children, Issac and Gabriela of Lincolnwood, Ill. She also leaves three sons: David Friener (Ilene) and their two sons, Mitchell (Leigha), and their two children Ella and Logan of Memphis, and Paul Friener of Texas, Stanley (Debbie) Friener of Memphis, and Barry (Ilene) Friener of Phoenix, Ariz. She has many nieces and nephews who all adored her. She was known for her mastery of organ/piano playing, knitting, gardening, reading mystery novels, crosswords and scrabble. She loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. **HW**

Irving Marshall Kaplan



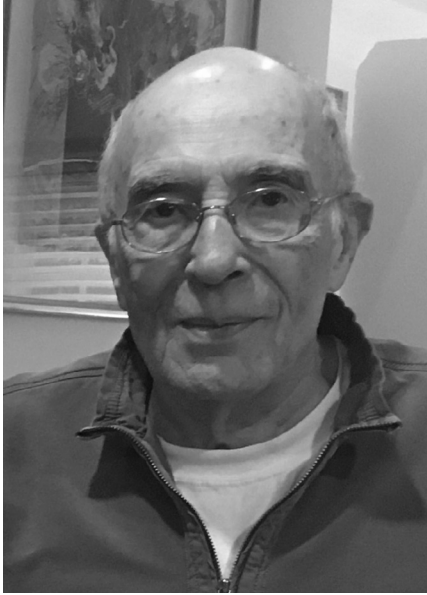
Irving Kaplan was born on May 6, 1936. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ruth (Shug) and Abe Richardson and Benjamin Kaplan. Irving was born and raised in Memphis. He graduated from Central High School and Memphis State University.

Irving owned a men’s clothing store, Male Call, with his brother. His love for dogs led him to volunteer as a dog trainer. He could always be seen walking his dog in the neighborhood.

Irving is survived by his brother, Jerome Kaplan. He also leaves behind his two nieces, Brenda (Mark) Curland and Michelle (Ed) Powell; and several great-nieces and -nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent to the Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County, Baron Hirsch Synagogue or to the charity of the donor’s choice. **HW**

Aron Livnah



Aron Livnah, a good husband, a caring father, a brave soldier, and a lousy golfer, died Tuesday, March 15, at Baptist Reynolds Hospice House in Collierville, Tenn. He was 82. Aron was born in Haifa, Israel, in 1939, nearly a decade before Israel was recognized as an independent nation.

He spent his youthful summers working on a farming kibbutz in northern Israel near the Lebanese border where, as a young man, he learned the importance of endurance and the value of hard work. The only child of a Holocaust survivor who fled from Germany to Israel, Aron graduated from The Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology, with a degree in engineering. His career was interrupted by the 1967 Arab Israeli War in which he served Israel as a tank commander in the West Bank and on the Golan Heights. Two weeks after the Six-Day War ended, Aron was on his way to New York to complete his graduate studies at the State University of New York in Buffalo. As Aron earned his graduate degree in engineering, he fell in love with America despite the freezing cold and snow, both of which he never learned to love. He often said that one of his proudest moments was when he became a U.S. citizen, although he always cherished his personal ties to Israel. Aron worked for DuPont and its subsidiaries in New York before transferring in 1992 to Memphis where he found warm weather and his wife, Rose Merry Lapidés Brown. While exercising in his favorite gym at

the Memphis Jewish Community Center, Aron, the mechanical and industrial engineer, asked Rose Merry how an elliptical machine works. That question launched the beginning of their lives together, and they married 22 years ago.

After 35 years with DuPont, Aron retired in 2015 and decided that the best symbol of retirement would be a set of golf clubs – a pastime discouraged by his late brother-in-law, George Lapidés, who nonetheless gave Aron a set of clubs then wished him luck. Regardless how often he hit the links, Aron never quite mastered the art of golf even though he spent a small fortune in lost golf balls. Aron believed in daily exercise, but only in the afternoons since he also believed that the privilege of retirement was to sleep until 11 a.m. Twice each week Aron met with friends for a ROMEO lunch, an acronym for Retired Old Men Eating Out. They routinely discussed the problems of the world but, to Aron’s chagrin, they failed to solve any of them. For Aron, music was created to soothe the soul and he was a long-time supporter of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and the Germantown Performing Arts Center.

Aron was preceded in death by his parents, Rivka and Zev Langer; and his beloved daughter, Segall Livnah, for whom he established the Segall Livnah Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Memphis to support children’s services at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem plus financial aid to female medical students studying pediatrics. In addition to his cherished wife, Rose Merry, Aron also leaves a stepdaughter, Emily Brown of Memphis; a stepson, Jay Brown (Jennifer Gurevitz) of Dallas; a grandson, Abe Jacob Brown; a son, Gil Livnah of Menlo Park, Calif.; his closest childhood friend, Dani Eshet of Haifa; and a small but admiring circle of friends who will miss him dearly.

His funeral was held on March 17 at the Levy-Cooper Chapel in Temple Israel Cemetery followed by a reception in honor of Aron’s life.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you remember Aron with a donation to the Memphis Jewish Community Center, Temple Israel in Memphis or the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. **HW**

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Temple Israel’s Brotherhood Annual Charity Golf Tournament to Be Held on Mon., April 25, 2022



Past tournament players enjoy a sunny day on the green

By Marc Taub

Temple Israel Brotherhood is once again excited to host the annual charity golf tournament at the world-famous TPC-Southwind on Monday, April 25. In its 19th year, the golf tournament serves as Brotherhood’s largest fundraiser, with proceeds benefitting Henry S. Jacobs Camp and many of Temple Israel’s initiatives. We thank the Presenting Sponsor for this year’s event, Diversified Trust, and the Platinum Sponsors, Tower Ventures and Bridge Capital, for their support in making this event possible.

On the Monday of the event, registration will start at 11 a.m., followed by a delicious barbeque lunch from Corky’s at 11:30 a.m. The tournament kicks off with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. with a live auction, prizes and hors d’oeuvres immediately after!

This year, the live auction is back with items generously donated by Sarah’s Hope Projects. Auction items will be listed on the Brotherhood page, ti-

brotherhood.org, starting April 1. “Proceeds from this year’s tournament will help us support local and national causes, provide Temple Israel with security during the High Holidays, fund Religious School cook-outs to kick-off and end the school year, as well as contribute to maintaining the space at TI Crosstown, to name a few,” says Alex Evans, Brotherhood’s immediate past president and co-chair for the event. “It’s always a great day of golf, food, and fun, and there might even be some surprise guests this year.” Contact co-chairs Alex Evans at adevans22@gmail.com or Eric Efron at eefron29@gmail.com to sign up or with questions about the golf tournament, sponsorship opportunities or for more information. TI Brotherhood looks forward to seeing you there! [HW](#)

Russia Bans Access to Two Israeli Russian-Speaking Websites for its Citizens

(JNS) – Russia blocked off access for its citizens to 30 websites worldwide, including two Russian-language Israeli websites, Maariv reported last Wednesday. The two Israeli websites are Channel 9, a Russian-speaking Israeli television station, and Vesti, a Russian-language news website that belongs to the Yediot Achronot group. The decision was taken on the day of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 but only implemented last Wednesday, according to the report. Russia passed a law that bans Russian media from distributing information about the Russian military that has not been authorized by government authorities. Israeli Communications Minister Yoaz Hendel spoke with the CEOs of Channel 9 and the Vesti website and updated them on Russia’s decision. Hendel reportedly described the move as “illogical” and “aggressive.” Yuri Kanovitch, CEO of Channel 9, told Maariv that his channel serves an Israeli audience, adding: “We will continue to make our best professional answer to broadcast to our viewers the most-fresh, updated, confirmed and objective information, as we have always done, from the first day of this channel to this very day.” [HW](#)

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