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THE

Hebrew

Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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NCSY Teens Give Back to Memphis Jewish Federation



Volunteer Federation callers from left to right: Nathan Greenbaum, Ethan VanderWalde, Natalie Mashinsky, Talya Mendelson, Brooke Sanderson, and Rafi Goldkin.

“It was nerve-racking at first, but once I got the hang of it, it was amazing to be able to help and give back to my community,” said Brooke Sanderson, an NCSY teen volunteer and burgeoning Jewish community lay leader, who recently had her first experience in fundraising thanks to Memphis Jewish Federation. “It was a good feeling to be able to raise money for Federation’s Annual Community Campaign, especially knowing that many of the NCSY pro-

grams happen because of it.” On Sunday, October 2, six teens from Memphis’ NCSY chapter visited the Federation office to make calls urging donors to support the 2023 Annual Community Campaign. Thanks to their combined effort, 62 donors pledged gifts that afternoon and more than \$9,000 was raised, with more than half of the gifts increasing over last year. “Calling members of the Jewish community was a learning opportunity for me,

and I learned a lot of great skills,” said teen Nathan Greenbaum. “I am thankful to Memphis Jewish Federation for everything that they do for our community.” Memphis NCSY receives grant support from Federation’s Annual Community Campaign, empowering the organization to maintain high-level teen programming through its local Memphis chapter and through its Jewish Student Union, which creates Jewish culture clubs in public and private schools in and around Memphis. “We want to make sure our whole entire community knows what we do at Memphis Jewish Federation, and it’s a great place to start with teenagers to let them understand how connected our community is,” said Memphis Jewish Federation’s Director of Development Judy Lansky. “Before we taught the teens how to solicit, we talked about what Memphis Jewish Federation does locally and globally to support Jewish families. We sat down and had all the teenagers raise their hand for the different ways that they had been involved with Federation, whether it was with NCSY, Margolin Hebrew Academy, JCC sports, BBYO, summer camp connections, etc. They were all connected to Federation in many ways that they didn’t previously realize. Also, a lot of

the teenagers participate in B’nai Tzedek, the Jewish Foundation of Memphis Teen Philanthropy initiative.” “I was nervous to call people I didn’t know from my community, but this experience has really made me grow,” said teen caller Natalie Mashinsky. “I feel more comfortable calling people now because of this experience. I am so happy that I had the chance to speak to both people I knew and some that I didn’t know. I feel more connected to my community now and appreciative that I got to help Federation.” “It was great to bring in the teens and see them give back to the community that gives to their programming,” said Rebecca Brown, a Memphis NCSY staff member. “Their excitement and eagerness to raise money for NCSY and the Memphis Jewish Federation was so inspiring to see. They are looking forward to the next call-a-thon!” NCSY is a world-recognized organization that has played a pivotal role in the lives of Jewish teens across the globe. With the vision of Harold and Enid Boxer, of blessed memory, the Orthodox Union founded NCSY in 1954 to provide Jewish teens with an opportunity to build a strong connection to their Jewish roots through inspiration and leadership skills. [HW](#)

Fight Pancreatic Cancer at the 12th Annual Kick It 5K Benefiting the Kosten Foundation at Shelby Farms Park on October 30, 2022



Kosten Foundation Supporters Take Off from the Starting Line at the Kick It 5K.

Participants can register to join in-person or virtually to help in the fight against pancreatic cancer. The 12th Annual Kick It 5K will take place Sunday, October 30 at Shelby Farms Park at 1 p.m. The all-ages event includes a 5K run/walk, 1-mile fun walk, opportunities for spirit/virtual runners, an inspirational memorial and survivor ceremony, entertainment and vendors. Proceeds from the event are used to fund pancreatic cancer research and pancreatic cancer support group operations in Memphis.

Participants may register online at <https://kickit5k.racesonline.com>. “The Jewish community has been a major supporter of the Kosten Foundation for many, many years and the Kick It 5K for all of the last 12 years we have held the fundraising event. The support of the Jewish community means so much to our family as we work to support others going through treatment while also helping to find a cure to the deadly disease that took Herb from us so

(See Kick It Page 2)



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Kick It...
(Continued From Page 1)



prematurely,” said Alan Kosten, chairman of the Kosten Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, and brother of Herb Kosten.

“The Kick It 5K isn’t just our largest fundraiser, it’s also a time for us to honor all those we’ve lost, celebrate our pancreatic cancer survivors, and enjoy a fun afternoon outside with friends and family,” Alan continued. “We extend our deepest thanks to all of our supporters who volunteer to make the Kick It 5K a great event as well as those who participate to help raise money for pancreatic cancer research and support.”

The 12th annual Kick It 5K is presented by Baptist Memorial Health Care and will be hosted October 30 in Shelby Farms Park. The Kosten Foundation’s last in-person 5K featured more than 550 participants and raised over \$150,000 for pancreatic cancer research. This year’s event is an in-person or virtual race so runners, or walkers, can compete from wherever they are.

Participants can create their own teams to participate in the run or walk while fundraising together as a team. Special prizes will be awarded to the three largest teams, the three teams with the most funds raised, and the top individual fundraisers. Participants will enjoy live music, food trucks, local vendors, a pre-race ceremony honoring pancreatic cancer survivors as well as honoring those we have lost, free snack packs and much more. Rabbi Micah Greenstein will oversee the survivor and memorial ceremony as he has for many years while Memphis radio legend Ron Olson will serve as emcee for the 5K as

he has for many years.

Since 2003, the Kosten Foundation has donated more than \$2.5 million to pancreatic cancer research. The Foundation’s latest round of research grants helped fund research teams in Memphis, Dallas, and Harlingen, Texas. In addition to its research efforts, the Kosten Foundation hosts the only free, in-person and virtual pancreatic cancer support group in the Mid-South. For more information about the Kosten Foundation and their mission, you can go to their website at kostenfoundation.com.

To learn more visit:
kostenfoundation.com/kick-it-5k
The Kosten Foundation can be found online at:

kostenfoundation.com
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About the Kosten Foundation:
The Kosten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research was founded in 2003 by the family of Herb Kosten after his death due to pancreatic cancer. Kosten’s family sought to improve community support, awareness, and funding for pancreatic cancer, one of the deadliest known cancers. The organization has donated more than \$2.5 million for pancreatic cancer research and hosts a very active monthly support group meeting for patients, their families, and anyone interested in learning more about pancreatic cancer. The Kosten Foundation hosts an annual Kick It 5K has grown to include more than 2,500 participants. Money raised from the 5K and other Kosten Foundation events helps fund pancreatic cancer research. **HW**

THE Hebrew Watchman

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10/20/2022



Memphis Candlelighting Time

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Havdalah, Sat. October 22, 2022 / 27 Tishrei, 5783 6:55 p.m.

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Palestinians Shoot Up Bethlehem Hotel after Jewish Symbols Filmed There

(JNS) – Palestinian gunmen fired at a hotel in Bethlehem after social media posts showed that an events hall in the building contained Jewish symbols.

Photographs from a stage in Hotel Bethlehem contained a Magen David, a Menorah and a glass of wine, *Israel*

Hayom reported last Monday.

The Palestinian Authority’s Tourism Ministry said in a statement that the hall has been sealed off to visitors and that an investigation has been opened to clarify the affair.

According to the report, the gunmen

fired at the hotel as “an act of resistance” against what they described as “normalization” with Israel, with activists in Bethlehem calling for a demonstration against the hotel.

Hotel manager Iyas al-A’rja said the Jewish symbols were set up for a par-

ty by Filipino tourists who had not received permission.

Fatah operatives including armed Tanzim militia members arrived at the hotel in response to the call, and P.A. security personnel deployed in an effort to prevent them from entering the establishment.

“We condemn in full force any action that testifies to normalization. We will never let that happen. We warn all those who plan to hold a party and events tied to normalization, and we will respond to that with an iron fist,” said one of the operatives, according to the report. **HW**



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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.

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 901-259-9220, stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or calling the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Guidelines for letter to the editor submissions
The Hebrew Watchman will only consider Letters to the Editor that include the writer’s full name; anonymous letters and letters written under pseudonyms will not be considered. For verification purposes, the writer must also include their home address, email address and telephone numbers, including a daytime telephone number.

We have a Torah, why do we need a progressive think tank?

Antisemitism is replete with references to Jewish billionaires and millionaires controlling various parts of our society, from Wall Street, media, and entertainment. In response to your article, “*Progressive Jewish Group Launches Think Tank to Counter Spread of Right-Wing Ideas*,” we now have a Jewish organization trying to control the thoughts, beliefs and values Jews have embraced for thousands of years, blaming the lack of progressive thought on rich people. The think tank says it will fund research, events and scholars and publish essays on Jewish tradition and teachings. According to your article, Emor plans to publish a magazine to reclaim the idea of freedom from those who seek to use it in order to compromise the safety, security and rights of others.

It’s as if they are saying that “conservative,” i.e. Orthodox Jews are compromising the safety, security, and rights of others because they uphold the laws in the Torah. As a white, Orthodox Jewish heterosexual male (he, handsome) I take offense to that statement. Just because our immoral, violent, everything goes society purports freedom from religion, rules, and traditions, does not mean we have to accept every new woke idea they come up with. We’ve been doing that since the 60s and what are the results?

Who is right? Which camp of Judaism is thriving? The progressives or the Orthodox? Just review the latest Pew Research Study on Judaism in America. “The 2020 survey found that younger

Jews contain among their ranks “both a higher share who are Orthodox and a higher share who are at the very low end of the religiosity spectrum. “If you are familiar with the American-Jewish community, you’ve seen the growth in Orthodox neighborhoods, communities across the country. It’s not surprising, but the survey does capture that.”

In fact, 17% of Jews 18-29 self-identify as Orthodox. At the other end of the spectrum, four in 10 Jewish adults under 30 describe themselves as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular,” but still identify as Jewish for ethnic, cultural or family reasons.

Overall, 27% of Jewish adults who have a Jewish parent or were raised Jewish do not identify with Judaism as a religion, the survey found; and younger Jews identify with the religion at a lesser rate than older Jews. The intermarriage rate is approaching 60%, fewer couples are getting married while living together. Their divorce rate is over 50% while the Orthodox divorce rate is at 10%.

The intermarriage rate itself shows that their children will not grow up to marry Jews. My opinion is that they will fall into the four in 10 adults under 30 are atheists. So, we have the progressives who are more interested in safety, rights and security while the Orthodox are more interested in remaining Jewish. Remaining Jewish as a result of keeping the Torah, its morality, its values and its tradition. A tradition that thrives after thousands of years.

~ Allan J. Katz, Memphis **HW**

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Renee Zellner Brotherton

Renee Zellner Brotherton spent much of her life counseling and helping guide people who were in need of direction in their lives. She had a kind and quiet way and a helpful heart and soul. Renee was loved by her clients, friends, and everyone who knew her.

Renee passed away at Baptist Hospice House in Collierville on October 2, 2022. She leaves her husband, Mike Brotherton, and his two daughters, Julie and Jennifer. Renee also leaves her brother, Alan Zellner, whom she loved dearly and stayed close to until her death.

Renee was the daughter of the late Stanley Zellner and Dena Lazarov Zellner. She graduated from White Station High School and the University of Missouri. She earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Tennessee School of Social Work. She practiced many years as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker helping clients too numerous to count.

Renee was a lover of all people, animals, nature and life. She will be missed by all who knew her. **HW**

Engagement



Erica Lansky and Harris Plofsky

Mitchell and Joyce Lansky of Memphis are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Erica, to Harris Plofsky, son of Joel and Tammy Plofsky originally of Chicago. Erica is a graduate of the University of Central Florida and is a project manager at Harrison and Star. Harris graduated from Illinois State and is employed as a business operations analyst at Crosslink Life Sciences. [HW](#)

My BBYO Experience



Sydney Shanker (left) with mom Jill.

By Sydney Shanker
Delta Regional N’siah
River City BBG

BBYO has been a home for me since I first joined my chapter, my heart and home, River City BBG #2054.

Honestly, I can’t even remember the reasons I joined BBYO other than my mom. It was the summer of 2020 when I became a member and my mom had told me for years how important BBYO was in her life. She was a member of Kriger BBG, CSR’s 45th N’siah, and active at the international level, even attending Perlman Camp. I really am my mother’s daughter considering the fact that I am basically reliving her high school years in BBYO minus the cargo pants and green sweaters. I couldn’t ask for a better role model, support system, and friend.

Thirty years after my mom’s BBYO career, I am proud to serve as the 75th N’siah of Delta Region and past three-term board member of River City. In the back of my mind, I always knew that I wanted to be N’siah of Delta Region, but never thought I would be. I found so much joy as River City’s S’ganit, or vice president, that I knew I wanted to continue my journey in Delta Region.

Coming from the South, there aren’t many Jews even across the five states that make up Delta. The one thing that I have realized more than ever over the past few months is how close of a community we are across such a wide-spread area. No matter where someone lives, that being Knoxville, Tenn., to New Orleans, La., Delta Region remains strong as a community, and as a home.

My goal as president of Delta Region is not only to make the region a home for all in it, but also to help everyone understand why it’s a home. Whether some members will stay inactive, and others choose to adventure to their next chapter event, Delta region will remain and grow as a home to its Jewish teens, and I am so proud and fortunate to be a part of an amazing community, family, and board supporting me, and this region for the next year. [HW](#)

Bar Mitzvah



Ian Chipman-Kalin


Ian Chipman-Kalin, son of Adam Kalin and Jeff Chipman, will celebrate his bar mitzvah on October 22, 2022, at Temple

Israel Synagogue in Memphis, Tennessee. Ian is in 7th grade at Houston Middle School. He plays competitive soccer for the Germantown Legends, as well as being a member of the Houston Middle School soccer team. Ian enjoys his attendance each summer at Camp Sabra. Ian is an animal lover and enjoys outdoor activities. Some of his favorite activities are fishing and hanging out with his friends.

Ian is the grandson of Berkley and Carol Kalin, of blessed memory, and Gail, of blessed memory, and Bruce Chipman. [HW](#)


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Mark Zuckerberg’s Company Marks Sukkot with a Virtually Empty Virtual Sukkah

You’ve never Meta sukkah like this



Meta’s sukkah at Hudson Yards. Credit: PJ Grisar

By PJ Grisar

This originally appeared on Forward. Reprinted with permission.

This Sukkot as we join our families to dine outdoors, welcoming guests and stories as we have done from time immemorial, have you spared a thought

for the metaverse? Meta has, and you’re invited. Though you may need to update your phone first.

Hot on the heels of the metaverse’s first Torah class, the folks at the company formerly known as Facebook have

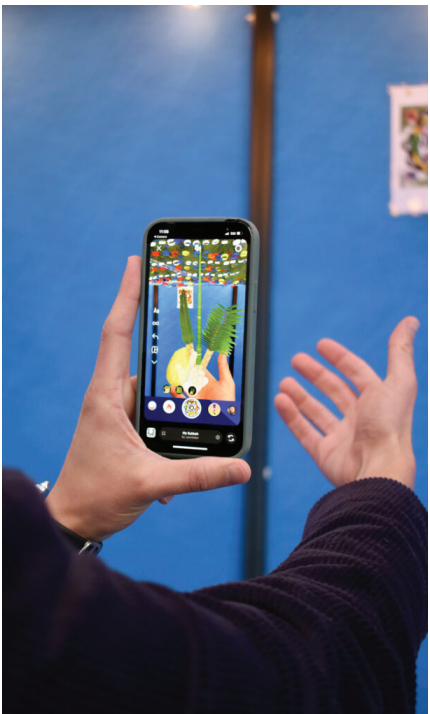
erected a sukkah near their Hudson Yards office, just around the bend from the Vessel and across from The Shed, a visual and performing arts space. It’s there until Oct. 19.

It’s an unremarkable-looking sukkah, blue with mostly bare walls and constructed by the company Litton Sukkah, but if you hold your phone up to a laminated QR card posted to the wall and tap your phone, the space springs to life with decorations. You can even shake an augmented reality etrog and lulav with nary a Chabadnik in sight.

Meta posted the simple structure on some of the most expensive real estate in the world on the initiative of the employee resource group Jews@ Meta. The sukkah was imagined as a place where Jewish employees – at Meta or surrounding offices – could eat their lunch during Sukkot. But, given Meta’s mission to develop the metaverse, which uses virtual reality headsets and AR tech to create virtual experiences, an Israeli artist Yarin Lidor was brought on to give it a high-tech twist.

“We aim to bring the world closer together and enable people to build community here at Meta, and the sukkah is such a great manifestation of that idea,” said Alex Luxenberg, a client partner and one of the global leads of Jews@ Meta.

When I went to visit the sukkah at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, amid a sea of tourists and another nearby tent boasting rows of SoulCycle bikes, I was one of the only people to take notice. When I was inside, a couple of Israeli teens poked their heads in to read from a laminated sign in Hebrew on the wall. An older couple tried, with no luck, to get



Alex Luxenberg demonstrates the AR technology of the sukkah, shaking a virtual lulav and etrog. Credit: Greg Lang

the QR code to work. As did I. When I scanned the code, I was pinged with a message on Instagram that said, “unable to use effect on your device” (my device is an iPhone SE).

I found this strange, as the interface doesn’t seem to be much more elaborate than Pokémon Go, which I definitely played on a more primitive iPhone years before. I then wondered what sort of Pokémon one could catch in the sukkah. Probably a grass type.

Perhaps I am too much of a luddite to troubleshoot, or, maybe, Hashem, reminding me that this is a day of Sukkot where you’re not supposed to use technology, shut me down. In any case, I was not allowed into the metaverse.

I was an ushpizin, a would-be guest, outside looking in, a humbling experience that perhaps grounded me to the nature of the holiday’s spirit, right there in the shadow of some of the ugliest works of public art ever devised, including one – The Shed – which will soon be housing a play about Robert Moses.

I wish I could say I walked away less skeptical about the metaverse’s future role in Jewish communal life, but given my own technical difficulties and the struggle that was acclimating our tribe’s elders to Zoom, I have my doubts. But then, what is Sukkot but a testament to Jewish endurance and adaptability? We made it through 40 years living in tents, surely we can learn to flourish in a Meta Workroom. And smarter minds than myself have mused that the way forward may well lie in that uncanny valley frontier, where minyans can be made of virtual avatars.

“Even if we’re from places from all over the world, that could have very little in common culturally, we still feel this sense of connection, and I think the metaverse will foster that,” Luxenberg said. “What the metaverse in its purest forms enables you to feel [is] a sense of proximity to someone who isn’t necessarily with you at the same time.”

Alone in the sukkah (and, to be fair, many more observant Jews were at home in their own) I longed for that sense of connection – if only for tech support. **HW**




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IDF Soldier Dies of Wounds Following Jerusalem Attack



Sgt. Noa Lazar, an 18-year-old member of the Israeli Military Police's Erez battalion, was killed in a shooting attack at the Shuafat checkpoint in eastern Jerusalem on October 8, 2022.
Credit: Israel Defense Forces

(JNS) – A female Israeli soldier died of her wounds following a shooting attack last Saturday night at the Shuafat checkpoint in eastern Jerusalem.

The Israel Defense Forces identified her last Sunday morning as 18-year-old Sgt. Noa Lazar, a member of the Military Police's Erez battalion who was raised in Bat Hefer.

Lazar, a corporal, was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant.

A security guard, 30, was shot in the head and seriously injured in the incident. He was taken to Hadassah Medical Center and underwent surgery overnight, the hospital said. Last Sunday morning, he remained in serious condition in the intensive care unit, sedated and ventilated.

A third Israeli was lightly wounded.

The Israel Police said in a statement that an assailant began shooting as he approached the crossing, while another opened fire from a passing vehicle.

UH volunteers and ambulance crews treated two people at the Shuafat checkpoint who were injured in a shooting incident.

One person was in critical condition the other was in serious condition.

Members of the Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit are active at the scene.

Israeli forces launched a manhunt to apprehend the perpetrators and last Sunday morning conducted a raid on the Shuafat home of the suspected lead terrorist, the *Kan* public broadcaster reported.

Jerusalem district police forces, reinforced by special police units and the Israeli police helicopter, continue to operate in the Shuafat MP area and all over Jerusalem, searching for the terrorist who fled the shooting scene.

Police said that three people have been arrested in connection to the attack, although the primary assailant has not yet been detained. The identity of the attacker is known, according to Jerusalem Police Chief Doron Turjeman.

"Significant forces are out, working day and night to defend the citizens of

Israel," said Prime Minister Yair Lapid in a statement, adding: "My heart is with the wounded and their families. Terror will not defeat us. We are strong, even on this difficult evening."

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, which is affiliated with Palestinian Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas' ruling Fatah faction, claimed responsibility for the attack, *Kan* reported.

Meanwhile, Shuafat residents reportedly set off celebratory fireworks and distributed candy to children in the streets following the attack.

The incident comes amid heightened alert in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria over the Jewish holiday season, and on the backdrop of a months-long wave of Palestinian terror.

Last Friday, Lapid held a security assessment ahead of the start of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which began last Sunday night. The heads of numerous security agencies participated in the meeting, during which they discussed the sensitive situation on the Temple Mount.

In an incident earlier last Saturday in Jenin, IDF forces conducting an arrest of a wanted terrorist became ensnared in a firefight in which two Palestinians were killed and at least 11 others injured, according to the P.A. Ministry of Health.

"I am alarmed by the deteriorating security situation, including the rise in armed clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem," said the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, in a statement last Saturday night.

He noted that since the beginning of the year, at least 100 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli operations primarily in P.A.-controlled areas of Judea and Samaria. Over the same period, 16 people have been killed inside Israel in terrorist attacks by Palestinians and Israeli Arabs.

"I urge, and remain actively engaged with, Israeli and Palestinian authorities to restore calm and avoid further escalation," Wennesland said.

For his part, far-right Otzma Yehudit political party leader Itamar Ben-Gvir expressed pessimism following the attack.

"Sadly, the [Defense Minister Benny] Gantz Intifada is already here – as attack follows attack without a serious Israeli response," he said. "Gantz has exposed himself as a leftist, continuing a policy of capitulation towards the enemy while the Israel-haters rub their hands with glee. They see Gantz opening his hand (and home) to arch-terrorist (P.A. chief Mahmoud Abbas) while tightening his fist against Jewish communities in Judea.

"The nation is tired of weak and feckless decision makers who undermine the safety of IDF soldiers and leave Israelis feeling like sitting ducks to terror," Ben-Gvir concluded.

This is a developing story. HW

Momentum Builds for Potential Israel-Pakistan Normalization

By Steve Postal

(JNS) – Israel hosted a delegation from Pakistan last month, marking the latest step toward diplomatic normalization between the Jewish state and a Muslim-majority nation.

A Pakistani delegation led by Nasim Ashraf, the country's former minister of state for human development, met with Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Sept. 23. The delegation was hosted by Sharaka, an NGO fostering Israeli-Arab cooperation formed in the wake of the Abraham Accords, in cooperation with the American Muslim and Multifaith Women's Empowerment Council (AMMWEC).

In a statement, Sharaka said it was "honored to be leading efforts to build bridges of dialogue and understanding between Pakistan and Israel."

"Hopefully, this interaction will lead to normalization and warm ties between the countries one day," Dan Feferman, director of communications and global affairs at Sharaka told JNS. "Israel and Pakistan both need brave individuals to visit Israel and see the country more than anything."

"Israel has no animosity towards Pakistan, as our guests saw firsthand," he added.

Sharaka's co-founder, Amit Deri pointed to Israel's innovation as a way to strengthen the bond.

"So much of Israel's innovation, especially in water and agriculture technology, can benefit the Pakistani people, especially as they suffer horrible flooding," he said.

Members of the delegation also emphasized the importance of Israel's technology in fostering normalization. Ashraf also emphasized the importance of Israel's technology in the normalization equation, telling JNS that he was "very impressed by the progress made by Israel in all kinds of technology, and Israel deserves to be called the world's number-one 'start-up nation.'"

"Many countries, Pakistan included, could benefit from Israeli technologies, especially in agriculture, water reuse,

high-tech and health care," Ashraf added.

Sibt Arif, a Pakistani journalist living in Dubai who was part of the delegation, agreed.

"Israel is purifying sewage water, distilling water from air, and creating a host of e-commerce and entrepreneurial opportunities," he told JNS. "It seems that the sky's the limit for them."

Arif said that there are many Pakistanis who believe a normalized relationship with Israel will reap "economic and diplomatic benefits" if Pakistan normalizes relations with Israel.

"I believe that establishing business ties between the Pakistani expat community and Israel will help to create trust between Israel and Pakistan, which could improve relations between the countries," he said.

According to Sharaka, they are receiving messages of support from members and social media about how to get involved with normalization efforts.

The visit follows several recent contacts between Israel and Pakistan, including Herzog acknowledging that a group of Pakistani expatriates had visited Israel in May, crediting the Abraham Accords for making it possible.

"This was an amazing experience because we haven't had a group of Pakistani leaders in Israel ever in such scope and that all stemmed from the Abraham Accords, meaning Jew and Muslim can dwell together in the region," Herzog said at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

A British-Pakistani aide to then-Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Israel in 2020 and met with the head of the Mossad. That same year, Saudi Arabia reportedly pressured Pakistan to join the Abraham Accords, and Pakistani cleric and politician Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani, who advised Pakistan on Islamic law as the Chairman of Pakistan's Council of Islamic Ideology, publicly supported normalizing ties with Israel, even stating that Israel's existence as the homeland of the Jews was written in the Quran. **HW**



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Individuals who are married or in a committed relationship face the possibility they'll end up managing complicated finances alone at some point. Unfortunately, the first time many experience this is during a personal crisis following divorce or a spouse's or partner's death.

Here's a list of thought-provoking questions pertaining to financial fitness and crisis preparedness. Use them as a starting point to check on how prepared you are to handle a personal financial crisis. Begin by reviewing the questions, determine what you've already done, and check those items off the list. For the questions you need to address or take action on, seek the advice of professional advisors and trusted family members.

Asset management

- Do I have a clear picture of where my assets are located?
- Will my retirement assets provide a comfortable retirement for my life expectancy?
- Do I have a well-diversified portfolio?
- Are my investments appropriate in today's economy?
- Are my assets titled properly?
- Do I have an emergency fund?
- Am I taking advantage of techniques to reduce my taxes?

Estate planning strategies

- Do I have a will?
- Is my will current?
- Have I determined what my family may owe in estate taxes?
- Have I funded my estate-tax liability?
- Have I explored and taken advantage of wealth-transfer techniques?
- Do I wish to provide for charitable giving?
- Are my power of attorney, living will, and beneficiary designations up-to-date?

Debt management

- Do I know my credit rating?
- Could I get a loan if I applied?

Insurance

- Do I have enough insurance coverage to:
 - ~ Cover medical expenses?
 - ~ Provide for disability/long-term care?
 - ~ Provide for family members' security?
 - ~ Fund an estate-tax liability?

In addition ...

- Have I coordinated my advisors' (attorney, CPA, banker) activities?
- What changes in my life are likely to occur within the next three years?
 - Do I know the status of my parents'/children's financial situation and the implications for my financial well-being?
 - Would I be prepared for a family emergency if it happened tomorrow?

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Reducing Breast Cancer Risk Through Proactive Genetic Screening

JScreen, a national nonprofit organization offering genetic testing and counseling, is urging the public to learn about the power of proactive genetic screening for prevention or early detection of breast cancer. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the United States, and JScreen has taken this opportunity to educate people

about the importance of taking action in the fight against this life-threatening disease.

The statistics surrounding cancer are both staggering and concerning – roughly half of all men and one-third of all women are likely to develop cancer during their lifetime. Up to 10% of these cancers are related to mutations in can-

cer genes that are passed down within a family. People that carry these harmful mutations may or may not have an obvious family history of cancer.

Genetic screening technology can identify whether an individual has a genetic predisposition towards certain types of cancer based on the specific cancer gene mutation that they carry. For example, a mutation in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes can raise the risk of breast cancer for a woman to over 80 percent, as well as risks for other types of cancer. Armed with this knowledge, women can make decisions to drastically lower their risk for cancer through risk-reducing surgery or increasing their surveillance to include breast ultrasounds and/or MRIs.

"Knowledge is power. With an understanding and awareness of their cancer risks and available options, individuals can work with their healthcare providers on next steps," says Karen Arnovitz Grinzaid, MS, CGC, assistant professor of human genetics at Emory University School of Medicine and JScreen's executive director. "JScreen offers convenient and affordable access to cancer genetic testing across the U.S. and helps save lives."

JScreen's CancerGEN test provides users with a simple and effective at-

home testing process that analyzes over 60 cancer susceptibility genes associated with genetic risks for breast, ovarian, prostate, colorectal, skin, and many other hereditary cancers. All of the genes on the CancerGEN panel are actionable, meaning that if a person tests positive, there are things they can do to help prevent cancer or identify it early.

After signing up for a CancerGEN test on JScreen's online platform, users simply provide a saliva sample and mail it to the lab. The test leverages state-of-the-art genetic sequencing technology to ensure highly accurate results. Results are relayed by a licensed genetic counselor who provides information via telehealth.


JScreen is a national public health initiative based out of Emory University's Department of Human Genetics in Atlanta, Ga. The JScreen team is devoted to keeping up with the latest scientific developments in hereditary cancer prevention and works to make cancer genetic screening both affordable and accessible.

This October, JScreen plans to raise awareness about cancer prevention and help people make informed choices to reduce their cancer risk. To learn more about JScreen's innovative approach to cancer genetic screening, please visit [JScreen.org](#). [HW](#)

MEDICARE SPECIALIST

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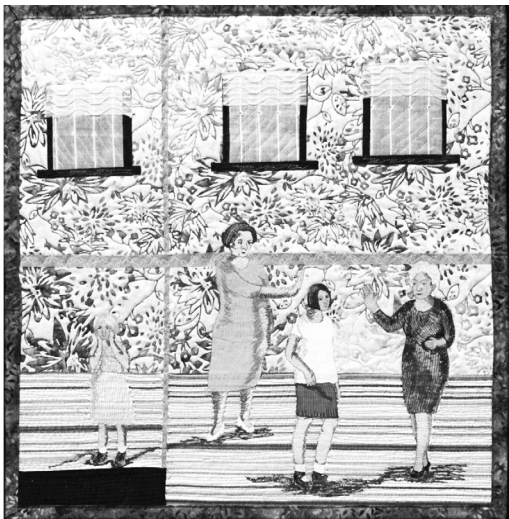
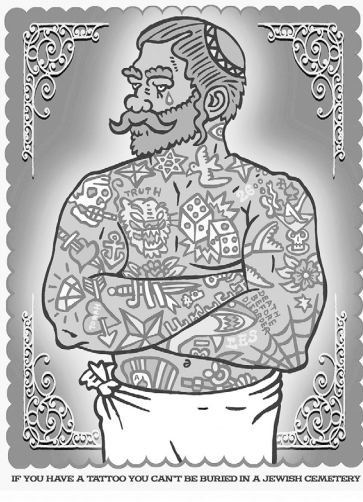
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Jews and the Occult: 5 Myth-Busting Insights from a NYC Museum Exhibit



Steve Marcus’ “Consequences,” left, and Maxine Hess’ “The Slap,” are two of the 50-plus artworks on view at the current exhibit at the Dr. Bernard Heller Museum at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. (Courtesy of the artists)

By Emily Jaeger

(New York Jewish Week) – If you take the Torah’s word for it – not to mention generations of rabbinical literature – astrology, witchcraft, ghost-busting and the like are expressly forbidden in Judaism, and have no place in Jewish practice or culture.

And yet, as the current exhibit at the Dr. Bernard Heller Museum at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion highlights, the occult has always been an integral part of Judaism – and continues to be today.

“In every civilization there’s evidence of belief in superstition, mystical characters that can both protect and harm or rituals that can ward off evil,” Jeanie Rosensaft, the museum’s director, told the *New York Jewish Week*. “It’s just a fascinating thing, and we wanted to investigate.”

For the exhibit “Magical Thinking: Superstitions and Other Persistent Notions,” Rosensaft and her curatorial team put out an open call to hundreds of contemporary Jewish artists for artwork exploring Jewish superstitions. The result showcases the work of more than 50 artists in a range of mediums – including oils, watercolors, acrylics, collage, paper cuts, multimedia and photographs.

From hamsas to “the menstrual slap,” the artworks grapple intimately with Jewish practices that have been both painstakingly preserved across the generations and, at the same time, discounted as merely “old wives’ tales.”

Taken as a whole, however, the aesthetic diversity of the pieces reflect the complicated reality of Jewish tradition: encompassing many varying and sometimes opposing perspectives that nonetheless remain in conversation.

Inspired by the exhibit, which is on view through Jan. 5, 2023, the *New York Jewish Week* chatted with Rosensaft, participating artists and other scholars in the field of Jewish material culture and demonology about the place of the occult in Jewish culture, both past and present. They helped us debunk five critical misconceptions.

1. The occult has no place in Judaism.

One of Rosensaft’s favorite quotes from the 13th-century *Sefer Chasidim* – an ethical and legal guide to Jewish daily life in medieval Germany – perhaps best encapsulates Judaism’s true approach to the occult: “One should not believe in superstitions, but still it is best to be heedful of them.”

In other words, just because the Torah prohibits belief and participation in the occult, that doesn’t mean that you should look a gift golem in the mouth.

According to Sara Ronis, author of the recent book “Demons in the Details: Demonic Discourse and Rabbinic Law in Late Antique Babylonia,” the supernatural has actually long been a meaningful and powerful element of Jew-

ish life. “Many Ashkenazi Jews today have an understanding of Judaism as highly rational, scientific and spiritual more than material,” she told the *New York Jewish Week*. “That understanding emerges out of particular conditions of 19th-century western Europe, and is an important part of Jewish history. But it’s not the only part.”

“[Even] the rabbis of the Talmud recognized that the world was filled with phenomena beyond their understanding,” she added, “and demons and other intermediary beings play important roles in rabbinic narrative and law.”

The truth is, from the first mention of the demon Lilith in the Book of Isaiah to the red strings sold at the Western Wall today – presumably to ward off ayin hara, or the evil eye – the occult has a long history in Judaism.

2. Jewish superstitions are just old wives’ tales.

PSA: Old wives’ tales – bubba meises, as they are known in Yiddish – are a derogatory term for the carefully preserved and transmitted traditions and material culture of Jewish women (you know, half of all Jews).

These customs and traditions – preserved and transmitted from one generation to the next over the course of centuries – are actually very significant. From this perspective, a hand-shaped hamsa amulet could hold the same religious significance as a kiddush cup or prayer book.

According to Noam Sienna, author of “A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts From the First Century to 1969,” “reading” objects (aka examining Jewish material culture) in addition to Jewish texts is crucial to painting an inclusive image of Jewish tradition.

“Reading objects is a way of giving voice to subjects perhaps otherwise denied the ability to speak through the textual tradition – women, artisans, farmers, practitioners of folk magic – and making room for experiences and perspectives not expressed by the literary record,” he said.

The hamsa, as well as other amulets and incantation bowls, are also deeply tied to that textual tradition: “For a Maghrebi [North African] Jewish viewer, the hamsa hand conjures up a dense web of Biblical and rabbinic associations all centering around the twin concepts of protection and blessing – warding off bad energy and attracting good energy,” Sienna said.

3. If you have a tattoo, you can’t be buried in a Jewish cemetery.

While many are quick to dismiss the role of superstition in Jewish practice and tradition, the opposite can also occur: Sometimes a superstition becomes so embedded in Jewish culture and imagination that it’s mistaken for fact.

When illustrator Steve Marcus received the exhibit prompt, he immediately thought of the widespread belief that tattooed Jews could not be buried in a Jewish cemetery. That’s what inspired his piece in the exhibition, “Consequences,” which depicts a heavily tattooed man in a kippah, crying.

The truth is, while the Torah does include a proscription against tattoos (Leviticus 19:28 states: “You shall not make gashes in your flesh for the dead, or incise any marks on yourselves: I am the LORD”), it does not actually prevent Jews from being buried with their community.

“The misconceptions I wanted to convey in this piece are beyond superstition,” Marcus told the *New York Jewish Week*. “No matter what kind of Jew one is and what choices they have made, they are Jewish. They are Jewish regardless of race, whether they’re kosher or shomer Shabbat or if they are tattooed or not.”

4. Jews can’t have baby showers.

Many of the items in the exhibit relate to Jewish superstitions about childbirth, a potentially dangerous moment in the lives of parents and babies. Like the misconceptions around tattoos, many of the Jewish superstitions related to childbirth – such as the Jewish aversion to baby showers – have been widely accepted as law. Actually, this practice stems from the superstition that making a fuss over the unborn child might provoke the evil eye.

Deborah Lynne Amerling’s collage “Bubba Meises” combines the traditional elements of a Jewish birth amulet (intended to protect a mother and her newborn from the demon Lilith, who might take the child away), but also adjusts the tradition to a contemporary setting.

“Amerling celebrates the role of women as artists and activists and includes the name of Ruth Bader Gins-

berg, calling upon her as a kind of protective force for our present, for our future,” said Rosensaft.

While Amerling said she doesn’t believe in these Jewish superstitions, she does believe in their transmission – she didn’t have a baby shower either. “I am not religious,” she said. “I don’t believe in superstition, but it can’t hurt. I feel like I’m honoring my parents so I continue the traditions.”

5. This exhibit caused the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rosensaft was working on the catalog for “Magical Thinking: Superstitions and Other Persistent Notions,” when the pandemic hit. Originally set to open in May 2020, the museum postponed the show because of COVID-19 until fall of 2022 – next in line after an exhibit honoring the 50th anniversary of female rabbinical ordination.

Which sort of makes us wonder: Just like the infamous hoard of mummies excavated in Saqqara in 2020 had some wondering if the curse of the Pharaohs had something to do with the COVID-19 pandemic, did this exhibit accidentally attract the evil eye?

Rosensaft argued that perhaps the opposite is true: the pandemic has actually reignited our relationship with the occult. “I think that the experience with COVID has made it clear to us that there are limits to human understanding,” she said. “Human beings want to find meaning or solutions, or remedies for the things that are literally plaguing us. And I do believe there is this undercurrent of superstition, a belief in magical thinking. Humanity longs for a sense of protection and safety.”

That “Magical Thinking” ended up perfectly aligned with this societal sentiment – not to mention the current season to be spooky – was just a lucky coincidence. **HW**

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SuperBubbe Comes to Town (With Her Gown)



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

There's legal precedent and there's domestic precedent. Both are powerful forces in our society – and my family. For example, since my wife, who was 45 years old at the time, spent a week assisting my daughter upon the arrival of our first granddaughter – well, the rest of my fertile family decreed it a domestic precedent. So, she had to do the same for the second grandchild. And six more. Plus, a great-grandchild. After all, a domestic precedent is a domestic precedent.

Now, as June, a month of Spring and rebirth rolls around, here comes our 2nd great-grandchild, surfing in on a tide of joy. Well, who's going to violate a precedent? SuperBubbe, like the U.S. Cavalry, rides to the rescue. Trouble is – now she's 70 – not 45.

But off she goes like a great gray battleship – with me, a rowboat, in her wake – to the wars of diaper changes, dinners for recuperating mamas, care

giving to the newborn's sibling, and medical attention to the circumcisee.

I go for the first two days – she stays for the week nursing, cooking, babysitting. It's a precedent. That's what she does.

This week of slavery to mother and child has become a family tradition like my bubbe's stewed chicken, which the bubbe passed on to my mama. (Don't forget to sauté the onions 'til they're dark brown!) My mama taught my wife. (Use dry red wine, not chicken stock for the liquid.) And my wife, in a generous mood, revealed the secret to me. (Use a hen, not a fryer that'll disintegrate into chicken mush.)

Normal families trace their descent with genealogical tables – we use a chicken recipe. While your great-grandfather was talking Talmud in a Lithuanian Yeshiva – mine was experimenting with a few slivers of ginger mixed in with his sauteed onions.

So, besides being the best chicken cooker in five generations, I forgot to tell you my wife is an RN. So, she's a certified care giver. She's also a certified sentimentalist. That's why every male child is presented to the mohel in the same embroidered dress full of sweet memories that adorned our first child over 50 years ago. (Your Christian friends would call it a christening dress.) It's a family custom like the stewed chicken. Bubbe shows up with a

smile, a burning desire to coddle mother and child, and that dress that she, as a 20-year-old mother, lovingly patted into place on her first boy. Like I say, as of today at 11:15 a.m., we're up to nine brises; three sons, four grandsons, and two great-grandsons.

My wife reminds me that we paid nine dollars for the gown – so by virtue of amortization the price is down to a dollar per occasion. We laugh at inflation – a couple more brises and we're down to the price of a poppy seed bagel.

So, here we are again in Far Rockaway, New York – Yeshiva Shor Yoshuv – two years after our first great-grandchild's bris. Same dress. Same family, except for the newcomer, who at eight days old is not world-wise enough to figure out that although everybody is grinning and mazel toving, this is not a bar mitzvah. There'll be no presents for him. There will be probably a night of discomfort. But that's why bubbe is here with that dress full of memories.

Now, in a small room down the hall from the davening men the mother ceremonially hands my coolly dressed great-grandson to the grandmother who passes it like the crown jewels of England to the Superbubbe – the great-grandmother. Another family tradition: and even more significant than stewed chicken with onions. A married relative, as yet childless, brings the un-

The Scribbler On the Roof

By Ted Roberts

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wary guest of honor to me. My 15 minutes of fame lasts barely 10 seconds as I gaze at the baby's face so unsuspecting of the pain and joy of his new world. I pass the Crown Jewels to the mohel.

As per tradition the tri-generational girls remain far down the hall. They can barely hear the murmuring of the prayers but the shouts of mazel tov ring through the corridor like Joshua's trumpet at Jericho, as the deed is done.

Same dress, same faces, and even the same mohel – Rebbe Yehuda Kaplan, who does the same artful job on this child as on the little boy's brother, two years ago. We respect precedent in our family.

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

Insights From Israel The Calming Sukkah

By Howard Weisband

I am writing during Sukkot, a magnificent and inspirational holiday, while sitting in our sukkah, a calming experience especially here in Israel.

There are so many wonderfully written articles about the beauty of Sukkot and the meaning of the sukkah itself, how building the sukkah and living in it during the holiday enhances the Jewish experience and even the unity of the Jewish People.

One of those recommended articles is from the heart and pen of Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin, president of The Schechter Institutes in Jerusalem. Titled "Seven Reasons for Sukkah Sitting," he meaningfully describes the Torah basis for the sukkah and its importance historically and in modern times, in both a particular and universal fashion. These elements relate to the Jewish People no matter where they may live, in Israel or throughout the Diaspora.

Rabbi Golinkin warmly concludes his article as follows: "While sitting in the sukkah, every Jew will find his or her own religious, national, or personal reason for observing this beautiful mitzvah."

At the same time, I have found that in Israel the sukkah has another extremely

important attribute. It offers a personal and national calmness.

The State of Israel, as small as it is in terms of size, tends to be an extremely busy and intense society. Perhaps it's our ongoing business and high-tech environment, and our almost daily research and medical accomplishments, all happening within the rather rough geopolitical neighborhood in which we live.

Enter a Jewish holiday and life slows down. Schools and universities are on break, government offices close, as do many businesses with the exception of grocery stores and supermarkets, restaurants and leisure or recreational activities. People often use the time to vacation throughout Israel. We met close friends today for lunch – in a sukkah in Machenei Yehuda, Jerusalem's outdoor market, or shuk, which was extremely busy... but we very much felt the holiday surrounding us.

Unique about Sukkot this year, 5783/2022, is that Israel is in the midst of a national election campaign to culminate on November 1 with our fifth round of elections since 2019. Mirroring the society, perhaps often influencing

the society, Israeli politics and election campaigns are intense. The rhetoric is often quite high, sometimes downright nasty.

Fortunately, many politicians observe the holidays and there are those who also relish the vacation time with their families. The Knesset is closed as well.

The rhetoric has not disappeared, but it has decreased, as have the political ads and video clips, albeit for only these days. Media does function and reporters certainly look for recent polls and stories to write.

Relatively speaking, I can sit in our sukkah in a much calmer manner and enjoy a slower environment.

Then it happens. A major story breaks. This time it's the U.S. brokered maritime agreement between Israel and Lebanon relating to drilling for natural gas and territorial rights in the Mediterranean Sea. It's not a peace deal nor even a normalization agreement, but it is an important, even critical step forward in our immediate geopolitical context.

The political impact may well be huge. Prime Minister Lapid, his government, and supporters of course, see it as a major accomplishment. Former

Prime Minister Netanyahu not so. He has forcefully already attacked the agreement.

When we soon leave our sukkah after the holiday, the Knesset will again be in session, and the election campaign will be significantly ramped up. November 1 is around the corner, and in all probability the maritime agreement with Lebanon will be the major issue that could determine a seat or two in either direction... and thereby who will be able to form the next coalition government. Or will there be deadlock and must we move to yet another election in the coming months.

Meanwhile I still have a few days to sit in our sukkah and enjoy the relative calm of the holiday.

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

IDF Identifies Bodies of Two Soldiers Missing Since 1948

(JNS) – The remains of two soldiers who fought in Israel's war of independence have been found, 74 years after their deaths.

The Israeli Defence Forces announced last Friday that it had identified the remains of Privates Yitzhak Rubinstein and Binyamin Aryeh Eisenberg, who were members of the Palmach – the elite strike force of the pre-state Haganah militia – defending Kibbutz Yad Mordechai from an Egyptian attack in 1948, just days after Israel declared independence.

The Egyptians captured the two

men along with Palmach medic Livka Shefer during the Battle of Yad Mordechai as Rubinstein and the medic were evacuating the wounded Eisenberg on a stretcher. They were declared fallen and missing in 1952. It is believed they were killed during the battle on May 24, 1948.

Shefer's body was found in the village of Majdal (modern-day Ashkelon) in 1949 and moved to a mass grave in Kibbutz Nitzanim, the IDF said. It was identified four years ago.

The army conducted what it called an

intensive investigation over the past decade and determined that Rubinstein and Eisenberg were also buried in Nitzanim. The IDF has notified their relatives.

"Every Hebrew mother should know that we will not give up until all the children of Israel are returned to their graves and we've revealed the burial places of those martyrs whose burial places are unknown," Maj. Gen. Yaniv Assor, head of the IDF Personnel Directorate, said in a statement. "Today, the State of Israel and the IDF have fulfilled their moral obligation in establishing the burial

sites of Benjamin Aryeh Eisenberg and Yitzhak Rubenstein."

The two men were posthumously awarded ranks in the IDF – which did not exist at the time of their deaths. Their names have also been added to the memorial at Nitzanim, with a ceremony expected to be held in the coming weeks.

Eisenberg was born in Poland in 1927 and made aliyah in 1946. Rubenstein was born in Ukraine (then Galicia) in 1913 and immigrated to Israel in 1938. Both men arrived in ships carrying illegal immigrants. HW

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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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