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THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 27 NISSAN, 5782 APRIL 28, 2022 VOL. 100, NO. 34

Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South to Honor Herman and Bobbie Goldberger Editors Emeriti of The Hebrew Watchman: ‘Dean of Jewish Journalism’ in America Gary Rosenblatt to Highlight Zoom Program



Gary Rosenblatt

The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South (JHS) will honor Herman and Bobbie Goldberger, editors emeriti of The Hebrew Watchman, on Sunday afternoon, May 15, 2022, at 2 p.m. CT.

At the Zoom program and as a tribute to the Goldbergers, Gary Rosenblatt, often referred to as the “dean of Jewish Journalism” in America and former editor of The Jewish Week of New York, will discuss the role of a Jewish journalist and Jewish newspapers in a special conversation with JHS board member and lay leader David Krueger. The program is entitled “Confessions of a Jewish Journalist.”

“JHS is thrilled to recognize the out-

standing service of Bobbie and Herman Goldberger and the Goldberger family for founding, editing and publishing The Hebrew Watchman from 1925-2020,” said Lorraine Wolf, president of the Society.

“It will be a pleasure to welcome Gary Rosenblatt, who will both entertain and inform us about past and present issues facing the Jewish community and the challenges of writing about them. We also appreciate David’s helping to moderate this program.”

Gary served as editor and publisher of The Jewish Week of New York for 26 years. Before that, he was editor of the Baltimore Jewish Times for 19 years.

Gary continues to write his “Between the Lines” column, ranging from investigative reporting to humor, on Substack.

Gary has received many awards for his writing over the years and was one of two finalists for a Pulitzer Prize in 1985 for an investigative piece on the Simon Wiesenthal Center. It was the first time an entry from the Jewish media was recognized in the competition. Gary’s award-winning reporting in 2000 on a well-known rabbi accused of abusing teens in his charge for more than three decades, resulting in the rabbi’s conviction and imprisonment, is seen



Bobby and Herman Goldberger, editors emeriti of The Hebrew Watchman 1925-2020

as a watershed in the ongoing effort to expose sexual abuse in the community.

Gary is the founder and past chair of several Jewish Week educational projects, including Write on For Israel, which prepares high school students for the challenges on campus about Mid-east issues, and The Conversation, an annual retreat bringing together a wide range of accomplished Jews for off-the-record discussions. He also helped found Fresh Ink for Teens, The Jewish Week’s Community Forums and The

Jewish Week Investigative Journalism Fund.

His 2013 book, “Between the Lines: Reflections on the American Jewish Experience,” is a collection gathered from more than 1,500 columns he has written.

Gary and his wife, Judy, live in Riverdale, N.Y. and are the proud parents of three children and 10 grandchildren.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information and for the Zoom link, visit jhsmem.org. [HW](#)

Mayor of Boca Raton Decries Anti-Semitic Fliers Found Near Homes During Passover

(JNS) – Police are investigating after anti-Semitic fliers with a photo of Adolf Hitler on them were left outside homes last Wednesday morning in Boca Raton, Fla.

On the fliers, which were placed in plastic bags and filed with corn nibs, Hitler’s image was followed by the words, “Died fighting the human race’s

eternal enemy, the Jew.”

They came on the birthday of the leader of Nazi Germany.

Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer tweeted: “Angry that this AM a cowardly hatemonger left anti-Semitic and pro-Hitler fliers in driveways at homes on four streets in our city. We fully condemn this vile hate. Boca PD inves-


tigating. Unusual here; unacceptable anywhere. We stand strong and united against all bigotry and anti-Semitism.”

Rep. Ted Deutch (D-Fla.) also posted on social media about the incident, writing “these were ‘delivered’ to homes in Boca Raton, Fla.” on the fifth day of Passover. “Hitler attempted to eradicate the Jews from the earth. His Nazis

slaughtered 6 million Jews.”

“This vile anti-Semitism must be universally condemned,” he continued. “And the cowards spreading this hate must be held accountable.”

Earlier this week, anti-Semitic fliers were left on homes in Beverly Hills and Pittsburgh’s Squirrel Hill neighborhood. [HW](#)



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The Lowdown on Bornblum’s Chametz Hoedown



Students, parents and staff enjoy Bornblum’s Chametz Hoedown

By Eli Ostrow

Bornblum Jewish Community School hosted its very first Chametz hoedown on Tuesday, April 12.

The event featured a teacher auction, tasty kosher eats, line dancing and fun activities for the whole family.

The Chametz hoedown had a western theme, and parents and kids were encouraged to dress up in their best western outfits.

“It’s really nice seeing everyone in the Bornblum community without masks since COVID,” said Bornblum parent Marni Garhan. “It’s super fun seeing the kids dancing and everyone having a

good time.”

The teacher auction featured fun experiences, such as become the Head of School (Dr. Weiss) for a day, or a pool party with three staff members.

“The events were fun, and there’s a lot of people,” said sixth grader Ellis Jaffe. “It’s super creative. I like the teacher auction. It’s a great opportunity to get to know your teachers. I want to bid on the lunch with Mrs. Osher.”

The top-selling item earning \$300 was to be first-grade Judaic studies teacher Morah Sharabi for the day.

Great job Bornblum! **HW**

Hillel’s Yiddishe Cup Engages Community for a Day of Putt-Putt



Seth Wanderman, Tahlee Yichye and Aaron Bardos

By Eli Ostrow

On Sunday, April 10, 2022, Hillel of Memphis hosted its annual fundraiser, the Yiddishe Cup.

The Yiddishe Cup is a community-wide golf tournament and is also Hillel’s biggest fundraising event of the year.

The tournament took place at Putt Putt Golf and Games and was open to the community.

Students from both University of Memphis and Rhodes Hillel showed up along with members of the Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity of University of Memphis.

“I’m very happy to see that everyone

is having a good time,” said student president at University of Memphis Hillel Aaron Bardos. “The event is super fun. I hope I win. The trophy seems pretty sweet.”

University students enjoyed free games of mini golf and complimentary snacks.

Hillel Director Sophie Bloch was thrilled with the turnout and the success of the fundraiser.

“This is my first Yiddishe Cup,” said Hillel’s social media student director Rachel Chernitzer. “I had tons of fun, I cannot wait for the next one, who knows I might even win this year.” **HW**

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4/28/2022



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. April 29, 2022 / 28 Nissan, 5782.....7:26 p.m.
Havdallah, Sat. April 30, 2022 / 29 Nissan, 5782 8:25 p.m.

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Daniel Snyder and Sophie Bloch man the trophy table



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Gwyneth Paltrow Funds Historical Signboard at Her Jewish Ancestors’ Cemetery in Poland



Gwyneth Paltrow attends Hollywood Unites for the 4th Biennial Stand Up for Cancer at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Calif., Sept. 5, 2014. Credit: Frederick M. Brown/Getty Images
By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) – Movie star Gwyneth Paltrow has funded a sign chronicling the history of the Jews in her ancestors’ hometown in Poland.

The informational signboard – as the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, which is leading the project, called it in a statement – was unveiled last Tuesday at the Jewish cemetery of Nowogród in northeastern Poland.

The sign “recounts the history of the Jewish community dating back to the 15th century as well as the creation of the cemetery in the late 18th century, and the destruction of the local Jewish community and its cemetery” during and after the Holocaust.

Paltrow’s father’s family descends from Nowogród, according to research done for the 2011 episode of the celebrity genealogy TV show “Who Do You Think You Are?”

Paltrow’s great-great-grandfather Simon Paltrovich, who went by Simcha, had immigrated from Eastern Europe to the United States, she said during the show, and she discovered that Simcha’s father,

Hirsch, was also a rabbi in Nowogród.

Hirsch Palterovich, who was murdered in the Holocaust, was remembered by survivors from Nowogród as a courageous man who singlehandedly put out a fire that threatened to consume the entire Jewish neighborhood of the town, Paltrow learned on the show. He was also a Kabbalah expert.

“This is kind of blowing my mind. Because I study Kabbalah. I can just feel how his spirituality is coming off the page,” she said on the show.

Paltrow, who won an Oscar for best actress in 1999’s “Shakespeare in Love,” was particularly attached to her father, director and producer Bruce Paltrow, who died in 2002, she said.

“My dad was the love of my life until he died. My father really instilled in me the importance of unconditional love and support, and to treat your family with love and respect because they’re your family,” she said on “Who Do You Think You Are.”

“And you know, those are the ties that bind.” **HW**

Liev Schreiber will Play Anne Frank’s Father in New Disney+ Series

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Jewish actor Liev Schreiber will play Anne Frank’s father Otto in a new Disney+ limited series, the latest dramatization of the Frank family’s harrowing life in hiding from the Nazis.

The eight-episode miniseries, “A Small Light,” is being produced by the National Geographic Channel, which is owned by Disney. It will follow Miep Gies, Otto’s non-Jewish Dutch employee, who along with her husband, Jan, hid the Frank family in her secret annex for two years to evade the Nazi authorities. Following the family’s discovery and deportation to the concentration camps, Gies also discovered and preserved Anne’s diary for Otto, the family’s sole survivor, to publish after the war.

Gies is often referred to as the Frank family’s “protector” – the series title comes from a quote attributed to her late in life.

Bel Powley, who like Schreiber has a Jewish mother, will star as Gies, who died in 2010 at the age of 100. Powley’s breakout role was as the star of a very different “Diary”: “The Diary of a Teenage Girl,” a sexually frank coming-of-age drama from 2015. British actor Joe Cole, who appeared in the Netflix drama series “Peaky Binders,” will play Jan.

Schreiber, who played a growly Hollywood fixer on the long-running Showtime series “Ray Donovan,” has appeared in Holocaust projects before. He co-starred in the 2008 thriller “Defiance,” about three Jewish brothers who formed a guerrilla group to fight the Nazis, and he had a supporting role as a boxer in the 1999 concentration camp drama “Jakob the Liar.”

“A Small Light” is set to begin shooting this summer in Amsterdam and Prague. It is far from the only Anne Frank project in recent years: “My Best Friend Anne Frank,” a Dutch film about Hannah Goslar, another figure in the Franks’ orbit, premiered on Netflix earlier this year, and a controversial new animated adaptation of Frank’s diary premiered last year at the Cannes Film Festival from Israeli director Ari Folman. **HW**

Israeli Police Block Jewish Protest in Jerusalem

(JNS) – Israeli Police blocked a right-wing flag march through Jerusalem last Wednesday that participants said was a response to what they see as a weak government reaction to Arab violence in the Old City.

The police said they allowed the marchers to walk towards the Jaffa Gate, though hundreds tried to pass by the police barricade. Police removed dozens of young protesters that had gathered near the Damascus Gate area to prevent tensions from rising.

Members of the Israeli government called the march, which was joined by Knesset member Itamar Ben-Gvir of the far-right Otzma Yehudit Party, a “provocation.”

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett had ordered police to block Ben-Gvir from reaching the Damascus Gate, the entrance to the Muslim Quarter.

Ben-Gvir later tweeted last Wednesday evening: “Surrender to terrorism invites further surrender and missiles. You chose disgrace; you received disgrace.” **HW**

Birth Announcement

Emma Claire Paller

Laura Kaplan Paller and Jeffrey Paller of Memphis are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Emma Claire (Eliana Meirah), who was born on Wednesday, April 13. Welcoming her home was big sister Sadie.

Her grandparents are Mary Anna and Michael Kaplan of Memphis, Tenn. and Amy and Barry Paller of Germantown, Tenn. Her great-grandmother is Shirley Paller of Memphis. **HW**

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Temple Israel and Church Health Host a Community Celebration of Passover and Maundy Thursday



Rev. Joshua Narcisse, Carly Abramson and Rabbi Jeff Dreifus

Temple Israel’s Rabbi Jeff Dreifus and Carly Abramson, in partnership with Church Health’s Director of Spiritual Care, Rev. Joshua Narcisse, organized and hosted an interfaith service to celebrate the common origins and values uniting the Jewish and Christian faith traditions.

On April 14, guests had the opportunity to learn about the messages of the Christian holiday of Maundy Thursday

and the Jewish holiday of Passover at Crosstown Concourse. After the service, Rabbi Dreifus and Carly Abramson led a demonstration-seder where guests could taste traditional Jewish foods like matzah ball soup and gefilte fish. The event was a moment of community and connection and reminded all that despite our many differences, we have much in common, and we are always stronger when we come together. [HW](#)



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Florida Man Defaces Miami Holocaust Memorial with Own Blood

(JNS) – Police have arrested a man in Florida who cut his arm open and used his blood to deface the Holocaust Memorial of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

Witnesses saw Christopher Green, 44, dig into his left forearm to make it bleed and then wipe his blood all over the wall of the memorial on April 12, according to a police report cited by Florida’s Local10.

Police said Green, who is homeless, “wrote numerous letters of the alphabet in his blood. The letters he wrote did not spell anything readable.”

He left the scene of the crime but was arrested by police two days later on April 14.

Green appeared in court on Friday and was ordered to stay away from the memorial and its surrounding area. He was charged with one count of criminal mischief on a place of worship and is being held on a \$5,000 bond. [HW](#)

Jewish Women in Medieval Iberia: Beth Sholom Lehrhaus Speaker Series Features Professor Sarah Ifft Decker, Rhodes College Department of History



Professor Sarah Ifft Decker

Jewish women in past eras were not passive subjects of history. In her scholarship as well as her popular podcast, Professor Sarah Ifft Decker draws on available sources to argue that women in medieval Spain were in fact active participants in the shaping of their own lives and of the world around them. Professor Ifft Decker will explore the lived experience of medieval Jewish women in her upcoming talk in the Lehrhaus speaker series sponsored by Beth Sholom Synagogue on May 2 at 7 p.m.

Professor Ifft Decker’s presentation is titled: *Gender, Money and Power: Jewish Women in Medieval Catalan Cities*.

Popular portrayals of the medieval past often imagine a world in which misogyny and oppression kept women inside the home. As Professor Ifft Decker contends, the reality was much more complicated: medieval Jewish women,

much like the Christian and Muslim women around them, bought and sold property, borrowed and loaned money, and worked at a variety of trades, from silkweaving to baking to wetnursing. This talk will focus on the particular example of Jewish women in the cities of medieval Catalonia, using case studies to highlight how medieval power structures could limit women – but could also empower them.

Professor Ifft Decker’s presentation is scheduled to take place at Beth Sholom. It will also be streamed live on Facebook.

Dr. Sarah Ifft Decker is Assistant Professor of History at Rhodes College, where she teaches courses on interactions between Jews, Christians and Muslims in the medieval world. She will have two books released in 2022: “Jewish Women in the Medieval World,” a survey and sourcebook, and “The Fruit of Her Hands: Jewish and Christian Women’s Work in Medieval Catalan Cities.” Dr. Ifft Decker also addresses popular perceptions of the medieval past in her public-audience podcast, Media-eval: A Medieval Pop Culture Podcast.

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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Morgan Ortagus Slams Tennessee Pol for Saying She Got Trump’s Endorsement Because She’s Jewish



Morgan Ortagus speaks at the 2021 Concordia Annual Summit in New York City, Sept. 21, 2021. Credit: Riccardo Savi/Getty Images for Concordia Summit

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – Morgan Ortagus, the one-time spokeswoman for the State Department who is former President Donald Trump’s favored candidate in the primaries for a Nashville-area U.S. House seat,

slammed a state politician who implied Trump’s Jewish daughter and son-in-law had a hand in securing her the coveted endorsement because she is Jewish. The state GOP kicked Ortagus off the

ballot this week because she had only moved to the state last year. “I don’t think Trump cares one way or the other,” State Sen. Frank Niceley told NBC in an interview from last month that it only made public last Wednesday. “I think Jared Kushner – he’s Jewish, she’s Jewish – I think Jared will be upset. Ivanka [Trump] will be upset. I don’t think Trump cares.” Niceley was already under fire for saying in a recent speech that the homeless should emulate Adolf Hitler, who Niceley said made something of himself after living for a period on the streets. Ortagus told NBC that Niceley should “be ashamed of his repeated antisemitic rhetoric.” “Senator Niceley’s repulsive words could not be more clear in disparaging the Jewish people,” she said. “This racism cannot stand.” Ortagus has said she is considering challenging the Republican party’s decision. The incumbent, Jim Cooper, a Democrat, is retiring because he be-

lieves that redistricting has made the state’s 5th district too tough for a Democrat to win. Niceley denied his intent was antisemitic. “Let me be clear: I have nothing but respect for the Jewish people and the State of Israel,” Niceley told NBC. “Attempting to construe my off-hand comments about the Trump family as antisemitism is unfair and inaccurate.” A number of Tennessee Trump backers have reportedly targeted Ortagus because – like many officials who eventually embraced Trump – she criticized him while working for a rival in the primaries ahead of the 2016 election. According to NBC, she has also been targeted because the late Supreme Court justice, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, a Jewish liberal, officiated at her wedding. A spokesman for Trump told The Tennessean this week that the former president stood by his endorsement of Ortagus, and rejected any insinuation otherwise. **HW**

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Palestinian Adviser to Abbas: Jews not Connected to Land, ‘Occupation’ to Disappear



Mahmoud Al-Habbash, a senior adviser to Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas. Credit: MEMRI

(JNS) – Mahmoud Al-Habbash, a senior adviser to Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas, claimed in a Friday sermon in Ramallah last week that the land of Israel belonged to the Palestinians since before the Natufians, Canaanites and Jebusites. According to a report by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), in his April 15 sermon that aired on

Palestine TV, he said that just like the Greeks, the Romans, the Persians and the Crusaders, Israeli oversight would come to an end. Habbash said: “This occupation will also disappear, while Jerusalem will remain. Jerusalem is going through one of its darkest times, facing one of the worst aggressions against it, which is carried out by a gang that has gathered from all corners of the Earth, even though it has no connection or relation whatsoever to this land.” According to MEMRI, he added that “this land belonged to us even before the Natufians, the Canaanites, the Jebusites and the early Palestinians, and it belongs to us today, following the Islamic conquest and liberation.” “It belongs to us today and will belong to us tomorrow until Allah ‘will inherit the Earth and all beings thereon.’” **HW**

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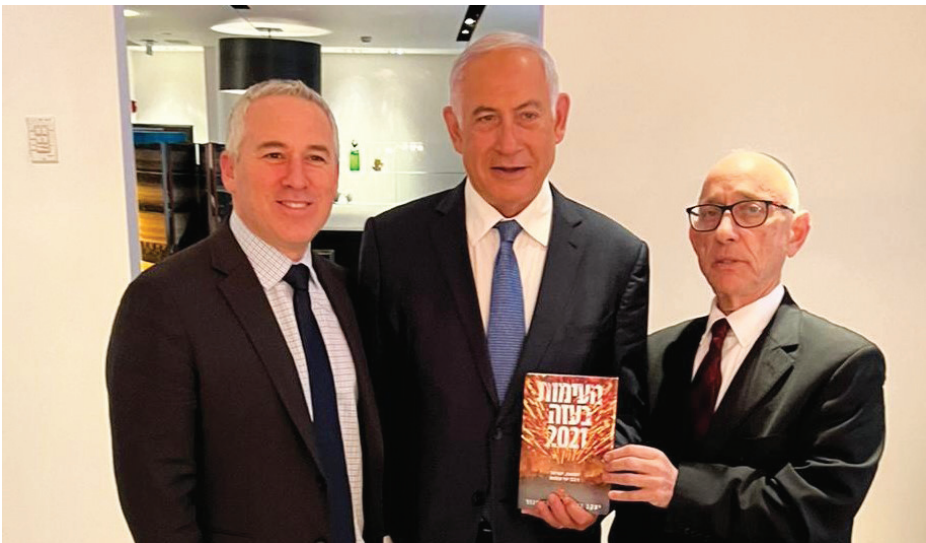
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‘Nuclear Deal on the Table Must not be Signed,’ Urges Ex-Israeli National Security Adviser



Jonathan Schanzer, vice president of research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies; former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; and Brig. Gen. (res.) Professor Jacob Nagel, former acting national security adviser to Netanyahu and former head of Israel’s National Security Council. Credit: Courtesy.

By Yaakov Lappin

(JNS) – The current draft of the Iran nuclear deal should “not be signed under any circumstances,” a former Israeli national security adviser has warned.

Brig. Gen. (res.) Professor Jacob Nagel, who served as acting national security adviser to former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and who was the former head of Israel’s National Security Council, told JNS that the best outcome would be a scenario in which divisions between the Iranians and Americans prevent a signature from going ahead.

This is due to the weakness of the proposed arrangement, he said, and the

manner in which it would advance the Islamic Republic to an alarming nuclear threshold status and beyond in the near future.

Instead, he said, other steps are necessary to stop the Iranian nuclear program, which will soon have enough uranium enriched at the 60% level for a first atomic bomb, he stated.

“When will we know that the Iranians have gone too far? I believe we are approaching that point,” he said. “Some believe that the more time Israel gets [before action is necessary], the more capabilities it will have. Of course,

this is true, but I say that the more we wait, the more likely it is that we will find ourselves building a stable door for horses that already bolted.”

Nagel, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, noted the intense and desperate attempts by U.S. Special Envoy to Iran Robert Malley, who is leading the American negotiations team, to salvage the deal.

In an effort to get past the current impasse in negotiations, the reports are that Malley has recently proposed that the Iranian overseas Quds Force, which funds, trains and arms terror organizations across the Middle East, remains on America’s Foreign Terrorist Organization list, while the larger Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is removed from the terror list.

Yet members of the Biden administration and some in the Congress (including within the Democratic Party) would be resistant to such an arrangement, assessed Nagel.

“Everything Iran is doing is based on four pillars,” he said. “The first is that they perceive President [Joe] Biden and his administration as being weak, and that despite America’s capabilities, he will not order an attack. The second is the Iranian assessment that Israel does not have the full ability to attack – an assumption that is backed by some irresponsible interviews by ex-Israeli officials.”

Nagel didn’t confirm or deny classified information but said that “if he was an Iranian, I would be very careful in adopting it. The Iranians also believe that Israel won’t attack alone.”

The third pillar of Iran’s nuclear policy is based on an assumption that Teh-

ran can continue to weather economic storms caused by sanctions.

“And fourth, they see no real threat to themselves, their regime, or their families, said Nagel. “Hence, if these four pillars are not demolished, the Iranians will continue insisting on their crazy demands at the negotiations table.”

‘I’m not optimistic’

Much has been said in recent weeks about the need for the United States and Israel to work together on a “Plan B” in case an agreement does not materialize and the Iranian nuclear program continues to burst ahead. While Nagel agreed that such a plan is necessary, he was not very optimistic that it would see active American participation.


“This plan requires the combination of many efforts – physical attacks, cyber attacks, economic warfare, media pressure, international pressure and the prevention of many aspects of the nuclear program, alongside a cyber-cognitive campaign inside Iran and other steps. There are several parameters that make up such a plan. Will Biden opt for this? I’m not optimistic,” said Nagel.

Despite the official break in the nuclear talks, he added, Washington and Tehran are continuously holding unofficial contacts to look for a breakthrough, leading to a signature that could occur at any time – or never.

“Biden is preoccupied with Russia and Ukraine, and with other priorities such as China, inflation, COVID, economy and more. The Iranians understand this and exploit that fact,” said Nagel. “Malley, who is in charge of talks, is all of the time trying to force an agreement. I do not think Israel’s answers [for its security needs] will come from here.” **HW**

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ETFs Are Gaining on Mutual Funds: Here’s Why

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors.
Questions for Mike? Reach him at 901.761.8151 or michael.stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com

Investor demand for exchange-traded funds (ETFs) has increased over the last decade due to some attractive features that set them apart from mutual funds. At the end of 2021, almost \$7.2 trillion was invested in more than 2,500 ETFs. This is equivalent to 27% of the assets invested in mutual funds, up from just 9% in 2011.¹

Fund Meets Stock
Like a mutual fund, an ETF is a portfolio of securities assembled by an investment company. Mutual fund shares are typically purchased from and sold back to the investment company and priced at the end of the trading day, with the price determined by the net asset value (NAV) of the underlying securities. By contrast, ETF shares can be traded throughout the day on stock exchanges, like individual stocks, and the price may be higher or lower than the NAV because of supply and demand. In volatile markets, ETF prices may quickly reflect changes in market sentiment, while NAVs – adjusted once a day – take longer to react, resulting in ETFs trading at a premium or a discount.

Indexes and Diversification
Like mutual funds, ETFs may be passively managed, meaning they track an index of securities, or actively managed, guided by managers who assemble in-

vestments chosen to meet the fund’s objectives. Whereas active management is common among mutual funds, most ETFs are passively managed.
Investors can choose from a wide variety of indexes, ranging from broad-based stock or bond indexes to specific market sectors or indexes that emphasize certain factors. This makes ETFs a helpful tool to gain exposure to various market segments, investing styles, or strategies, potentially at a lower cost. Diversification is a method used to help manage investment risk; it does not guarantee a profit or protect against investment loss.

Tax Efficiency
Investors who own mutual fund shares actually own shares in the underlying investments, so when investments are sold within the fund, there may be capital gains taxes if the fund is held outside of a tax-advantaged account. By contrast, an investor who owns ETF shares does not own the underlying investments and generally will be liable for capital gains taxes only when selling the ETF shares.

Trading, Expenses, and Risks
ETFs typically have lower expense ratios than mutual funds – a large part of their appeal. However, you may pay a brokerage commission when you buy

Plenty of Choices
Number of ETFs by type of underlying investment



Source: Investment Company Institute, 2022 (data as of January 2022). Bond funds are subject to the same inflation, interest rate, and credit risks as their underlying bonds. As interest rates rise, bond prices typically fall, which can adversely affect a bond fund’s performance. A portfolio invested only in companies in a particular industry or market sector may not be sufficiently diversified and could be subject to higher volatility and risk. Investing internationally carries additional risks, such as financial reporting differences, currency exchange risk, and economic and political risk unique to the specific country. This may result in greater share price volatility.

or sell shares, so your overall costs could be higher, especially if you trade frequently. Whereas mutual fund assets can usually be exchanged within a fund family at the end of the trading day at no cost, moving assets between ETFs requires selling and buying assets separately, which may be subject to brokerage fees and market shifts between transactions.
Mutual funds typically have minimum investment amounts, but you can generally invest any dollar amount after the initial purchase, buying partial shares as necessary. By contrast, you can purchase a single share of an ETF if you wish, but you can typically only purchase whole shares.

The trading flexibility of ETFs may add to their appeal, but it could lead some investors to trade more often than might be appropriate for their situations. The principal value of ETFs and mutual funds fluctuates with market conditions. Shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific security. Individuals cannot invest directly in any index.
Exchange-traded funds and mutual

funds 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) Investment Company Institute, 2022
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Creator of Incendiary ‘Libs of Tiktok’ Twitter Account Revealed to be an Orthodox Jewish Woman

By Louis Keene
This first appeared on Forward. Reprinted with permission.
The creator of an anonymous Twitter account fueling anti-LGBT panic was unmasked in The Washington Post last Tuesday as an Orthodox Jewish woman who claimed to have participated in the Jan. 6 insurrection.
The Twitter account @LibsofTikTok amassed hundreds of thousands of followers as it posted videos suggesting that children are being groomed by predator LGBTQ adults. The videos have become fodder for the right-wing news cycle, featured on Fox News and pundit Joe Rogan’s podcast, and the account owner – retaining anonymity – has been interviewed on Tucker Carlson’s talk show.

According to the Post, the account – and a connected LibsofTikTok website – belong to Chaya Raichik, a former real estate broker who lives in Los Angeles. Before changing its handle to @LibsofTikTok, the account’s bio identified the owner as an Orthodox Jew, the Post article noted.
Libs of Tik Tok first gained widespread attention after Rogan praised it on his show, calling it “one of the greatest f—ing accounts of all time.” It has been criticized for inflammatory anti-LGBT rhetoric and for framing the

videos it posts – which Raichik has said she is tipped to by her audience – in misleading and incendiary ways.
Without revealing her identity, Raichik became a right-wing media darling. In addition to Twitter, she also created a Libs of TikTok account on Instagram, where she has 65,000 followers.
In a February interview with the New York Post, she said, “I don’t do this for money or fame. I’m not some politician or blue-check journalist. I feel like there are so many small stories that are so important that aren’t getting out – and that’s what I’m here for.”
The Forward called but did not immediately receive a response from Raichik, whose phone number is listed publicly under the LibsofTikTok.us domain.
Raichik claimed to have left New York for California in other anonymous interviews, the Post reported, and she said she had turned the account into a full-time job.
Another Twitter user found an archived tweet from Raichik’s account claiming that she had participated in the insurrection at the Capitol last Jan. 6.
The author of the article, Taylor Lorenz, drew criticism for outing Raichik from several right-wing figures, including commentator Ben Shapiro and Donald Trump Jr. [HW](#)

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Lego Rabbis, Hasidic Coloring Books: How Toy Makers and Publishers Created an Alternative Jewish Universe



A “Shabbos Table” set from Kids Play depicts a typical haredi Orthodox family at home. The designer, Shlomi Eiger, says the brand is part of a “contemporary trend of Haredi children’s toys and games designed from within the community.” Credit: Omar Friedman

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) – I grew up on “Encyclopedia Brown,” a series of books about a grade-school Sherlock Holmes who solves one-minute mysteries. You know the type: “If you didn’t steal the bicycle, how did you know it was blue?”

Encyclopedia’s world looked just like mine: white, suburban, middle-class. If he had a religion, it wasn’t obvious – which, except when we peeled off on the major holidays or for Sunday school, was also true of me and my friends. I later joked that there should be an all-Jewish version of the books, in which the hero solves highly specific Jewish mysteries. I even proposed a name: “Encyclopedia Judaica Brown.”

It turns out, there is such a thing: “Gemarakup” (roughly, “Talmudic brain”) is a children’s book series created for the haredi, or fervently Orthodox, market. Its hero, according to Volume 2, loves “solving mysteries, almost as much as he love[s] studying Torah” (note that “almost”).

I learned about “Gemarakup” in “Artifacts of Orthodox Childhoods” (Ben Yehuda Press), a new collection of essays edited by Dainy Bernstein, who teaches children’s and young adult literature, among other things, at CUNY’s Lehman College. Written by scholars and writers who grew up immersed in books, toys and songs created for the religious Jewish market, it is an introduction to a world that a non-Orthodox Jew like me may only have glimpsed through the window of a Borough Park Judaica store.

Its titular artifacts are an alternative universe of pop culture: Lego-like sets featuring tiny rabbis in their studies and modestly dressed moms making challah; children’s songs that rework secular genres to teach sexual restraint and the power of prayer; a coloring book in which even Adam and Eve are fully dressed in the clothing of Hasidic Jews.

It is also, for many of the contributors, a reckoning with a strictly Orthodox upbringing that many of them have left behind. The books, toys and songs are meant to reinforce values many of the authors find stifling, including strict gender segregation, narrowly prescribed roles for boys and girls and distrust of outsiders. Haredi book and toy stores, writes Shlomi Eiger, a Tel Aviv-based toy designer, “serve as gatekeepers, preventing secular consumer culture from infiltrating the community.”

Except when the gates don’t hold. Bernstein told me about the ways Orthodox publishers and creators can’t escape the culture that they are countering.

“This is a community that is not separate from non-Jewish America or from American politics,” Bernstein said. “They actively participate in American

culture and American politics, for all their protestations to the contrary. If you actually look at the books, they are influenced by trends in American publishing.”

Examples include “The B.Y. Times,” a haredi version of “The Babysitters Club” books (“sans boyfriends,” as contributor Meira Levinson points out) and the “Devora Doresh” mystery series, a cross between “Nancy Drew” and, yes, “Encyclopedia Brown.”

For Orthodox parents and educators (and Bernstein acknowledges the wide range of philosophies and values within even the strictest Orthodox communities) the test of a children’s product is whether the creator has the right intentions. “If they don’t believe in the correct kind of Judaism, that will filter through in their work, and you will be influenced by that and you will therefore leave the correct kind of Judaism,” said Bernstein, characterizing the community ethos. “So it’s this idea of being very careful not to allow outside influences even if they seem harmless.”

And yet, as Levinson explains in her essay on the “Devora Doresh” books, (gently) subversive messages can slip past the gatekeepers: Created by Carol Korb Hubner, the books “feature an Orthodox Jewish girl having adventures of the kind that were otherwise normally limited either to Orthodox Jewish boys or non-Jewish girls.”

Bernstein is a product of such boundary-crossing. Growing up in Borough Park, Bernstein attended Bais Yaakov schools, where Orthodox girls have to abide by strict dress and behavior codes. “I had to sign a list of things, saying that ‘I will not go to the public library. We do not have a TV in the house. There is no internet in the house except if you have permission from a rabbi for your work. You will not go ice skating. You will not go to visit Florida on midwinter vacation.’”

At the same time, Bernstein’s parents

both had college degrees – unusual for the community – and allowed a limited diet of books from the public library. “I was as far as anyone could tell a model Bais Yaakov student,” said Bernstein, who nonetheless dove stealthily into books and even movies no haredi parent could ever allow.

Bernstein went on to Yavneh Seminary in Cleveland and came back to teach language arts at Bais Yaakov of Boro Park. “And then I went to college, which was a break from what was expected. And eventually I went on to grad school, and now I teach in college and research and hopefully publish.” Bernstein, who has a PhD in English and a certificate in medieval studies from the

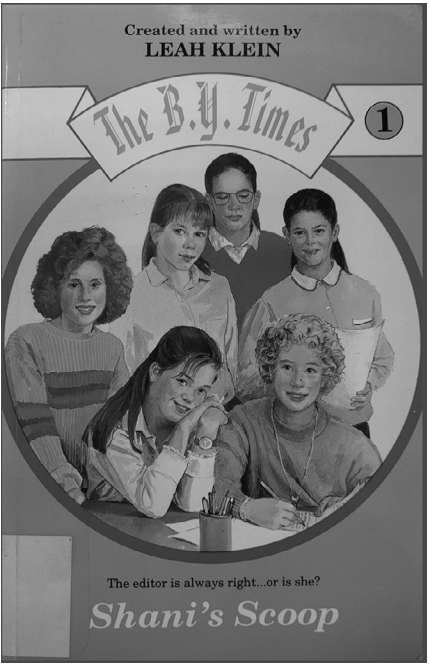
CUNY Graduate Center, left the haredi community while in grad school.

I shared with Bernstein my own qualms as an “outsider” who often writes and edits articles about the haredi Orthodox community for a largely non-haredi audience. Is “Artifacts of Orthodox Childhoods” meant to expose the community, and lead it to reform its insular ways? Are readers being invited to gawk at the peculiarly dressed men and women and their distinctive way of raising children?

“As a person, there’s a lot I would want to change” about the community, said Bernstein. “As a scholar, I know that it is useful to have things written about this world in a non-judgmental but still analytical lens. I want the non-haredi world to understand that these are complex people and to stop seeing it as such a completely foreign, exotic thing. And what I think it can do for the community is give them the tools that the leaders don’t always give them to look with a critical lens at these texts and artifacts and not just view them as inevitable.”

In fact, the tone of most of the essays is wistful. Even in the scholarly essays the writers tend to look back with nostalgia on the moral certainty and idealized worldview they absorbed as children. A few writers share their childhood books and music with their own children. “As a mother,” writes Miriam Moster, in an essay about popular haredi boys choirs, “I want to raise my children in the tradition in which my personal narrative is rooted, but I also feel responsible to shield them from the facets that drove me to leave the Haredi community in the first place.”

Her solution could stand as a good description of Dainy Bernstein’s project: “And so I pass on to my children a potpourri of Haredi traditions, stories, rituals, and tunes that we interrogate and challenge together.” HW



“The B.Y. Times” is a series of books, intended for the Orthodox young adult market, that is clearly inspired by the secular “The Babysitters Club” series (“sans boyfriends,” writes Meira Levinson, a professor of education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education). (Courtesy Ben Yehuda Press)

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Ben Foster Pulls no Punches Playing a Holocaust-Survivor-Turned-Boxer in HBO’s New Movie



Ben Foster as Harry Haft, a Holocaust survivor who becomes a professional boxer, in HBO’s “The Survivor.”
Credit: Jessica Kourkounis/HBO

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Late in HBO’s new movie “The Survivor,” star Ben Foster’s character has a moment of deep self-awareness.

Foster, playing real-life Auschwitz-survivor-turned-professional-boxer Harry Haft, is finally confronting the inescapable fact of his existence: that, having experienced the trauma of the death camps, he will have to figure out a way to pass on its memory to the people he loves, or let it eat him up inside.

Confronted by his wife, Miriam, (Vicky Krieps) about the darkness he still holds inside him, and whether he’s prepared to tell his son about it, Harry breaks down and sobs, unlodging a new memory from the camps, this one about what he had to do to his best friend in order to survive.

It’s a powerful moment. And it’s even more remarkable because the entire scene was improvised.

“The scene is supposed to end with Harry saying, ‘You don’t know the worst part of me,’” Foster recounted to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “And Miriam is supposed to get up and give

him a hug... but Vicky didn’t get up. She didn’t give me a hug. So I’m hanging there at the sink and she starts antagonizing me and asking tough questions, and Harry – I – was getting aggravated.”

Not knowing what else to do, Foster-as-Harry started telling the story from the camps, which he “remembered” because the film crew, led by Oscar-winning director Barry Levinson, had already shot the footage. “It was already inside, and it just started falling out,” Foster recalled.

By the end of the scene, Harry’s metaphorical guts are spilled all over the set, along with an actual glass of orange juice being used as a prop. Levinson had told Krieps to deliberately go off-script.

“True to Barry form, he didn’t tell me,” Foster said. On a set run by Levinson, he said, “explosive things that feel lived-in can happen.”

“The Survivor,” which debuts on HBO April 27 – Yom HaShoah, Israel’s Holocaust remembrance day – after premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival last fall, is not your typical Holocaust movie. Though it does tell the improbable story of a single Jew’s

survival, it doesn’t linger on the misery of the camps themselves. Most of the film (which was co-produced with the USC Shoah Foundation) takes place after the war, as Harry attempts to resettle in an immigrant-heavy Brooklyn Jewish community suffused with loss. He uses his survivor’s status to create a marketable ringside identity (“In this corner, the pride of Poland, the survivor of Auschwitz!”) even as he remains haunted by his time in the camps.

The film follows the long tail of Harry’s life as he retires from boxing, starts a family, battles his inner demons and tries to find out what happened to his childhood sweetheart in the camps. For Foster, whose grandmother came to the United States from Romania in the 1920s to escape anti-Jewish pogroms, starring in the film “expanded my relationship to the courage of those who left to come here.”

It also reunited him with Levinson after 23 years: One of Foster’s first-ever roles was as the young Jewish lead, Ben, in the 1999 autobiographical comedy “Liberty Heights,” one of a series of Levinson films based on the director’s own Jewish upbringing in Baltimore. Foster made that film when he was 17, as a prelude to his later acclaimed performances as tough yet deeply vulnerable men in such films as “The Messenger,” “Leave No Trace” and “Hell Or High Water.”

“I’ve been carrying Barry with me all these years,” he said.

Though Foster’s interpretation of Haft was informed by the boxer’s son Alan Scott, who wrote a biography of his father, he didn’t actually meet Scott until the team was deep into filming. Foster, who grew up Jewish and had a bar mitzvah, instead worked with a Yiddish expert on his accent and visited the Auschwitz memorial in Poland, which he says gave him an “unhealthy obsession” with pushing his body to the breaking point: He followed a strict diet so he could look emaciated for the camp sequences.

“I needed to see the bones in my

chest,” he said, adding that it was his way of paying tribute to the experiences of the camps. “When you see the horrors of that, and what the survivors went through, what those who were lost went through, I couldn’t in good faith show up on set having lost 10 pounds or 15 pounds.”

After the Auschwitz segments, the crew took five weeks off filming and Foster put on 50 pounds of muscle so he could play Harry in his boxing prime. Then, for the movie’s third segment, when he plays Harry as an out-of-shape middle-aged man, the actor transformed yet again: “I was able to eat everything glorious. I’ve never been happier.”

For “The Survivor,” Foster got to work with an impressive supporting cast, including Krieps (“Phantom Thread”), Peter Sarsgaard, Danny DeVito and John Leguizamo – and Israeli actor Dar Zuzovsky, who plays Harry’s long-lost love Leah. But it’s Foster’s co-star in another upcoming movie, “Emancipation,” who is garnering the most attention right now: Will Smith, perpetrator of the now-infamous Oscars slap.

As part of the fallout from Smith’s on-camera manhandling of Chris Rock, his projects have been put on hold, including “Emancipation,” a big-budget drama about an escaped slave from “Training Day” director Antoine Fuqua. Foster, who plays a slave catcher, doesn’t know when the film will be released now. But he hopes audiences get to see it, because he sees its modern-day reckoning with American slavery as being of a piece with the reckoning with the Holocaust in “The Survivor.”

“In much the way that ‘The Survivor’ tackles the horrors and the atrocities and survival, this is following a man escaping work camps in the U.S.,” Foster said. “It was shocking, the parallels... The parallels of what we did in our own country [are] worth examining.”

“The Survivor” premieres April 27 on HBO and will be available for streaming on HBO Max. **HW**

Chicago Teacher Taking Indefinite Leave of Absence Following Nazi Propaganda Assignment

By Louis Keene

This first appeared in Forward. Reprinted with permission.

A teacher who had assigned eighth graders to create Nazi propaganda posters as part of a Holocaust education unit, prompting complaints from the lone Jewish student in the class and her mother, is taking an “indefinite leave of absence,” according to a letter from the school’s principal.

The social studies teacher, Tiffanie Reschke, had written a letter of apology to the student, Gladys Shelby, weeks after the incident and eight days after the Forward published an article about the assignment and the student’s complaint. “I am sincerely sorry that I upset Gladys,” she wrote, according to a copy of the letter shared by Gladys’s mother, Scarlett Herrin. “I have spent a lot of time reflecting on ways to improve.”

School district officials had also met with the teacher and Herrin, along with the district’s equity office, to discuss curriculum changes.

But, the principal of the north side school, Eliza Chappell Elementary, sent

a letter to eighth-grade parents saying Reschke would not return to the classroom after the week’s spring break, though it did not specify whether the leave would be paid or unpaid, and whether it was Reschke’s choice or the school’s requirement.

“We anticipate she will return to us before the end of the school year,” wrote the principal, Joseph Peila, “although the exact date of her return has yet to be determined.”

A spokesperson for the district said that Reschke remained employed by the district, but declined further comment.

Peila did not respond to an inquiry.

Reschke, whose LinkedIn profile says that she has been teaching in Chicago’s public schools since 2013, also has not responded to repeated requests for interviews via LinkedIn and email.

Herrin said publicity about the incident had made social interactions between Gladys and her classmates strained, and that she is thinking of pulling her daughter out of the school – which is on Chicago’s north side, near

Lincoln Square – to finish the year with online classes.

“I am honestly so angry about this endless victim-blaming,” Herrin said in a text message [on April 14]. “At this point we are so angry at their inability to keep our child somewhat protected,” she wrote.

Gladys and Herrin said in previous interviews that the propaganda assignment was part of a troubling Holocaust unit that included reading an excerpt from “Mein Kampf” and answering questions about it. Then on Feb. 24, the students were asked to work in small groups to create Nazi propaganda posters, Gladys said, and when she complained, Reschke said she must not have understood the assignment, and did not have to include swastikas.

Initially, Gladys and Herrin said, many in the class supported her. At least two said that they also were appalled by the assignment.

But tension mounted as Herrin pressed for an apology that the teacher took more than two weeks to offer, amid publicity triggered by the Forward ar-

ticle. Classmates have told Gladys that Reschke was crying in class and that she had told her students that she had received death threats.

In a group chat, one student texted: “I hope u know everyone knows abt the article and is pissed it’s being spread around the whole school, she is getting her life ruined over this.”

After that text, Herrin kept Gladys out of school for a week.

But Gladys has also received some support from other Chicago students, including an email from a high schooler who said she was right to complain and that she was not alone – other Jewish students in the city supported her.

“Even if everyone spits in my face,” Herrin quoted her daughter as saying, “I’m glad I did it because it might help another kid speak out who may have been afraid.”

Correction: The original version of this article and its headline incorrectly stated that the teacher who assigned students to make Nazi propaganda posters had been fired. She has been placed on an “indefinite leave of absence.” **HW**

Israeli Defense Minister Calls for ‘Plan B’ if Iran Nuclear Deal not Signed

(JNS) – Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz said last Wednesday that if a new nuclear deal is not signed with Iran, then other measures must be taken.

“If needed, we can move forward with economic pressure, intel, diplomatic pressure, power projection and regional counterterrorism efforts,” said Gantz, according to a defense ministry spokesperson.

Gantz made the remarks during a policy and security briefing for the 80 foreign ambassadors stationed in Israel,

together with Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid.

He also presented the diplomats with information on the rapid advance of Iran’s nuclear program.

“Since August 2021, Iran has raced forward. Iran has increased its enriched uranium stockpile to 50 kilograms at [at an enrichment level of] 60%. We are running against [the clock]. The international community must insist on a solid agreement,” he said.

Regarding the recent wave of terrorist

attacks in the country, Gantz said that Israel was taking all necessary measures, including preemptive operations, to prevent further attacks.

Gantz concluded his remarks by presenting confidence-building measures undertaken with the Palestinian Authority since “Operation Guardian of the Walls” last May. He also called on the international community to invest in the P.A.

Lapid presented the ambassadors with an overview of last month’s Negev

Summit and spoke of the importance of regional cooperation in the fields of security and the economy.

In addition, Lapid provided the ambassadors with information about the humanitarian aid Israel is providing to Ukraine and reiterated Israel’s condemnation of the Russian invasion.

Both Gantz and Lapid emphasized Israel’s condemnation of the invasion and its humanitarian efforts, as well as Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s mediation efforts. [HW](#)

‘Real-Time’ Testimonials from Survivors to Highlight New Orlando Holocaust Center



Orlando, Fla. Credit: Pixabay

(JNS) – The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida, north of Orlando, will expand, relocate and be renamed as its mission shifts to preserving the testimonials and memories of survivors of the Shoah.

The new 43,000-square-foot museum, to be located in downtown Orlando, will be called the Holocaust Museum for Hope & Humanity. Architectural plans for the \$45 million center were revealed on April 13.

A cornerstone of the museum will be the inclusion of the “Dimensions in Testimony” program.

Created in part by the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation, it pairs pre-recorded testimonies of Holocaust survivors with interactive hologram technologies. Visitors to the museum will be able to “ask” a survivor about their families and war-time experiences, and receive answers as if engaging in a real conversation.

The program is currently being utilized at several locales; however, this will be the first time that the Shoah Foundation has partnered with a Holocaust museum to design and implement a permanent, museum-wide exhibition.

“This new space will be more than

A cornerstone of the museum will be the inclusion of the “Dimensions in Testimony” program.

just a destination; it will be a perfect fit for our community as Orlando continues to send a powerful message to the world that we will always honor history and ignite hope,” said Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer.

The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center was founded in 1986 by Holocaust survivor and Orlando resident Tess Wise. [HW](#)

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To join the program, visit our website at: www.jhsmem.org for a direct link.
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Ukraine War Shifts European Attitudes about Energy, Creating Opportunity for Israel

By David Isaac

(JNS) – With Europe eager to wean itself from its dependence on Russian oil and gas, the war in Ukraine could mark a 180-degree turn in Europe’s energy attitudes with renewables taking a back seat to more robust, if less politically correct sources. Europe’s shift takes place just as Israel has jumped on the renewables bandwagon, most recently halting gas-exploration licenses to focus on developing renewables.

But the most arresting change has come from Germany. Hailed as a leader in green energy, the country is now talking about starting a strategic coal reserve and briefly floated the idea of extending the life of its remaining three nuclear plants (it has since decided against doing so). Germany’s shift is easy to understand – of Europe’s major economies, it is most dependent on Russian gas (51%). Italy is not far behind at 46%. France imports 24%. Eastern Europe is also highly dependent on Russian gas (Romania being a notable exception).

The Europeans have made themselves dependent on Russian supplies by “investing tremendous amounts in renewables” while at the same time “putting an almost complete moratorium on local fossil fuel development,” Yonatan Dubi, professor in the department of chemistry at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, who frequently lectures on energy issues, told JNS.

“I think the energy lesson that we should learn is that – when push comes to shove – all climate ideologies and all net-zero carbon emission programs are insignificant compared to the Western

world’s need for a continuous and stable source of power,” he said. “Not taking this into account is what led Europe to the present energy crisis.”

Not only is Europe in essence funding Russia’s war in Ukraine by paying top dollar for Russian gas, but it’s also at the mercy of Russia for its energy, said Dubi, noting that Russia has threatened to cut gas supplies through Nord Stream 1, the pipeline that crosses Ukraine, if customers do not pay in rubles. “My guess is that they will eventually do what Russia wants because they have no choice,” he said.

Dubi added that Israel is in danger of heading down the same path as Europe by charging headlong towards renewables. It should instead be promoting natural-gas exploration, he said, pointing out a December decision by Israel’s minister of energy halting offshore gas-exploration licenses. The minister, Karine Elharrar, said she did so “to ensure that 2022 will be the year of renewable energies, natural gas will wait.”

The Europeans are recognizing that they made a mistake, affirmed Dubi, adding that he hopes the lesson has not been lost on Israel. “From internal conversations that I have with officials in the department of energy, they understand that Israel must have stable sources of power, that we must have on-site storage and coal power-generation capabilities,” he said.

‘We’re very close to missing the bandwagon’

Elai Rettig, assistant professor at the department of political studies at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, who spe-

cializes in energy geopolitics, agreed that Elharrar had made a mistake, telling JNS: “The fact that she put one against the other, saying, ‘We’re going to focus on renewables and so I’m not going to allow licensing’ – it doesn’t work like that. You can’t implement renewables if you don’t have gas power plants to increase electricity when the sun goes down.”

“She’s also creating enemies within the two fields. If you’re pitting one against the other, then every kind of renewable project that you’re going to promote, the gas interests are going to go against you,” he added.

Rettig doesn’t entirely blame renewables for Europe’s energy problems. He said Europe’s record-high energy prices last year were mainly caused by Russia. Russia was asked to increase its gas output and refused, demanding that Nord Stream 2 – a pipeline that crosses the Baltic Sea to Germany – first be approved.

“That’s what got prices soaring,” he said.

Rettig said the lesson to be learned from the Europeans is that energy security comes from “diversity and diversity alone. You can’t be too dependent on just a single country, even if it’s your friend at that time.”

Dubi argued that Israel should contribute to Europe’s energy diversity by supplying it with natural gas. He advocates restarting the EastMed pipeline project, a proposed 1,300-mile pipeline – 1,000 miles of which would be undersea – from the Levantine Basin and making landfall at Cyprus, Greece and

Italy. The project was halted when the Biden administration pulled its support.

He also said Israel should restart the UAE pipeline deal, which would transport Emirati oil through existing Israeli pipelines between the port of Eilat on the Red Sea to Ashkelon on the Mediterranean. That project was dropped due to environmentalist opposition.

He said Israel is missing an opportunity to be part of Europe’s energy solution if it doesn’t step up its natural-gas exploration. It should send more natural gas to Egypt, which has a gas liquefaction plant, and then on to Europe. “Think about the geopolitical consequences of Israel and Egypt, combined, saving Europe. And we’re very close to missing the bandwagon,” he said.

Rettig said he isn’t sure the EastMed project is feasible given economic and technical challenges, but he said other things can be done short of that, such as building additional LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) facilities, perhaps in Egypt or even offshore.

He said it remains to be seen whether the lessons from the Ukraine war have sunk home. “Maybe Europe is finally serious and will put the money into the necessary infrastructure,” he said.

However, Rettig’s personal view is not to sell the gas to Europe. “We have gas that will keep Israel secure for the next 60 to 70 years, and we shouldn’t be so gung-ho about selling it. ... This used to be a holy grail for us, finding our own independent source of energy. And now that we found it, we want to sell half of it?” [HW](#)

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