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THE Hebrew Watchman

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HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 18 TISHREI, 5783 OCTOBER 13, 2022 VOL. 101, NO. 3

In the Path of Hurricane Ian, Rabbis Open Their Homes and Safeguard Torahs



In an aerial view, damaged buildings are seen as Hurricane Ian passed through the area on September 29, 2022 in Fort Myers Beach, Florida. The hurricane brought high winds, storm surge and rain to the area causing severe damage. Credit: Joe Raedle/Getty Images

By Adam Kovac

September 29, 2022 — This originally appeared on Forward. Reprinted with permission. Some edits were made to update the story.

As Hurricane Ian barreled through Florida heading north, Rabbi Robert

Haas got busy protecting his synagogue in Savannah, Georgia.

Congregation Mickve Israel, founded in 1733, has much to safeguard. The Reform synagogue is an active congregation, but also a museum filled with

priceless Judaica, including two of the oldest Torahs in the United States.

Haas wrapped the scrolls and other artifacts in waterproof material and moved them to the windowless library, just in case.

On Thursday, the day after Ian hit Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, it had been downgraded to a tropical storm. But it was predicted to be upgraded to a hurricane again before it hit the South Carolina coast on Friday. In Georgia, officials warned of possible flooding just days before normally crowded Yom Kippur services. Congregants were told if they could not reach the synagogue, they could tune in online – a contingency in place thanks to the pandemic.

One of the worst storms to hit the U.S. in decades, with 150 mph winds, Ian left more than 2 million Floridians without power. It ravaged the state’s west coast, including Sarasota, Fort Myers and Naples. Many Jewish institutions in the area were unreachable by phone last Wednesday and Thursday.

Devastation in Florida

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz of the Chabad of Southwest Florida in Fort Myers rode out the storm at home, not by choice but because the evacuation

order had come during Rosh Hashanah, when Orthodox Jews refrain from using technology.

“We couldn’t leave because we only found out after yontif and it was too late to leave,” Minkowicz said, using the Yiddish term for a Jewish holiday.

Despite severe flooding, by last Thursday morning, the storm surge had rescinded back into the Gulf of Mexico, and Minkowicz had mobilized, opening a temporary shelter at the Chabad House in Fort Myers, launching a fundraiser and providing video updates on the community’s relief efforts. By midnight last Wednesday night, three ambulances from Hatzoloh, the Jewish emergency service, had arrived, and volunteers from Miami and Boca Raton began to set up a generator and Wi-Fi at the temporary shelter.

Minkowicz’s group planned to host a barbecue dinner last Thursday for people who are out of power or low on supplies and also delivered 200 Shabbat dinners to members of the community.

“Now it’s a matter of helping people get back on their feet, helping them fix up the houses, getting them food, get-

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Florida Jewish Organizations Stepping Up to Help in Aftermath of Hurricane Ian



Rabbi Zaklos with Hatzalah

By Kylie Ora Lobell

September 29, 2022 — This story originally appeared in Jewish Journal at jewishjournal.com. Reprinted with permission.

When Hurricane Ian hit Florida, Rabbi Sholom Schmerling of Chabad of Venice and North Port sprung into action. As the storm damaged his synagogue’s roof, blew over the menorah and knocked down his trees, he answered frantic calls from members of his community.

“All night, one person was in their home,” Schmerling said. “Their windows were blown out. There was water coming into their kitchen. They put a life vest on.”

The rabbi worked to help this person, along with other people in his community who needed assistance at this time. The extent of the hurricane’s damage is still being tallied, but so far, according

(See Aftermath Page 3)

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My BBYO Experience



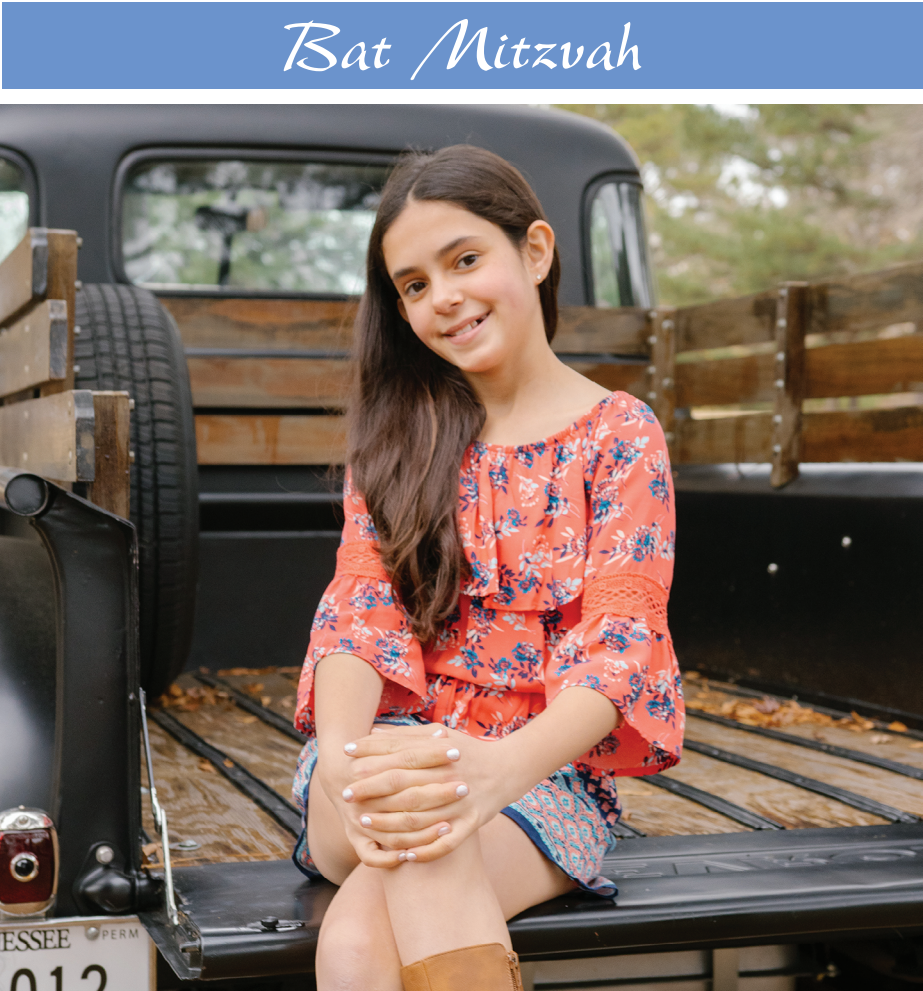
Sarah Hochman
By Sarah Hochman,
Regional Sganit, Kriger BBG

My start in BBYO came from two texts – one from each MIT Mom of Kriger BBG – and then a circle of BBGs

screaming in my driveway with a mega-phone to surprise me after I officially registered to be in their chapter.

These little things meant so much to me, as they still do now, and moments like that are what I hope to create for others in BBYO.

Going into my third year as a member, my experience has been overwhelmingly positive. I have made so many of my closest friends both in Memphis and all over the world through the multitude of programs and events BBYO offers. The memories, leadership skills, and Jewish enrichment opportunities that have been brought to me are priceless. This is only a surface level look as to why I have remained so active and passionate about BBYO, currently serving as Delta Region’s S’ganit and Kriger BBG’s Mazkirah. **HW**



Bat Mitzvah

Sophie Rossen

Sophie Rossen, daughter of Lindsey and David Rossen, will celebrate her bat mitzvah on October 22, 2022, at Beth Sholom Synagogue in Memphis, Tenn. Sophie is in the 7th grade at Bornblum Jewish Community School where she has served as board member on the Student Counsel and is currently on the board of the National Junior Honor Society. Sophie has run cross country and track for the Bornblum Bobcats and is an avid ballet dancer. In addition to dancing, Sophie loves to hang out with her friends and attends B’nai B’rith Beber Camp.

Sophie has been collecting items to donate to Camp Good Grief, an organization that provides a therapeutic environment to children that are dealing with the loss of a loved one. Sophie has been lucky enough to grow up with two great-grandmothers, Ella Goodman of Louisville, Ky., and Goldie Burson of Memphis. Her grandparents are David and Beverly Weinberg of Louisville and Skip and Susan Rossen of Memphis. **HW**

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

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Intermediate Days of Sukkot

Sat. October 15, 2022 / 20 Tishrei, 5783 Shabbat ends... 7:03 p.m.
Shemimi Atzeret

Sun. October 16, 2022 / 21 Tishrei, 5783 6:06 p.m.
Mon. October 17, 2022 / 22 Tishrei, 57837:00 p.m.
Tue. October 18, 2022 / 23 Tishrei, 5783 Holiday ends ... 6:59 p.m.

Iranian Supreme Leader: Israel, U.S. Orchestrating Protests

(JNS) – Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last Monday accused Israel and the United States of orchestrating the disturbances taking place throughout the country in recent weeks.

The Iranian leader strongly backed the regime’s security forces, which are repressing the protests, and claimed that the unrest, sparked by the death on Sept. 16 of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, was not being caused by “ordinary Iranians,” *Reuters* reported.

Amini died in custody after being arrested by Iranian morality police in Tehran for failing to wear her veil correctly.

Khamenei said her death “deeply broke my heart,” calling it a “bitter incident,” according to the report.

Yet, he added, “some people had caused insecurity in the streets,” accusing Washington and Jerusalem of planning the unrest.

“The duty of our security forces, including police, is to ensure the safety of the Iranian nation ... the ones who attack the police are leaving Iranian citizens defenseless against thugs, robbers and extortionists,” said Khamenei.

Iranian police together with the Basij security forces have cracked down on protesters, arresting thousands, injuring hundreds and killing over 130, the report said, citing rights groups.

Khamenei claimed that security forces faced “injustice” during the incidents, stating, “In recent incidents, it is, above all, security forces including the police and Basij, as well as the people of Iran, who were wronged,” he said. **HW**





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Rabbis...

(Continued From Page 1)

ting them what to drink, getting them supplies,” Minkowicz said. “That’s our next big job.”

Sarasota Rabbi Levi Steinmetz of the Chabad of Downtown Sarasota also remained in the city as the storm passed through.

Last Thursday, he said he had been in communication with congregants despite power and internet outages and was able to assure people of their relatives’ safety, including a mother in Israel worried about her son.

“It’s a little bit crazy, we’re trying to check on everyone,” said Steinmetz.

Ian severed the causeway to Sanibel Island, home of Bat Yam Temple of the Islands. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis called the destruction on the island “biblical.” All but two couples in the congregation fled before the hurricane hit, responding to a county-wide evacuation order.

“Nobody has heard from anybody on the island since a little after 3 p.m. Eastern Time yesterday,” Janice Block Chaddock, a Bat Yam member, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last Thursday. “I’m happy to be alive, happy that my husband and my mom are alive, and I’m on pins and needles about other friends on Sanibel.”

Rabbi Bruce Diamond of The Community Free Synagogue in Fort Myers answered a call from the Forward just after the storm made landfall last Wednesday. Asked about the weather, he stepped outside his home, and described wind pummeling trees and debris littering the ground.

But Diamond, who has lived through three or four hurricanes in the area, said he wasn’t worried, and that he was ready to shelter people who live in

homes more vulnerable than his, as he has done in the past.

“Sometimes it’s two or three days and we may have to do that again,” he said. “It’s pretty awful out there.”

Last Thursday, a call to Diamond went straight to voicemail.

The storm had subsided by the time it reached Orlando, in central Florida.

Rabbi Yosef Konikov of the Chabad of South Orlando said his synagogue was working on getting meals to those who need them and also on providing help for congregations in other places that were hard hit.

Relief

The Miami area, Florida’s most substantial population center, was relatively unaffected by the hurricane, aside from some rain and wind. The Greater Miami Jewish Federation launched a fund to boost relief efforts.

The Jewish Federations of North America has also launched a relief campaign, including emergency grants to hard-hit communities. “Jewish Federations are especially well-positioned to help in these kinds of situations,” Julie Platt, the campaign chair, said in a press release.

The storm struck just after Rosh Hashanah, and days before Yom Kippur, which began Tuesday evening. Many in the storm’s path fled to family in other cities and states to observe the holiest day on the Jewish calendar with them.

Diamond, watching the hurricane rage outside his home, called it “awe-inspiring.”

“The voice of the Lord is above the waters,” he said. “It certainly gives you a sense of reverence to see this kind of power displayed. And it reminds us of how everything hangs by a thread.” HW

Aftermath...

(Continued From Page 1)

to Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marcano, the Florida death toll is feared to be “in the hundreds,” and strong winds and heavy flooding have caused massive damage to people’s homes and businesses in southwest Florida.

Schmerling is working fast to get people access to generators and basic supplies. He’s opened up the Chabad as a place where people can eat, sleep and charge their phones if they don’t have power. He’s also receiving calls from people all over the world who are unable to reach their family in his community and helping them get in touch.

“We have the oldest population in Florida, and one of the oldest in the U.S., so our seniors are our biggest concern,” he said.

An hour and a half south of Venice is Naples, which was in a mandatory evacuation zone. According to Chabad of Naples Rabbi Fishel Zaklos, there was major flooding in his area, and the roof and fence at his Chabad were damaged. However, he’s been working hard to organize a BBQ dinner for people who are out of power or low on supplies.

In her Facebook invite for the BBQ, the rabbi’s wife Ettie wrote, “We might not have electricity, but we have each other.”

“This is what it’s all about,” the rabbi said. “We’re taking everything that we’ve learned serving the community and applying it now.”

The morning of September 29, the rabbi said that with help from Hatzalah, they rescued an 86-year-old woman who was stuck in her home after her first floor was flooded. The rabbi has been walking around and assessing the damage and came across a community

member who was happy to see him.

“I was recording a video for Facebook, and a man turned to me and said that when he sees me, he knows God is present,” he said. “It wasn’t about me, it was about the two of us connecting. We are all made in the image of God, and we need to be here for the broader community. People are devastated. This has been a very difficult last two days.”

Hatzalah South Florida Emergency Medical Services, which serves Miami, Hollywood, Boca Raton and surrounding areas, sent volunteers to the south-west part of Florida to help as well.

Joseph Dahan, co-executive director and co-founder of the organization, said that volunteers took medical equipment, water, clothing and food to the communities in need.

“We’re trying to track down people and provide medical services, and rescue people who have not been accounted for,” he said. “There haven’t been any fatalities or injuries at this time.”

Sending volunteers when disaster strikes is what Hatzalah is all about.

“Hatzalah is always there,” Dahan said. “Nobody asks us to be there. We’ll figure out what the community needs and do what needs to be done. No one wants to leave their family a couple of days before yontif to do a search and rescue mission, but our volunteers know that’s what we need to do.”

Even though it looked like Orlando was going to be in the eye of the storm, during the worst part, community members there saw strong winds, and some are now without power. According to Kelila Siciliano, a former LA resident who now lives in Orlando, her power has [had] been out for more than 14 hours.

“It’s windy and it’s raining, but it always rains here,” she said. “Every day in the summer we get some form of thunderstorms. But this time, there was no thunder – just wind. It was eerie.”

What concerned Siciliano the most was how she was going to make Shabbat without having any power. Thankfully, her friends nearby have power and are hosting her family for meals.

“The eruv is not up this weekend and there’s no way to check it,” she said. “But I heard from the rebbetzin of our synagogue that people are hosting for Shabbat and offering to bring meals to people as long as the roads are clear.”

Siciliano is just glad the worst of the storm is over.

I am much more relaxed,” she said. “Yesterday, there was a nervous energy on WhatsApp from anyone who hadn’t been through a hurricane, but as it progressed, everyone’s energy was being released and we were sharing stories of past hurricanes. There doesn’t seem to be any real damage. It’s a relief to be on the other side of it. And I would take a hurricane over an earthquake any day.” HW

THREE SUITES – ONE STORY

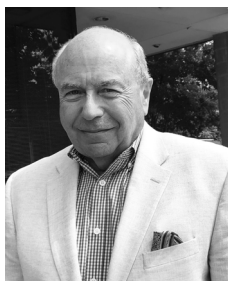


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Mila Kunis Tears Up in Multifaceted Talk Ranging from Family to Films

By Alan Zeitlin

(JNS) – Jewish actress Mila Kunis has charmed millions of fans around the world, but did she charm her way into America?

After a screening of her new film “Luckiest Girl Alive” at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan on Sept. 29, the star who rose to fame playing Jackie Burkhart on “That ’70s Show” told the crowd that, as a child, she strolled into the office of the woman who was to decide if her family would be allowed to go to the U.S. They’d been at the American embassy in Moscow for about 16 hours and she asked if she had any candy. The woman had something better.

“Long story short, she was like, ‘Welcome to America,’” Kunis recalled, saying she was about 7 years old when her family received a religious refugee visa.

Interviewed by Josh Horowitz, who has covered film for *MTV*, she said her parents initially lied and told her they were moving across the street, but when they needed to take a train to the Moscow embassy, she realized it wasn’t true.

Kunis had her first on-screen kiss with Ashton Kutcher, who played Michael Kelso on “That ’70s Show.” The hit *Fox* program ended in 2006. Kunis and Kutcher got married in 2015 and have two children.

The couple donated funds and helped raise \$35 million for Ukraine, where Kunis is originally from, and Kunis got choked up when she told the audience that her daughter, who is now 8, expressed pride in being half-Ukrainian when discussing the ongoing war in the country. Kunis said she returned to Ukraine about five years ago for a visit.

She famously starred with Natalie Portman in “Black Swan,” and said that film as well as “Forgetting Sarah Marshall” proved she could make it in mov-

ies. People had advised her to stick to television, but she didn’t listen.

Horowitz noted that Kutcher recently said his movie with Portman, “No Strings Attached,” was basically the same movie as “Friends With Benefits,” which starred Kunis and Justin Timberlake.

“We were better, but it’s no big deal,” Kunis said, drawing laughs.

With a screenplay by Jessica Knoll, whose best-selling book is the basis for the film, “Luckiest Girl Alive” stars Kunis as Ani Fanelli, who is in position to become a senior editor at *The New York Times*, though her husband wants to move to London. As the movie goes on, we see Ani struggle to deal with her trauma as a victim of sexual violence, and she is disturbed by rumors about whether or not she had a connection to a horrific high school attack that some did not survive. The film, which began streaming on Netflix on Oct. 7, features one of Kunis’ strongest performances.

Kunis said the film’s voice-over is particularly important as the character relives her trauma. She called Knoll’s voice “incredibly specific” and said she chose to do the film because it is in part based on the writer’s real life.

As to whether she prefers comic or intense dramatic roles, Kunis said she has no preference.

“There’s an ego that comes with filmmaking,” Kunis said. “If anyone tells you otherwise, they’re lying. You want to entertain people and entertainment comes in a multitude of forms. ... I love any form of escapism. ... I don’t think you’re gonna walk out and be like, ‘Huh, what a popcorn movie for summer!’ But I think that you’ll walk out of it hopefully with some sort of feeling or emotion or desire to have a conversation.” **HW**

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and the HOW Institute for Society Announce the 2022 Winners of Prize in Ethics Essay Contest

NEW YORK, September 28, 2022 – The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, an organization established by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel and his wife, Marion, and the HOW Institute for Society announced this year’s winners of the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest, the Foundation’s yearly scholarship initiative. The five college student winners of the Contest were selected among hundreds of applicants for their exceptional essays analyzing relevant ethical issues facing our world.

Tyler Jager, a senior at Yale College, won first place in the Contest. His essay, “Navigating the Border between Hospitality and Justice: Refugee Pushbacks, Search-and-Rescue, and the Ethics of Solidarity,” explores the ethical dilemmas humanitarian aid organizations face when helping refugees seek asylum while simultaneously working with state authorities. In 2018, Jager joined a maritime search-and-rescue and volunteer aid organization in a small fishing village in Greece to assist asylum seekers. This experience informed his essay.

“In the Mediterranean Sea, aid organizations coexist in an uneasy symbiosis with the authorities. They must work within border and asylum regimes to stay operational, even when they know their presence could work to legitimate those abusive systems,” Jager explains in his piece.

Second prize in this year’s contest was awarded to Sarah Edelson of Amherst College for her essay, “Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program: A Moral Responsibility to Right to Wrongs of Harmful Housing Policies and ‘Urban Renewal’ Programs.” The piece explores the ethics of both private and public entities contributing to residential segregation during the post-war period in pursuit of economic development, and how Black communities can be revitalized today.

Amirah Elayan of William Paterson University received third prize for “The Moral Dilemma of Living,” which explores philosophical questions, including what does it mean to live, and is life worth living? Honorable Mention was awarded to two recipients: Alexander Viviano of the University of Chicago for “The Ethics of Geopolitics - Le Carre’s Timelessness” and to Eric Evangelista, a recent graduate of Syracuse University for “Denied: Privacy, Dignity, Death.” The winning essays can be found on the Foundation’s website eliewieselfoundation.org/prize-in-ethics

The Prize in Ethics Essay Contest, established in 1989 by Professor Elie Wiesel and his wife, Marion Wiesel, is an annual competition that challenges college students to explore their moral compass and address the injustices that confront them in today’s world. Since its inception, thousands of young people have written essays for consideration. This year, the Foundation had the distinct honor of welcoming MSNBC host and former Prize in Ethics winner Rachel Maddow, as a guest juror to review the final round of essay submissions.

“Young moral leadership is critical in shaping an ethical tomorrow,” said Elisha Wiesel, the son of Elie Wiesel. “My father’s legacy is apparent in the Prize in Ethics, which continues his pas-

sion for developing principled thinking in emerging scholars. We’re proud to amplify these students’ voices and their moving words.”

Led by a lifelong pursuit and passion for ethical leadership, Dov Seidman became the exclusive partner of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity Prize in Ethics in 2008, as the institution was in its 20th year of celebrating ethical decision making among America’s youth. Dov has since partnered with the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity to ensure Elie Wiesel’s legacy lives on by offering the Prize as part of the work of The HOW Institute.

“We are proud to partner with the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity in awarding the annual ethics prize. It’s meaningful to join with Marion Wiesel and Elisha Wiesel in celebrating this inspirational group of student winners, who so thoughtfully grappled with consequential issues facing humanity and society through an ethical lens and did so in both a philosophical and personal way. At a time when there are forces keeping us apart and polarizing our society, the winning students represent the hope that we can come together. Through their writing, these emerging leaders embody Professor Wiesel’s adage of ‘Think higher, feel deeper,’” said Seidman.

In addition to their scholarships, winners also are awarded with a trip to New York City for a seminar to discuss their essays among other ethical topics. The day will end with a celebration of their achievement at the renowned Lotos Club.

The 2023 Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest is now open for submissions. Interested students may apply at eliewieselfoundation.org/prize-in-ethics

About The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity

Elie Wiesel and his wife, Marion, established The Elie Wiesel Foundation soon after he was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize for Peace. Now spearheaded by Marion and Elie’s son Elisha Wiesel, the Foundation seeks to spark ethical consciousness of human rights by investing in programs that promote moral leadership and real-world outcomes for victims of injustice, and by making Elie’s teachings accessible via a central online archive. To learn more, visit: www.eliewieselfoundation.org

About The HOW Institute for Society

The HOW Institute for Society seeks to build and nurture a culture of moral leadership, principled decision-making, and values-based behavior that enables individuals and institutions to meet the profound social, economic, and technological changes of the 21st Century to elevate humanity.

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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.

The MJCC will be closed Monday and Tuesday, October 17 and 18 for Sukkot



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Wednesday, October 19
Speaker: Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel, Director of the Center for Jewish Life and Learning at the MJCC. Topic: “Parsha Bereshet: A fresh take on an old story!” Rabbi Abe always brings a fresh perspective to every talk he gives. Please come join us for this very informative discussion.

Monday, October 24
Speaker: Tamika McGhee
Topic: Aging in Place. One of the frequently asked questions by seniors, is how do I stay in MY house or apartment longer and still stay safe? Tamika will be here to answer those questions and talk about all the things seniors can do to make their living space more enjoyable and safe at the same time.

Wednesday October 26
MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon will feature the Jeremy Shrader Trio. Jeremy Shrader performs jazz/swing, big band, and blues music with his various combos. He is a trumpeter and vocalist originally from Clarksville, TN, but has made Memphis his home since 1995. The songs of Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and other great masters live on through his voice and trumpet. His trio consists of him with a guitarist and base player. The Kosher lunch and entertainment is only \$5.00! Reservations can be made by calling the MJCC Front Desk at 901-761-0810.
Please join us Monday through Friday 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 by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or 901-259-9220, or calling the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

Young Israel of Memphis Shares Rosh Hashanah Care Packages with U.S. Air Force Academy Cadets



Jewish U.S. Air Force Academy cadets receiving some of Young Israel of Memphis Rosh Hashanah care packages

By Rabbi Akiva Males

Do you remember how great it felt to receive a care package from home when you were away at camp or school? What if you were a U.S. Jewish serviceman/woman during the season of Yom Tovim (Jewish Holidays) – rather than a camper or student? Can you imagine how lonely it must feel to be away from family and friends during such a special time of the year? Now imagine how that Jewish man/woman in uniform would appreciate receiving a care package before Rosh Hashanah.

For the fifth year in a row, Young Israel (YI) of Memphis played a role in lifting the spirits of some of our country’s brave Jewish troops, who were far away from a normal Yom Tov setting. Years ago, I got to know Rabbi Shaul Rapoport, who was then serving as a rabbi in a small Pennsylvania community. Since then, Rabbi Rapoport has “switched pulpits,” and is now serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force (USAF).

In 2020, Chaplain Rapoport was reassigned to the U.S. Air Force Acad-

emy (USAF) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After contacting Captain (Rabbi) Rapoport back in August, I confirmed that he would be more than happy to once again distribute Shanah Tovah Care Packages to Jewish USAFA cadets on our behalf of our shul.


Just prior to Rosh Hashanah 5783 / 2022, in partnership with Memphis’ own Ricki’s Cookie Corner, YI sent Captain Rapoport 36 care packages of Ricki’s signature cookies and challah rolls (along with other sweet treats and YI Shanah Tovah cards) to distribute to Jewish cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy in honor of Rosh Hashanah. YI also sent a special gift of challahs and a tin of cookies for Rabbi and Mrs. Rapoport and their children to enjoy over the Yom Tovim.


At a special Rosh Hashanah gathering, Rabbi Rapoport distributed all the care packages to some very appreciative Jewish USAF Academy cadets. In a subsequent email to me, Captain Rapoport wrote:

“Cadets, airmen and families joined us for a festive Yom Tov meal. Everyone absolutely loved the packages from Ricki’s, and everyone was utterly touched and grateful to know that a faraway shul cares about them – and was thinking about them on Rosh Hashanah.”

Young Israel of Memphis thanks Ricki’s Cookie Corner (www.rickiscookies.com) and each of the generous sponsors who brought this heart-warming project to fruition.

Young Israel of Memphis’ Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached via email at: rabbi@yiom.org. **HW**





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Bornblum Jewish Community School Hosts “Ride For Education” to Benefit Bornblum, Stax Music Academy and Refugee Empowerment Program

With over \$45,000 raised for Memphis education programs so far, the 2nd Annual Ride for Education is expected to be bigger and better to raise funds for Bornblum Jewish Community School, Stax Music Academy, and Refugee Empowerment Program.

The event – taking place at 6641 Humphreys Boulevard from 8:30 a.m. to noon on October 23, 2022 – provides cycling enthusiasts with a Family Fun Ride, an 18-mile, a 36-mile ride, and a festival filled with family-friendly activities.

Festival activities include a tricycle course, an obstacle course, bike limbo, craft stations, story time, face painting,



Bornblum's 2021 Ride for Education



a photo booth, a bike donation pit, a bike rodeo, a silent auction and more. Students from Stax Music Academy will perform a selection of songs for festival attendees.

Last year's Ride for Education, which benefited Bornblum, Memphis Opportunity Scholarship Trust and Thrive Memphis – garnered \$50,000 from ride participants and sponsors. “Giving charity and helping the com-

munity are major lessons we instill in our students at Bornblum,” said Bornblum Head of School Daniel R. Weiss, Ed.D. “The Ride for Education is not just for cyclists. We are inviting the entire Memphis community to have some fun while giving a helping hand to impactful education programs.”

To register for a Distance Ride (\$36) or the Family Fun Ride (\$5), visit www.rideforeducation.com. **HW**

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Chabad To Host Mega Challah Bake for Breast Cancer Awareness



Ladies braiding their challas at a recent Chabad Challah Bake

Chabad of Memphis Women’s Circle is hosting a special challah baking event in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Mega Challah Bake is a special opportunity to join women and girls from across the community to learn about the ancient art of challah and its deeper meaning.

Come knead, braid, and shape challah loaves; then spread the warmth and love with others. This month’s Mega Challah Bake features special presentations by professional breast surgeon Dr. Lindi Vanderwalde as well as breast cancer survivors from the local Memphis Jewish community.

“When making challah, it is an extra auspicious time for prayer, and a special

moment to pray for health and recovery for those who need it” says Rivky Klein, who organizes the challah bakes throughout the year.

Following this event, the Women’s Circle will be hosting a series of monthly Challah Bakes through February, featuring different flavors and styles of challah. The Challah Bake for Breast Cancer Awareness Month is taking place on Sunday, October 30 at 7 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life. The cost is \$28 per person and includes Challah Bake swag, an apron and delicious challah to take home. Bring a friend, reserve a table, and share the joy of challah!

For more information call Rivky at 901-219-7004. RSVP today at jewishmemphis.com/Challah. **HW**



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Connecting the Dots: The Power of Aggregation

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com
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To have less stress and more confidence about the future, taking the time to review account statements is helpful. But it can be even more meaningful to have a single place where you can see the total picture of all of your assets and liabilities – and how it may fluctuate over time.

Building a comprehensive account summary or net worth statement can make it easier to connect the dots. As more dots are connected, you get a more meaningful picture and see a clearer, more actionable path.

As individuals build wealth, it becomes more challenging to keep track of one’s overall financial picture. There will likely be household cash accounts, investment accounts, retirement plans, real estate, loans, and a number of credit cards. Executives may have stock options and other equity-based benefits that vest over time, and deferred compensation plans. Business owners often have multiple entities related to their core business, along with real estate holdings connected to the business. You may have private investments as well.

So gathering financial information and documents from different sources can become a bit of a chore.

How do successful people do this?

Don’t get overly complicated. Build something that works for you. Remember that the goal is to see the big picture, not to focus on the microscopic details.

Let technology do some of the work for you.

Many credit cards offer very useful spending summaries. And increasingly, financial institutions are offering account aggregation tools that make it easier to see all your accounts, even at various institutions, in one place. After you take a little bit of time to set this up, you don’t need to wait for a monthly statement or quarterly review to get a broader view of your finances. Values are updated daily, so you can get a current picture any time it’s convenient for you to go online or check in on mobile.

rent picture any time it’s convenient for you to go online or check in on mobile.

Work with an experienced professional.

An investment plan and net worth statement can form a “foundation built from facts” that may enable really good (if not always easy) conversations about spending, values, choices, and things to look forward to.

If I feel pretty sure that I am doing okay, why do all this extra work?

One reason is that having good metrics appears to be a hallmark of good performance. For example: successful business owners or executives can quickly tell you the key metrics that they watch to know how their business is doing. Athletes measure their training (and their rest) so that they will know whether they are progressing toward performance goals.

Another reason is, there is a payoff. We generally have more confidence when we know how we’re doing. Uncertainly, on the other hand, is likely to increase anxiety and stress.

Building a net worth statement is not an end in itself. But developing this positive habit can lead to lifelong benefits by providing a starting point for meaningful conversations about what we want our money to accomplish.

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Palestinian-French ‘Human Rights’ Lawyer Linked to Palestinian Terror Group



(JNS) – Salah Hamouri, the Palestinian-French lawyer and researcher who went on a hunger strike to protest his imprisonment without charge by Israeli authorities for the past six months, has now been linked to a Palestinian terrorist group.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a U.S.- and E.U.-designated terrorist organization, inadvertently revealed on Sept. 25 that Hamouri – a lawyer and field researcher for the Palestinian NGO Addameer – is a member of the PFLP. Until now, Hamouri has strongly disputed such claims when Israel has leveled them.

The information was made public after the PFLP included Hamouri among 30 of its members who were being held

Members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) take part in a military show in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the group’s founding, Dec. 11, 2014. Credit: Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90.

in administrative detention and went on a hunger strike last week to pressure Israel into releasing them.

The article on the official PFLP Lebanon website explicitly names Hamouri, as does a different article on the main PFLP website from Sept. 28.

Hamouri has been championed as a human rights defender by numerous NGOs and U.N. officials, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, U.N. Special Rapporteur for the Palestinian Territories Francesca Albanese and more.

Additionally, Hamouri’s case has been addressed by the French government and President Emmanuel Macron.

Prominent media outlets have recently published articles about Hamouri, including one written by Hamouri himself

while in detention.

Hamouri has served several prison sentences for his links to the PFLP. He was arrested in 2005 for planning a failed assassination attempt of Israel’s then-Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, and

was released in 2011 in the Gilad Shalit prisoner swap.

Hamouri is among the higher-profile members of six Palestinian NGOs that Israel designated as terror proxies of the PFLP in October 2021. [HW](#)

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OBITUARIES



Meier (Mickey) Jacob Hapner

Meier (Mickey) Jacob Hapner, 85 of Memphis, Tenn., passed away peacefully on October 3, 2022, at home surrounded by his family. Mickey had fought heart disease courageously for over 35 years, and his family was at peace knowing his suffering had come to an end.

Mickey was born on October 1, 1937, in St. Louis, Mo., to Rose (Arky) Hapner and Max Hapner. He attended Soldan High School where he met the love of his life, Brenda Weinstein. Immediately following graduation in 1956, he joined the United States Air Force, where he served proudly in many loca-

tions including Alaska, Maine and Wyoming. He and Brenda were married for 66 years and settled in St. Louis, where they raised their four children.

As an AF&AM Mason for over 50 years, Mickey served as the Worshipful Master in St. Louis and again in Memphis. He was a member of the Scottish Rite, American Legion, and volunteered for many years with the Boy Scouts as a District Commissioner. He will be remembered for his love of entertaining and making people laugh. Whether he was jumping out of a plane in a clown suit, showcasing his puppet “Farfelonis,” or using what his children coined “Mickey-isms,” like “upstairs in the basement,” he left a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Mickey is survived by his wife, Brenda, brother Lawrence, four children and their spouses, Howard (Edie), Marty (Jonna), Risa (Steve Baer), and Robert (Sara), his grandchildren, Brittany, Stephanie (Anthony Petron), Leah, Jonah, and Ezra, and great-grandchildren, Lucas and Lili. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Barry.

A funeral service was held at Berger Memorial Chapel followed by his burial at Chevra Kadisha Cemetery in St. Louis, Mo. on October 9, 2022, with Rabbi Karen Bogard. The family would like to thank the community for their ongoing support. Messages of condolences can be sent to mickeyhapner@gmail.com. **HW**



Daneel Suzanne Shainberg Lazarov

Daneel Suzanne Shainberg Lazarov died peacefully at Baptist Memorial Hospital on October 3, 2022, surrounded by her family. She was born to Mariette and Herbert Shainberg on June 14, 1939, in Memphis, Tenn.

She graduated from Central High School and briefly attended the University of Oklahoma before returning home to marry the love of her life, Paul Gilbert Lazarov. She remained happily married for 58 years.

She found beauty in every person and never failed to give a compliment or kind word. Her greatest joy was to give to others. She lived life to the fullest, cherished and celebrated every occasion. She loved to usher in Shabbat (Shabbie), light candles, and treasured being surrounded by her family as she blessed them each week.

One of her favorite annual events

was to dress up with her daughters and granddaughters on Halloween. Together, they delivered caramel apples in gratitude to every single employee of the West Cancer Center in memory of her husband, Paul. She donated platelets regularly to St. Jude Research Hospital. She led by example.

She was a member of Temple Israel, Beth Sholom and Anshei Sphard Beth El Emeth Congregations. She was a member of Hadassah, Lion of Judah and a member in perpetuity of the Memphis Jewish Community Center.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Paul Gilbert Lazarov, her parents, Herbert and Mariette Shainberg, her brother, Terry Shainberg, and her stepmother, Mary Shainberg. She is survived by her sisters-in-law, Barbara Shainberg and Joyce Lazarov; her children, Dr. Stuart Lazarov (Debra), Jill Notowich (Scott), Craig Lazarov (Eve); her grandchildren, Benjamin Lazarov (Danielle), Ellee Breit (Matt), Lindsey Reef (Leor), Joey Notowich (Rachel), Samantha (Avi), Deena Notowich, and Matthew, Harper and Jack Lazarov; and her eight great-grandchildren. She adored the family she created, the food she ate and the friends she had – a life well lived.

Funeral services were held at the Levy Cooper Chapel at Temple Israel Cemetery on October 4, 2022.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Memphis Jewish Community Center, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and Facing History and Ourselves. Donations of platelets and blood are always needed and appreciated. **HW**

Fire Causes ‘Heavy Damage’ at Tel Aviv’s Carmel Market



A fire breaks out at Tel Aviv’s Carmel Market, September 24, 2022. Credit: Courtesy.

Central Bureau of Statistics: Israel’s Population Nears 10 Million

(JNS) – The population of Israel is just over 9.5 million people ahead of the Jewish New Year, according to data issued by Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) last Tuesday.

The country has a population of 9.593 million people, according to the CBS. 7.069 million (74%) identify as Jewish, 2.026 million (21%) as Arab and 498,000 (5%) as neither.

The bureau states that the Israeli population will reach 10 million by 2024, 15 million by 2048 and 20 million by the end of 2065.

Jews in Israel who are at least 20

years old are identified as 45.3% secular, 19.2% traditional, 13.9% traditional-religious, 10.7% religious and 10.5% Haredi.

Average life expectancy for Israeli men is 80.5 years compared to 84.6 years for women.

According to the data, 177,000 babies were born in Israel this year; 49,000 people made aliyah; and 2,000 Israelis returned to Israel after living abroad. **HW**

(JNS) – Tel Aviv’s Carmel Market suffered “heavy damage” due to a fire that broke out there last Saturday, according to Israeli authorities.

The conflagration sent up plumes of smoke that could be seen across the city. No injuries were reported due to the blaze.

While the cause of the fire remains unknown, it was fueled by gas canisters and electrical sources, Israeli media reported.

In the interim, an arson investigator has been employed to help determine the source of the blaze.

The incident comes one day before Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which began at sundown last Sunday and ahead of which the market, which is closed on Saturdays, is generally bustling with shoppers making last-minute preparations for the holiday. **HW**

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A Simchat Torah Legend



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

By Ted Roberts

On Simchas Torah it's entirely appropriate to ask a basic question that our sages, throughout the ages, have ignored. Why did The Almighty wait so long to hand us the Book of Books – the Torah?

There's a legend – not quite at the Midrashic level – just a legend told by kibitzers sitting around the pool that explains the delay.

The angels, says the story, cast a unanimous vote for the Almighty to lay the Torah at the foot of the Tree of Knowledge that first week in Eden. They suggested that he prop it up against the trunk, so the world's first newlyweds dizzy with the world's first love affair, couldn't miss it.

The angels were wary of man. "He's dangerous," they advised the Creator. "At first, he'll use a stick to walk with. Next, he'll use it to knock fruit out of the trees. Then, he'll sharpen one end of it and throw it at his fellow creatures. You have made him with the reproductive glands of the desert hare, the ferocity of the tiger, and the acquisitiveness

of the honeybee. But the hare is gentle, the tiger is lazy, and the honeybee is small. They will never desecrate your creation. But man is different. He needs restraints. He needs Torah now."

The Lord replied, "Humanity is not programmed like the animals. I have given this breed a soul, and I've given them the blessing and curse of free will. We shall see what we shall see."

And the Lord looked down on the paradise he had built on earth. And he saw the incredible variation of plants and creatures. And He saw Adam and Eve, the newlyweds, as gentle as the fruit-eating orangutans. So, the Lord rested.

The angels chattered among themselves like the blue jays in the garden. "He shouldn't have rested before he made Torah."

"Yeah," said one little fellow with still fluffy wings. Wait'll he gets a load of Cain."

The next day – a day of heaven is many generations on earth, you know – the Lord inspected His universe. He saw the first act of disobedience in the Garden, and He saw Cain's murderous rage. He saw the generations who displayed all the faults of the desert hare and the honeybee with none of their virtues. "The earth was corrupt in his sight," as he was later to note in Genesis Chapter 5, verse 11.

So, he sent the flood. "That'll do it," He predicted to the angels. "Such power will make man fear me. They will flock

to me like the gentle dove. Just watch their improvement."

"They need the Torah," mumbled the angelic court.

"No," He said.

Then came the generations of the Patriarchs; G-d fearing men, but imperfect. With hesitancy and a sigh, the Master Builder of the universe peeped between his fingers again at the strange animal with a soul, called man. Just in time to see the sons of Jacob betray their father and their brother Joseph.

"Now!" said the angels.

"No," said the Lord. "Did I not make them in My likeness? And unlike the animals, did I not give them freedom – even unto sin?"

Soon, the descendants of Abraham were slaves in Egypt and their wailing drifted up to heaven itself and the ears of their Creator.

Ah, another opportunity to demonstrate My power to this unruly species, He thought. Therefore, He delivered his people from the whips and clubs of the Egyptians. Later, He was to tell the whole story in Exodus.

Strengthened by His might, they strode out of Egypt as free men, but no sooner had they struck off their chains than they assumed the characteristics of the lustful hare, the savage tiger, and the acquisitive honeybee.

The Lord threw up His hands in despair.

"They need a rule book," He announced to the heavenly hosts, who

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without exultation modestly nodded. "They need limits on their freedom like the planets need an orbit – like the river needs a bank."

And the Lord G-d took the ex-slaves to Sinai where He spoke face-to-face to Moses and gave him the Torah like a father gives a son a prayer book on his bar mitzvah day. The slaves were now accountable, even as you and I.

As I said before, it's only a legend and a legend has nowhere near the authenticity of a Midrash. Ask your rabbi. But if he laughs at your legend, ask him for HIS explanation.

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. H

Estate Planning

By David L. Mendelson and Benjamin I. Wachtel,
Mendelson Law Firm

Much like the pandemic served as a once-in-a-lifetime reminder of each individual's mortality, on an annual basis, the High Holidays challenge us to confront and contemplate the fact that, regardless of one's age or status, one never knows what tomorrow – let alone the next year – may bring. The powerful Unisaneh Tokef prayer, which is recited on both days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur, states bluntly:

"On Rosh Hashanah they are inscribed and on the fast day of Yom Kippur they are sealed; How many shall pass away and how many shall be born; who shall live and who shall die; who shall live out his allotted time and who shall depart before his time..."

Once everyone in the congregation is presented with and reminded of his or her transience, the cantor along with the congregation end the Unisaneh Tokef prayer by emphasizing Utshuva, Utfila Utzidaka Maavirin Es Roa Hagzaira – But Repentance, Prayer and Charity avert the severity of the decree. In other words, now that you know and have faced your own mortality, take action to improve your life via repentance, prayer and charity. Only action on the part of

the individual can change the ultimate outcome.

A similar line of logic, Lehavdil, can be applied to Estate Planning (Wills, Trust, Powers of Attorney, Probate, Conservatorships, Etc.) Only once one decides to cease procrastinating or avoidance of the inevitable and contemplates his or her own mortality, can one really take the necessary action to best plan, prepare and protect. Should something happen to me, who will raise my children? Who will make medical decisions for me? Who will manage and inherit my property? Will my estate be taxed at a high rate? Will my estate go through Probate Court? Do I even know?

Via this section of the Watchman, we look forward to answering many of these questions and to engaging with our community on a monthly basis to discuss and cover various Estate Planning topics, including frequently asked questions, common cases and issues and practical solutions.

For now, we wish everyone a happy, healthy and sweet New Year.

Shannah Tovah!

David L. Mendelson and Benjamin I. Wachtel HW

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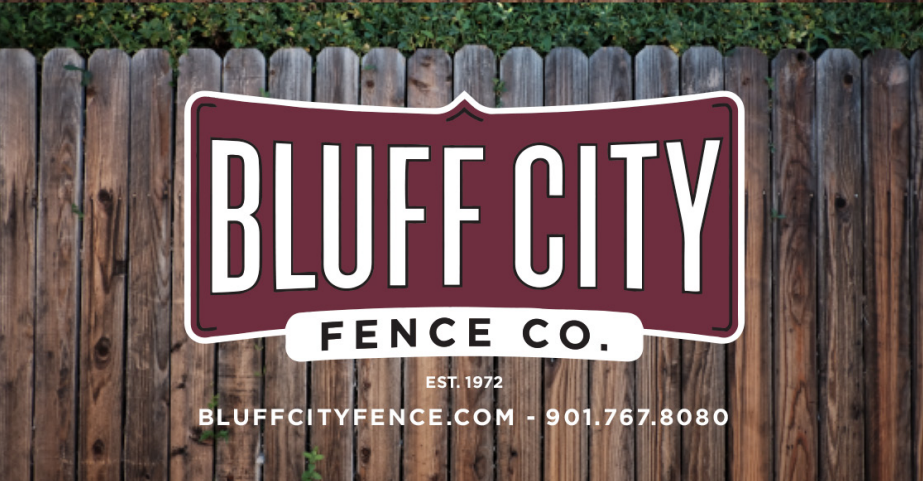
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Storytelling through Costume & Set Design
Panel Discussion
Wednesday, November 16 | 6:30pm

Wild Holiday Rumpus
A holiday party at the Brooks with art-making, cookie decorating, live performances, Sendak’s Nutcracker film screening, and more
Saturday, December 3 | 2 -5pm

Where the Wild Things Are
A film by Spike Jonze
Saturday, January 7 | 2pm

Sendak, Maurice. Design for show curtain from Nutcracker (No. 116). 1979-83
Credit line: The Morgan Library & Museum, Bequest of Maurice Sendak, 2013.103:58e.



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