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# THE Hebrew Watchman

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9 CHESHVAN, 5783

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## Israeli President Isaac Herzog's Visit to Washington: Day One



Israeli President Isaac Herzog and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi meet in the White House on Oct. 25, 2022. Credit: Kobi Gideon/GPO.

By Mike Wagenheim

(JNS) – With both Israeli and American elections looming, Israeli President Isaac Herzog met with an array of audiences last Tuesday in Washington, revealing evidence of Iranian involvement in Ukraine and hailing Israel's role in a number of regional accords.

Among those Herzog met last Tuesday was U.S. Senior Advisor for Energy Security Amos Hochstein, the administration's mediator in the Israel-Lebanon maritime border negotiations. Herzog and Hochstein discussed the details and terms of the border agreement, which is set to be signed this week. Herzog then held an audience with dozens of leaders from the

American Jewish community before a sit-down with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Blinken hailed the success of the Abraham Accords normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab states and said that the administration has been working to build on them.

"The work that we've been doing to try to deepen and expand the Abraham Accords, the normalization of Israel's relationship with its neighbors and with countries even beyond its immediate neighborhood, is important and powerful, and we're committed to doing that," Blinken told Herzog.

The secretary of state also called for

a de-escalation of tensions and violence in Judea and Samaria, amid ongoing Israeli counter-terrorism operations there.

Turning to the topic of Iran, Herzog expressed solidarity with Iranian protesters, and said during his visit he would be presenting evidence to Biden administration officials of Iranian weapons being used by Russia in its ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

"We will be discussing the challenges that Iran poses to us and to humanity at large," said Herzog. "Our hearts go out to the people of Iran. The women of Iran are oppressed and attacked day in, day out, and I will be exposing more of the fact that Iran – that the Iranian weapons are used against civilians, innocent civilians in Ukraine.

At an Atlantic Council event last Tuesday marking the two-year anniversary of the signing of the Abraham Accords, Herzog showed slides showing images of an Iranian Shahed-136 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) launched by the Islamic Republic in a military exercise last year, followed by a photo showing the same type of drone downed during the fighting in Ukraine.

The Israeli defense establishment, he said, had proved that despite Iranian denials and attempts to obscure the origins of the drones, they were certainly of Iranian manufacture.

"Yet again, Iran has proven that it cannot be trusted, and wherever there is killing, destruction and hatred – it's there. Iranian weapons play a key role in destabilizing our world, and the inter-

national community must learn its lessons, now and in the future," said Herzog. "The world must speak with Iran in the same language: a tough, united and uncompromising language. As we are repeatedly discovering, for every hesitation about Iran – there is a price."

Finally, Herzog headed to Capitol Hill for a meeting with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and an array of congressional leaders.

Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer extended an invitation to Herzog to address a joint meeting of Congress to celebrate the "historic and joyous milestone" of Israel's upcoming 75th anniversary.

"It is in celebration of this great anniversary for the State of Israel and in recognition of the deep partnership between our nations that, on behalf of the bipartisan, bicameral Leadership of the Congress, we invite you to address a Joint Meeting of Congress," they said.

Pelosi and Schumer said former President Truman's immediate recognition of Israel after it was established has been a point of pride for the United States.

"Since that landmark moment, the United States and Israel have shared an unbreakable bond rooted in common security, shared values and friendship," they said.

The letter did not specify a potential date for Herzog's address.

Herzog [was] set to meet last Wednesday with President Biden and U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan before returning to Israel. **HW**

## Anti-Semitic Banners Hung Over Los Angeles Freeway



A banner hung by Goyim Defense League activists from an overpass in Austin, Texas, October 2021. Source: ADL.

(JNS) – Jewish groups in Los Angeles are speaking out after a banner was placed on the heavily trafficked Interstate 405 freeway reading "Kayne is right about the Jews."

The banner was hung by members of the Goyim Defense League and was a reference to recent statements by performer Kayne West, also known as Ye, promoting anti-Semitic canards such as that the Jews control the media. West

also said he would go "death con 3" on Jewish people.

A second banner said, "Honk if you know." A third banner promoted a platform that streams content operated by the Goyim Defense League. Several activists were seen making Hitler salutes on the overpass last Saturday.

The Goyim Defense League has pre-

(See **Banners** Page 3)

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# Memphis Jewish Federation Happenings



Memphis Jewish Federation Lions of Judah gathered for an intensive writing workshop, the national launch of the Lion Behind the Pin initiative. Created in Memphis but soon to go global at the December International Lion of Judah Conference in Phoenix, the Lion Behind the Pin program is designed to preserve the legacy of every woman who wears the pin through personal storytelling, ensuring her commitment to philanthropy will be remembered by her family for generations.



A Memphis Jewish Federation delegation of dads from the community, led by staff member Larry Schaffer, embarked on a 10-day MoMENTum adventure to Israel on October 20, visiting sites in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Masada, and Tsfat (pictured here) and more.

# THE Hebrew Watchman

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## Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. November 4, 2022 / 10 Cheshvan, 5783.....5:44 p.m.  
Havdalah, Sat. November 5, 2022 / 11 Cheshvan, 5783 ..... 6:40 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Lech-Lecha

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## New Course in Memphis to Unveil Judaism's Answers to 25 Questions about G-d

This fall, Rabbi Levi Klein of Chabad of Tennessee in Memphis will offer a six-week course produced by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) that unpacks Judaism's understanding of G-d while providing fresh, profound answers to common questions about G-d.

How did G-d come to be? Is G-d a He, a She, or a They? Does G-d have feelings? If G-d has foreknowledge of all events, do we have free choice? Is there a place in Judaism for doubts about G-d? These are just some of the 25 questions addressed in *My G-d: Defining the Divine*.

Jewish culture and the Jewish people's outlook on life are indelibly shaped by the classic Jewish understanding of G-d. *My G-d: Defining the Divine* is a one-of-a-kind course that brings to light the Jewish understanding of G-d, from which Judaism and Jewish identity inevitably flow.

When the course kicks off on Tuesday, November 15, at 7 p.m., its fast-paced lessons will lead participants towards a comprehensive understanding of Jewish monotheism. The discussions

will probe philosophical topics, but the course is anchored in real life and offers accessible answers for students of all backgrounds.

"These are questions we hear all the time," says Rabbi Klein. "This course is the first time there's an address where you can get straight answers to all the big questions you might have about G-d."

Rabbi Klein says this new course is the perfect offering for anyone with sincere questions about G-d or who just seeks an enhanced understanding of Judaism's approach to this core topic.

As with other JLI programs, the course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without prior exposure to Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or house of worship.

Interested students may call 901-754-0404 or visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) to register or to access other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Memphis in conjunction with Chabad of Tennessee. **HW**

## Israeli Forces Raid Lions' Den Bomb Lab in Nablus, Kill Terror Group's Leader

(JNS) – Israeli security forces raided a bomb lab in Nablus belonging to the Lions' Den terror group overnight last Monday, killing the group's leader, Wadi al-Houh, according to the Israel Defense Forces. Palestinian media reported that three other gunmen were wounded during the raid.

The terrorists' hideout, an apartment in the Kasbah of Nablus, was also being used as the group's headquarters, according to the IDF.

During the raid, Palestinians fired on and hurled stones at the Israeli forces, the military said.

The Lions' Den terrorist group is responsible for the murder of IDF Staff Sgt. Ido Baruch on Oct. 11 in Samaria, commonly known as the northern West Bank, and attempted to carry out a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv on Sept. 8. The group is also behind the planting of a bomb at a gas station in Kedumim in Samaria.

The group also attempted to carry out a shooting attack in the Israeli community of Har Bracha in Samaria. A Lions' Den terrorist also hurled a grenade at IDF soldiers who were adjacent to the Havat Gilad outpost in the area and has carried out multiple shootings in Nablus.

"Our goal was and remains to strike

hard and continuously at terrorists and those who dispatch them in Jenin, Nablus and wherever terrorism takes root," Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said last Tuesday. "We will not relent even for a moment. We will not permit the existence of terrorist organizations that attack Israeli civilians and IDF soldiers...."

"I commend the security forces that are active day and night for the safety of all Israelis. Those who try to attack us will suffer the consequences," Lapid added.

Recently, the Lions' Den "continued to recruit, plan, and carry out attacks aimed against innocent Israeli civilians," said the IDF.

"There will be no refuge cities for terrorists. We will continue to act against anyone who attempts to harm Israeli civilians in any place and time that is necessary," said Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz last Tuesday.

Last Sunday, a senior member of Lions' Den was killed in a motorcycle explosion, according to Palestinian reports.

The reports named the operative as Tamer al-Kilani, and described the blast as "mysterious," though some Palestinian reports claimed that an explosive device was attached to the motorcycle by Israel. **HW**

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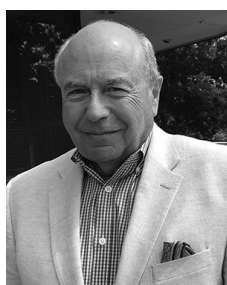
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### Banners...

(Continued From Page 1)

viously hung banners from overpasses in Los Angeles and Texas, and its members have left anti-Semitic flyers on driveways in cities across the United States.

"We are aware of the despicable and vitriolic sign posted on the 405 Freeway," the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles said in a statement. "The group responsible is known to us and our Community Security Initiative for espousing anti-Semitism and white supremacist ideology. We are monitoring them and sharing information with local law enforcement, coordinating with the mayor's office and other local elected officials, and working with our partners at the ADL.

"We will continue to stand together in combating anti-Semitism in Los Angeles and these actions will not divide us but serve only to bring us closer together," the statement continued.

Jeffrey Abrams, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, said, "This is an outrageous effort to fan the flames of anti-Semitism gripping the nation. This group...is now leveraging Ye's anti-Semitism and is proof that hate breeds more hate. Decisive action against anti-Semitism by Adidas is long overdue."

The banner was not the only incident of hate in Southern California this weekend. Anti-Semitic flyers were once again left in front of homes in Beverly Hills.

Lili Bosse, the mayor of Beverly Hills, tweeted, "Anti-Semitic fliers thrown on our streets again, banners on the 405 Freeway, banners covering up billboards, Kayne West, Vans driving with anti-Semitism...Enough hate meant to silence us. I will speak louder." **HW**



## Chief Rabbi of Russia Calls on Moscow to Denounce Official's 'Vulgar' Anti-Semitism



From left: Museum Trustee Board chair Viktor Vekselberg, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russia's Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar. Credit: Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center.

(JNS) – Russia's Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar last Wednesday called on Moscow to denounce a top official's "vulgar" anti-Semitism, saying it posed a "huge danger" to the Jewish community in the country.

The call to condemn Alexei Pavlov, assistant secretary of Russia's Security Council, came in response to an article (Russian) he wrote claiming that "neo-pagan cults," including the Chabad movement, had taken over Ukraine.

Pavlov added that Chabad's guiding principle was to enshrine its superiority "above all nations and peoples," and therefore it had become "increasingly urgent to carry out the de-satanization

of Ukraine."

In a letter shared with *Haaretz*, Lazar, leader of Chabad in Russia, "demand[ed] condemnation from the government for the nonsense" written by Pavlov, which was "an insult to millions of Jewish believers, including the vast majority of Jews in Russia."

Such a statement, "uttered by a member of the Russian Security Council...poses a huge danger; therefore, we demand an immediate and unequivocal response from society and the authorities of the state," Lazar added, according to the report.

Concerns have risen among Russia's Jewish community since Moscow in February launched its invasion of

Ukraine, with President Vladimir Putin repeatedly citing as a justification the need to "de-Nazify" the country.

On March 7, about a week-and-a-half after the start of the war, Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, who was then still the chief rabbi of Moscow, and his wife, Dara, left their home in the Russian capital, hoping to get out of the country as quickly as possible.

After moving to Israel, Goldschmidt warned in an interview in August: "There is danger [in Russia] for Jews, no doubt. The Jewish community is being held hostage in the diplomatic war between Russia and Israel, and that's not a position the Jewish community should be in. It's a very dangerous situation."

"Another reason Jews are leaving is the problem of anti-Semitism," he continued. "The dispute over shutting down the Jewish Agency, remarks by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who said, 'Hitler had Jewish blood too.' Some academics have been arrested. A Jewish professor was arrested even though he was terminally ill, and he died in prison. He's not the only one. Seventy years after Stalin's 'Doctors Trial,' there is concern that we're seeing it happen again."

In July, the Russian Justice Ministry launched an ongoing legal process that could result in the "dissolution" of the Jewish Agency for Israel's operations in Russia. A request was made to the Basmanny District Court in Moscow, alleg-

ing "legal violations" on the part of the agency.

At the time, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid warned that the shuttering of the agency could have "a serious impact" on diplomatic relations between Jerusalem and Moscow.

Tensions between the countries remain high, with Russian officials repeatedly condemning Jerusalem for what they view as support for Kyiv.

Earlier this month, Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's former president and current deputy chairman of its Security Council, said that "Israel appears to be getting ready to supply weapons to the Kyiv regime," a prospect he called "very reckless." Israel would completely destroy relations with Moscow by sending weapons to Ukraine, he added.

However, Defense Minister Benny Gantz last week made clear that while Israel backs Ukraine and has provided it with humanitarian aid, the Jewish state will not supply it arms.

"Our policy vis-à-vis Ukraine will not change – we will continue to support and stand with the West, we will not provide weapon systems," Gantz said.

Israel has shied away from arming Ukraine over fears of upsetting Russia, the leading player in Syria, where the IDF has in recent years conducted hundreds of strikes aimed at curbing Iran's military entrenchment and the transfer of weaponry to Hezbollah there and in Lebanon. **HW**

## Prominent Jewish Youtuber Ethan Klein Makes Holocaust Joke about Ben Shapiro, Leading to His Suspension

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Popular Jewish YouTube personality Ethan Klein was suspended from the platform for a week after he made a Holocaust joke about prominent right-wing Jewish pundit Ben Shapiro, escalating a war of words between two large internet political factions over what constitutes antisemitic statements between Jews.

Klein, whose YouTube channel h3h3Productions has more than 6 million subscribers, said last Monday on his "The H3 Podcast" that "if there's another Holocaust and people start rounding up the Jews again, I hope Ben gets gassed first. Or last."

He added: "I'm getting gassed, too. Do you think it would be more justice if he got first or last?"

Klein was discussing Shapiro's initial reaction to rapper Kanye West's recent comments vowing to go "death con 3 on Jewish people." Shapiro said West's comments were "clearly antisemitic and disturbing," but he simultaneously celebrated West's "moves toward pro-life, faith and family conservatism."

On the podcast, which reportedly

has nearly 3 million subscribers and is also uploaded to his YouTube channel, Klein pointed to Shapiro's platforming of conservative pundit Candace Owens, who once remarked that "if Hitler just wanted to make Germany great and have things run well, OK, fine." Owens also recently collaborated with West on his controversial "White Lives Matter" line of shirts shortly before the rapper's initial antisemitic comments.

Shapiro is an Orthodox Jew and a former editor of right-wing news sites Breitbart and The Daily Wire who endorsed Donald Trump for president in 2020. He frequently invokes Israel and Judaism in his articles, books and videos while decrying Democrats and "woke culture," and recently visited Israel on a speaking tour. Shapiro has more than 5 million subscribers on his YouTube channel and 4.5 million Twitter followers.

Since Shapiro's first tweet about West's comments, the rapper has said he was being targeted by a "Jewish underground media mafia" (while also apologizing to "the people that I hurt"). Shapiro has also more forcefully denounced West's comments, saying last Wednes-

day that the rapper was spouting "Der Stürmer-type antisemitism, and that is about as ugly as it gets, and nobody should be defending that."

In the meantime, Klein's own comments about Shapiro were amplified on social media by conservative figures, leading to Shapiro to respond on Twitter: "If there were another Holocaust, I would hope that Ethan and his family escaped. But maybe that's just me."

Klein then responded: "Sure, in poor taste, but not as poor taste as you platforming antisemites who spread dangerous conspiracies that leads to REAL violence against Jews."

Klein was suspended from YouTube shortly after, and claimed on social media that "a few white supremacists" had reported him for going after Shapiro, whom he said "was happy to perform a purity test on me and declare me a bad Jew for criticizing Israel." (On Twitter, Shapiro had dug up comments Klein had made last year following the outbreak of war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, in which he wrote, "The Israeli government is making me sick" and "I wish the settling and repossession of Palestinian land would stop.")

Shapiro himself later criticized Klein's suspension, tweeting, "I don't believe Ethan Klein should be suspended from YouTube for his awful garbage. But I'll shed no tears for a person who has rou-

tinely engaged in cancellation of others."

A link to the video in which Klein made his comments was removed from the platform as of last Friday, with a note saying it "has been removed for violating YouTube's policy on harassment and bullying." The audio was still available on various podcast channels.

Klein is Jewish and an Israeli-American dual citizen, and he launched his digital media presence alongside his wife, Hila Klein, an Israeli-American YouTube personality and fashion designer. The two met at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel while Ethan was on a Birthright trip and Hila was on leave from the Israel Defense Forces.

Klein himself has defended antisemitic behavior by other digital media personalities in the past, including in 2017 the YouTuber PewDePie, who had used his channel to make jokes about Jewish genocide and Nazis to more than 76 million subscribers; at the time, Klein said PewDePie is "a great guy" and "not an antisemite."

Last Thursday he had already uploaded a new episode of his podcast saying he had been "canceled for [the] Ben Shapiro joke."

Elsewhere on the episode with his Holocaust joke, Klein joked that he might get suspended from YouTube for an unrelated joke, and remarked, "Nothing good comes from me being on Twitter. Only bad things." **HW**

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## Sukkah Vandalized at Miami University in Western Ohio



Students outside Miami University's Arthur Beerman Center, which houses the school's Hillel center. Source: muhillel.org

(JNS) – Police in Oxford, Ohio, are investigating the destruction of a sukkah on the grounds of the Hillel at Miami University during the recent Sukkot holiday.

As seen on security video, three college-age men entered the Hillel center's grounds around 2 a.m. on Oct. 15. They entered the sukkah and toppled the canvas structure on its side.

“The desecration and vandalism of this ritual item and the damage done to our sukkah is distressing enough. While (thankfully) we have an extra sukkah, what has shaken our students and staff to the core and left me with a pit at the bottom of my stomach is the complete violation of our property, and of our sacred space,” Whitney Fisch, the executive director of Hillel at Miami University, wrote in a letter posted on social media.

“Watching these three young men cir-

cle the sukkah, enter the sukkah (where they encountered Hebrew prayers on the walls), and then intentionally decide to destroy the sukkah is simply devastating to watch. There is no other word,” she wrote.

Addressing the students, Fisch wrote, “Our sukkah may be broken. But our spirit is anything but. As upsetting as this incident has been, I feel so uplifted by the wonderful students and staff who have pride in our Jewish community, in our university, and in our Hillel – and no one and no act of vandalism can take that away.”

Hillel [made] plans to hold a “Shabbat of Love & Honor” last Friday night. It is being co-sponsored by Miami University's Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion.

Approximately 1,000 Jewish students attend the university. **HW**



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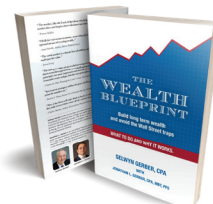
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## Hearts of Courage Gala Happening November 14 at Belmont University



Rayna Rose Exelbierd (r) in Israel during her gap year after high school.

**By Rayna Rose Exelbierd**

From the looks of our old and mismatched uniforms, you could tell from a mile away we weren't actually enlisted in the Israeli army, but a group of volunteers.

Growing up as teen in Memphis, Tenn., it changed my entire world when I chose to spend my first year out of high school in Israel. One of the most transformative experiences was volunteering in the Israeli army. I'll never forget the time my fellow soldiers and I were touring Mount Hertz, the military cemetery in Israel.

There was a mother who had lost her son. She was doing some type of memorial service. We just happened to be walking by, and I was shocked she paused the service to hug and thank me and each of my friends for being there. It suddenly dawned on me that no matter where we are all from, we are one big Jewish family. One, who through tremendous love and loss, has experienced so much. Especially those souls who made the ultimate sacrifice by giv-

ing their lives to keep Israel safe. They did so, leaving behind them a world of pain – for their husbands, and wives, their children and unborn grandchildren.

As a family, we are obligated to support those left behind. It is a religious obligation, just as much as it is a humane one. "You shall not ill-treat any widow or orphan" we read in Exodus 23:20-23, and the moment has come to meet this calling, right here in Nashville.

November 14, 2022, 6 p.m. at Belmont University join The IDF Widows and Orphans Organization (IDFWO) for an interfaith celebration like no other! The event, organized by the Ark of Israel; Hearts of Courage Gala at the Fisher Center for Performing Arts; will include music and joy, celebrating the U.S.-Israel alliance and honor Sec. Mike Pompeo for his immense contribution to this relationship and to Israel. It is organized in support of IDF orphans and gives us all an opportunity to come together and provide for their

benefit, as we uphold and cherish their immense sacrifice.

Even if you can't attend, consider making a contribution. While November and December are filled with family functions, too much food, and lots of love, for some families it's a very dark and lonely time. WE NEED YOU!

Reserved tickets and VIP Experience packages are still available! All proceeds will fund scholarships and provide much-needed assistance for families in Israel. For just \$150 join us for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come together to make a difference.

(IDFWO) is a non-profit established in 1991 as the only organization recognized by the State of Israel to represent the widows, widowers and orphans of Israel's fallen soldiers.

For more information, donations, and to purchase tickets:

<https://www.arkofisrael.com>

FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL JOSH@LOCALARK.COM **HW**

## Rhodes Jewish Community Fellowship Applications Now Open for '23-24 Academic Year

Memphis Jewish Federation is excited to announce that applications are now open for the Rhodes Jewish Community Fellowship for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Once again, Rhodes College is making five renewable \$10,000 fellowships available to first-year Rhodes students who participated in Jewish life in their home communities. Fellowship awardees are expected to become active in Jewish

life at Rhodes, including active involvement with the Rhodes Hillel chapter.

"I'm looking forward to meeting peers and gaining new experiences while participating in the Jewish Community Fellowship and Hillels of Memphis," said Mandy Cassius, a Rhodes College freshman and current Jewish Community Fellowship participant. "I've heard a lot of great things from people who've been involved in these programs previ-



Jewish Community Fellow Mandy Cassius is pictured on Rhodes College's campus during her freshman year

ously, and I'm looking forward to getting into them too. I'm from Memphis and the fact that Rhodes already feels like my extended family excites me the most. I can't wait to make Rhodes a part of my home for the next few years!"

Eligible students must apply for admission to Rhodes for the Fall of 2023 semester, be admitted, and choose to enroll at Rhodes. Fellowship applications will be reviewed by Memphis Jewish Federation and Federation will recommend applicants to Rhodes. A complete application includes a resume


of current participation in Jewish life and a 500-word essay. The deadline to apply for the fellowship is December 1, 2022.

For more information and to apply, go to: <https://www.hillelsofmemphis.org/rhodes-college>


"We are thrilled with our ongoing partnership with Rhodes College, including the support given to the Rhodes Hillel chapter led by Hillels of Memphis Director Sophie Bloch and the annual Jewish Community Fellowship," said Federation's Chief Impact Officer & Executive Vice President Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein. "The broader Rhodes College community embraces Jewish life on campus and is always seeking ways to strengthen it."

The first Rhodes Jewish Community Fellow began in 2016 and many more have followed, enjoying the gorgeous campus, wonderful and challenging education, and warm and vibrant Jewish life on campus.

The Rhodes College chapter of Hillel was launched in 2017, building on the previous work of the Jewish Student Union. Rhodes Hillel is operated by a student board in cooperation with Hillels of Memphis Director Sophie Bloch and a lay-led Advisory Council chaired by Wendy Rotter. Rhodes Hillel focuses on cultural, religious, educational and social programming and is open to all students regardless of background. Rhodes Hillel is managed by Memphis Jewish Federation and endowed through the generosity of an anonymous donor. **HW**




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## Jewish Mysticism Scholar Geo Poor to Talk about Jewish Magic and Demons at Beth Sholom



**Upcoming Lehrhaus speaker Geo Poor says themes of magic and demons are heavily entrenched within the history of Jewish thought, religion and culture.**

Geo Poor, executive director of Beth Sholom Synagogue and a PhD student in Jewish Mysticism at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Learning and Leadership, will shed light on the Dark Arts in Judaism in first of this year's Lehrhaus Speaker Series at the synagogue on November 10 at 7 p.m. His presentation is titled, **"Jewish Defense Against the Dark Arts: Magic, Demons, and Danger."**

"Numerous films and novels have popularized certain traditions within Christianity that view demons, devils, and sorcerers as beings who act to realize the will of Satan and to undermine God's plan in this world," Poor says. "It will surprise many to learn that Judaism also has a long history of belief in magic that incorporates far more than the Golem."

Poor explains, "Taking pride in the rationalism of Judaism, Jews often think that certain irrational ideas and themes are absent from our tradition. However, themes of magic and demons are heavily entrenched within the history of Jewish thought, religion, and culture."

Until the last few centuries, a significant portion of Jews saw demons as pervading the natural world, according to Poor. "Demons were perceived as a very real threat against whom there were equally real magical defenses. At times of dire need and even times mundane, Jews throughout history turned to ideas and practices that we would consider magic."

What's more, Poor adds, "Some of these ideas and practices are finding a resurgence in the Jewish world today."

Poor's talk will examine the Jewish practice of magic across history, from the bible up through the present day. The lecture will explore the differences and similarities between prayer, ritual, and magic, and consider the role the supernatural plays within the history of the Jewish people.

Geo Poor has served as executive director at Beth Sholom Synagogue since 2015. He has a Certificate of Jewish Studies from the Pardes Experiential Educators Program and earned a master's degree in Jewish Professional Leadership and an MBA in Non-Profit Management from the Hornstein Program for Jewish Professional Leadership. Currently, Geo Poor is pursuing a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies from the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership. He teaches classes on Kabbalah, early Hasidic thought, and more at Beth Sholom.

The public is invited to attend Poor's presentation on Thursday, November 10, at 7 p.m. at Beth Sholom, 6675

Humphreys Boulevard in Memphis. It will also be streamed live on Facebook at [facebook.com/bsholommemphis](https://facebook.com/bsholommemphis).

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

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# Six Steps to Starting a New Business

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.wellsfargo.com/michael-stein

An extraordinary number of new business applications – nearly 5.4 million – were filed in 2021, far surpassing the previous record of 4.4 million set in 2020.<sup>1</sup> Although some of these start-ups will replace businesses that closed earlier in the pandemic, it appears that many Americans reassessed their careers and were inspired to launch brand-new ventures of their own. Some people took the leap into self-employment after losing their former jobs, while others gave up stable paychecks to take a chance on their dreams.

Do you have an idea for a product or service that could turn into a profitable business? Here's an overview of some important first steps in the entrepreneurial process.

**Research the market.** Find out all you can about your industry. Does your business proposition fill a gap or improve on competitors' existing offerings? Be sure to check for patents or trademarks on products that may already be in the works.

**Focus on funding.** It could be months or even years until a new company is profitable enough to provide a stable income. In the meantime, where will the

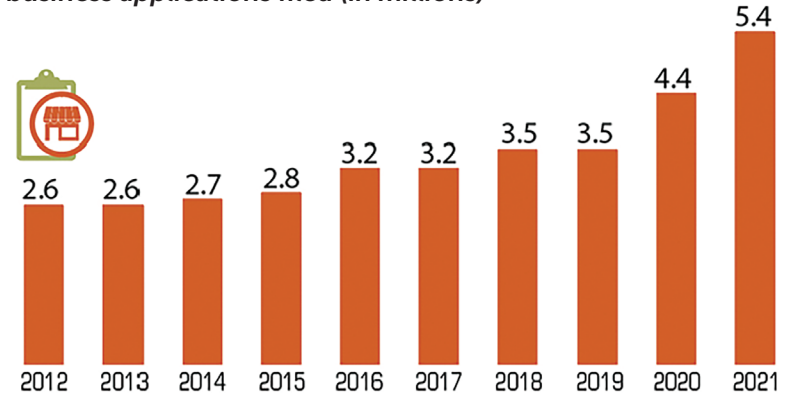
capital come from to get off the ground and pay your own living expenses? Bootstrappers may depend on their own savings – recently bolstered by federal stimulus funds – and early company revenues alone. Others may try to raise seed money from outside investors, tap into their home equity, or take out business loans.

**Make a test run.** Running your idea by several potential customers, before you invest too much time or money, may help you refine your product marketing and sales strategy.

**Select a structure.** What kind of business structure are you going to establish? Some of the most common operating structures are sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, S corporation, and limited liability company. Each type uses a different federal tax form, and the one you choose also determines which business taxes you will pay: income tax, self-employment tax, employment tax, and excise tax.

**Consider tax and legal responsibilities.** The IRS requires businesses to use a consistent accounting method for the reporting of income and expenses, so choose a method carefully when you file for the first time. Keep good records

New business applications filed (in millions)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022

to help support figures listed on your tax return. If you plan to hire workers, you may need a federal Employer Identification Number for tax purposes.

**Write a business plan.** Creating a document that outlines details of your new business venture – including the business model, costs, and the other aspects listed earlier – may help you anticipate and prepare for some of the potential challenges.

1) U.S. Census Bureau, 2022

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**OBITUARIES**



**Jeffrey Albert Kloville**

Jeffrey Albert Kloville was born on March 6, 1949, in Roslyn, New York, first son and second child to Joseph E. Kloville and Marjorie Herzberg. After Joseph and Marjorie divorced, Marjorie – teacher, actress and first woman to graduate from University of Memphis Law School – raised Leslie and Jeff in her hometown of Memphis, Tenn. Jeffrey’s father, Joe, – traveling jewelry salesman and big personality – made home in Atlanta, Ga., and married again to Marge Rozenman. Jeffrey has two younger siblings from that union, Mi-

chele Kloville Strange in Atlanta, and Ian G. Kloville in San Francisco. Leslie Kloville Plimpton resides in Boston.

Jeff attended East High School, where he ran track and broke a few speed records. He then attended the University of Tennessee, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology. Jeff enjoyed watching and playing sports, especially basketball. He enjoyed travel, a day on the golf course, summer days at the pool, and a good meal, especially a nice, rare steak. He knew how to enjoy his leisure time – setting up and rocking in a hammock on a nice day or indulging in the occasional cigar or a good brandy over ice in the evening. Jeff was an easy-going man, never needing to be the center of attention, but he had a sense of humor and could make people laugh. He also enjoyed spending time with his life-long friends, the Less brothers – Barry, Bert, David, Stanley – who remember first meeting Jeff in college and recount him as a fun and trustworthy friend.

Jeffrey was married twice in his life. His first wife was Carol Filla. He and Carol travelled together – in Europe, Israel, Mexico – before settling down to raise their daughter Jessica, born in June 1981. Jeff soon began work as a property manager for Leco Realty, where he would stay for 25 years. His second wife was Janet Abraham. Together Jeff

and Janet enjoyed travel, nice meals, and beach vacations. They had two children, Zachary, born in April 1992 and Macy, born in June 1998. Jeff was an attentive and caring father. He was always there for his children, providing and supporting them, as well as teaching them such important life skills as: a solid handshake, how to fly a kite, playing backgammon and card games, setting a table properly, and how to get the best parking spot. He also showed them by example how to live in the moment and not to go through life gripped by the fear of living it. He loved each of his three children and was proud of their unique accomplishments.

After Jeff’s health began to decline and he retired from work, he still made an impression on everyone he met, at both Town Village and the Memphis Jewish Home, and especially on Rena Rosenberg, Geriatric Care Manager with ElderCare Consultants, LLC – a human with angel wings who helped him and the family so much as he became less mobile and unable to manage things on his own. Jeff lived a full life and passed away in his sleep early in the morning of October 11, 2022. He was 73. May his memory be a blessing.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, donations can be made in his name to: Habitat for Humanity of Memphis (memphishabitat.com). **HW**

**Jacob H. Smith**

Jacob H. Smith, 85, died at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab on October 17. He was born in 1936 in Memphis to Rose Katz and David L. Smith. He was a graduate of Central High School, where he was in R.O.T.C. He joined the Navy Reserve after graduation. He worked for many years as manager of the Sole Shops in Memphis and New Orleans, a men’s specialty shoe store. Later he turned his passion for and knowledge of cars into sales positions and being a buyer for the dealership. He loved watching sports, old movies and game shows. Family and friends were always very important to him.

Jacob was preceded in death by his brother, Avron Meyer Smith, and a niece, Heather Samuels. He is survived by his sister, Carol (Yochanan) Samuels. Jacob also leaves his nieces, Ruth Samuels, Debra Tova Marizan, Lisa Smith and a nephew, Stewart Smith.

Donations may be made to Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, Plough Towers or the Diabetes Association. **HW**

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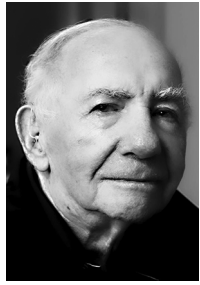
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## For the Love of G-D and Man



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

Our bible, according to my concordance, tells us repetitively to love G-d. How can we comply with this mandate – Love G-d? I love my wife, kids, a few highly select friends who owe me money, even the cat. And I love lamb chops with garlic and lemon. But my creator and Judge? We live in different dimensions. That's much like asking the tree to love the seed. So inappropriate. They are of different matter. Maybe a better analogy is the squirrel's love of the tree. Still, far-fetched. There's an inter-dimensional enigma here. An emotional warp. How can it be?

Strangely, Leigh Hunt, an English poet who probably never met a Hasid nor knew the term – answered the question with a Jewish slant. He was a Londoner who lived two thousand miles West of Hasid Headquarters in Poland. He was an aristocratic Englishman who, unlike his Polish contemporaries, wore a frock coat and did his best work on Shabbos. Leigh was a good Episcopalian, but somehow saw the world through Hasidic eyes. The poet, in an inspired mood, wrote a poem of 18 short lines; singing the same love thy neighbor theme that's in our prayer book. Unintentionally, it is a very Jewish poem: An angel alights in

the room of Abou Ben Adhem, an exemplary soul who:

“.. saw within the moonlight in his room making it rich like a lily in bloom an angel writing in a book of gold the names of those who love the Lord.”

Abou Ben Adhem, in a flash, sits up in his bed only half awake, but alert enough to know that his visitor is not his cousin from Cincinnati. Am I in your Golden Book, he wants to know.

(“Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold.”) The angel sadly shakes his head.

But the man with a heart for humanity is not disheartened. “Well, he says, “put me down as one who loves his fellow man!”

The angel notes the words of Abou Ben Adhem and disappears. Next night he's back in the dim bedroom “with a great wakening light” and his fateful list of those who love the Lord.

“And lo, Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.”

Loving your fellow man is like loving G-d, an insight initially proclaimed by our Tanach.

I've heard it said that the hardest part of being a good Jew is loving your fellow Jews. Now I didn't originate that – it's probably in the Talmud or maybe in the Tanach from some bitter prophet like Jeremiah. But sadly, it's true. Didn't G-d, himself, tell us we're a stiff-necked people? Easy going, sweet, lovable people don't cure polio, don't split the atom, and don't win Nobel prizes. They're too busy displaying their love. There's some furnace going in the core of great

people that keeps them from election as most popular kid in school or fraternity/sorority presidency. You wouldn't have enjoyed a beer and a bowl of pretzels with Einstein. Your Uncle Louie was probably much better at small talk.

In all the English vocabulary the hardest word to define is love. It has no synonym – only an antonym. It thinly communicates when it describes our relationship with our fellow creatures – even the four-legged ones. But it miserably fails to describe our feeling to our Creator. Even though my concordance counts it over 150 times in the Tanach. In nature, love flows down, not up. A river originating in a mountain peak flows down to water the animal and plant life at its base. Survival of the species demands it. Our limited human understanding comes closest to defining divine love by loving our fellow human creatures. And while we're talking about love and G-d and man and English poets, let me remind you of Alexander Pope – another famous English Bard. He's clearly on my side; “The proper study of mankind is man,” he says. “Presume not G-d to scan,” which to my understanding says the creator lies beyond our telescopes.

What is love? Biblically – I say – that's not an irrelevant question since our bible tells us countless times to “love” the Lord your G-d. We understand friendship – we know all about lust, we understand why your heart glows when your wife makes Kreplach in chicken soup, your favorite. And even closer to your emotional warmth is the

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By Ted Roberts

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sensation of holding in your arms your newborn child. But words fail when we try to cozy up to the Lord. There is awe, respect, and reverence – but love! How to love G-d?

I've never met anyone who loved G-d and could explain that exotic emotion. It cannot be expressed any more than a fish expresses his love for water – his medium. A cat will die fighting to defend its kittens. But does it love them? The cat must have something in her we call love; a very imprecise word. Its offspring – like its kindred mammal, man – never gives, only takes.

Maybe the prophets and Leigh Hunt were onto something. The word for “love” of G-d, as the passion itself, is not in our lexicon. Love thy fellow man. That, itself, is an awesome challenge.

*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*

## ISRAEL INSIGHTS Recentering the Center

By Howard Weisband

On the eve of national elections in both Israel and the United States, I offer not a prediction but a political perspective.

Polarization, an increasing phenomenon, has become a political pandemic that threatens political systems and the very societies which they govern.

Miriam Webster defines political polarization as: “a state in which the opinions, beliefs, or interests of a group or society no longer range along a continuum but become concentrated at opposing extremes.”

Extremes tend to be highly ideological. They are worrisome, even dangerous, because people of extreme positions are less likely to talk with one another, respect one another, and ultimately work with one another for the betterment of society.

While I personally have certain ideological and political viewpoints, I have always believed in the necessity of a strong political center wherein people speak respectfully with one another and are committed to working together.

As one who watches the politics of both the United States and Israel rather closely, with upcoming elections a week

apart in both countries, as I listen to the rhetoric and consume the messages, I am particularly pained by the polarization and the loss of a functioning political center.

Truthfully, however, I am not surprised. Like others, I've watched it happening over a number of years. In 1996, the Brookings Institution issued a report titled “The Disappearing Center: Congress and the Incredible Shrinking Middle,” authored by Sarah Binder. She describes: “... (the) unprecedented disappearance of the political center. In a political system that demands compromise and accommodation to bring about change, the center is considered vital to the moderate, bipartisan public policymaking generally preferred by the American public. Absent a political center, increased partisanship and ideological polarization are inevitable and sure to feed public distrust of and distaste for politicians and the political process.”

Similarly, polarization has overrun the political system in Israel and threatens the very fabric of centrism, that would otherwise create a strong, functional political system. There is no doubt that the coun-

try, that is the electorate, has shifted to the right. That reality is reflected in polls that show Likud having possibly lost seats in the forthcoming Knesset, with far-right parties gaining substantially.

It may be that Likud, led by former Prime Minister Netanyahu, will be able to form a coalition with key components coming from ultra-Orthodox, or Chareidi, and far-right parties, including Religious Zionists. The latter at one time were partners with Labor, then the Likud led by Menachem Begin. They were moderate, under the leadership of Yosef Burg and Zevulun Hammer. Today they unabashedly are at the extreme right and gaining power.

Prime Minister Lapid is trying to counter this move to the extreme by again promising a wide coalition, essentially a strong center with parties that represent both ideological positions on the right and the left, with a commitment to work together.

Yet, the public remains skeptical because the current Government, led first by Bennett and now Lapid, lasted only a year.

The alternative, should neither Net-

anyahu nor Lapid nor Ganz successfully put together a coalition, is another gridlocked situation wherein the country is sent back to the polls in Spring 2023.

We cannot help but be reminded of that famous dictum attributed to Albert Einstein: the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

It seems to me that the future in Israel of a renewed political center and a better functioning governmental system lies with both the development or emergence of new leadership and simultaneously their commitment to fundamental political reform.

Then we'll be able to expect different results.

*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*

## Bornblum Jewish Community School to Host School Tours

Bornblum Jewish Community School will open its doors and welcome the community for school tours in November.

Danielle Zelig, Bornblum's director of Admissions and Parent Engagement, wants to showcase Bornblum's distinctive features to prospective parents interested in enrolling their children in kindergarten through eighth grade classes.

“I'm looking forward to meeting with

parents to show how Bornblum fosters the ‘balanced child’ by highlighting our rigorous academic curricula, Jewish education and Hebrew language, as well as our social-emotional learning,” Zelig said. “We also have some pretty fantastic signature programs such as Design Thinking and a great menu of options for after-school.”

During the tours, parents will be guided through Bornblum's state-of-the-

art Design Lab, the Makom Shalom (a peaceful room where students can cool down and navigate strong emotions), the pottery and art studio, the indoor vertical garden, the class-planted vegetable and herb gardens, the Gaga Pit, the Heather Samuels Butterfly Garden, the chicken coop and the playground.

They will also be able to peek into classrooms to see teachers in action and how students engage with lessons.

“There are so many ways to learn here at Bornblum, and we want to share them with the community,” said Bornblum Head of School Daniel R. Weiss, Ed.D. “Our doors are always open, so come see how your child will thrive.”

If you are interested in touring Bornblum Jewish Community School, contact Danielle Zelig at dzelig@bornblum.org or visit [www.bornblum.org](http://www.bornblum.org) to schedule a tour. HW





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# 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.







**Markell Family** at the **Cultural Arts Series**   
2022-2023

**Saul Kaye**  
Concert | Jewish Blues Musician

**Saturday, November 12 • 7:00pm**  
\$12 Community / \$10 Members

Get tickets at  
[jccmemphis.org/CulturalArtsSeries](http://jccmemphis.org/CulturalArtsSeries)

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## WE'RE HIRING AT THE

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- Valid TN license in Social Work/comparable field
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- MJCC membership
- Program discounts for the Early Childhood Center, Summer Camp, classes, & more
- Health insurance / 401K / PTO

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[www.jccmemphis.org/careers](http://www.jccmemphis.org/careers)

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