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# THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 14 AV, 5782 AUGUST 11, 2022 VOL. 100, NO. 49

## Memphis Connections, Israeli-Style: Federation’s Young Adult Community Israel Trip



**“Nothing compares to fresh shawarma, freshly fried falafel, and the hummus that you get in the Holy Land,” said Daniel Snyder, a Memphis Jewish Federation board member and participant in Federation’s Young Adult Community Israel Trip.**

“I am very excited to return to Israel as an adult. I first visited when I was 15, young and self-consumed. Now, 11 years later – years that hopefully made me wiser – I look forward to exploring the culture, history, and my own Jewish identity through new eyes,” said Rachel Rotter, a participant in Memphis Jewish Federation’s upcoming Young

Adult Community Israel Trip. “I’ve always heard great things about Federation trips. I think the biggest benefit is the prospect of participating in a curated trip, which will allow participants to explore parts of Israel and themselves that they might not have thought to or been able to if they were traveling alone.” Memphis Jewish Federation’s Young

Adult Trip offers Jewish young adults a week of travel, engagement, and exploration from Sunday, February 12, through Sunday, February 19, 2023. Travelers will explore the Old City of Jerusalem, shop Israel’s iconic shuks, visit Tel Aviv’s artist market and spend Shabbat in the city, roar through Northern Israel on ATVs, relax in scenic Haifa, sample dishes from the best chefs in the country, and so much more.

Thanks to the generosity of a donor and Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsy Endowment Fund, the trip is heavily subsidized. The cost per participant is \$2,000, excluding airfare.

Travelers registering by August 15 are eligible for a 20% discount.

“Nothing compares to fresh shawarma, freshly fried falafel, and the hummus that you get in the Holy Land,” said Daniel Snyder, a Memphis Jewish Federation board member and one of the trip’s first registrants. “This will be my second time going to Israel, with my first time being a Birthright trip 10 years ago. This time around, I’m looking forward to forming deeper bonds and building new relationships with my fellow Memphians.”

“I don’t think returning to Israel will change my relationship with my Jewish

identity, but rather it will re-energize it. This will be my fourth trip, and each time I feel like I take something new home with me,” said Liza Levko, another young Memphian headed to Israel.

“Immersive experiences like this trip offer the ability to create communities in super speed, and I am excited to see where this trip leads the Memphis Jewish Young Adult community,” said Judy Lansky, Federation’s Director of Development and trip leader.

“My favorite city in Israel is Haifa, where I studied abroad in 2011,” said Judy. “There is so much diversity in the city, and I especially love northern Israel, because you get to see mountains and oceans. I helped plan a special stop in a Haifa Arab neighborhood called Wadi Nisnas. The neighborhood has two rival falafel stands that both claim to be the best falafel. I’m excited to take our participants to try both and of course, when we are done, we can hop down the street to another storefront with some of the most delicious baklava I have ever had!”

Reach out to Judy Lansky at [jlansky@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:jlansky@jcpmemphis.org) for more information. To learn about the trip, the 20% discount, and to sign on to the trip, visit [jcpmemphis.org/yacit](http://jcpmemphis.org/yacit). **HW**

## My Experience at BBYO ILTC

**By Ethan Evans, senior CBHS**

When I first joined BBYO during my freshman year, I truly did not know what I was getting myself into. All I thought was I was going to keep my Jewish identity and have fun while doing it, but I was just wrong. It is so much more than that.

I was elected Delta Region’s 95 Regional S’gan at this past Spring Convention, and ever since then, I wanted to go on a summer experience and represent Delta. So while doing that, I decided to go to ILTC! I really didn’t know what I was getting myself into, but I am so glad I went. Thanks to so many for helping me get there, I truly had the time of my



Ethan Evans (r) with friends at ILTC

life. Three weeks of pure joy, learning, and leadership that will stick with me for the rest of my life. The memories, friends, laughs, and tears I had during that three-week span will never leave me, and it has changed me for the better.

At ILTC, they have what’s called “Blueprint,” which is basically classes that teach you everything about BBYO. ILTC stands for “International Leadership Training Conference,” which is exactly what I wanted, to be trained to be a better leader in my region, chapter, and overall, in my life. I have noticed

(See BBYO Page 2)



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BBYO...  
(Continued From Page 1)



Ethan Evans (l) with friends at ILTC

that after ILTC, I truly feel like a better leader, and person.  
I wasn't the only representative from Delta though, as another friend of mine in Okeon AZA, Colman Agranov, joined me and went as well. He also had the time of his life and stayed for the next portion of camp at Perlman, which is

called International Kallah. I cannot wait to hear everything he learned from the additional three weeks that he spent at Kallah. Overall, I thank BBYO, and so many others for helping me have this absolutely amazing experience, and I can't wait to pay it forward and help my region out with everything I learned. **HW**

Mazel Tov



Celia Lubin

Celia Lubin, daughter of Dr. Brooke and Mr. Ryan Lubin, will celebrate her bat mitzvah on Saturday, August 20, at Anshei Beth El Emeth, delivering a dvar torah to the entire congregation in the morning and leading a women's service in the afternoon.  
To prepare for her bat mitzvah, Celia

learned Parshat Re'eh with Rabbi Joel Finkelstein. Celia also learned with her mother for several months through Baron Hirsch's inaugural mother/daughter Matan bat mitzvah class.  
Celia just returned from her 4th summer at Beber Camp in Wisconsin and is entering the 7th grade at Bornblum Jewish Community School. At Bornblum, Celia is a representative on the Student Council and a National Junior Honor Society member. After school Celia plays soccer with Purple Rain, swims with the JCC Blue Dolphins and runs cross country and track with Bornblum.  
Celia also gives back to the community every year during the winter holidays with her annual "Miracle Projects," donating to St. Jude, Jewish "Angel Tree," Salvation Army's Angel Tree and many more.  
Celia is the granddaughter of Paula and David Bennett and Nathan and Alla Lubin of Memphis and Eva and Dan Marx of Nashville, Tennessee. She is the great-granddaughter of Esther Lubin of Memphis. **HW**

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THE

Hebrew Watchman

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. August 12, 2022 / 15 Av, 5782 .....7:34 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. August 13, 2022 / 16 Av, 5782 ..... 8:31 p.m.  
Weekly Torah Portion: Va'Echanan

Iran Nuclear Program 'Moving Ahead Very, Very Fast,' IAEA Head Warns

(JNS) – The director of the International Atomic Energy Agency said last Tuesday that Iran's nuclear program was advancing rapidly, and that "good words" from Iran were not sufficient to satisfy inspectors.  
"They have a very ambitious nuclear program that needs to be verified in the appropriate way," he said, according to Reuters. The program was growing in "ambition and capacity" and "moving

ahead very, very fast," he added.  
Speaking in response to a question about the IAEA's role in monitoring a revived nuclear agreement with Iran, Grossi said, "When it comes to nuclear, good words will not do it." What is needed, he continued, is transparency and compliance.  
"We are ready, and I hope they will be as well," he added, according to the report.

Last Monday, the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization head Mohammad Es-lami said that Iran already possesses the technical capability to produce an atomic bomb, but has no intention of doing so, according to the report. **HW**

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# A Festival of Laughs Comes to Brooklyn, N.Y.



Elon Gold. Credit: Courtesy.

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – There are Jewish comedians. And then there is Jewish comedy.

The first-ever Chosen Comedy Festival, set for Aug. 16 in Brooklyn, N.Y., will bring both.

“There’s so much about Jewish comedy that is talked about in documentaries. There are so many books written on Vaudeville and the Catskills, and everybody loves to talk about the Jewish influence on comedy. We just want to do it. We don’t want to talk about it,” comedian Elon Gold told JNS. The festival is the brainchild of Gold, fellow comedian Modi Rosenfeld and comedy-club owner Dani Zoldan.

“You can go to a museum and see an exhibit about Jewish comedy, or you could read a book, or you can watch a documentary, or you can sit and go see it being done live by the top Jews of our

generation that are doing it, and you could have the best time. So that’s what we’re really trying to put out there,” said Gold.

The festival is set to take place at the 4,000-seat Coney Island Amphitheater and will serve as a benefit for the Ukrainian Emergency Performing Arts Fund. Later performances are scheduled for Los Angeles, Miami, Montreal and Tel Aviv, which is where Modi (born Mordechai Rosenfeld) hails from. Other scheduled performers include Michael Rapaport, Alan Zweibel, Jared Fried, Alex Edelman, Jessica Kirson and Judy Gold (no relation).

Elon Gold said he expects to announce additional special guests and has had conversations with the likes of Jeff Garlin (who stars on HBO’s “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” where Gold appeared in

three episodes last year) Jeff Ross, Dave Attell and Howie Mandel about appearing.

Gold, an observant Jew and graduate of Yeshiva University in New York, told JNS that he considers himself and Rosenfeld the preeminent Jewish comedians today.

“You could say, well what about [Jerry] Seinfeld and the thousand other Jewish comedians that are out there? They don’t talk about being Jewish. They don’t talk about our rituals and customs and traditions and holidays, the way that Modi and I do. Even the great Jackie Mason, who we hold up as the Gadol HaDor (‘giant of a generation’) did all this great Jewish-gentile stuff, and it was fascinating to see his observations on the differences of cultures and on Jews as an ethnic group, zoomed out, macro picture. But he would never do about mixing meat and milk or a sukkah,” said Gold.

One of Gold’s most popular videos, meanwhile, is a monologue discussing what would happen if Jews had Christmas trees.

“There’d be so many rules about the tree. I don’t make fun of anything in Judaism or anyone in general. I poke fun at the idiosyncrasies, the attention to detail, the minutiae of the arguments. My comedy gets very Talmudic sometimes. There’s a comedy term called peeling the onion, and you take a topic and just keep peeling and peeling it. That’s basically the Talmud,” he said.

**‘They wouldn’t get certain references’**

But Gold said one needn’t be fluent in “Yeshivish” to enjoy the Chosen Comedy Festival. He said it will be a mix of

his brand of Jewish comedy and comedians who happen to be Jewish.

“I’m sure that everyone is going to reference that they’re Jewish and have a bit about their Jewish parents or their upbringing or a Jewish school or a holiday or something. But it’s not a prerequisite. I put out this really Jewish one-man show called ‘Half Jewish, Half Very Jewish,’ and I wrote a warning label that some material may not be suitable for gentiles because it was so inside baseball that literally, they wouldn’t get certain references. This festival won’t be that. They’ll be something for everyone,” he said.

Gold, though, noted that while he and Rosenfeld have enjoyed a measure of crossover success after a decade of building their reputations in Jewish comedy, he personally loves performing in front of the tribe – to an extent.

“You know, Jewish audiences are my favorite audiences, but they’re the worst comedy audience. Because they don’t know how to enjoy themselves to the fullest extent. Jews tend to hover somewhere between miserable and could be worse,” he said, straight-faced. **HW**

## U.S. Jewish Leaders Commend Killing of Al-Qaeda Chief Ayman al-Zawahiri

(JNS) – American Jewish leaders last Monday praised U.S. President Joe Biden for authorizing the drone strike that killed Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri a day earlier.

In a statement posted on social media, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations commends the president for green-lighting the “decisive” strike, and “salutes the troops who brought to justice one of the world’s most dangerous terrorists, responsible for the death of many American soldiers, civilians, and those of our allies.”

Biden announced al-Zawahiri’s death last Monday evening during a live television broadcast.

“Al-Zawahiri’s death is a serious blow to al-Qaeda and its malevolent ambitions. His death will inevitably save lives, prevent future suffering, and sends an unmistakable message of American resolve to protect its citizens and the world from terrorism,” the Conference statement continued.

“We hope this brings some comfort to the families of victims of terrorism, particularly those who perished in the September 11 terrorist attacks, and the fallen members of our military, and their families. We remind Jewish communal leaders and institutions to remain vigilant against the ever-present threat of new acts of terrorist violence inspired by his death,” it added.

Zawahiri, 71, an Egyptian surgeon, had a \$25 million bounty on his head, and helped coordinate the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, according to the AP.

The report cited U.S. officials as saying that al-Zawahiri was hit by a Hellfire missile launched by a U.S. drone on the balcony of his safe house in Kabul.

“Now justice has been delivered, and this terrorist leader is no more,” Biden said in his televised comments. “No matter how long it takes, no matter where you hide, if you are a threat to our people, the United States will find you and take you out.” **HW**

## GREENTREES! New on Market!

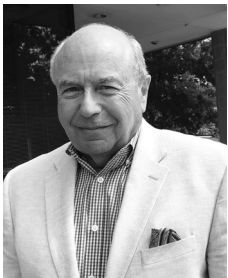


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# Auburn’s ‘Birthright for College Basketball’ Initiative Tips Off in Jerusalem



Auburn University’s men’s basketball team brings in the Sabbath in Jerusalem on Friday, July 31, 2022. The team is in Israel for its “Birthright for College Basketball” initiative. Credit: Auburn Athletics.

(JNS) – Auburn University’s men’s basketball head coach Bruce Pearl is in Israel with his team for the inaugural “Birthright for College Basketball” tour from July 31 to Aug. 10. The reigning SEC regular-season champion Tigers will play three games against Israel’s top teams over the course of the visit.

Auburn is the first Power 5 conference school to make a preseason trip to the Jewish state.

Last Monday, Pearl and some of his players, including Lior Berman and Dylan Cardwell, led the Bruce Pearl Youth Clinic at the Jerusalem YMCA along with Tamir Goodman, a former professional basketball player who lives in Israel and was nicknamed “The Jewish [Michael] Jordan” by Sports Illustrated in 1999.

Pearl, who is Jewish, is on his fourth trip to Israel. When asked by JNS how his Judaism and connection to Israel have influenced his coaching, he said, “Growing up in Boston I had the opportunity to see wonderful ethnicity... not always getting along, but each group was unique and full of great tradition. I saw racial violence as a kid and tremendous anti-Semitism; I felt it, except when I was on the playground playing pickup [basketball].

“It was shirts and skins,” he contin-

ued, adding, “Can you make a bucket? Can you guard someone? It didn’t matter how you prayed, or what color you were. So my Judaism, in which I’ve tried to bring people together, has been the key to my success on my journey as a coach. We have to know who our opponent is. And together we can do so much more than we can apart.”

Auburn will play the Israel U-20 National Team on Tuesday, Aug. 2, at Malha Arena in Jerusalem and then back-to-back games against the Israel All-Star Select Team on Sunday, Aug. 7, at Hader Yosef Gym in North Tel Aviv, and against the Israel National Team on Monday, Aug. 8, at Menora Mivtachim Arena in Tel Aviv.

All games will be televised live at 1 p.m. (ET)/Noon (CT) on the SEC Network. ESPN college basketball analyst Jay Bilas will call the action alongside play-by-play announcer Roxy Bernstein.

The NCAA allows teams to make an international trip every four years, with the Tigers having previously traveled to Italy in the summer of 2017.

Pearl said that he is confident that after his team’s visit to Israel, more Division I college basketball teams will want to compete in the Jewish state, all the while learning about the country. **HW**

# In Aftermath of Deadly Flooding, Kentucky Governor Cancels Planned Trip to Israel



Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear helps in the wake of devastating flooding in eastern Kentucky on Aug. 2, 2022. Source: Twitter/@GovAndyBeshear.

(JNS) – Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and his wife, Britanny, canceled a planned trip to Israel after devastating floods hit the eastern part of his state late last week, killing at least 37 people, including four children – a number that is expected to rise in the next few days.

“I cannot be overseas while the people of eastern Kentucky are suffering and while the region will be in a critical stage over the coming weeks,” the governor said last Monday as he pitched in to help at home. “I promised the people yesterday that I would be there for them – today, tomorrow and in the coming weeks – and I am going to keep that promise.”

As of last Monday afternoon, more than 12,000 people were without power and more than 30 water systems were having issues related to power or flooding. Additionally, hundreds of homes were destroyed in an area that suffers from extreme poverty with rates of more than 20% in many areas, according to U.S. Census figures.

U.S. President Joe Biden declared the

area a disaster zone on July 29, allowing for federal aid to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The State of Israel is among those sending aid to help with relief efforts in Kentucky through Chabad of Kentucky’s social-service arm, Project Friendship, which provides clothing, shoes and household goods to people in need. Chabad delivered more than \$100,000 worth of supplies to eastern Kentucky last Monday alone.

Anat Sultan-Dadon, Israel’s Consul General for the Southeastern United States, said that “our thoughts are with all those impacted by the flooding disaster in Kentucky. We send our sincere condolences to those who have tragically lost loved ones and wishes for a speedy recovery for all who have been impacted.”

“At this difficult time,” she continued, “Israel stands with the people of Kentucky, and our consulate is grateful to be able to join in an effort of offering some assistance to those in need.” **HW**

# Shi’ite Muslim Children in Houston Pledge to be Soldiers of Iranian Ayatollah



A video of children in Houston singing a song titled “Salute, Commander,” which pledges allegiance to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was posted to the “IslamicTV” YouTube channel on July 27, 2022. Credit: MEMRI.

(JNS) – Iranian children in Texas singing a song titled “Salute, Commander,” which pledges allegiance to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was posted to the IslamicTV YouTube channel on July 27.

The Islamic Education Center of Houston initially uploaded the video to its Facebook and YouTube accounts, though these postings were later taken down, reported MEMRI. The song was sung by the kids in both English and Farsi.

The song’s lyrics say: “[Khamenei] is calling on his children, his soldiers. ... In spite of my age, I will be your

army’s commander. ... May my father and mother be sacrificed for you, I will sacrifice everything for you. ... I make an oath to be your martyr, Ali.”

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Quds Force Commander Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. airstrike in January 2020, is praised as a role model in the song’s original Farsi lyrics.

In addition, the Islamic Education Center of Houston held a ceremony to commemorate the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran on its 40th anniversary in February 2019. **HW**

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# Plough Towers Welcomes the Heroes That Protect Us Everyday



First Responders join Plough Towers residents for a hot dog lunch

By Harleen Tague

In partnership with Jewish Community Partners, Plough Towers welcomed Shelby County Sheriffs and the Memphis City Police and Swat Team to lunch at Plough Towers.

These amazing and brave individuals were joined by Plough residents to show the appreciation our community feels for the dedication and hard work and commitment of the First Responders who came to Plough. The turnout was great with over 25 officers attending. A kosher hot dog lunch was provided by the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab and was enjoyed by all.

Amanda Braswell, Regional Security Advisor for the Jewish community, has set up a series of Cop Stop meetings to familiarize First Responders with the various Jewish agencies in Memphis. Each agency provides valuable information regarding safety for its organization. Cop Stop not only familiarizes First Responders but also reinforces the need for safety in our diverse community.

“I was thrilled with the turnout of our local law enforcement and especially liked to see the interaction between that of the residents and the officers,” said Plough Towers Executive Director Leigh Hendry. **HW**



Emma, the activities director, leads the pack

# U.S. Takes Action Against Six Entities Helping Iran Oil Industry

(JNS) – The U.S. government last Monday designated and sanctioned six entities as helping with “illicit transactions related to Iranian petroleum” and related products, “key sources of revenue for the Iranian government.”

It is one more wrench in negotiating the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

“The United States has been sincere in pursuing a path of meaningful diplomacy to achieve a mutual return to full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Until Iran is ready to return to full implementation of the JCPOA, we will continue to use sanctions authorities to target exports of petroleum, petroleum products and petrochemical products from Iran,” said U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in announcing the designation.

The designated entities include Pioneer Ship management PTE LTD, which managed a “liquified petroleum-gas tanker for serving as the commercial manager for a vessel that transported Iranian petroleum products” and Golden Warrior Shipping, Co. Ltd., which “engaged in transactions related to Iranian petroleum and petroleum products, to include providing logistical support to the Iranian petroleum trade.”

As a result of the designation, said a statement from the U.S. Department of Treasury, “all property and interests in property of these targets that are in the United States or in the possession

or control of U.S. persons must be blocked and reported” to the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control. **HW**

# The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Lunch is Monday–Friday at 11:30 a.m. All programs start at 12:15 p.m.



Mike and Jeanette Dougherty will perform on August 17

Special MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Monthly Senior Luncheon on August 17!

Members of the MJCC’s Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club will greet each other with “Aloha!” at their Luau-themed lunch at 12 pm Wednesday, August 17.

The wearing of Hawaiian Shirts and

Mumus is encouraged, and party Leis will be provided! The \$5 admission for the monthly event includes a kosher lunch prepared by the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab and entertainment by Mike and Jeanette Dougherty, seasoned tribute artists of the golden age of Rock and Roll! Entertainment provided in partnership with Creative Aging.

Please make your reservations for this event by calling the MJCC at 901-761-0810 no later than noon on Tuesday, August 16. Come enjoy this fun event!

Seniors can also join us each Monday through Friday at 11:30 am for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before no later than 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220, [stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org](mailto:stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org), or calling the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

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OBITUARIES



Rabbi Martin Hinchin

Rabbi Martin Hinchin died peacefully on July 29, 2022, at the incredible age of 103.

The child of Ukrainian immigrants, Rabbi Hinchin was born and raised in Philadelphia. He graduated from Yeshiva College in New York City in 1940. He was ordained as a Reform Rabbi in 1946 from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and received his Doctor of Divinity Degree in 1971 from Hebrew Union Col-

lege, Jewish Institute of Religion.

Rabbi Hinchin led generations of worshippers across the country serving as student Rabbi in West Virginia and Ohio and a replacement Rabbi in Sioux City, Iowa, during World War II. It was there that he met the first love of his life, Blossom Kalin. They married in 1944 and spent 44 wonderful years together, making homes across the South as he served Jewish congregations in Alabama and Georgia before finding a permanent home as head Rabbi at Congregation Gemiluth Chassodim in Alexandria, Louisiana.

As a pioneer and leader of the Reform Jewish Movement, Rabbi Hinchin fought tirelessly for inclusion, equality and tolerance across the South. He was the first Jewish president of several interfaith organizations, served as the Grand Chaplain of the Louisiana Masonic Lodge and was a board member or leader to countless other organizations including The Red Cross, Salvation Army, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Southern Federation of Temple Youth and the National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis. Even though he was an East Coaster by birth, he used to say that he “fell in love with the people of the South.” Along the way he met such historic and beloved Southern figures as a young Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr., Louisiana’s “singing governor,” Jimmie Davis, and Huey Long’s “crazy” brother, former governor Earl K. Long, who used to call him “Preacher.” He also proudly honored the United States by serving over 20 years in the Naval Reserve as Lt. Commander.

Rabbi Hinchin was blessed to find the second love of his life, Carol Bach, when he retired to Memphis in 1988 after Blossom’s death. Together, he and Carol embraced retirement traveling and playing tennis or bridge, while also serving as the on-call Rabbi for Temple Israel in Memphis. He was most proud of his time serving on the Institutional Review Board of the Baptist Hospital System, ensuring the highest standards of ethics and caregiving to its patients. Retirement also brought unexpected opportunities such as purchasing his first pair of blue jeans and the chance to perform “Roll Out the Barrel” with Tony Orlando in Branson, Missouri.

Rabbi Hinchin left an indelible mark on communities across the South, regardless of race or religion, inspiring

and uniting people around shared values and a good, clean (or not-so-clean) joke! His legacy to Judaism and the Reform Movement lives on through his students and mentees. He leaves behind countless friends who will miss him dearly but will forever carry his teachings with them.

But he will be missed most by his children: Phyllis Selber, KK and Van Weinberg and Susan and Butch Faber; grandchildren Amy and Bobby Pearce, Jill and Jason Handaly, Sandy and Tim Sturm, Leigh and Rob Abbay, Michael and Alexis Faber, Robert and Anne Faber, Carey and Rob Campbell. He had 16 great-grandchildren who he loved and adored. We would also like to thank his devoted caregivers who he loved like family.

Funeral services were held on Monday, August 1, 2022, in the Levy-Cooper Chapel at Temple Israel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to Temple Israel, 1376 East Massey Road, Memphis, Tennessee, 38120. [HW](#)

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**Delores Oser**

Delores Oser, 82, passed away after a short illness on August 2, 2022. Delores was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on March 13, 1940, and moved to Memphis, Tennessee, after she married in 1967.

She was active in Baron Hirsch Congregation. She was loved by her family and many close friends.

Delores was preceded in death by her parents, Morris and Molly Goldfader, and her son, Marshall Oser. She is survived by her husband, Roland Oser, daughter Lainie Oser, brother Stanley Goldfader (Ronnie), and her two grandsons, Hayden and Zachary.

She was laid to rest at Baron Hirsch Cemetery on August 3. Donations may be made to Baron Hirsch Congregation or to the charity of the donor’s choice. [HW](#)



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# Adjusting Your Tax Withholding

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### Getting It Right

If you have too much tax withheld, you will receive a refund when you file your income tax return, but it might make more sense to reduce your withholding and receive more in your paycheck. However, if you have too little tax withheld, you will owe tax when you file your tax return and might owe a penalty.

Two tools – IRS Form W-4 and the Tax Withholding Estimator on [irs.gov](https://irs.gov) – can be used to help figure out the right amount of federal income tax to have withheld from your paycheck. This can be beneficial when tax laws change, your filing status changes, you start a new job, or there are other changes in your personal situation.

You might make a more concerted effort to review your withholding if any of the following situations apply to you:

- File as a two-income family
- Hold more than one job at the same time
- Work for only part of the year
- Claim credits, such as the child tax credit
- Itemize deductions
- Have a high income and a complex return

### Form W-4

In some circumstances, you will need to give your employer a new Form W-4 within 10 days (for example, if the number of allowances you are allowed to claim is reduced or your filing status changes from married to single). In other circumstances, you can submit a new Form W-4 whenever you wish. See IRS Publication 505 for more information.

Your employer will withhold tax from your paycheck based on the information you provide on Form W-4 and the IRS withholding tables.

If you have a large amount of non-wage income such as interest, dividends, or capital gains, you might want to increase the tax withheld or claim fewer allowances. In this situation, also consider making estimated tax payments using IRS Form 1040-ES.

You can claim exemption from federal tax withholding on Form W-4 if both of these situations apply: (1) In the prior tax year, you were entitled to a refund of all federal income tax withheld because you had no tax liability, and (2) for the current year, you expect a refund of all federal income tax withheld because you anticipate having no tax liability.

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# How Bill Russell Learned the Spirit of Judaism

## The Boston Celtics star felt an affinity with coach Red Auerbach who faced prejudice on the streets of Brooklyn.



**Boston Celtics center Bill Russell takes on the Chicago Bulls in 1967.**  
**Credit: Getty Images**

**By Benjamin Ivry**

*This originally appeared in Forward. Reprinted with permission.*

Bill Russell, the legendary Boston Celtics center who died July 31 at age 88, identified his professional accomplishments as cohering with the inner qualities of his Brooklyn-born Jewish coach, Red Auerbach.

Both Russell and Auerbach were feared for their furious will to win. For both, growing up as members of minority groups made them resolve never to accept victimhood or be hindered in their goals. Russell noted in a memoir that during his first year with the Celtics, Auerbach informed him: “It was tougher than hell growing up in Williamsburg. There was a lot of prejudice against Jews. I’m a Jew.”

Russell, whose acquaintance with Jews had been limited in his native Louisiana and as a University of San Francisco undergraduate, asked his coach to define Judaism (“What is a Jew? Is it a religion? Is it a culture? A tribe?”) Auerbach’s response was concise: “Russell. A Jew is a Jew!”

Although they remained friends for decades, Auerbach never offered any further explanation on the subject. Sometimes, when Auerbach was screaming at referees, as was his wont, Russell would wander by and mutter to lighten the mood: “Auerbach. A Jew is a Jew!”

Only once did Auerbach acknowledge Russell’s comment by winking at his star player, before returning to yelling at the referees. In exchange, Auerbach would tease Russell, saying that his wife considered the latter a “nice young man,” adding: “You sure fooled her!” Russell termed this type of joke “Red’s usual Brooklyn-Jewish needle – his way of expressing friendliness.”

Earlier, in 1957, Auerbach announced that another African American player had been drafted by the Celtics and

assumed Russell would know the newcomer. To which Russell joked: “Listen, Red. I don’t know all of them!”

Although Russell was always highly alert to race-related prejudice, he tolerated Auerbach’s occasional use of the term from “schvartze” because he said he understood that his coach trusted him implicitly and esteemed him without an iota of patronization or paternalistic posing. While in some instances Auerbach appeared slow to appreciate the import of racial prejudice, which he encountered, Russell found the coach open-minded, willing to learn and always respectful.

Russell also took it good-humoredly when Auerbach called him a Goyishe kop.” But Russell was not so tolerant about potential slights from other Jewish basketball personnel. Indeed, before Russell signed with the Celtics, he rejected an offer to join the Harlem Globetrotters exhibition basketball squad after team owner Abe Saperstein, of Polish Jewish origin, would only negotiate with his college coach rather than speak to Russell personally.

Nor was Russell enamored of all Jews in basketball. Following Auerbach’s example, he would taunt veteran Jewish referee Mendy Rudolph, asking if he would like a recommendation for a good optometrist.

Russell and Auerbach had parallel approaches to the game, with Russell scrupulously analyzing playing styles of other athletes, while Auerbach preferred to study weaknesses of referees before each game. Irritating and distracting the opposition were key elements of their shared performance strategy.

Defining his friendship with Auerbach in his memoir, Russell intriguingly compared it to  $E = mc^2$ , Albert Einstein’s formula for mass–energy equivalence in which complex equations were con-

densed by Einstein to a brief formula. Likewise, the labyrinthine personalities of Russell and Auerbach added up to a friendship despite their own intricately individual approaches to life and sport.

Part of the equation was speaking little, and scarcely ever about subjects not immediately concerned with the game. As Russell put it, “I didn’t know if [Auerbach] went to synagogue, and he didn’t know if I went to church.”

Yet when Russell ideally realized Auerbach’s goal of playing defense-oriented basketball, the coach was ready to support his player when others accused him of improperly blocking shots by opponents.

In 1957, Philadelphia Warriors coach Eddie Gottlieb (born Isadore Gottlieb of Ukrainian Jewish roots) was so enraged by Russell’s defense tactics that he announced, “I’m certainly going to ask Maurice Podoloff,” referring to the Russian Jewish-born NBA president at the time. Auerbach dismissed Gottlieb’s complaints as “absolutely ridiculous” and merely a “question of sour grapes.”

Russell also refrained from speaking as a basis for their relationship in 1964, when Auerbach led a U.S. State Department goodwill basketball tour behind the Iron Curtain that included a daylong visit to Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. Russell later recalled:

“We saw the ovens, and mounds of hair and jewelry and shoes, and then we just walked around somberly. Red looked solemn – it made a big impact on him. It had a strong impact on me, too. I thought, ‘This is the utmost demonstration of men’s inhumanity to other men. This is a great evil.’ I could only wonder what Red was thinking and feeling. I didn’t say a word to him the whole time we were there. I thought if I said something wrong, it might sound disrespectful or be uncomfortable for him – this place had more to do with his people than mine. However, the place did summon thoughts about segregation in the United States. While that was different,

it arose from the same ignorance and fear that triggers such cruelties.”

Russell and Auerbach also shared temperamental inclinations to treat players and staff with dignity, while mere fans often received decidedly less respect. Other Celtic players were as impressed by Auerbach as Russell was. One told National Public Radio that some of his teammates could not bear to follow Jewish tradition and toss a little soil on Auerbach’s casket at the end of his funeral ceremony.

For his part, Russell’s inspirational persona would be referred to by Aviam Soifer in a memorial article about a fellow legal scholar for the Harvard Law Review, comparing his colleague to Bill Russell for adding “an entirely new dimension to the game he played. Strong defense mattered most to both men. Both pioneered how to block their opponents’ best shots, and both altered the flow of the entire game through their court presence. Ironically, [they] were two loners who nonetheless managed to be at the core of some legendary teams.”

During Auerbach’s early years with the Celtics, a Boston reporter slated his draft choices and added to the coach: “Besides that, you’re a Jew, and we don’t like Jews either! And we’re gonna run you out of town!”

When Russell heard this tale from Auerbach, he asked how such a comment could be handled. Auerbach replied, “Oh, I’ll just outlive the bastards.” Auerbach’s “will to outlive hate, ignorance, entitlement and even evil,” Russell concluded, “echoed my own perspective.”

Despite Bill Russell’s long life highlighted by much-deserved honors, he did not quite manage to outlive hate and ignorance in his homeland. Yet he will be remembered in tandem with Red Auerbach by sports fans everywhere, who admire their shared sensibilities as essential not just for winning games, but in serving as ingredients for exemplary lives based on Jewish and African American experience. **HW**

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# Blinken: Best Result For U.S., Iran is Return to Nuclear Deal

(JNS) – Returning to the 2015 nuclear deal remains the best outcome for the United States, Iran and the world, according to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking at the United Nations about global nonproliferation discussions last Monday.

Earlier, U.S. President Joe Biden stated that Washington was ready to outline a new nuclear arms deal with Russia and urged Moscow to demonstrate its willingness to negotiate in good faith during the talks, which began last Monday, reported Reuters.

Blinken also reiterated America’s warning that North Korea is planning its seventh nuclear test.

Despite repeated refrains by Biden administration officials that negotiations to revive the Iran nuclear deal cannot go on indefinitely – a fact the U.S. president himself reiterated during the Israel leg of his Middle East trip in mid-July – Washington still won’t set a deadline for ending talks, even though they appear to be unsalvageable given Tehran’s recent claims that it could easily build a bomb. **HW**

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# Confessions of a Bar Mitzvah Teacher



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

**By Ted Roberts**

Since, as the Chumash says, “Confession is good for the soul,” let’s begin with a confession. I am a bar mitzvah teacher. My avocation – my hobby – is the navigation of Jewish boys through the tangled web of the bar mitzvah ceremony.

In most families, a cash gift of a green, oblong paper with a picture of Benjamin Franklin works fine. But parents who are really lousy negotiators sometimes get stuck with a clause in the BAP (Bar Mitzvah Agreement Protocol), which results in a separate phone line for Mark or Ben: or a trust fund containing a red BMW when the child reaches driving age.

Usually, the first step by parents, after signing the contract drawn up by the child’s legal representative, is the call to the bar mitzvah teacher.

Parent: “OK, we’ve signed the contract with Mark. Can you get over here by 7:15? He’s in a great mood – we just gave him some money.”

Starving bar mitzvah teacher: “Uh, I planned to wash out some underwear and a few shirts. They’re \$1.25 at the laundry, you know.”

Parent: “Later, later. Come over now. He’s had 50 milligrams of Ritalin. Let’s get started.”

Well, teach stumbles over. And around the kitchen table explains to student and family the formidable intellec-

tual challenge posed by the bar mitzvah requirements. The theme is always the same. “It ain’t easy and sooner or later you’re gonna hate me.” Yeah, yeah, they understand –

“LET’S GO!” they shout.

Teaching 12-year-olds to chant Haftorah is like teaching dolphins to sing A Che Le Morte from Ill Trovatore. Sooner or later kids and dolphins swim away. It is not a slick ride on a playground slide.

Take my current student (as Henry Youngman would say, “Yeah, please take him – far away.”)

Let’s call him Ben. When he talks, his parents open their checkbooks and listen with wide-eyed attention. His mother reveres him, and his father addresses him in low, respectful tones. Here, extracted from Ben’s file is the verbatim record of my first conversation with his family.

Me – the bar mitzvah teacher: “Well, it’s time for Ben to begin his bar mitzvah training.”

To myself: (From what I can tell of Ben’s mental equipment, we shoulda started when he was six.)

Mother: “Oh, nice of you to call, but I’m not sure Ben wants to be a bar mitzvah.”

To herself: (My son may not have time for this bar mitzvah stuff. He’s probably the Messiah, himself, and he’s gonna be busy fixing the world.)

Bar mitzvah teacher: “Well, it’s kinda hard for a 12-year-old to make decisions like this. Why don’t you pitch in and make it for him? Just say yes.”

To myself: (Lucky he couldn’t express himself at birth – he’d have nixed his own bris. So messy.)

Finally, Mother agreed that since Ben was busy – determining his supper menu preferences every night, deciding

on his daily TV agenda, choosing his wardrobe – that yes, she’d relieve him of this bar mitzvah decision.

A bar mitzvah is a real challenge for a young boy: the singing of the Haftorah and blessings before and after. Plus, the Torah reading and associated blessings. Then finally the speech. The Torah reading, especially, is a challenge. It’s not easy. There are no vowels, you see, under those squirmy Hebrew letters and the trop – the tune – is different from the Haftorah.

The speech is variable. It can be a simple reading of the words typed up by his teacher; a fail-safe stratagem when the child hasn’t mastered the Haftorah until 9:15 the morning of the event. Or – the student can spend weeks researching the prophets and the associated Rabbinical commentary.

Listen; a really scholarly bar mitzvah exegesis can equal a PhD thesis.

But none of my students have ever failed; every bar mitzvahee gets a minimum C+ grade. And I’ve never had a student who didn’t show up. Don’t laugh. I’ve had one or two who called the coach the Friday before: “Mr. Roberts, I’ve got kinda feverish feeling, and I’ll bet I gotta temperature, so I won’t be at the synagogue. Would you just bring the presents over? I’ll pay the rental fee for the truck.”

The problem is, to deal with kids you need leverage. Something to reward with – something to punish with. But we teachers – unless backed up by parents – have an empty pack. All we can do is conjure up visions of all that loot – those glittering gifts. A Jewish version of Christmas Day. But if the kid already owns the world, what’s to bribe with?

Ah, the times they are a’changing. When I was a bar mitzvah boy, my teacher carried a ruler like a sword. And

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if you blew the trop – the haftorah tunes – he called you a dummy. Imagine! Not a slow learner, not an Attention Deficit Disorder victim, but a DUMMY! And believe it or not, he rapped your knuckles with his weapon, the ruler.

Today he’d be in court. The bar mitzvahee, the ACLU and the parents with Alan Dershowitz at their side, would sue his Tsitzis off.

The ideal bar mitzvahee is a plain 12-year-old. Shunned by 12-year-old females, who has no talent for band, chess, basketball or math. Undistracted by an admiring world, he’ll shine on the Bimah, and you’ll get tons of compliments on your pedagogic talents. The synagogue audience will bow as they let you go first through the kiddish line (before the other fressers have used the cream cheese fork to pollute the egg salad) while the bagels are still fresh. Ah, the perks of a bar mitzvah teacher.

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

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## Insights From Israel

### The Jewish Agency: Now a Geopolitical Football

**By Howard Weisband**

Russia invades Ukraine. Israel sides with Ukraine, sending much humanitarian nonmilitary aid.

Russia, an ally of Syria – also Iran – provides military aid and diplomatic support to the Assad regime in Syria. Israel protects its northern border, fires against (Iranian proxy) Hezbollah operations inside Syria, while having created a diplomatic and military understanding with Russia under both Prime Ministers Netanyahu and Bennett.

Former Prime Minister Bennett openly supported Ukraine while refraining from criticizing Russia, while Foreign Minister Lapid has been openly critical of Russia. Good cop, bad cop? Lapid becomes Prime Minister. Putin remembers.

That’s a too simple but a somewhat accurate portrayal of a very complex scenario that has led to Russia’s recent retribution and demand for the Israeli-based Jewish Agency to cease its operations inside Russian borders.

The Russian case hinges on the Jewish Agency breaking its privacy laws, since the Agency gathers information on Russian citizens. Why? In order to facilitate their Aliyah, i.e., their emigration from Russia and their immigration to Israel.

Since Glasnost and the post-Gorbachev era, the Jewish Agency has been able to work openly in Russia, employing both Israeli and local Russian personnel.

But this is a different Mother Russia since Putin’s invasion of Ukraine.

To cover its political motive, the Russians contend that this is purely a legal matter, to be decided by the Russian courts, with a judicial hearing set for August 19. An Israeli legal team representing the Government and the Jewish Agency met with Russian officials on August 1 with no resolve. Their conclusion: the matter will have to be resolved on the diplomatic and political levels.

Perhaps another factor is anchored in the Aliyah statistics themselves: in 2021, 7,800 Russian olim came to Israel. Already in 2022 that figure is approaching 20,000, the majority of whom decided to leave Russia since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine. In addition, 34,000 Russian citizens have entered Israel as tourists. Why is that important? Since El Al is still flying between Tel Aviv and Moscow, it is relatively simple to quickly leave the country on a tourist visa for a “vacation” in Israel, and file Aliyah papers once inside the country.

Further, it’s reported that many leaving Russia are in the medical field and high-tech sectors. Some pundits have opined that Russia foresees a new “brain drain.”

But the geopolitical complexity is deeper, as indicated above. According to the former Israel Ambassador to the United States (and keen diplomatic commentator), Michael Oren, Russian action against the Jewish Agency has more to do with Middle East geopolitics than immigration. “Our capacity to move freely in Syria is the main problem, not Jewish Agency programs,” he told the AFP news agency. “Russia constantly threatens to take action against us in Syria.” But given that Russia has no interest in clashing with Israel in Syria, “this (the Jewish Agency) is an easier way of expressing displeasure.”

Oren may be correct. But meanwhile, Russian Jews clearly are being used as pawns by Putin.

Let’s watch for the following in coming days. Will there be negotiations at the diplomatic and/or political levels to resolve the matter? If there is a judicial hearing on August 19 in Moscow, what will be the result and then the follow

up? And, with Israel in the midst of an election campaign moving toward November 1 elections, what will be the positions of the various parties and candidates?

A July 29 editorial in the Jerusalem Post, “Free the Jewish Agency,” summed up the issue: “We don’t want to see the controversy in Russia exploited for politics in Israel, and we don’t want to harm relations with Moscow. However, Israel must make it clear that Jews in Russia and immigration to Israel should never pay the price for political differences. We value relations with Russia, but the Jewish Agency should not be at the center of a legal controversy. Russia should allow the Jewish Agency to work as it has in the past.”

*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](mailto:hweisband@gmail.com) HW*



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Kenneth Wayne Alexander II, 'Tower of Babel', 2021. Digital video. Courtesy of the artist.





# How Those Suffering from Cancer Become ‘Me’ at Camp Simcha

By Josh Hasten

(JNS) – Sixteen-year-old Tevel Argental, from the northern Israeli town of Yokneam, has been battling brain cancer since she was two years old. She has undergone multiple surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation and other treatments that have allowed her to live as best as possible under the difficult circumstances. At the same time, Tevel has been coming to grips with the death of her father, who died of a heart attack three years ago.

Tevel’s 14-year battle against the dreaded disease has taken a major toll on her. She has limited use of the right side of her body, and vision impairment, as a result of a still-present tumor. Plus, she often feels isolated or, as she told JNS, like a fish out of water in her community.

For the past five summers, though, Tevel has had “the chance to open up and be the most ‘me’ that I can” alongside other youths who are battling cancer, at Camp Simcha, a sleep-away summer camp in Glen Spey, N.Y.

Camp Simcha is run by Chai Lifeline, an organization founded in 1987 dedicated to helping families cope with the crises and challenges of pediatric illness. Chai Lifeline operates Camp Simcha along with “Camp Simcha Special” for children and teens with chronic illnesses and disabilities. This is in addition to “Camp Simcha Without Borders,” a program in communities throughout the world for children who are too sick to leave their homes.

The programs are fully subsidized through the generosity of donors.

Around 500 children attend Camp Simcha every summer from across the spectrum of Judaism, including 50 who are from Israel. The camp’s activities are designed to accommodate its diverse population, and there is a top-level medical facility on site to provide the necessary treatments and medicines for the campers.

Tevel’s mother, Orly, told JNS that they were introduced to Camp Simcha through Chai Lifeline’s Israel branch, known as Chaiyanu. “Camp Simcha is the most important thing in Tevel’s life. When she is there, she is in a place where for two weeks her worries and problems disappear, a place where she doesn’t have to answer questions like ‘why don’t you have hair, or ‘what’s wrong.’ At camp she is accepted for who she is,” she said.

“It’s really hard to put it into words how much strength the camp gives her,” Orly continued. “Every year, she comes back on a high, and with new friends who she is in touch with all year round who understand her and are with her through everything.”

Orly explained that Tevel almost missed this year’s camp session as her visa to the United States had expired. During the process to renew it, Tevel’s passport was misplaced at the U.S. Embassy. “Many tears were shed since she thought she would miss out, but a Chaiyanu representative went above and beyond for us and went to the embassy to resolve everything,” she said.

While Tevel missed the group flight

to New York with the other Israelis, Chaiyanu got her on another flight, with someone to accompany her.

“It was just amazing that it worked out,” said Orly.

Tevel stressed that there is no barrier between the Israeli and American campers: “We speak the same language even if they speak English and I speak Hebrew,” she said.

Camp Simcha director Nachman Maimon elaborated on this point, telling JNS, “The Israelis who come to camp have a tremendous ruach [‘spirit’] and energy. When these kids simply look at each other, there is an international language there.”

Maimon said that “whether these kids are black or white, secular or religious, they live in this dark place because of their illness. But when they come together, they don’t even have to say anything, they become best friends. That smile breaks down all the barriers.”

While the camp of course cannot offer a cure, he added, “we can flick the lights on in the dark tunnel they are in. And that happens when the campers show each other love and support. ... The bunks at camp, even with all of the beeping medical machines, the kids turn it into fun. ... Camp Simcha is a place of happiness and love and tremendous energy which takes these kids so far. I believe this place is literally lifesaving.”

**‘It’s a calming experience’**

Rabbi Simcha Scholar, chief executive officer of Chai Lifeline, emphasized

that his organization is committed to helping children with illness year-round and not only in the summer.

“The philosophy of Camp Simcha isn’t focused on families that we helped, it’s about that individual child,” he said. “Each kid has a unique and tailor-made game plan. Whether it’s being able to walk, or self-esteem, or interactions, physical or psychological goals, we follow up with them throughout the year.”

Scholar explained that Camp Simcha has thousands of volunteers who readily step in and stay with those affected at hospitals, if need be, so that their families can get some rest. The organization also provides programming for families, financial assistance and helps to develop personal relationships between the campers.

While Tevel is now back in Israel after an amazing summer, Orly told JNS that sometime in the next few months her daughter will have to undergo another medical procedure in Vienna with the hopes of shrinking her brain tumor.

The family is hopeful, and Tevel is still reveling in her experience at Camp Simcha, but she misses the candle-making, glass-blowing, ceramics and other activities. Mostly, she misses her friends, campers, counselors and volunteers.

“For two weeks at Camp Simcha, it’s almost as if Tevel is given an injection, which lasts for months. It’s a calming experience, but also a high. She has true self-confidence over there,” said Orly. **HW**

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