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# Hebrew Watchman

**SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925** 

**HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM** 

7 KISLEV, 5783

**DECEMBER 1, 2022** 

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## Memphis Bids Farewell to the Fleischhackers



David and Chany Fleischhacker with mom Hilda Fleischhacker, son Nachi and daughter Leah

### By Shoshana Cenker

It was a bittersweet occasion at Baron Hirsch Congregation (BH) the evening of Sunday, Nov. 20, as more than 300 people attended a lovely gala in honor of Chany and David Fleischhacker. The couple will soon embark on their longtime dream of making aliyah at the beginning of 2023.

David and Chany have had a tremendous impact on Jewish Memphis. Though the Jewish community is, of course, happy about their journey to Israel, it's a huge loss for Memphis.

The Fleischhackers have provided 20

years of service, with David as the executive director of Baron Hirsch since 2003, and Chany as a pre-school and art teacher at Margolin Hebrew Academy (MHA). They've been incredibly influential and built remarkable relationships – all with a foundation of Torah and chessed (acts of kindness) as their guide.

The gala included a wonderful reception, a three-course dinner, a heartfelt video tribute, and special remarks from BH members as well the honorees.

A native Memphian, David was valedictorian of White Station High School,



David and Chany with Katie and Rabbi lan lichter

later graduated from Yeshiva University, then earned his masters at Baruch College. Chany was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Floral Park, Queens. The two were introduced by Chany's aunt and uncle who had lived in Memphis and knew David's family. The Fleischhackers, who lived in Queens after they were married, have three children: Leah, Nachi, and Yehudit. Active in their Queens shul, David served as president when the synagogue completed construction of its building.

As Chany shared in her gala remarks,

she and David began considering leaving New York after 9/11. When they visited David's parents in Memphis for Pesach, they learned BH was looking for a new executive director – the ideal role for David, who was feeling more fulfilled with his shul volunteer work and interested in working in the Jewish community rather than the corporate business world he'd been in. So in 2003, the Fleischhackers moved to the Bluff City and David began his tenure at BH.

(See Fleischhacker Page 4)

# Top U.S. Official Reiterates Commitment to Preventing Iran from Going Nuclear

(JNS) – U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan reiterated last Monday President Joe Biden's commitment to preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, according to a statement from the White House.

### visit.

The two expressed their shared determination to address the security challenges posed by Tehran and its proxies, Aharon Haliva said last Monday that Iran would soon start enriching at least a "symbolic" amount of uranium to 90%, although he added that it was unlikely to make a dash for the bomb. Meanwhile, Sullivan also emphasized to Kochavi last Monday the importance of de-escalating tensions in Judea and Samaria, and stressed that the Biden administration views a negotiated twostate solution as the best avenue to achieve a lasting peace with the Palestinians.

Sullivan discussed the Iranian nuclear threat during a meeting in Washington with IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, who arrived in the United States last Sunday for a five-day said the statement.

*Reuters* reported last Tuesday that the Islamic Republic has begun enriching uranium to 60% at its underground Fordow nuclear site.

Israel Defense Forces Military Intelligence Directorate chief Maj. Gen. Haliva warned that Tehran had made "significant progress" on its nuclear program, and that the international community would soon face its "greatest test" in preventing the Islamic Republic from obtaining a bomb.

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Sullivan added that Washington's commitment to upholding Israel's security remained "ironclad." **HW** 

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## Memphis Jewish Federation Announces Opening of Lemsky Fund Grant Applications for Teen & Young Adult Israel Programs



Memphis Jewish Federation Teen Israel Experience traveler Nadav Weiss watched the sun rise over the Dead Sea from atop Masada, one of many life-changing experiences he had on his journey. Learn more about Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund grants at jcpmemphis.org.

"A part of me is now in Israel, and always will be. My summer in Israel will forever hold a special place in my heart," said Memphis Jewish Federation Teen Israel Experience grant recipient Chloe Bullard upon her return from an amazing summer adventure. "I am truly thankful that I had these incredible experiences, and I will remember and look back at them for the rest of my life."

With Memphis Jewish Federation's announcement of the opening of the Teen Israel Experience Grant application period for the summer of 2023, experiences like Chloe's are right around the corner for rising high school juniors and seniors and post-high school young adults in Jewish Memphis. Visit www.jcpmemphis.org/ lemsky-endowment-fund to learn more and begin the application process.

Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund, established through the generosity of the late Abe Lemsky, of blessed memory, enables Federation to strengthen the bonds between the Memphis Jewish community and Israel. Through Teen Israel Experience grants for high school students and Next Stop Israel grants for young adults, the Lemsky Endowment Fund connects young people to immersive Israel experiences. Data show that 100% of Teen Israel/Next Stop participants surveyed reported that Israel is more important to them now than it was before the trip. Interestingly, 93% of parents surveyed said that they themselves felt a greater desire to engage in Judaism because of their child's trip.

"Before going on (my trip), I thought I had a strong Jewish identity, but not surprisingly, going to Israel made it even more clear," said teen traveler Mandy Cassius. "It got stronger because of the people I was with like my new friends, my amazing advisors, and my trip family, which were my friends, advisors, and Israeli cousins."

All rising high school juniors and seniors in the Memphis Jewish community are eligible for grants up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel, while young adults age 32 and younger are eligible for up to \$4,000 in funding to participate in a recognized gap year, summer, or semester program in Israel. Grant funding is counted cumulatively - a teen who accepts a \$3,000 grant to participate in an Israel program during high school will be eligible for a maximum \$1,000 grant for an Israel program at the post high school level. Funding may be applied to program cost only, not to airfare or other expenses. A limited number of additional needs-based programs are also available. Applicant and parent responsibilities are

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X Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. December 2, 2022 / 8 Kislev, 5783......4:30 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. December 3, 2022 / 9 Kislev, 5783......5:29 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Vayeitzei

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outlined in the grant applications.

During the summers of 2021 and 2022, Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided 43 teens with grants to help offset the cost of Teen Israel Experience Summer programs in Israel. Nine young adults have participated in the Next Stop Israel from 2021-2022 and eight young adults are currently in Israel participating in programs from 2022-2023.

"The first time we went (to the Kotel), I was blindfolded and led to a balcony to take in the sight for the first time; it was truly breathtaking. After my whole life of wanting to be in Israel, wanting to be at the Kotel, I was finally there," said Nadav Weiss. "When visiting the Kotel for the first time it is customary to rip your shirt, and I still have the ripped shirt because looking at it makes me want to go back."

Applications for both programs are accepted on a rolling basis.

For more information, contact Jewish Community Partners Manager of Community Impact Lorraine Wolf at lwolf@ jcpmemphis.org. Jewish Community Partners is the management organization of Memphis Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. **HW** 



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

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

**Monday December 5** Rabbi Joel Finkelstein will discuss "The Real Chanukah!"

With Chanukah fast approaching, come hear a different take on this fun holiday. Rabbi Joel always entertains!

### Wednesday December 7

Rabbi Sarit Horwitz will talk about the "Unexpected Heroes of Hanukkah."

Hanukkah starts on December 18. Rabbi Sarit will give some new insight on this ancient holiday. Her talks always are enjoyed. Please join us and have a great lunch too!

**Monday December 12** FIELD TRIP!! to the Famous Cross-

town Concourse!

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### Wednesday December 14

Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel will talk about "Chanukah, from Darkness to Light!"

Please come hear Rabbi Abe's unique take on this beautiful holiday! He always brings refreshing insight to every topic. The talk, as always, is free and open to the public.

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. Please call Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220, stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or call the front desk at 901-761-0810. HW

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## Famous Jewish Couple who Perished Aboard the Titanic Featured in New York Exhibit

### **By Alan Zeitlin**

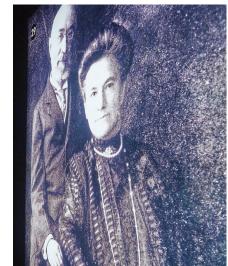
(JNS) - "Where you go, I go," Ida Straus told her husband, Isidor, aboard the RMS Titanic in April 1912. With lifeboats available for women and children first, men had to wait. Given a chance for a seat due to his wealth and status, Isidor refused a place on a boat. Though she could have gotten on a lifeboat and lived, Ida chose to share the fate of her husband. Both drowned.

Ida's fateful choice is included in "Titanic: The Exhibition," now open near Union Square in Manhattan. The exhibit features a large picture of the two firstclass passengers as well as a monument of Isidor, a co-owner of Macy's who served for just over one year in Congress, as a Democrat representing New York's 15th district.

In James Cameron's 1997 film, "Titanic," there is a scene in which the couple hold each other as they lay in bed and flooding waters rush in. In reality, they were on the deck of the ship, similar to a scene that didn't make the final cut of the film. They each emigrated from Germany to New York with their families. They married in 1871 and had seven children. Isidor's body was found but hers was not. He was 67, and she was 63.

Thought to be unsinkable, the luxury steamship on its maiden voyage, struck an iceberg on the evening of April 14, 1912, four days after departing from Southampton, England. When it foundered in the wee hours of the next morning, more than 1,500 of the 2,240 aboard died.

Third-class passengers were the least likely to survive. But one who did was Jewish passenger Sarah Roth, who was



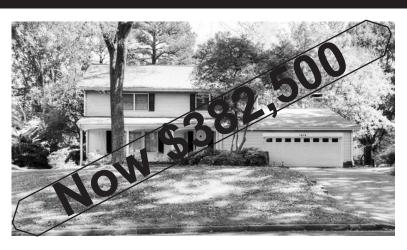
Isador and Ida Straus. The couple chose to die together. Photo by Perry Bindelglass.

able to get on what was known as Collapsible C. The exhibit shows what is believed to be the only third-class menu recovered from April 14 on the Titanic. Offerings included oatmeal, smoked herring, roast beef, cold meat and sweet corn.

The exhibit also includes kosher plates, cups and silverware as well as a plate identified as kosher in Hebrew, while a knife has the same word and "milk" engraved on the handle. While not recovered from the Titanic itself, they were used on the White Star Line, meaning that similar dishes would likely have been on the *Titanic*.

For film fans who enjoyed the performance of Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as Jack and Rose, while their exact love story is fictional, the real-life story of Katie Phillips is on display, including her necklace, suitcase, keys and purse. Phillips and Henry Morley were both married to other people and had an affair. Their plan was to elope and move to California. She survived the sinking of the ship but he did not. Her suitcase remains at the bottom of the ocean.

The exhibit also features replicas of the ship prior to departure and of what was found at the ocean floor, wrecked. There is also a replica of the Titanic's Marconi Wireless room. Chief telegraphist Jack Phillips was told by Captain Jack Smith to send out a distress signal and seek help shortly after midnight on April 15. According to Charles Lightoller, Phillips slipped into the water and was taken on a lifeboat, but he did not survive. Lightoller, who was second officer and was off-duty when the ship hit the iceberg, said a vital warning from the Masaba ship that an iceberg was directly in the Titanic's path had never arrived. But the ship had received other warnings



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Curiously, the exhibit does not include a photo of Benjamin Guggenheim, the Jewish millionaire who is believed to have said aboard the *Titanic*, "We've dressed up in our best and are prepared to go down like gentlemen." The Guggenheim Museum in Manhattan is named after his brother Solomon.

Bruce Ismay, chairman of the White Star Line, was said to have given the order to reduce the number of lifeboats so as not to clutter the ship. Reports vary, with some saying he got on the first lifeboat and others saying he was ordered to board a lifeboat by a ship official. Ismay himself claimed there was nobody else in his vicinity, so he took an open seat in a lifeboat. He was viewed by many as a villain.

The exhibit also features beautiful staterooms and numerous stories of other passengers, both survivors and victims. HW

### Fleischhacker...

(Continued From Page 1)

"My first and only phone conversation with him convinced me that he was the perfect match for our congregation and the Memphis community," said Dr. Irv Cherny, then BH president. "His business skills, Torah-observant background, and experience as president of his shul in Queens presented us with the perfect individual. We quickly learned that David and Chany and their young family were a wonderful addition to our shul and community. These past 20 years have proven everything good about him, and he will be impossible to replace!"

The touching video tribute – with kind words from friends and family, including a sweet, funny song from Chany's dad – was interspersed with beautiful Fleischhacker family photos. It echoed the sentiment that David and Chany enhanced the Memphis Jewish community in every way.

"I've been incredibly lucky to work closely with David over the past 19+ years at our shul," said Ricky Kampf, BH's chazan (cantor). "More than just successfully leading day-to-day operations as executive director, David has given his all to our Baron Hirsch community throughout his time here and is someone I consider a lifetime friend. Thank you, David, for all you did for our shul and larger community, and we wish you much continued success in Israel."

"It's been such a pleasure to not only work with Chany at the school, but to see with my own eyes the impact she's had on all the students who have passed through the MHA doors," added Anat Kampf, MHA teacher and middle school assistant principal. "She's a true example of what it means to be a leader in our community, and I am so lucky to call her a friend. I and the entire Memphis community will miss you, Chany, but we know that you will continue to share your impact and passion for art in Israel."

As guests enjoyed dinner, current BH president Marc Lennon and past BH president Pace Cooper shared warm remarks and well wishes from themselves and others for the Fleischhackers. "Mentor to rabbis," "one-of-a-kind," and "good friend" were just some of the many nice thoughts. Pace also informed the crowd that the Memphis City Council offered a proclamation to David for his countless contributions to Baron Hirsch and the City of Memphis, while Mayor Jim Strickland, Congressman David Kustoff, Todd Young of AI-PAC and others sent letters honoring the Fleischhackers.

"It was a true pleasure to work with David," said Rabbi Shai Finkelstein over email. "As the senior Rav (rabbi) of Baron Hirsch Congregation (2005-2016), David and I tried every day to make Jewish experiences at the shul and the community meaningful and inspirational. David was always committed, dedicated, and showed tremendous care to the congregation and community. David and Chany are an exemplary couple who live a life of Torah, Zionism, and love to all people. I wish them much success in their new endeavor and look forward to welcoming them in Israel." The honorees thanked guests, with Chany saying that leaving Memphis was harder than she anticipated. David's remarks were in honor of his beloved father, Walter Fleischhacker A"H, who recently passed away. He noted that he had the privilege to work with amazing rabbanim, "learning something distinct from each," and that he's "leaving the shul in good hands with Rabbi Lichter as a wonderful leader for Baron Hirsch."

the many, many hours he spent at shul. Everyone could see the dedicated, caring couple they are together. David's hilarious sense of humor was apparent throughout his poignant remarks, noting that he could write not just one book about his time at BH, but "a multivolume series of his experiences," seeing as how he, quite literally, was quietly responsible for doing the work of nine or 10 jobs, as numerous duties fell under his wide-ranging title.

David's parting words were about Israel and the institution he's proudly run for 20 years. "Make living in Israel a goal ... to create more of a presence in Israel," he advised. "Dedicate more time to Baron Hirsch ... where kids can form holiday memories ... and Torah study for all is a priority."

In addition to the many kind words, past BH president Aileen Cooper along with Anat Kampf presented the couple with a stunning gift during the evening celebration: a beautiful, commissioned personalized artwork by Chana Zelig of the Birkat HaBayit (blessing of a home). And, with humor sprinkled throughout the fun event, Dr. Irv Cherny also gifted David and Chany fun University of Memphis Tigers outfits, as the couple is known their amazing matching Purim costumes over the years.

With both David and Chany being lifelong Torah learners, a very fitting, special honor was also bestowed on them. Baron Hirsch's overnight Shavuos Torah learning is now dedicated to the Fleischhackers as the "David and Chany Fleischhacker Shavuos Night of Learning" – studying in their merit is such a proper tribute to these special people.

"As president of BH, it was a pleasure working with David," said David Mendelson, who was president during the shul's pivotal ATID campaign to raise funds to renovate the building. "David understood the community and congregation, and necessity for each to support the other. BH will miss David and his leadership."

"David has his finger on the pulse of our congregation and community," added past BH president Mary Trotz. "He gave me invaluable advice on our members' needs as we navigated COVID and other transitions at the shul. David is often the secret sauce behind the successes at Baron Hirsch."

Undoubtedly, David took the shul from a dire situation to the thriving congregation it is today. Having gone for two years without an executive director before his arrival, "the shul was in a pretty bad financial situation ... and there were a lot of issues that needed attention," he said. "Getting the shul's finances back under control was the most important thing to do right off the bat."

Since then, David and the talented team he's amassed - especially his vital colleague, Gwen Moody - have tirelessly worked to ensure the shul and its members are on solid ground and always growing. While there are many special memories and experiences, David points to restarting Camp Darom as a highlight that's dear to him. Here are a few others that stand out: the dedication and celebration of two new Sifrei Torah (Torah scrolls) - one was dedicated for use in the shul, the other was donated to the IDF; Israel-related events - celebrating Yom HaAtzmaut with a giant balloon drop in the sanctuary, community Israel rallies in times of trouble, he and Chany chaperoning teens to AIPAC; Purim celebrations; Simchat Torah seeing 400 people dancing in the foyer and the excitement over the giant candy, "we were truly one community celebrating together; our children's bar and bat mitzvahs; and the anniversary parties we had for my parents."

said Gwen, BH administrative assistant. "His commitment to Baron Hirsch is of highest priority. His leadership is one of family and inclusivity. I'm going to miss David and his family tremendously. He's the only executive director I've known and has made the past 20 years a joy to come to work each day."

David also acknowledges two major areas that he believes are special about Baron Hirsch. "The first is that it is the type of shul where so many people of so many different backgrounds can feel comfortable. Many people over the years have been inspired at Baron Hirsch in their Jewish growth - whether that meant to increase their observance, increase their Torah study, increase their attendance at services, or to increase their efforts to help others," he said. "The other area is that Baron Hirsch has always been the type of place to go beyond what most shuls do. We are always looking for ways to reach people outside of the conventional means, and we have always had talented rabbis and leaders who have made that happen. Programs like camp, retreats, singles weekends, sandwich projects, learning projects they don't just happen anywhere, and they don't happen on the scale at which we often undertake them."

And of course, an executive director role is all about the people - and David's built relationships through BH that are truly invaluable. "I have enjoyed working with each of our rabbis, and I have learned from them Torah as well as valuable life lessons," he added. "Great lay leaders - I have had wonderful working relationships with each of the 10 presidents I served under and learned things from each of them. But more than anything else, there are incredible people in this congregation who have been a huge inspiration to me and to my family. I think it's a shame that often we don't learn about people who are in our midst every day, and then one day it's too late, and we hear about them in a eulogy or shiva visit. We need to interact with more people and learn about their history and their past. It's amazing what you learn when you get to know people. I have met people who sacrificed so much through their lives to maintain a Jewish connection. And I have known people who faced such difficult moments in their personal lives, but never let it affect their overall actions and to only gain strength from their setbacks. Such wonderful role models for all of us!"

It's abundantly clear that David's commitment and dedication to BH is unrivaled.

"David has an uncanny ability to understand all the needs of the shul and present multiple scenarios to address both the various members needs as well as the institution," added Marc Lennon, current BH president. "His understanding of the history of the families and the mission of the shul has prepared me to address the needs of Baron Hirsch in the day-to-day functioning, as well as in times of happiness and sadness." As for some of Chany's fond BH memories, "shortly after we got here, David and I were asked to go as delegates to the OU Convention in Israel - it was a wonderful experience," she said. "Neither of us had been there for such a long time and going as representatives of Baron Hirsch was such a privilege. We learned so much on that trip through all lectures and tours and the Shabbaton. It was so amazing. And Baron Hirsch really makes the holidays special! Plus, celebrating my kids' bar and bat mitzvahs here was so special. It really felt like it was everyone's simcha and all my friends participated in the preparations and got excited with me."

had on Baron Hirsch, Chany has been equally impactful at Margolin Hebrew Academy.

"Chany is multitalented and was excellent at nurturing students' individual talents," said Sandy Gersten, MHA teacher and grades 1–8 Judaic studies principal. "She was dedicated to perfecting her teaching craft and to bringing each student up to his/her own potential. She taught the students about different types of artists and different kinds of art. She used different materials to give the students a broad art experience. She was not only a teacher par excellence, but one of the sweetest and kindest of friends."

"Art with Morah Chany added the sparkle to the children's work week, they wish they could have had her class every day!" said MHA teacher Rivki Wiener. "Chany was a pleasure to collaborate with. She and I would try to align our curriculum as much as possible to infuse all curricular areas with art."

As the celebration continued in the Marci Moss Social Hall, the congregation's new spiritual leader, Rabbi Ian Lichter, delivered some beautiful closing remarks about David and Chany. "Thank you for being you, and loving us the way you do," began Rabbi Lichter, who also spoke about the Fleischhackers during his Shabbos drash (sermon). He enthusiastically noted that David's excellent communication has been essential, and Chany provided her unique expression in artwork and teaching art.

"In the brief amount of time that I have served as rabbi of Baron Hirsch Congregation, I have seen David's immense love for his shul and its congregants," Rabbi Lichter previously shared over email. "David's devotion can be seen in his everyday dedication to ensuring people's needs are met with both professionalism and the utmost of care. People feel connected to the shul because people feel connected to David, and his efforts have made Baron Hirsch a true spiritual home for so many Jews. On a personal note, David has made my family's transition as seamless as possible, and his friendship and guidance will help steer my vision for many years to come. We wish him and Chany a great deal of mazal and bracha upon making aliyah."

While the Fleischhackers have much love for Baron Hirsch, they also have love for the greater local Jewish community.

"So much is special about this community!" exclaimed Chany. "It is such a wonderful place to raise children. Leah, Nachi and Yehudit had such an amazing childhood in the warm environments of BH and MHA. They had so many experiences and educational opportunities that they would have missed growing up in New York. The community is so warm, and everyone knows each other and looks out for each other and for each other's children. Your simchas are everyone's simchas, and everyone rallies when you need help." "The Memphis Jewish community is more united than most," David added. "There are certainly areas where different segments have very different viewpoints - but there are other areas where we all find agreement and work together. That just doesn't exist in many other cities, so we have to cherish that and continue to work together where we can." As Chany and David begin the final countdown to fulfilling their dream of making aliyah, Baron Hirsch and Memphis will revel in their friendships and memories. (Thank goodness for email and video calls!) They will certainly be greatly missed. From all of the Memphis Jewish community, we wish the Fleischhacers the very best in their new chapter in Israel. HW

David lovingly doted on Chany, who graciously supported David through

"David has been a joy to work with,"

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## **My Jewish Journey**



A Memphian since 2016, Daniel Snyder's Jewish Journey began as the only Jewish kid in a small Mississippi town. Today, he's an active lay leader in Jewish Memphis, serving in several key roles with Memphis Jewish Federation and other local Jewish organizations.

In the periodic series My Jewish Journey, community members share the story of their personal relationship with Judaism, Jewish identity, and Jewish life. Told their way and in their words, these stories are as unique and distinct from each other as the storytellers themselves, and together will begin to tell the colorful and multi-textured story of Jewish Memphis.

### **By Daniel Snyder**

I grew up in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, where I was the only Jewish kid in the county and school system, like that Adam Sandler song. But, my family and I were only 30 minutes away from the synagogue in Jackson, Mississippi, which was home to about 200 families. We were also only 22 minutes from URJ Jacobs Camp. Rabbi Jeff Dreifus and I were on staff there at the same time. I think I will forever hold the all-time closest camper/counselor record. I was also a five-year staffer, so I received the coveted five-year jacket.

In 2009, I helped co-found the Hillel at Mississippi State University, where my father was a professor. There was no Jewish student organization or Hillel, so my Jewish friends and I got one going and 10 years later, it's still running. That legacy is one of my prouder achievements in my Jewish journey, and it was just the start.

I found opportunities to lead in the Congregation B'nai Israel synagogue in Columbus, Mississippi, which is 20 minutes from Starkville. After graduation, I went on to be vice president of the synagogue. During college, I took advantage of opportunities to live in the Mississippi Delta where I worked at Baxter Healthcare, and where I frequented a synagogue in Cleveland, Mississippi, where Rabbi Danziger, Emeritus Rabbi of Temple Israel, came once a month to lead services. I got exposure to a Memphis rabbi before even knowing I would be in Memphis.

During college I also tutored two teenagers for their b'nai mitzvah service, including the child of John Cohen, Mississippi State's baseball coach and former standout player. He is now the athletic director at Auburn. A call had been put out to our Hillel for tutors, and I jumped on the opportunity. I was paid in food, once a week having dinner with Coach Cohen. As a sports fan, it was a cool opportunity to pick his brain and get to know the family. In turn, they were eager to support the Hillel and would host us for a Hanukkah party or have everyone over once or twice a year. It was a fortuitous and timely relationship built through our connection to Judaism.

After graduating, I worked for a small tire factory near Starkville, Mississippi, but grew tired of being the only Jewish 20-something who wasn't in college. FedEx had always been on my radar, and someone urged me to apply. Several of my camp friends were from Memphis, and I had been before. I was aware of the prominence of Memphis as a player in the region. I took the interview, and within 30 days, I was packing up bags.

I got here in 2016 and went straight to the MJCC and I said, "Hey, I want to coach soccer." They were like, "Who is this guy who comes in on the day of their interview and volunteers already?" I came to Memphis having been involved in Hillel and synagogues, and wanted to make an impact on day one. I coached soccer for three seasons, and we only lost three games. I'm very proud of those boys, who are all in high school now.

In 2017, I participated in Memphis Jewish Federation's inaugural Kay Usdan Saslawsky Institute for Ethical Leadership, a curriculum designed to nurture leadership through sessions using case studies and Jewish texts and taught by local thought leaders and clergy. That was a great experience and an opportunity to connect with leaders in the community. I was also featured in the Seventy Faces exhibit during Federation's Israel@70 campaign. Now, I'm a member of the Federation board, serving an organization that serves as a sort of hub of Jewish Memphis, doing important work in all corners of the community.

I have been honored to serve on Federation's Hillels of Memphis advisory board. I was asked to help because of my experience at Mississippi State, and also because I wrote for Susan Nieman's Jewish Scene Magazine. Susan had stepped in as the interim Hillel director, and she asked me if I would provide assistance. I've held an advisory role ever since and was on the committee that selected the current director, Sophie Bloch, who has done an amazing job.

I also served on Temple Israel's ConnecTI board with Cara Greenstein and Baylee Less and others of that generation. I'm happy to see how it's evolved and regenerated even after COVID. While other social groups that filled a need during COVID faded away, this program is not going anywhere.

Recently, I began serving on the Temple Israel Brotherhood board as a sort of liaison between ConnecTI and older Temple members. Young folks, and maybe especially young men, who are turning the corner around 30, but don't have families – we're kind of in between groups. There's an underserved gap area of young adults, and I feel it's worth the effort to bridge it.

I've been in Memphis for seven years – a quarter of my life – and I'm thankful for those years. Memphis is an excellent community and is very welcoming. The fact that in a metro area of more than a million residents, the relatively small Jewish community of 10,000 has a reputation for impacting and influencing culture, business, law, and the very shape of the city is amazing to me. I think it's because of the Jewish leadership and institutions that we have, which give Memphis something and unmatched. **HW** 

## U.S. Armed Forces Awards IDF Chief of Staff Legion of Merit

(JNS) – The U.S. Armed Forces last Monday awarded the Legion of Merit to Israel Defense Forces Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi in a ceremony at Fort Myer in Washington, D.C. The medal was awarded in honor of Kochavi's achievements in "establishing Israel's position as a leader of groundbreaking operational capabilities in the Middle East," and enhancing the Israeli-American strategic alliance, according to an official statement.

The award was presented by Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley on behalf of the U.S.



Comfort Keepers. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, according to the IDF Spokesperson Unit.

"Through his actions during his tenure as Chief of General Staff, Lt. Gen. Kochavi exemplified the spirit of collaboration and cooperation in furthering the strategic partnership of the United States and the State of Israel," said Milley.

"Lt. Gen. Kochavi solidified Israel's status as a capable and effective regional security leader in the Middle East. Lt. Gen. Kochavi further demonstrated exceptional strategic leadership by capitalizing on the diplomatic initiatives of the Abraham Accords to deepen bilateral military-to-military ties with partners," he added. Kochavi also guided the U.S.-Israeli military-to-military relationship through a transition period, as U.S. European Command handed over its geographic combatant command responsibility for Israel to U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations and regional cooperation in the Middle East. "Kochavi exemplified the close bond between Israel and the United States. Lt. Gen. Kochavi clearly established and shared Israel's strategic defense objectives, in close alignment with U.S. national interests and strategic objectives. Lt. Gen. Kochavi's superior efforts, outstanding leadership, and personal initiative reflect great credit upon himself, the Israel Defense Forces, and his country," said Milley. HW

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Global economic growth is projected to drop from an estimated 6.1% rate in 2021 to 3.2% in 2022, as the world grapples with repercussions from the Russia-Ukraine war and ever-changing conditions wrought by the pandemic. Growth forecasts of 2.3% for the United States and 2.6% for the euro area in 2022 (down from 5.7% and 5.4%, respectively, in 2021) reflect the prospect of supply constraints along with rising inflation and interest rates. China's growth is projected to slow to 3.3% in 2022 from 8.1% in 2021 due to its restrictive zero-COVID strategy and languishing real estate sector.<sup>1</sup>

Investing internationally provides access to growth opportunities outside the United States, which may boost returns and/or enhance diversification in your portfolio. But foreign securities carry additional risks that may result in greater share price volatility; these risks should be carefully managed with your goals and risk tolerance in mind.

### **Foreign Factors**

It's often more complicated for investors to perform due diligence and identify sound investments in unfamiliar and less transparent foreign markets. Plus, there are potential risks that may be unique to a specific country.

**Politics and economic policies.** A nation's political structure, leadership, and regulations may affect the government's influence on the economy and the financial markets.

**Currency exchange.** If a domestic currency is strong against a foreign currency, an investor could gain purchasing power when exchanging to the weaker currency. However, if the foreign currency continues to weaken, any investment gains and the principal may lose value when exchanged back to the domestic currency.

**Financial reporting.** Many developing countries do not follow rigorous U.S. accounting standards, which often makes it more difficult to have a true picture of company and industry performance.

### **Global Strategies**

A relatively simple way to gain entry to foreign markets is with mutual funds or exchange-traded funds (ETFs). The term "ex U.S." or "ex US" typically means that the fund does not include domestic stocks, whereas "global" or "world" funds may include a mix of U.S. and international stocks.

International funds range from broad global funds that attempt to capture



## Mike Stein

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

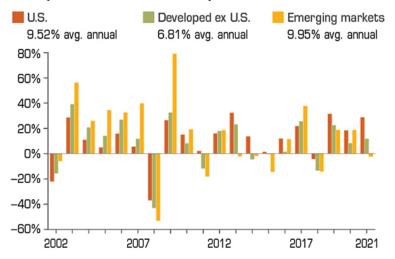
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Mike Stein Managing Director - Investments worldwide economic activity, to regional funds and others that focus on a single country. Some funds are limited to developed nations, whereas others concentrate on nations with emerging (or developing) economies. The stocks of companies located in emerging nations might offer greater growth potential, but they are quite a bit riskier and less liquid than the stocks of companies located in more advanced economies. For any international stock fund, it's important to understand the mix of countries represented

## Global Performance Picture

by the underlying securities.

Over the past 20 years, stocks in emerging markets have slightly outperformed U.S. stocks but have been much more volatile. Stocks of developed economies outside the United States have lagged domestic stocks over the 20-year period by a wide margin, but still outperformed in nine of those 20 years.



Stock market performance, 2002–2021 (annual total returns and average annual returns)

Source: Refinitiv, 2022, for the period 12/31/2001 to 12/31/2021. U.S. stocks are represented by the S&P 500 Composite Total Return Index, developed ex U.S. stocks are represented by the MSCI EAFE GTR Index, and emerging market stocks are represented by the MSCI EM GTR Index; all are considered representative of their asset classes. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific investment. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. Rates of return will vary over time, especially for long-term investments. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Actual results will vary.

It may be tempting to increase your exposure to a booming foreign market, however chasing performance might cause you to buy shares at high prices and suffer more severe losses when conditions shift. If you decide to spread your investment dollars around the world, be prepared to hold tight during bouts of market volatility. Still, you should rebalance your portfolio periodically to help ensure that your exposure to international stocks has not drifted too far from your intended allocation – to the detriment of your long-term investment strategy.

Investors should keep in mind that selling investments in a taxable account could result in a tax liability. Diversification is a method used to help manage investment risk; it does not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss. The return and principal value of all stocks, mutual funds, and ETFs fluctuate with changes in market conditions. Shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Supply and demand for ETF shares may cause them to trade at a premium or a discount relative to the value of the underlying shares.

Mutual funds and ETFs are sold by prospectus. Please consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus, which contains this and other information about the investment company, can be obtained from your financial professional. Be sure to read the prospectus carefully before deciding whether to invest.

1) International Monetary Fund, 2022

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## As Elon Musk Polled Users, Donald Trump Tells Jewish Republicans He Sees 'No Reason' to Go Back to Twitter

### By Ron Kampeas

LAS VEGAS (JTA) – As Elon Musk polled Twitter users about whether he should reinstate Donald Trump's account, the former president told Jewish Republicans last Saturday that he saw "no reason" to go back to the platform, saying his competing social media outlet had "smart voices," including pro-Israel voices.

The CEO of the Republican Jewish Coalition had asked Trump, who was addressing the group's conference via video from his Florida home, about the poll.

"I don't know if you've been following. Twitter is blowing up today: Elon Musk posted a poll that had over 13 million respondents so far, asking whether or not you should be reinstated on Twitter," Brooks said. "My question to you is what do you think about Elon Musk buying Twitter? And if you are reinstated, will we see you back on Twitter again?"

Trump responded with something of a demurral.

"I don't see any reason for it. There are a lot of problems in Twitter, you see what's going on," he said. "They may or may not make it but the problems are terrible. The engagements are negative. And you have a lot of bots and you have a lot of fake accounts."

Trump said he liked Musk, but he preferred Truth Social, the platform he launched after Twitter banned him following the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, by Trump's supporters.

Twitter had long made efforts to remove bots and hate speech, though watchdogs said it needed to do more. But after Musk took over the company in recent weeks, he fired thousands of workers and many others have quit, including the executives responsible for ensuring that the platform is free of hate. The social platform is seen as vulnerable to collapse.

"Truth Social is through the roof, it's

doing phenomenally well," Trump said of his platform, which is also reportedly near collapse.

Trump also played up what he said were pro-Israel voices on the platform he owns.

"It's taking care of voices that really want to be taken care of and really smart voices, brilliant voices that in many cases are both sides, but I can tell you there's a lot of voice for Israel and power for Israel," he said.

"Truth Social has taken its place for a lot of people and I don't see them going back onto Twitter," Trump said.

Hours later Musk announced that as a result of his poll, he would restore Trump to the platform.

"The people have spoken," he said of his unscientific poll, in which more than 15 million Twitter accounts voted, 51.8% of them in favor of reinstating Trump. He added: "Vox populi, vox dei," Latin for "voice of the people, voice of God."

Trump in his RJC talk invoked a number of tropes that have drawn criticism from Jewish groups in the past. He conflated his American Jewish audience with Israelis, saying that Biden administration officials "don't even listen to your leaders" and saying that critics of Israel in Congress are "more powerful than the Israeli coalition."

He also repeated falsehoods that the 2020 presidential election was "rigged" and said that if he remained in power he would have expanded the Abraham Accords, the deal he brokered normalizing relations between Israel and four Arab countries, to "10, 12, 14 [Arab countries], we would have had maybe all of them ... we could have truly had peace in the Middle East."

The Biden administration has pledged to expand the Abraham Accords, one of its rare foreign policy agreements with the Trump administration. **HW** 





Thelma Ruth Waller Greenberg (Shainberg)

Thelma Ruth Waller Greenberg (Shainberg) was born on April 2, 1928, and died peacefully at The Village at Germantown on November 18, 2022, with family by her side.

She grew up in New Madrid, Mo., the oldest child of Rose and Jake Shainberg. After completing all the classes offered at the New Madrid High School by 11th grade, she headed off to Stephens College, The University of Miami, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Memphis State.

Thelma married Howard Waller in 1950, and they reared their three children on E. Parkway N. before moving to Sarasota, Fla.

Wherever she was, she was active in Temple activities and cherished her Mah Jong games.

Several years after moving back to Memphis, Howard died, leaving her widowed at age 53. She became a career woman, finding her work for AL-SAC most fulfilling and the source of lifelong friendships. In 2004, Thelma married Ed Greenberg, who along with his deceased wife, Bettye, had been lifelong friends of the Wallers. They enjoyed nine years together until Ed's passing in 2013.

Thelma was a member of Temple Israel, Temple Israel Sisterhood, Salon Circle, and a founding member of the Temple Israel Sisterhood Saturday Book Club. In addition to Howard and Ed, Thelma was predeceased by her parents, her brother, Vic Shainberg, and her oldest son, Jay.

She is survived by her children, Susan Stein (Saul) and Rick Waller, grandchildren Jonathan (Vanessa,) Jeremy and Neri, and great-grandchildren, Elli and Jacob. She's also survived by stepsons Bart Greenberg (Susan) and Charles Greenberg (Nancy) and their families.

If you wish to send a donation in her memory, please consider sending it to Salon Circle. Contact the Jewish Foundation of Memphis for specific instructions at 901.767.7100, jcpmemphis.org/foundation, or a charity of the donor's choice. We wish to express our profound appreciation to the staff of The Village at Germantown and Hospice of Hope for helping Thelma complete a life well lived. Funeral services were held on Sunday, November 20, 2022, at Levy-Cooper Chapel in Temple Israel Cemetery. **HW** 



Arnold Asher Manis

With a heavy heart, we announce the passing of Arnold Asher Manis, 85, on November 3, 2022.

A beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, Arnold is survived by his wife of 60 years, Bayla Goldberg Manis; a daughter, Terri Manis Struminger (Scot); two granddaughters, Jodie and Brittany Struminger; and a sister, Marcia Manis Fisher (Tom). He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe Manis and Rebecca and Marcus Mogy; a daughter, Jennifer Lynn Manis; and a brother, Irving Manis.

Born July 7, 1937, Arnold was a lifelong Memphian, leaving only when he decided to serve his country by joining the United States Army and relocating to Oklahoma. After three years of active service, Arnold returned home, went on the road for a brief time selling check writers with a friend, and then joined the family grocery business where his primary motivation was taking care of his family. He retired nearly 20 years ago after having been a grocery store owner in three different locations throughout the Memphis area.

Arnold had time for a few hobbies during his lifetime, cultivating a love for playing poker. He first gained his skills as a teenager in games with friends, then further honed his passion for poker in a sought-after 10-man home game each Monday night as an adult. Once the casinos arrived in Tunica in the early '90s, though, he would be seen playing poker there several nights each week. He claimed that playing poker relaxed him.

Once retired, Arnold spent a lot of his time on the treadmill either at his home or at the Memphis Jewish Community Center, proudly logging at least 10,000 steps each day on his pedometer. Those who knew him best knew that whatever Arnold did, he was disciplined about it and went "all in."

Arnold had a commanding presence. Tall in stature and with that signature white hair, he was easily recognizable and drew others to him. People loved Arnold's smile and said they always felt welcomed by him in his presence. His absence is felt by all who loved him. A funeral took place on Sunday, November 6, 2022, with burial in Baron Hirsch Cemetery. The family requests that donations be made to Baron Hirsch Synagogue, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or a charity of the donor's choice. **HW** 

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## **Those Almost Jewish Puritans**



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

### By Ted Roberts

I know Thanksgiving has come and gone – just like spring. But I'm still reflecting on its meaning to us ex-Israelites. So, why is it important for us American Jews of 2008 to know that in 1649, a Puritan couple, asked for a repeal of Edward I's Act of Jewish banishment – in effect for 350 years? The key fact is their Puritanism – a form of Christianity – that accented the Old Testament and drove them to sympathy with Judaism. It was the core of the faith of those who founded our America.

All this reminds me of the best theological secret of the past millennium – especially to Jews. It concerns those wandering, persecuted Puritans. Strange people. Revolutionary in their religious beliefs. They loved the Old Testament – our Humash – they clung to it with passion.

Before you slice into your traditionally rare, half-done turkey, next Thanksgiving give a thought to those strange birds, the Pilgrims. What a rare breed they were – typical of the exotics who stand the world on its head. Hacking, sniffing, trembling with chills in the late New England fall, they sat down to the first Thanksgiving. They gave thanks, as we do, before every meal. More prayerful than usual because it was their Seder equivalent. And so, what if half of them had fluttered skyward that year? Those celestial beings were happier than the earthly survivors, since they were wrapped in warm clouds and dined to their full at heavenly tables. So, laugh and dance like the Hasids. You see, they believed in Heaven.

The secret of their Jewish leanings is not widely known to most rabbis and their flock. These alienated folks left the 17th Century urbanity of London for the stone-cold wilderness of savage North America. The "New Zion," they called it - does that give you a clue? "The Puritans' mania for the Old Testament developed directly out of their experience of persecution by the established church." So says Barbara Tuchman in "Bible and Sword." Tuchman is a famed historian highly respected by her colleagues. And she verifies, by chapter and verse, my vague suspicions that our American forefathers were SO Jewish that you wonder why the old pictures don't show them in yarmulke and teffilin.

Historians are well aware of this, though most of us Jews aren't. But I never knew the details until I was spellbound by Tuchman's book. Fleeing persecution, they saw themselves as 16th Century Israelites; named their

## Steny Hoyer, Longtime Pro-Israel Democrat, Steps Down from House Leadership Role



House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, a Maryland Democtrat, is pursued by reporters as he leaves a Democratic whip meeting at the U.S. Capitol, Nov. 17, 2022. Credit: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

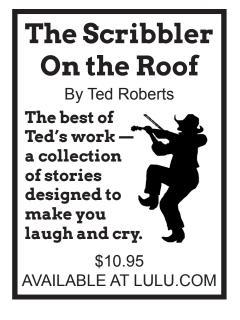
### **By Ron Kampeas**

(JTA) – Steny Hoyer, the longtime No. 2 leader of Democrats in the U.S.

would say they disagreed on plenty, but they both agreed on support for Israel. kids Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca. Did you know that the seal of Yale and Harvard is in Hebrew of all things. "They paid a respect to the Hebrew language that they refused to the language of their gospels ...." Tuchman tells us. Even McCauley, the greatest of English historians, rants about their "Hebraic leanings." It was no secret - they flew the flag of Moses and metaphorically, culturally waged war with Episcopal Christianity. Another historian, Cunningham, sums it up neatly: "The general tendency of Puritanism was to discard Christian morality and to substitute Jewish habits in its stead." How many pulpit rabbis know this and preach it to their flock? No wonder that America, of all our homes through time and space, has given us such comfort. It's roots, nurtured by Judaism, are ours.

Let me not exaggerate these persecuted Puritans. Though quick to see the analogous relationship between Pharaoh and English Monarch, they remained Christians in name and deed if not in attitude and world view. This hatred of the ruler, King James, led them to a love of republicanism that was the most significant freight in that floundering tub, the Mayflower. "The judicial laws of Moses are binding on Christian Princes" was one of their articles of faith. So stated the Bishop of London.

And the G-d of those rebels was the thunderer of Exodus, not the gentle deity who inspired Jesus, that gentle Jew.



And they saw him as just that, a Jew; and like them, a target of the whip, the lash.

The Tuchman book deals with more than Puritanism and its Jewish leaning. It has much more to say about the British culture and politics that led up to the Balfour declaration and the State of Israel. But the revelations of our Puritan forbears are fascinating. I don't work on commission, so you can reach for your wallet when I tell you every Jew should read it.

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** 

## Teenager Killed, 22 Injured in Jerusalem Bus Stop Bombings, the First in Years

### **By Philissa Cramer**

(JTA) – Two bombs rocked bus stops at crowded entrances to Jerusalem early last Wednesday morning, killing a teenager and sending about 20 people to the hospital, some in serious condition.

The fatality was a 16-year-old yeshiva student named Aryeh Shtsupak from Har Nof, a largely Orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem. He may have held Canadian and American citizenship, according to local media reports.

The attacks represented the first time in years that terrorists used bombs in a deadly assault against Israelis, and police say they believe the bombs were detonated remotely. In recent months, Israel has seen a wave of terrorist attacks comprised mostly of stabbings and car rammings, including in an attack in the West Bank last week that consisted of both and killed three people. Tight Israeli security is credited with thwarting terrorists' use Also last Wednesday, an Israeli Arab 18-year-old who was involved in a serious car accident near Jenin a day earlier and was then hospitalized in Jenin before dying was seized by armed militants who entered the healthcare facility and snatched the man's body. His father said the teenager died when the militants disconnected him from medical equipment to take him away. Another Israeli Arab man who had been involved in the car accident was then relocated to Rambam hospital in Haifa.

The security situation was among the top issues in this month's national election that gave Benjamin Netanyahu, the former prime minister, a mandate to form a new government, which he is in the process of doing now. The current prime minister, Yair Lapid, planned last Wednesday to brief Netanyahu about the security situation afternoon. Meanwhile, a right-wing politician who is angling for a Cabinet position in charge of security in the new government traveled to the scene of one of the bombings to call for a heavy response to terror attacks, including targeted killings and curfews on the towns from which attackers are seen to have come. "It's time to establish a right-wing government as soon as possible," Itamar Ben-Gvir, head of the Otzma Yehudit party, said at the scene. "Terror does not wait." Among those injured in the blasts were a classmate of Shtsupak who was seriously wounded. (Shtsupak's name has appeared with multiple English spellings.) Uri Pilichowski, an American rabbi who moved to the West Bank and has used his social media presence to try to explain the perspective of Jewish settlers, said his teenage daughter was injured in one of the blasts. "Thank God she is fine, just a small cut," he tweeted last Wednesday morning. HW

House of Representatives who was known for decades for his closeness to AIPAC, is stepping down from his leadership position.

Hoyer, 83, the current majority leader, has been close for decades to Maryland's Jewish community. He announced his departure last Thursday, the same day that Nancy Pelosi, the House Speaker, also said she would leave the leadership. Both were reelected to Congress this month and will serve out their terms. (Both also served together as interns in 1963 in the office of late Maryland Sen. Daniel Brewster.)

Hoyer and Pelosi are stepping down after Democrats narrowly lost the House to Republicans in Nov. 8 midterm elections.

Hoyer for years led a show of a solidarity at the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, appearing with a counterpart in the Republican leadership, in which both They would often use the occasion to announce bipartisan pro-Israel legislation or initiatives.

He also led for years a tour of Democratic freshmen to Israel. In recent years, his staunch pro-Israel views lost favor among some progressive Democrats who are more critical of Israel, and in 2019, Michigan's Rashida Tlaib said she would lead a competing trip to the Palestinian areas. She was stymied when then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heeded a demand from then-President Donald Trump not to allow her into the country.

Hoyer did not always hew to AIPAC's line. In 2015 he opposed the group's signature agenda item that year, which was to kill the Iran nuclear deal advanced by Democratic President Barack Obama.

In his letter announcing his resignation, Hoyer endorsed as Democratic leader New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, who is also close to AIPAC. **HW**  of more sophisticated attack methods, and last Wednesday's bombings are being seen as a failure of Israeli security.

Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad praised the attack but did not take responsibility for it. The Palestinian militant groups have claimed responsibility for previous attacks but said this one reflected "a natural response" to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and "its criminal practices" related to Muslim holy sites.

The bombings come amid the deadliest year in nearly a decade for Israelis and Palestinians, following a wave of terrorist attacks in the spring and an intense response by Israel's army. The army has said most of the people killed in the raids it has conducted in the West Bank, including the city of Jenin, which is controlled by militants, have been involved in terrorism; some, including the Palestinian-American journalism Shireen Abu Akleh, were not.



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

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