

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE  
SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 9.

# THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM

16 CHESHVAN, 5783

NOVEMBER 10, 2022

VOL. 101, NO. 7

## As Vote is Tallied, Netanyahu Appears Headed for More Sweeping Victory Than Expected



Benjamin Netanyahu seen during a morning walk the morning after the Israeli general elections, Nov. 2, 2022. Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

By Gabe Friedman

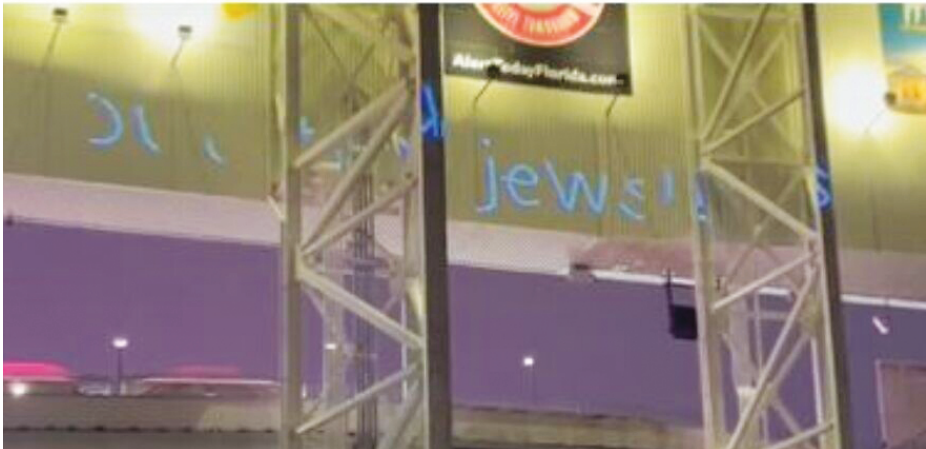
(JTA) November 2, 2022 – As most of the votes in Israel continue to be tallied last Wednesday, Benjamin Netanyahu looks assured of returning to power, as his far-right bloc of parties is predicted to win around 65 seats, well above the 61 needed in the 120-seat Knesset, or

parliament. The official final results are not expected to be finalized on [last] Wednesday, but over 80% of the votes had been counted by the afternoon local time. Many of the votes that have not yet been counted are nicknamed “dou-

ble-envelope ballots,” cast by security officers, prisoners, diplomats abroad, residents of assisted living facilities and hospital patients and staff. These ballots have in recent years heavily favored right-wing parties. Netanyahu, who has only been out of the prime minister’s office for 16 months, is expected to form a coalition with multiple haredi Orthodox parties and the Religious Zionism slate of two parties, led by the far-right extremists Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. Ben-Gvir has worried American Jewish leaders with his anti-Arab, anti-LGBTQ and other inflammatory rhetoric. Several American Jewish leaders were holding out hope last Tuesday for a strong performance by smaller liberal and Arab parties or by Defense Minister Benny Gantz’s slate, which could have complicated Netanyahu’s coalition calculus. But those possibilities seemed increasingly remote last Wednesday. Meretz, a longtime voice of Israel’s ever-shrinking left wing, and the Balad Arab party, which attempted to dent Netanyahu’s numbers with an impassioned get-out-the-vote campaign, are both currently not above the 3.25% of the vote

threshold needed to join the Knesset. Current Prime Minister Yair Lapid’s party is predicted to win 24 seats, compared to 32 for Netanyahu’s Likud. Ben-Gvir’s Jewish Power party snuck into Israel’s last government with 1 seat; now the Religious Zionism slate looks headed for a total of at least 14 seats. If the count holds, Netanyahu’s government will represent a significant swing to the right for Israeli politics, which have trended conservative for decades. Ben-Gvir, touted as a rising star who has electrified the conservative electorate, will likely be given a high-ranking cabinet position. He is hoping to be named security minister, which would put him in charge of the country’s police force. Women, LGBTQ people and other minorities have been sounding an alarm for weeks, arguing that Israel could lose support on the world stage. “Our lives are in play in these elections,” Ethan Felson, executive director of A Wider Bridge, a group that advocates for LGBTQ Jews in the United States and Israel, said at an event last Tuesday. “We may very well be waking up to these nightmares.” **HW**

## Anti-Semites Spoil the Fun at Florida-Georgia Football Game



Kanye was right about the Jews” is projected at TIAA Bank Field at the end of the Florida/Georgia game in Jacksonville, Oct. 29, 2022. Source: Twitter.

By Faygie Holt (JNS) – Fans of college football who were hoping to enjoy a great rivalry when the University of Florida Gators took on the University of Georgia Bulldogs last weekend were subjected to anti-Semitic sentiments when the words “Kayne is right about the Jews” were digitally displayed on a side of TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville, Fla., after the game. The statement refers to anti-Semitic remarks made earlier this month by the rapper Kayne West, who now goes by Ye. Condemnations came from many per-

sons, including from the Florida city’s Mayor Lenny Curry, who said, “Jacksonville is a city made better because of its diversity. Those who spread messages of hate, racism and anti-Semitism will not be able to change the heart of this city or her people. I condemn these cowards and their cowardly messages.” Also weighing in were the administrations of both universities, which issued a joint statement saying that they “denounce these and all acts of anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred and in-

(See **Football** Page 2)



### Diamond Wedding Bands Made to Order

If you dream in diamonds, allow us to create the wedding band you've always wanted ■ Choose the shape you adore most and the mounting you prefer, in gold or platinum, set either part way or full round, starting at \$3000 ■ From Mednikow, when you want your gift to be special

M E D N I K O W  
— I 8 9 I —

474 Perkins Extended

mednikow.com



# Federation Staff and Leadership Attend the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly



Memphis Jewish Federation staff and leadership traveled to Chicago last week to attend the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly, an annual event designed to maximize the philanthropic power of Jewish communities in the U.S. and Canada. From left, Operations Analyst Phyllis Abraham, Director of Development Judy Lansky, Chief Impact Officer & Executive Vice President Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, President & CEO Laura Linder, and Board Chair Cindy Finestone participated in workshops and breakouts, networked with colleagues, and attended plenary sessions with diverse influencers like Israeli President Isaac Herzog, journalist Andrea Mitchell, and actor Michael Aloni.

## Football...

(Continued From Page 1)

tolerance. We are proud to be home to strong and thriving Jewish communities at UGA and UF, and we stand together against hate.”

The Chabad-Lubavitch emissaries who run the Chabad houses at the schools – Rabbi Berl and Chanie Gold- man and Rabbi Aharon and Pessie No- tik in Florida and Rabbi Michoel and Chana Refson in Georgia – issued their own joint statement saying that “some things are bigger than football.”

“Jewish Gators and Jewish Bulldogs are united with good people all over the world in condemning anti-Semitism, hate and bias of any kind,” the emis- saries wrote. “It cannot and will not be tolerated. If any student or community member were disturbed by the display, our doors are open, please reach out to us. We are always here for you, and we will listen and help.

“The internet, and even a simple pro- jector, gives anyone the ability to spread any message, even one of hate, to any number of people. It also empowers us however, to do the opposite,” they continued. “Today, each of us possess in our pocket a computer that would be unbelievable even a generation ago.

Our words can reach others around the world, yet this tremendous blessing comes with a tremendous opportunity and responsibility.”

The hate incident at the college foot- ball game is just one of several recent anti-Semitic incidents in Jacksonville, including the appearance of several per- sons who stood on a highway overpass with banners that read “End Jewish Su- premacy in America” and “Honk if you know it’s the Jews.”

According to the Anti-Defamation League’s “Audit of Antisemitic Inci- dents 2021,” the number of incidents in Florida increased from 127 in 2020 to 190 the following year. That figure in- cludes 142 instances of harassment, 47 instances of vandalism and 1 assault.

To address security needs, the Jack- sonville-based Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida has signed an agreement with the Secure Community Network (SCN) to create a Community Security Initiative for the Jewish community as part of the Li- veSecure program.

“The rhetoric we have seen and heard in the last few weeks is unnerving and a scare tactic. However, our largest con-

# THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

Established September, 1925  
By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

MAILING ADDRESS  
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN  
PO Box 770846  
Memphis, TN 38177-0846

Office: 901.763.2215  
Direct: 901.827.7244

info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman  
Editor and Publisher  
  
Larry Nieman  
Advertising Sales Director  
  
Toni Nieman  
Office Manager  
  
Rebecca Miller  
Social Media Director  
Web Development

Herman I. Goldberger  
Editor and Publisher Emeritus  
  
Barbara B. Goldberger  
Editor and Publisher Emeritus

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
Memphis and Mid-South \$36  
Out-of-State \$50  
Payable in Advance

Submissions  
Send editorial submissions (calendar items, news releases, event photos, and letters to the editor) at least 9 days prior to publication date to info@hebrewwatchman.com

Advertising  
For advertising rates and specs, contact Larry at 901.299.7376 or info@hebrewwatchman.com

Simchas  
Weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, birthdays, engagement, anniversaries  
info@hebrewwatchman.com

Obituaries  
901.763.2215  
info@hebrewwatchman.com

The Hebrew Watchman is a Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Jewish News Service

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN (USPS #807-360) is published weekly every Thursday for \$36 per year by JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc. THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846 Periodical postage paid at Memphis, Tenn.  
  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

PUBLISHER’S STATEMENT  
THE HEBREW WATCHMAN must give permission for any material contained herein to be copied or reproduced in any manner without express permission of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. The publication of any advertisement in this edition does not constitute an endorsement of the advertisers’ product, kashrut or services by this publication. The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of THE HEBREW WATCHMAN. Nor can the publishers be held responsible for any errors. 11/10/2022

## Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. November 11, 2022 / 17 Cheshvan, 5783 ..... 4:38 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. November 12, 2022 / 18 Cheshvan, 5783 ..... 5:35 p.m.  
  
Weekly Torah Portion: Vayeira

cern is that even one person will see this as a call to action and repeat what we witnessed in Pittsburgh exactly four years ago this weekend,” the Jewish Federation said in a statement, referring to the deadly attack at the Tree of Life synagogue.  
“Through the establishment of a Community Security Initiative,” it contin- ued, “we will be taking action to harden our campuses and our community and prepare to train to situational awareness those who work with our children, our seniors and our most vulnerable.” HW

## Iran Preparing to Send More Weapons, Ballistic Missiles to Russia for Ukraine War

(JNS) – Iran is preparing to send ap- proximately 1,000 additional weapons, including short-range surface-to-sur- face ballistic missiles and attack drones, to Russia for use in its war against Ukraine, officials from a Western nation that closely monitors the Islamic Re- public’s arms program told CNN.  
The shipment is being closely moni- tored because it would be the first time Iran has sent advanced precision-guided missiles to Russia, giving the Kremlin’s forces a significant advantage on the battlefield.  
The last Iranian shipment to Russia included 450 drones, officials say.  
According to Interfax, citing Dep- uty Prime Minister Alexander Novak, Russia has begun delivering petroleum products to Iran as part of a swap agree- ment.  
Novak, who manages Russia’s ener- gy diplomacy, said the list of products to be included in the agreement will be expanded soon, Reuters reported. HW



Brian Lurie  
Broker, Vice-President  
GRI, RENE, MMDC, CRS

Cell: 901.315.2298  
Office: 901.260.4780

Blurie2003@gmail.com  
BestRealEstateAgentinMemphis.com  
www.BluffCityBuilders.com

CRYE-LEIKE®  
REALTORS®

## LET ME SELL YOUR HOME!

“ Brian is very insightful, fair, and is very helpful whenever you have a need. I found him to be very reliable on all matters related to my home purchase. ”

SATISFIED CUSTOMER  
★★★★★

“ Brian was great! His advice helped us compete against a dozen offers and buy a home in this tough market. Moreover, we as were not local, Brian continued to work with us until we took possession including visiting the property several times on our behalf. We would definitely use Brian again! ”

SATISFIED CUSTOMER  
★★★★★



Official Real Estate Agent of The Memphis Tigers



## Beth Sholom to Host a Dinner Dance Gala on December 3

Beth Sholom Synagogue’s annual fundraiser is back! Tickets are now available for the December 3, festive gala that will take place at 7 p.m. at the synagogue. The format is a special dinner dance, with cuisine by Marisa Baggett and music by Jeremy Shrader Band. With plenty of libations on hand and scrumptious desserts to savor, the event promises to be an unforgettable evening for guests.

The sweetest part of the night will be the simple act of socializing after a long interlude of pandemic isolation, according to Illysa Wertheimer, Beth Sholom’s vice president of development. “It will be a pleasure to get the community together and enjoy each other’s company.”

Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, spiritual leader of Beth Sholom, stressed the importance of being together. “Our relationships with each other are at the heart of our experience as a synagogue community,” she said. “Throughout this pandemic we have thrived and grown as a synagogue community in substantial ways, and our gala is a time to celebrate who we are and join

together for a special and fun evening.”

The evening also offers something special in Memphis – dancing to big band music and jazz standards. The Jeremy Shrader Band repertoire includes classics such as “Beyond the Sea,” “Mack the Knife,” “I’ve Got You Under My Skin,” and other sophisticated tunes. “The gala will offer a night-on-the-town type of experience,” Wertheimer said, adding that guests are encouraged to dress in party attire.

Wertheimer thanked event co-chairs Samantha Alperin and Leslie Epstein for organizing the evening. Tickets for the gala are \$100 and available for purchase on the Beth Sholom website at <https://www.bsholom.org/gala22>. The gala also offers amenity-packed sponsorship opportunities starting at the “Chaver” level of \$1,000 and progressing to the “Mensch” level of \$3,600 and the Tzaddik” level of \$5,000. Tzaddik sponsors will be treated to dinner at the home of Rabbis Sarit and Abe Schacter-Gampel. For more information, contact Beth Sholom at 901.683.3591. **HW**

## The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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

**Monday, November 14**  
**Carol Devine with Right at Home presents:** “Preventing Falls in the Home!” In the past several weeks, several seniors have fallen in their homes resulting in injuries. Come hear this always-important topic! One tip might prevent a serious injury.

**Wednesday, November 16**  
**Steve Kaplan presents “Fun Facts about Memphis!”**  
This will be in the form of a game! Multiple Choice Questions will be asked of the group, and then the right answer revealed. This has been one our most-requested formats. Come have some fun and learn some cool stuff!

**Monday, November 21**  
**1950’s and 60’s TEAM TRIVIAL PURSUIT!**  
Using Trivial Pursuit Games edited for these time frames, the teams will see who can do the best! Please join us for this fun event! This will be the Holiday edition with a few Holiday Trivia questions thrown in. Prizes for winners!!!

**Wednesday, November 23**  
**Field trip to Dixon Gallery**  
Come see the Newest Exhibition. Simple Pleasures: The Art of Doris Lee presents an important opportunity for rediscovering one of the most popular figurative artists in American art history. From the 1930s through the 1950s, Doris Lee (1905-1983) painted some of the most-recognizable images in American art. The cost is free including free roundtrip ride on the MJCC Bus.  
Leaving the MJCC at 12:15 and returning by 2:45. Other exhibitions will also be open. Come enjoy this Memphis Treasure.

**Please join us from 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. Call or email Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 or [stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org](mailto:stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org) or call the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW****

## Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Honored for Combating Anti-Semitism, Calls Out Delayed Response to Ye

(JNS) – National Basketball Association legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar received the first annual Ally Against Antisemitism Award from Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for what the organization described as “being a steadfast ally in the fight against anti-semitism and building bridges be-

tween communities.”  
Upon receiving the award on Oct. 26 at a fundraiser in Toronto, Abdul-Jabbar addressed the ongoing anti-semitism scandal surrounding the rapper Ye by saying, “I get condemnation from people who don’t want to see any progress, and I get support from people who un-

derstand that what people like Kanye West have to say is intolerable. We can’t have our people who set standards and who everybody wants to emulate... talking like that. That’s not what we’re supposed to be about, especially in America where we say that all men are created equal.”

He continued, “Look what happened in the time it took for all the people who ended up condemning Kanye, look how long it took for them to get around to saying what they had to say. In the meantime, Jewish kids were intimidated and bullied and had to deal with a whole lot of violence or violent thoughts directed at them because someone like Kanye West says it’s okay. It’s not okay.”

Despite the delay in condemnations for Ye, he eventually lost his lucrative “Yeezy” brand partnership with the German sporting goods giant Adidas. Professional athletes Jaylen Brown and Aaron Donald also left his agency, Don-da Sports.

Abdul-Jabbar’s award and vocal stance against anti-semitism comes as another prominent figure in the NBA, Brooklyn Nets point guard Kyrie Irving, has come under fire for linking an anti-semitic movie on his Twitter page. Irving has been criticized for his actions, including by the owner of the Nets, Joe Tsai, who tweeted, “I’m disappointed that Kyrie appears to support a film based on a book full of anti-semitic disinformation. I want to sit down and make sure he understands this is hurtful to all of us, and as a man of faith, it is wrong to promote hate based on race, ethnicity or religion.”

Tsai also tweeted, “This is bigger than basketball.” **HW**

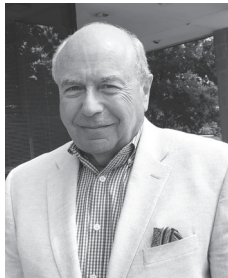
## Walk to Riverdale School!



### 1674 Tamarack Lane

**Walk to nearby Riverdale School and adjacent Riverdale Park! Two NEW Heat and Air Units! New Roof! This loved family home awaits your taste in new décor, cosmetics or updates. HUGE Rooms! Screened Porch! Deck w/Canopy overlooks shimmering Cooool Pool. Gas Cooktop and separate Gas Oven. Tons of upside potential. And, remember...**

**When you want the job DONE, call Shel-DONE!**



**Sheldon Rosengarten, Broker**



**Kelly Erb Associate Broker**



**Erb = Excellence**

**Office 901.682.1868 • Cell 901.483.0546  
[shelrose@memphisrelocate.com](mailto:shelrose@memphisrelocate.com)**

**Cell 901.355.3830  
[kerb@m-brealtors](mailto:kerb@m-brealtors)**

## The Scribbler On the Roof

By Ted Roberts

**The best of Ted’s work — a collection of stories designed to make you laugh and cry.**



**\$10.95  
AVAILABLE AT LULU.COM**







# It's Not Just Kanye

By **Lea Thomas,**  
**St. Mary Senior River City BBG**

*Reprinted with permission, St. Mary Statler [stmarystatler.org](http://stmarystatler.org)*

It was recently reported that Kanye West originally hoped his album, which was released as “Ye,” would be titled “Hitler.”

According to a business executive who worked for the rapper and record producer, “[Kanye] would praise Hitler by saying how incredible it was that he was able to accumulate so much power and would talk about all the great things he and the Nazi Party achieved for the German people.”

This revelation is just one in a long line of antisemitic statements from West, and he has rightly been called out on social media. Companies like Adidas, Balenciaga, Vogue, MRC documentary and the CAA (Creative Artists Agency) have ended their partnerships with Kanye as a result.

Responding to my request for comment, Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-09) wrote in an email about his reaction to West’s comments, the recent acts of antisemitism and the response it has drawn in the media.

“Kanye West’s remarks are despicable, but it is uplifting to see all those condemning them and cutting off relations with him as they repudiate antisemitism,” Cohen said. “There may be more antisemitism in the country and in the world now than at any time since World War II. This is a great concern to the Jewish people and to all people of goodwill.”

However, the response has not all been positive. On Oct. 24, an antisemitic hate group hung up signs on the 405 freeway in Los Angeles saying, “Honk if you know Kanye is right about the Jews.”

People still listen to Kanye’s music, buy his clothing, and make excuses for him and for people like him, like actor Gina Carano or politician Marjorie Taylor Greene. Just as Carano still acts and Greene still holds office, those with power or fame get off the hook for normalized antisemitic behavior.

It is no secret that antisemitism is on the rise. According to a report by the Anti-Defamation League, in 2021, there were an average of seven antisemitic incidents per day, 34% higher than in the previous year. Seventy-seven years after the Holocaust, we are still seeing antisemitism increase at a dangerous rate.

These statistics may seem like just numbers, but 2,717 reported incidents and an increase of 167% in assaults in one year is not normal. We are four years after the deadliest assault on Jewish people in the United States, the Tree of Life shooting. But for some reason, 11 people being murdered was not enough for the world to put a stop to antisemitism.

“Generally, when there’s antisemitism, there’s prejudice that comes out openly against others based on religion, race, gender and sexual orientation,” Cohen wrote. “None of that is good for society.”

The fact is antisemitism has been normalized not by the “big” things like swastikas or the banners seen on the 405 but by the “little” things like supporting problematic celebrities and media that hold small, yet immense, symbols of hate.

Movies and TV shows that stereotype Jews or, even worse, dehumanize them, seem to get a “free pass.”

“Do Revenge” was released on Sept. 16, 2022. Despite the 84% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, antisemitism re-

mained a large theme throughout the movie. The main antagonist, a wealthy, elite and politically connected teenager, is seen wearing a button-up shirt with the top buttons unhooked, exposing his Jewish star necklace.

Viewers learn the character is Jewish at the same moment that he is revealed to be the antagonist. This perpetuates the image that Jewish people are inherently “villainous.” This antisemitic symbolism can also be seen today in the 21st century as Jewish people have been blamed for various events such as the 9/11 attacks, causing the COVID-19 pandemic and controlling the government.

The “Harry Potter” series is the third most widely read book in the world, but the series integrates antisemitic tropes and hatred for Jewish people.

According to Forbes, J.K. Rowling describes the goblins in the book series as a “secretive cabal of hook-nosed bankers, who maintain a contentious relationship with the wizarding world, who view them with deep suspicion.” Hook noses, bankers and greediness are all classic antisemitic stereotypes. The movie portrays the goblins similarly to the representation of Jewish people in Nazi propaganda posters.

Roald Dahl, the children’s book author famous for “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “Matilda,” is viewed as a literary icon. He also admitted that he was antisemitic in an interview in 1983 prior to his death and argued that Hitler “didn’t just pick on them for no reason.”

The fourth season of the much-loved series “Stranger Things” also brought accusations of antisemitism. The filming for the prison camp scenes was done in the Lukiškės Prison in Vilnius, Lithuania, a center that imprisoned and murdered Jews during the Holocaust.

On May 27, 2022, the Lithuanian National Radio and Television announced that Lukiškės would be joining with



Credit: **Ellis Rougeou**  
Staff Artist **St. Mary's Statler**

AirBnB to make a “Stranger Things” themed cell available for public use.

Evelyn Frick, Jewish advocate, writer and comedian, said, “To put that in context: For 107 Euros (\$114) a night, Lukiškės Prison and AirBnB offered ‘Stranger Things’ fans the opportunity to light-heartedly eat waffles in a place where Jews were held before they were murdered, and Soviet political prisoners were tortured and executed.”

In addition, Eleven, a character in the show, has “011” tattooed on her wrist. Fans have recently been getting matching ones, which the creators of “Stranger Things” have been encouraging by reposting them on their official Instagram account – ignoring the obvious parallels to Jewish prisoners during the Holocaust.

This past summer, I traveled with a group of Jewish teenagers to Poland, and we had to be accompanied by a security guard. I saw the horrors of the Holocaust and a freshly painted swastika. When our group would sing songs in Hebrew or pray in a service, people walking by would stop, listen and video us. I realized it was because they had never seen Jewish people before. All of the Jewish people from the area were murdered over 70 years ago.

Celebrities and media are choosing to ignore this history, sending the message that antisemitism is a normal part of life.

I have gotten used to the Jewish side

characters being classically weird, annoying and full of other Jewish stereotypes, but personally, I never canceled my Netflix subscription, I read the “Harry Potter” series and the majority of Roald Dahl books, and I have worn my brother’s Yeezys. Does that make me any better than the person paying to stay at the Lukiškės Prison AirBnB?

A few weeks ago, during Yom Kippur services at Baron Hirsch Synagogue, we were forced to go into lockdown. While we later found out that nothing concerning had occurred, I was very frightened as all I saw were the security guards pulling out massive guns and herding us into a different space. Needing protection at a place of worship is not a reality that should be normalized, but the doors into my synagogue are bullet proof and manned by armed security guards.

As humans and leaders of the next generation, we have the opportunity to denormalize events like these. Education is the key to eradicating antisemitism, and all other forms of hate.


Unfortunately, as states ban books and remove Holocaust curriculum in schools, the ignorance will just continue to become more prevalent. The swift backlash to Kanye’s tweets shows a step towards progress that should be admired and continued.


Rayna Rose Exelbierd, third-generation Holocaust survivor and author, believes that the best way to raise awareness about antisemitism is through educating those close to you.

“For any cause, you need people outside of the affected community to bring light and attention,” Exelbierd said. “It is important to call out hate and educate others, most importantly on the interpersonal levels. This is where true progress is created.”

“Knowledge is power,” Exelbierd said. “Each person has the ability to make a difference in their own network, collectively creating a more accepting world.” **HW**

Please Help Keep Memphis Jewish Publishing Alive  
To Subscribe or Advertise  
901.763.2215 • [info@HebrewWatchman.com](mailto:info@HebrewWatchman.com) • [jewishscenemagazine.com](http://jewishscenemagazine.com)





**Comfort Keepers.**  
Elevating the Human Spirit™

**Watch Them Thrive with In-Home Care**  
The specially trained caregivers at Comfort Keepers provide meaningful, in-home care so seniors can live independently. From providing companionship to caring for those with dementia, we're here to help your loved one thrive and give you peace of mind.

901-207-8209  
Home + Life + Care | [ComfortKeepers.com](http://ComfortKeepers.com)  
Comfort Keepers of the Mid-South, 5668 S Rex Rd #200, Memphis, Tennessee 38119  
© 2022 CK Franchising, Inc. An international network where most offices are independently owned and operated.

**In-Home Care Services**

- Personal care
- Companionship and housekeeping
- Dementia and Alzheimer's care
- Respite care
- Safety solutions

HebrewWatchman-print-2022-11-10.indd 5

11/2/22 8:35 PM



# Estate Planning

## What is Legal Incapacity in Tennessee?

By Benjamin Wachtel and David Mendelson, Mendelson Law Firm

If you are like us, or most Memphians for that matter, you despise the right lanes on Poplar Avenue.

When presenting seminars and webinars on estate planning and, more particularly, incapacity planning, we often use the example of a typical mid-aged married couple cruising down the right lane on Poplar when they are crushed by a drunk driver and subsequently rendered incapacitated, in some type of vegetative or coma state. This example is effective because it highlights a point that many people disregard or fail to properly consider, which is the fact that – whether due to mental health related issues, physical health related issues, an unexpected accident, cognitive impairment, etc. – one can become legally

incapacitated at any age and at any time. Sadly, people make an often-costly mistake and assume that legal incapacity and disability are concerns reserved solely for the elderly. From a planning, legal and pragmatic perspective, for the incapacitated individual and for his or her family, incapacity without a plan is even worse than death without a plan.

It is important to define our terms and explain what it means to be legally incapacitated in Tennessee. Tennessee code and statutes do not outright and directly define “capacity” or “incapacity.” Tennessee conservatorship statutes, however, define a “person with a disability” as follows:

**“Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older determined by the court**

**to be in need of partial or full supervision, protection, and assistance by reason of mental illness, physical illness or injury, developmental disability, or other mental or physical incapacity.” T.C.A. § 34-1-101**

What happens in Tennessee when one becomes incapacitated without any plan in place? Do you even know? Who makes medical decisions (for example, whether to have a procedure, which medications to take, which physicians to see, etc.) for the incapacitated person? Who makes property decisions (managing accounts, paying the mortgage, liquidating assets, paying credit cards, etc.)?

The key understanding in this area is that without any plan in place should one, God forbid, become incapacitat-

ed, via a Conservatorship proceeding, a judge or jury – not the incapacitated individual nor his or her family – will determine who makes medical and financial decisions. We will delve deeper into the Conservatorship process in Shelby County in an upcoming article but for now take our word that the Conservatorship process is a nightmare for families and is entirely avoidable with basic estate planning.

The bottom line for today is that anyone, regardless of age or health status, can become incapacitated at any time and, in the event of incapacity, basic estate planning, via Powers of Attorney and Advanced Directives, prevents the nightmare of the Conservatorship proceeding. **HW**



MENDELSON  
LAW FIRM

901-763-2500  
mendelsonfirm.com  
bwachtel@mendelsonfirm.com  
dm@mendelsonfirm.com



**THE EMBASSY APARTMENTS**  
A DATTEL REALTY PROPERTY  
“Luxury and Location”

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT  
**901-685-8020**

505 South Perkins Rd. | 1BR | 2BR | Penthouses  
In the Heart of East Memphis | Utilities Included  
See our floorplans @ [embassyaptsmemphis.com](http://embassyaptsmemphis.com)



Memphis Jewish  
**HOME&REHAB**

Ranked #1 nursing home in Tennessee by Newsweek in 2022 and 2023!



- State-of-the-art rehab facility
- Outdoor gardens
- Kosher deli on-site
- Private suites
- Restorative care program
- Aquatic therapy
- Art and pet therapy programs
- Daily activities

**CONTACT US TODAY!**  
36 Bazeberry Road | Cordova, TN 38108  
(901) 758-0036 | [memphisjewishhome.org](http://memphisjewishhome.org)

## National Unity, Meretz, Jewish Home Report Ballots Missing from Some Voting Booths

(JNS) – Several political parties are reporting that their ballot slips have been removed from certain voting booths throughout the country.

“Many activists have reported a lack of National Unity ballots at various points nationwide,” Defense Minister Benny Gantz’s National Unity Party said in a statement.

Complaints were made to the officials manning the polling stations, the party said, adding that officials were checking whether these were isolated incidents.


Around the same time, the Meretz Party reported that its ballots were missing in a number of polling stations, including in the Gilo neighborhood of Jerusalem, Netanya and Hadera. In some cases, the Meretz ballots were covered by Likud ballots, the party claimed.

“We are checking whether this was something plotted by Likud in order to reduce the number of people who vote for the party,” Meretz said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Home Party asked the Central Elections Committee to close a voting station in Kiryat Arba.

The party said slips with its “bet” symbol were removed from voting booths.

By 10 a.m. last Tuesday nearly 16% of eligible voters had cast their ballots, the highest turnout by that time since 1981. **HW**



**Surprisingly great rates right around the corner.**


**David J Ross, Agent**  
8317 Cordova Road, Suite 101  
Cordova, TN 38016  
Bus: 901-795-9067  
[www.davidjross.net](http://www.davidjross.net)

I’m your one-stop shop for the service you deserve at a price you want. Call me for surprisingly great rates and Good Neighbor service right in your neighborhood.

Like a good neighbor,  
**State Farm is there.®**

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm® underwriting requirements.

State Farm  
Bloomington, IL  
2001878





# As Italy’s Meloni Downplays Fascist Ties, Thousands March in Praise of Benito Mussolini



Fascist sympathizers seen making a salute where Benito Mussolini is buried, marking 100 years after Mussolini’s March on Rome, in Predappio, Italy, Oct. 30, 2022. Credit: Francesca Volpi/Getty Images

By Caleb Guedes-Reed

(JTA) – Thousands marched to the grave of the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini in Predappio last Sunday to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of his coming to power in Rome, days after the new Italian prime minister, whose party has fascist roots, decried the Italian race laws of the 1930s that targeted Jews.

The crowd of up to 4,000 wore all black and chanted praise for Mussolini, a key Hitler ally, according to the Associated Press.

Far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has worried Italian Jews through her past connections to the Italian Social Movement, known as MSI, a neofascist party founded in 1946 by people who had worked with Hitler and Mussolini. Meloni’s current party, Brothers of Italy, is closely tied to the group, even housing its office in the same building where MSI operated and using an identical logo, a tricolor flame.

At age 19, Meloni told French television that “Mussolini was a good politician, in that everything he did, he did for Italy.”

But last Wednesday, Meloni appeared to distance herself from past statements. Italy never went through a denazification process, and members of the MSI served in the country’s first postwar parliament.

“I have never felt sympathy or closeness to undemocratic regimes, fascism included, as I have always considered the racial laws of 1938 the lowest point in Italian history, a shame that will mark our people forever,” she told Italy’s lower house of parliament.

By the end of 1938, those race laws prohibited Jews from Italian schools and academia, politics, finances, the professional world and other sectors of public and private life. The laws later expanded, making it illegal for Jews to marry non-Jews or hire non-Jewish em-

ployees. Thousands of Italian Jews were killed during the Holocaust.

The day after Meloni spoke, Italian police removed posters promoting the march in Predappio, the AP reported.

“This is a disturbing signal,” Gianfranco Pagliarulo, head of the National Association of Italian Partisans, which preserves the memory of World War II-era anti-fascist groups, told the AP. “It is evident that the victory of the nationalist right will lead to a resurgence of neo-fascist provocative attitudes.” [HW](#)

# U.S. ‘Not Wasting’ Time on ‘Inert’ Iran Nuclear Deal Talks



U.S. Special Representative for Iran Robert Malley. Source: Screenshot.

(JNS) – United States special envoy for Iran Robert Malley last Monday made “no apology” for the Biden administration’s pursuit of a revised nuclear deal with Tehran, even as he conceded that forging a new agreement was “really not our focus now.”

Speaking at an online event hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Malley said Washington was not “wasting time” on pursuing negotiations, citing the ongoing mass protests in the Islamic Republic and the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“I think people have to understand that [we] were not tying our hands because of ... this hope that someday maybe there’ll be a deal,” said Malley. “We are not going to focus on something that is inert when other things are happening,” he continued, referencing the demonstrations in Iran and Tehran’s decision “to get involved in a war in Europe” by transferring weapons to Russia.

“Nothing is happening on the nuclear deal, so we are not going to spend our time, waste our time on it if nothing is happening. We are going to spend our time where we can be useful,” he added.

According to the group Human Rights Activists in Iran, at least 270 people have been killed and 14,000 arrested in nationwide protests in Iran sparked by the death on Sept. 16 of 22-year-old

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

Meanwhile, the United States recently expressed “grave concerns about Russia’s acquisition of ... UAVs from Iran in violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231,” which formally endorsed the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal.

According to U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price, there was “abundant evidence” that the drones are being used against Ukrainian civilians and critical civilian infrastructure.

In July, Malley said that Iran was just “a matter of weeks” away from having enough enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon.

U.S. Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.) told JNS in September that Malley was consistently vague in his briefing that month to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, leaving the bipartisan group flustered.

“We didn’t really get strong answers on what’s going on with a [nuclear] deal. The whole premise is supposed to be that Iran is never going to have a nuclear weapon. But the premise I walked out of that meeting with was, well, we’re just going to eventually let them have one,” Tenney said. [HW](#)



## Considering purchasing a new home or refinancing your current one?

With more than 20 years of experience in mortgage lending, Scott Sorin is the perfect candidate to assist you with any home financing need. Whether you’re considering refinancing, a new home purchase, jumbo loans or portfolio lending, Scott is eager to guide you through all of your options.

- Conventional financing
- Jumbo
- FHA/VA
- Portfolio

**Scott Sorin**  
**Mortgage Loan Officer**  
NMLS #40975  
901-759-4805 | 901-378-2244 Mobile  
Efax: 901-453-3279  
4990 Poplar Ave. | Memphis, TN 38117

©2022 First Horizon Bank, NMLS# 472329. All loans subject to approval, including credit approval. Some restrictions may apply. Other programs are available. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.



DEADLINES FOR  
STORIES AND ADS  
TUESDAYS AT 5PM



# Financial Fitness

## Uncle Sam Wants to Know About Your Gig Income

*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*  
*fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein*

If you earn money through an app or online digital platform, you may be affected by a tax reporting change that took effect on January 1, 2022. A provision of the 2021 American Rescue Plan requires third-party payment processors to report business transactions totaling over \$600 per year by issuing a Form 1099-K to the taxpayer and the IRS. In prior years, the reporting threshold was much higher (200 business transactions and \$20,000).

Here are a few things you should probably know about this far-reaching new rule.

**It's not personal.** Business transactions are defined as payments for goods or services, including tips. Money received from the online sale of personal items like old clothing or furniture, which are normally sold at a loss, is not taxable and does not need to be reported. However, those in the business of reselling goods for a profit should carefully track the original costs of their purchases. Peer-to-peer payment apps are not required to report personal transactions intended as gifts or used to pay back friends for dinner or trips, or to split other costs. How will third-party apps know the difference? The payer will be asked to indicate the purpose of each transaction so it can be categorized correctly.

**It's not a tax change.** Taxpayers who sell goods, regularly rent out a vacation home, walk dogs, or perform any other type of freelance work through digital platforms were already responsible for self-reporting all income for tax purposes. But now the IRS will have a way to cross-reference the information sent by third parties with amounts reported by individuals and businesses on their tax returns.

**It's not foolproof.** This change may cause confusion that could result in cost-

ly mistakes. If a payer (such as a roommate making a shared rent payment) accidentally clicks on the wrong box, the recipient could receive a Form 1099-K for a transaction that is not taxable. It's also possible that a freelancer will receive a Form 1099-K from the payment processor and a Form 1099-MISC from the client for the same transaction. In such cases, the taxpayer may need to explain the discrepancy to the IRS.

Using separate accounts for business and personal digital transactions could make things simpler at tax time. Keeping detailed and organized records will help ensure that your tax return is accurate, so you don't overpay or raise any red flags with the IRS.

Because the new reporting requirement may have unintended consequences that frustrate taxpayers, some lawmakers have proposed raising the threshold to a less onerous level. While it's far from certain that Congress will backtrack on this issue, you may want to watch for future developments. If you have questions about how the new rule might affect you, don't hesitate to consult a qualified tax professional.

This information is not intended as tax, legal, investment, or retirement advice or recommendations, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax or legal professional. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. This material was written and prepared by Broadridge Advisor Solutions. © 2022 Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

Investment and Insurance Products are: Not Insured by the FDIC or Any Federal Government Agency  
Not a Deposit or Other Obligation of, or Guaranteed by, the Bank or Any Bank Affiliate  
Subject to Investment Risks, Including Possible Loss of the Principal Amount Invested [HW](#)

WELLS  
FARGO

Advisors

We are pleased to announce

## Mike Stein

Managing Director - Investments  
for being named as one of the 2022,  
Forbes, Best-in-State

At Wells Fargo Advisors, we recognize the importance of excellent service and trusted investment advice. Contact us to learn more about our focus on helping clients achieve their financial goals.

**Mike Stein**  
Managing Director - Investments

6075 Poplar Ave., Ste. 650  
Memphis, TN 38119  
Direct: 901-761-8151  
Toll Free: 866-556-1425  
[michael.stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com](mailto:michael.stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com)  
[www.mikesteinmemphis.com](http://www.mikesteinmemphis.com)

The Forbes Best-in-State ranking algorithm is based on industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management, revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research, LLC, which does not receive compensation from the advisors or their firms in exchange for placement on a ranking. Investment performance is not a criterion.

Investment and Insurance Products:

► NOT FDIC Insured ► NO Bank Guarantee ► MAY Lose Value

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.  
© 2020 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. All rights reserved.  
CAR-0321-00866 5290982b

Have a Simcha?

share with  
**The Hebrew Watchman**  
readers  
**901.763.2215**  
[info@hebrewwatchman.com](mailto:info@hebrewwatchman.com)

## MEDICARE SPECIALIST

STEVE BAER

...

901.237.4207 | [stevenfbaer@gmail.com](mailto:stevenfbaer@gmail.com)



- Check if your current rate is competitive
- Help with people aging in to Medicare
- Licensed with all of the major carriers

Open Enrollment  
Oct 15th-Dec 7th



Hope

Hospice & Palliative Care



Preparing for Life's Final Journey  
with Compassion and Care

1125 Schilling Blvd. East, Suite 101  
Collierville, TN 38017  
901-560-3600  
[www.hospiceofhopetn.com](http://www.hospiceofhopetn.com)



# Meet the Fans Who Wore ‘Fight Antisemitism’ Shirts to Protest Kyrie Irving



Lindsay Haimm, second from left, got the shirts made last Monday afternoon. Andrew Pearl, far right, said the idea to go together was hatched by his father-in-law last Sunday night. Credit: YES/via screenshot

By Louis Keene

*This originally appeared on Forward, reprinted with permission.*

Kyrie Irving wasn’t getting the message about antisemitism – so a group of Orthodox Jews sat courtside at his game to reinforce it.

In a plan that came together in less than 24 hours, eight Jewish fans went to the Brooklyn Nets’ home game last Monday night in matching blue shirts with the phrase “fight antisemitism” emblazoned across it. Their appearance during the broadcast alongside Irving, the star Nets guard who posted a link to an antisemitic movie last Thursday, instantly went viral on Twitter.

Realizing that their two families had eight consecutive seats in the front row on the side of the court facing TV cameras, the two account holders, Aaron Jungreis and Bryan Haimm, hatched the idea at a wedding last Sunday night.

“They wanted to give a sign to the Nets that they’re season ticket holders, and they don’t approve of what Kyrie is doing,” said Andrew Pearl, Jungreis’

son-in-law, who was in the group that went. “And they wanted to show Kyrie.”

Irving, in his 12th season in the league and his fourth with the Brooklyn Nets, had tweeted a link to the Amazon page for the book “Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America” without comment last Thursday to his 4.5 million followers. The film asserts that Blacks are the true descendants of the ancient Israelites and claims to “uncover what Islam, Judaism and Christianity has covered up for centuries.”

Irving refused to apologize despite blowback in the media, telling a reporter who asked him about it to “change your life,” though he deleted the post last Monday afternoon.

In spite of widespread calls for his basketball team or the NBA to fine or suspend him, neither has taken such action, and they seem unlikely to. Instead, both issued vague statements condemning antisemitism and hate speech that did not name the player.

The shirts caught Irving’s attention at

the end of the first quarter, Pearl said, and the veteran point guard soon approached the group.

“He was laughing sarcastically and basically said, ‘I appreciate you guys for coming out, you guys really showed up in numbers,’” Pearl recalled. “And he also said, ‘I support you guys.’ Which, I mean, he said it all sarcastically while putting up a thumbs up.”

A video of the moment was posted on social media last Tuesday.

The group’s response, Pearl said, was: “We don’t fight with hate, we fight with love. And we still love you. But we have to wear the shirts.”

Pearl, who is Orthodox and works in real estate, is a lifelong NBA fan who admires Irving’s basketball talent. But like many others, he’s grown weary of

the seven-time all-star’s off-court controversies – and the attention his posts inevitably draw.

Still, he recognized a conundrum when it came to punishing Irving for the tweet: Fining or suspending Kyrie might play into the conspiracy that Jews have all the power.

Lindsay Haimm, who hustled to the Bergen Town Center in Paramus, New Jersey, to get the shirts made last Monday afternoon, felt the group’s message threaded the needle.

“We weren’t going to show Kyrie, ‘Hey, look at our shirts, look at us, we don’t support you,’” Haimm, 23, said. “We’re showing our support for the Jews and showing that there really can’t be any tolerance for antisemitism in the world. **HW**

## Man Wearing Meretz T-Shirt Rubs Tefillin on Crotch, Police Investigating

(JNS) – Police are investigating an incident at a polling station in Netanya in which a man in a Meretz Party T-shirt rubbed tefillin [Jewish phylacteries] on his crotch.

“Police have detained a resident of the city of Netanya for questioning on suspicion of desecrating a religious object,” the Israel Police said in a statement.

When the man arrived at the polling station, Chabad representatives were offering voters the opportunity to don tefillin. When the man was approached, he grabbed the phylacteries and started yelling, subsequently rubbing them against his genitals.

The man was wearing a Meretz T-shirt and claimed to be a supporter of the party.

In response to the incident, the party appealed to the Central Elections Committee demanding that it use its full powers to investigate the incident.

“The man is not known to any of the Meretz activists and is apparently an imposter who is trying to harm the party,” Meretz said in a statement.

Party leader Zehava Gal-On retweeted pictures of party members wearing Meretz shirts donning tefillin with the Chabad representatives.

“This is Meretz,” she wrote.”

Meretz MK Michal Rosin added that she “condemns this devious behavior, which is contrary to our worldview.”

Right-wing politicians used the event to speak out against the left-leaning party.

Religious Zionism head Bezalel Smotrich said he was “shocked” by the incident and had “tears streaming down my face” over the “persecution and hatred of Judaism that this hateful government brought with it. Enough! Sanity must be restored in Israel.”

Shas leader Aryeh Deri also expressed disgust with the incident. He said “our answer will be a massive protest at the ballot box. A Jewish state !” **HW**

Help Keep Memphis  
Jewish Journalism Alive  
Subscribe Today, Don't Miss an Issue

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN

In-Town \$36 • Out-of-town \$50  
P.O. Box 770846, Memphis, TN 38177-0846  
info@hebrewwatchman.com

Send Paper To:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

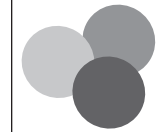
City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

If a Gift Subscription, From: \_\_\_\_\_



Located at **2481 Broad Avenue** - Memphis  
**901-767-0026** - Locally owned by Paul West

**Beautifully Crafted Cemetery Monuments**

SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY  
OF MEMPHIS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

Visit us at **WESTMEMORIALS.COM**

**MOVING?**  
**PLEASE LET US KNOW**  
**BEFORE YOU GO!**  
**901.763.2215**  
**info@hebrewwatchman.com**



# Nearly Half of U.S. Adults Believe America Should be a ‘Christian Nation’

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Forty-five percent of American adults believe the United States should be a “Christian nation,” according to the results of a new survey published last Thursday by the Pew Research Center – the latest data point finding modern support for Christian nationalist sentiment that could threaten Jewish life in a pluralistic nation.

But Pew respondents had varying opinions on what exactly the term “Christian nation” means.

Those who supported the idea “see a Christian nation as one where people are more broadly guided by Christian values or a belief in God, even if its laws are not explicitly Christian and its leaders can have a variety of faiths or no faith at all,” Pew researchers Gregory Smith, Michael Rotolo and Patricia Tevington wrote in a summary of their findings.

Pew found that most people who sup-

port the idea of a “Christian nation” also reject specific ideas behind Christian nationalism, such as that of the federal government declaring Christianity the country’s official religion or advocating Christian religious values. A majority of all respondents also wanted to keep churches out of politics and believed Supreme Court Justices should not allow their religious beliefs to influence their decision-making.

A Pew spokesperson told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the survey didn’t include any questions about Jews and therefore couldn’t offer insight into what its implications toward Jews would be. Pew crafted the survey in an effort to understand the recent growth of Christian nationalist sentiments among some politicians and members of the public.

Still, the concept of a “Christian nation” is a dangerous one for Jews. Chris-

tian nationalism, which holds that the United States should base its laws and identity around Christianity and discourage or reject other religious beliefs outright, has a strong historic overlap with antisemitism, and its most vocal modern-day adherents also spout antisemitic beliefs.

One of the 20th century’s strongest American proponents of Christian nationalism, minister Gerald L.K. Smith, was a virulent antisemite and Nazi sympathizer who partnered with Father Charles Coughlin, distributed antisemitic literature nationwide and supported the deportation of all “Zionists;” his final act was to build a massive statue of Jesus Christ in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

In recent years, right-wing politicians like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene and former White House national security advisor Michael Flynn have openly em-

braced Christian nationalism alongside antisemitic beliefs, while even some U.S. civil servants have been outed as promoting antisemitic Christian nationalist views. Christian nationalists remain some of former President Donald Trump’s fiercest supporters.

The country’s most prominent antisemites and white supremacists are also Christian nationalists. Nick Fuentes, the founder of a white nationalist political group who has connections to Greene and fellow Republican Rep. Paul Gosar, has declared that “we need a government of Christians” and said, “Jewish people can be here, but they can’t make laws.” Andrew Torba, the openly antisemitic founder of the social network Gab who has ties to current Pennsylvania GOP gubernatorial nominee Doug Mastriano, has said he pushes Jews to “repent and accept Jesus Christ as your lord and savior.” **HW**

# London Theater Group Cancels Nazi-Jewish ‘Romeo and Juliet’ After Wave of Criticism

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – The London-based theater group behind a Romeo and Juliet-inspired Nazi-Jewish love story has canceled the play after receiving an onslaught of criticism related to the story’s premise and a botched casting call.

The Icarus Theatre Collective, the group behind the play, put out a casting call last Friday for their “Romeo and Juliet” over email and on social media, specifically calling for “non-binary artists, and/or those of global majority, black or Asian heritage” to audition for the reimagined roles of Romeo and Mercutio, as well as a female-presenting actor to play the traditionally male character of Tybalt.

But for the role of Juliet, the Jewish counterpart to Romeo’s character in the Hitler Youth, the Icarus Theatre Collective did not include a specific request for Jewish actors to audition as part of the casting call. In an era of increased scrutiny over the casting of Jewish actors to play Jewish characters, the omission

drew criticism.

Speaking with the *Jewish Chronicle*, Max Lewendel, the Jewish founder of the Icarus Theatre Collective and director of “Romeo and Juliet,” said the initial casting call specified that Juliet Capulet and her parents be played by actors with “preferably Jewish heritage.” Lewendel said the final draft of the casting call was put out by the casting director and should have included a preference for Jewish actors.

“That is absolutely not what was intended, and apologies to anyone that was understandably affected by this,” Lewendel told the *Jewish Chronicle*.

In an apology tweet last Monday, the Icarus Theatre Collective wrote, “These are NOT two households both alike in dignity,” referring to lines from the prologue of “Romeo and Juliet,” which the group says it had cut from their version of the play because it put the Nazi Montagues and the Jewish Capulets on equal footing.

“Please understand our intention in Romeo & Juliet is to portray the Montagues as the bad guys and the kids brainwashed as per Jojo Rabbit,” the thread continued, referencing the 2019 comedy-drama film about a boy in the Hitler Youth. “Particularly as a criticism of the current political situation.”

The group also wrote that part of its research and development process “has always been to include members of the Jewish community to presentations, as we recognise that the director’s background is not sufficient to ensure proper presentation of this dangerous concept: These are NOT two households [sic] both alike in dignity.”

The Campaign Against Antisemitism, a British watchdog group, publicly criticized the play. In a tweet, the group said, “It is staggering that anyone would find this play about morally-equivalent feuding families to be an appropriate way to explore Nuremberg-era persecution of Jews by Nazi Germany.”

“It’s the increasing fascism in the world today that has kind of become a trend in my work,” Lewendel told the *Jewish Chronicle* about his decision to situate the play during the Holocaust.

Public response to the premise of the play itself has been mostly negative.

“This is a monumentally terrible idea,” one user wrote on Twitter.

“This new Romeo and Juliet nazi idea feels so genuinely like a 30 Rock Episode that I simply have to laugh at the absurdity!” another person wrote.

The group’s official description of the play reads: “In defiance of their entire society and in secrecy from their closest friends, hopeful young lives burn amidst a cataclysmic backdrop of impending war and the horror of the Holocaust. Sun and moon shine down on star-crossed lovers as a Jewish girl falls for a member of (Hitler) Youth and the boy questions everything he was taught to believe.”

The show was scheduled to run in March 2023. **HW**

# Patriots Owner Robert Kraft Funds NFL TV Ad about Standing Up ‘Against Jewish Hate’



**New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft looks on from the sidelines as his team warms up before a game against the Detroit Lions at Gillette Stadium on October 9, 2022, in Foxborough, Massachusetts. Credit: Maddie Malhotra/Getty Images**

By Jacob Gurvis

(JTA) – Robert Kraft, the New England Patriots owner who donates heavily to Jewish causes, funded an advertisement that ran during last Sunday’s NFL matchup between the Patriots and the New York Jets urging NFL fans to “stand up against Jewish hate.”

The ad aired during a weekend in which NBA star Kyrie Irving shared a

link to an antisemitic movie online and the message “Kanye is right about the jews” was projected at TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville, Florida, during a college football game between the University of Florida and the University of Georgia.

“There are less than 8 million Jewish people in this country. Fewer than are watching this game,” read Kraft’s 30-sec-

ond ad, which featured simple white text on a black background, set to ambient music. “They need you to add your voice.” It was produced jointly by the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism and Patriots owner Robert Kraft’s foundation.

“We must do more to make people aware that antisemitism is a growing threat against Jews on social media and in communities across the country,” Kraft said in a statement. “I have committed tremendous resources toward this effort and am vowing to do more. I encourage others to join in these efforts. My hope is this commercial will continue to enhance the national conversation about the need to speak out against hatred of all types, and particularly to stand up to Jewish hate.”

Kraft, whose estimated net worth is \$10.6 billion, has donated millions of dollars to a variety of Jewish causes over the years – including Israel and numerous Jewish institutions and programs in Boston, where his late wife, Myra, was a longtime leader at the Jewish federation.

The ad follows the recent controversy surrounding rapper Kanye West, whose ongoing antisemitic tirades led to the

termination of his highly lucrative contract with Adidas.

The Jacksonville stunt was just one of a handful of antisemitic incidents in the city last weekend, where the same message was displayed on another building and banners reading “End Jewish Supremacy in America” and “Honk if you know it’s the Jews” were displayed on Interstate 10. It is unclear how the Kanye statement was projected across the exterior of the Jacksonville stadium.

The University of Florida and the University of Georgia released a joint statement condemning the incident last Saturday.

“We strongly condemn the antisemitic hate speech projected outside TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville after the Florida-Georgia football game [last] Saturday night and the other antisemitic messages that have appeared in Jacksonville,” the universities said. “The University of Florida and the University of Georgia together denounce these and all acts of antisemitism and other forms of hatred and intolerance. We are proud to be home to strong and thriving Jewish communities at UGA and UF and we stand together against hate.” **HW**





901.300.3938

Available 24/7 | Licensed | Insured | Bonded  
mistertree.com

**S P A R K**  
— P R I N T I N G —

Ignite Your Brand

Add another dimension to all of your  
business and personal projects!

901.249.1525 • [www.SparkPrinting.com](http://www.SparkPrinting.com)  
Locally Owned & Operated | Free Estimates

# DRAWING THE CURTAIN

10.7.22  
to 1.9.23

**Maurice Sendak's  
Designs for Opera and Ballet**

Presented by  
**nexAir**

Sponsored by  
Debi & Galen Havner

**Exhibition Programming**

All events free for members

[brooksmuseum.org](http://brooksmuseum.org)

**Maurice Sendak's Second Career**

Lecture by Dr. Rachel Federman, Associate Curator  
of Modern and Contemporary Drawings at the  
Morgan Library & Museum

Saturday, October 8 | 2pm

**Homeschool Day**

Art-making activities in the studio  
Guided tours at 10:45am & 11:30am

Thursday, October 20 | 10am – 1pm  
Free admission to all school students

**A Quest for the  
Magic Flute**

A musical journey with Opera Memphis at the Brooks  
Saturday, November 5 | 10am – 12pm

**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.

**B** Memphis  
Brooks  
Museum  
of Art







Baron Hirsch Congregation  
Cordially invites you to attend our

*Gala Dinner*

Honoring

*Chany & David Fleischhacker*

For their years of service to  
Baron Hirsch and the Memphis community

Sunday, November 20, 2022  
Reception at 6:00 PM  
Dinner at 6:45 PM

RSVP at  
<https://www.wizevents.com/baronhirsch2022/>  
or contact the Baron Hirsch office  
at 901-683-7485

Baron Hirsch Congregation  
400 South Yates Road

Cocktail Attire



OPUS  
ELEGANT SENIOR LIVING



**A Fresh, New Approach to Senior Living**

*Life's journey is a unique work of art.* Make yours a masterpiece with award-winning senior living. Coming soon to East Memphis, Opus is unlike anything you've seen before. *Why would you settle for less?*

No expensive buy-in fees or long-term contracts.

Experience the art of senior living for yourself and schedule a visit and tour at your convenience.

**901-763-6371 | [OpusEastMemphis.com/Watchman](https://OpusEastMemphis.com/Watchman)**

Proud sponsor of the Memphis Jewish Community Center Pickleball Palooza!



**- EST. 1972 -**

**BLUFFCITYFENCE.COM - 901.767.8080**

Locally Owned & Operated | Free Estimates