



THE

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SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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IAF’s Independence Day Flyover Sees Range of Aircraft over Tens of Cities



The Israeli Air Force held a celebratory flyover to mark Israel’s 74th Independence Day with formations of F-15s, F-16s, F-35s, transport helicopters, transport planes and unmanned aerial vehicles over a number of Israeli cities on May 5, 2022. Credit: IDF Spokesperson’s Unit.

(JNS) – The Israeli Air Force held a traditional celebratory flyover last Thursday over Israel to mark its 74th Independence Day, flying formations of F-15s, F-16s, F-35s, transport helicopters, transport planes and unmanned aerial

vehicles over a number of Israeli cities.

“In this complex period, it is important for us to strengthen your hand, residents of the State of Israel. This flyover is a signal of our appreciation,” Brig. Gen. Guy Davidson, commander of the Hatzertim Air Force Base, said last Sunday ahead of the flyover.

“From here, from Hatzertim Base, three F-15Is will take off from the 69th Squadron, three F-16I from the 107th Squadron and three M-436 training aircraft from the 102nd Squadron,” he stated.

According to the Israel Defense Forces spokesperson, the flyover took place between 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with a range of aircraft flying over tens of cities and major national sites – from northern Israel to Eilat.

The IAF’s acrobatic team conducted eight aerial shows using Efroni (Beechcraft T6-A) aircraft, flying over Jerusa-

lem, the Ramat David Air Base in the north, Tiberias, the Haifa coastline, the Tel Aviv coastline, the Tel Nof Airbase south of Tel Aviv and the Hatzertim Airbase near Beersheva.

For the first time, the Israel Aerospace Industries-made Heron UAV took part, as well as Israel Police and Fire Service aircraft, to mark the cooperation between different branches of the security forces.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Navy held a special sail-by along the Eilat coast featuring a range of naval and police vessels.

A number of IDF bases opened their gates to the general public last Thursday, an Independence Day tradition that had been absent for the past two years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The IAF also released an application for Israeli citizens that allowed them to track the flyover’s routes and the real-time location of the aircraft on a map. [HW](#)

Russian Chief Rabbi: ‘It Would Be Nice’ if Russia’s Lavrov Apologized for Hitler Comments



Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, and Russian Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar, right, listen to businessman Viktor Vekselberg speak at a ceremony outside the Jewish Museum of Moscow, Russia, June 4, 2019. Credit: Courtesy of the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center of Moscow

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) – Russian Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar has criticized remarks by his country’s foreign minister, who suggested that the worst antisemites were Jewish and that Adolf Hitler had Jewish ancestry.

Lazar’s forthright criticism of Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov’s remarks last Sunday – he called them “shocking” and said he wished Lavrov would apologize – is unusual in Russia, where other clergy have been supportive of the war in Ukraine and where dissent is largely illegal.

Widely viewed as having close ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Lazar and the organization he leads, the Chabad Lubavitch-affiliated Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, have expressed displeasure with the war while refraining from criticizing the Putin regime directly over it.

“I do not consider myself entitled to give advice to the head of Russian diplomacy – but it would be nice if he apologized to the Jews and simply admitted that he was mistaken,” Lazar wrote in a reply to a request for comment by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

“I think it would then be possible to

consider the incident settled and turn the page,” Lazar added.

Meanwhile, the Russian foreign ministry doubled down on the controversial remarks amid a diplomatic row about them with Israel, adding to a growing number of signs that Lavrov’s comments could mark a turning point for Israeli leaders who previously had not condemned Russia’s invasion of Ukraine with the same force as other world leaders.

“We paid attention to the anti-historical statements of the head of the Israeli Foreign Ministry @yairlapid, which largely explain the course of the current Israeli Government support of the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv,” Russia’s ministry tweeted.

Lavrov’s remarks appeared to be an attempt to reconcile the fact that Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, had previously accused Russia of being a neo-Nazi regime.

(See **Rabbi** Page 3)

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"A Night in Tel Aviv" Young Adult Gala to Support Ukrainian Jews



Event planning committee members Jamie Klazmer and Ellee Breit planning for the young adult fundraiser A Night in Tel Aviv.

"I think that we are all devastated at what's going on in Ukraine, and it's hard to sit and watch what's happening and feel like there is nothing that we personally can do to help," said Jamie Klazmer, a planning committee member of FedLED's upcoming event, A Night in Tel Aviv. "I just know that for anyone who has been wanting to do something, you can now accomplish this while also having a fun night with your friends by attending this event."

On May 22 at 7:30 p.m., Memphis Jewish Federation's Young Adult Leadership, Engagement, and Development initiative (FedLED) will be hosting A Night in Tel Aviv at the Herbert and Mary Shainberg Lobby of the Memphis Jewish Community Center. This young adult fundraiser will include a night filled with live music, Israeli-themed mezzo plates and desserts, a signature cocktail, local craft beer, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$70 at the door, with event proceeds going to support Ukrainian Jews through Memphis Jewish Federation's strategic global partnerships.

"We see this as an opportunity for young adults to join as a community and throw an exciting gathering, a way to engage our peers in the Jewish community, and as a way to help provide aid to the Jews in Ukraine," said Ellee Breit, another planning committee member. "Memphis is a place where the people will make you feel at home, and I think that attendees are really going to notice that when they come to this event and make new connections with each other and come together to make a positive difference in the world."

Event attendees can look forward to musical stylings by DJ Wurz, local craft brew sponsored by Hampline Brewing Company, kosher wine provided by Gaslight Wine & Spirits, and signature cocktails sponsored by Tito's Hand-made Vodka. Exciting auction items include an autographed Memphis Grizzlies basketball, gift certificates from Joseph and King Furs & Fine Jewelry, a kosher sushi experience for four in your home with Marisa Baggett, and much more!

Attendees will also be entered to win round-trip airfare on Memphis Jewish Federation's upcoming Young Adult Israel Adventure.

"As a planner, it's exciting to get together with the rest of the committee and put on something that hasn't been done in a long time while simultaneously trying to make it a fun thing for everyone," said Jamie. "There are going to be lots of activities, cool prizes, and we are trying to bring lots of aspects of Israel into the décor for an immersive experience."

Jamie and Elle have been close friends for many years now and both have strong ties to the Jewish community here. Nowadays, the two are both young mothers and feel like the timing is right to begin giving back to a community that has given them so much.

"A lot of us grew up here and had parents that were really involved in the community, even grandparents," said Ellee. "As children, many of us might have fantasized about becoming more involved one day. It seemed like those plans had kind of gone on hold when COVID happened, and people our age did not get the opportunity to hop right

THE Hebrew Watchman

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5/12/2022



Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. May 13, 2022 / 12 Iyar, 57827:37 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. May 14, 2022 / 13 Iyar, 5782 8:38 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Emor

in. So, when this opportunity presented itself to us, we all jumped at the opportunity to be involved in making it happen for our peers."

Thank you to the entire host committee for planning this event: Jaclyn Marshall (Chair), Maureen Baum, Ellee Breit, Jamie Klazmer, Emily Lennon, Lindsey Reef and Farryl Silver.

There is no reason to wait! Get your tickers for A Night in Tel Aviv today! jcpmemphis.ticketspice.com/a-night-in-tel-aviv HW

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Memphis Kollel and MJCC Launch “Center for Middos Development”

This month will mark the launch of an exciting new local initiative, The Alfred and Miriam Glass Center for Middos Development. The mission of the Center for Middos Development is to empower people to experience the joy of personal growth in all areas of life based on the wisdom of the Mussar tradition. This initiative was the brainchild of a group of local lay leaders and members of the Memphis Kollel whose lives have been enhanced by the power of Mussar.

Jason Caplan, who moved to Memphis with his family six years ago, was exposed to the power of Mussar in his own personal spiritual journey and is one of the visionaries behind this initiative. He began delving into the body of Mussar knowledge seeking ways to deepen his knowledge and practice and was inspired to bring access to those tools to Memphis.

Jason shares, “Mussar is a set of tools for character development based on the wisdom of our Jewish tradition. It distinguishes itself from the many approaches to personal growth in that it is a roadmap to the subconscious that unlocks our higher potential. My dream is to see the Center for Middos Development reveal the full breadth of Mussar to our Memphis community and beyond.”

Rabbi Shmuel Fromowitz, Rosh Kollel and director of programming for the Memphis Kollel, explains how the Memphis Kollel got involved with this project. “A number of months ago Jason approached us on fire. His idea was to find a way to bring the tools of Mussar to Memphis in a way that would speak

to our generation. As people who spent years studying in a Yeshiva whose methodology was steeped in Mussar thought and practice, each member of the Kollel has a deep understanding of the power of this discipline. We shared Jason’s enthusiasm for the project and together the idea of the Center for Middos Development was born.”

Rabbi Naftali Zions, a senior lecturer at the Memphis Kollel, was tapped to design and deliver the first offering of the Center – a five-week series in partnership with the Memphis Jewish Community Center. This series, “The Mussar Mindset,” will run from Tuesday, May 17 through June, 14, from 8-9 p.m at the MJCC.

The word ‘Middos’ is often associated with the concept of being “nice.” In truth, it refers to so much more. It encompasses our very essence – how we think and respond to every situation we confront. With Mussar one learns the mindset and tools needed to refine our character,” said Rabbi Zions. “This short series is a first but fundamental step to a life of happiness and self-actualization. I feel so grateful to be a part of this exciting initiative.”

Jeremy Weiser, COO of the MJCC, says, “We are excited to be partnering with the Memphis Kollel for this meaningful project and hope together we can bring the Mussar mindset to many more as we strive to connect, engage, and strengthen the Memphis Jewish community.”

For more details and to sign up visit jccmemphis.org or email info@mid-doscenter.org. **HW**

MJCC Senior Programs

Join the MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club for exciting programs planned during the next two weeks. All programs start at 12:15 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 17, there will be a Bus Tour of Shelby Farms. At 4,500 acres, Shelby Farms Park is one of the largest urban parks in the country! Located in Memphis, Tennessee, the Park is both a vibrant community hub and a retreat from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Come take a leisurely tour around the Park.

On Thursday, May 19, the program “The Meaning of Lag Ba’Omer!” is open to all.

On Tuesday, May 24, Ginny Oceg-uera, of SRVS will discuss “Dealing with Conflict!” SRVS is a nonprofit, United Way of the Mid-South partner agency. Since their beginning on No-

vember 1, 1962, they have maintained a steadfast commitment to helping the people we serve have the best possible quality of life. Mrs. Oceg-uera has given several talks to MJCC Seniors over the past several years, which have been well received. Just recently her talk was terrific!

On Thursday, May 26, the topic is “Wandering in the desert, The Book of Numbers.”

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

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Rabbi...
(Continued From Page 1)

sky, is Jewish, with Russia’s declared reason for the Feb. 24 invasion. Putin said Ukraine was in need of “denazification.”

“When they say that Nazification cannot exist if there are Jews [in charge]: In my opinion even Hitler had Jewish origins so it means absolutely nothing,” Lavrov told Italy’s Channel 4 last Sunday. “Jewish wise people said already a long time ago that the biggest antisemites are Jewish themselves.”

The remarks prompted a stream of condemnations by Jewish groups and Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, who called them “lies.” Foreign Minister Yair Lapid called Lavrov’s remarks “both inexcusable and scandalous and also a terrible historical error.”

Bennett’s comments were notable because he has held back from criticizing Russia sharply even as Lapid has struck a more forceful tone, a balancing act that is widely understood as meant to allow Israel, which has strategic interests with Russia, to maintain a degree of neutrality.

But as the war grinds on, that neutrality may be eroding: Israel is sending more defensive weapons and aid to Ukraine, and Russia, isolated internationally, is increasingly engaging with Iran, Israel’s nemesis. Lavrov’s comments represent another breach.

Last Tuesday, the Russian foreign ministry accused Israel of supporting “the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv” for protesting Lavrov’s rhetoric.

Lazar said it was “inappropriate to draw any comparisons” between the Holocaust and current affairs. Referring to the role that Soviet forces played in defeating the Nazis, he told JTA that such a comparison “belittles the achievement of these heroic soldiers who liberated Auschwitz and hoisted the banner of victory over the Reichstag.” **HW**

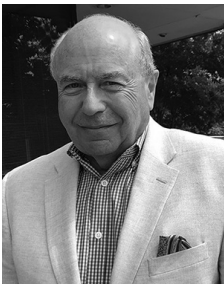
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Chabad to Host Memphis Jewish Community Lag B’omer BBQ

Chabad will be hosting a community-wide Lag B’omer Family Fun Day on Thursday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Lag B’Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer Count, which this year corresponds to Thursday, May 19 is a festive day on the Jewish calendar, traditionally celebrated with outings, cookouts, bonfires, and other joyous outdoor events all over the world.

“The Family Fun Day in Memphis will have a delicious BBQ dinner with all the trimmings and also have colorful Snow Cones, Cotton Candy, and much more,” said Mrs. Rivky Klein co-director of Chabad of Tennessee. “In

addition to the food there will be an archery demonstration and activities with a certified instructor, as well as inflatable fun, music, and more fun for all to enjoy.”

The Family Fun Day will take place at The Chabad Center of Jewish Life at 2570 Kirby Parkway. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and includes all food and activities. Reservations can be made by visiting www.JewishMemphis.com/BBQ or calling Chabad at 901-754-0404.

“Come join us and bring your friends,” Rivky concluded. “It will be lots of fun.” **HW**

Renowned Jewish Spiritualist and Current JTS Student Rishe Groner to Speak at Beth Sholom’s Torah Fund Brunch on May 15



Rishe Groner

Beth Sholom Sisterhood will host an in-person Torah Fund Brunch to support higher Jewish education on Sunday, May 15 at 11 a.m. in the Beth Sholom Social Hall.

This year’s guest speaker will be Rishe Groner, now studying for rabbinical ordination at the Jewish Theology Seminary in New York City. Named to The Jewish Week’s 36 Under 36 list in 2019, Groner is a well-known writer, facilitator, and educator who promotes ecstatic, embodied Jewish experiences to spiritual seekers.

Born to a Chabad-Chassidic family in Melbourne, Australia, Groner is the founder of TheGene-Sis.com and the

education director/rabbinic intern at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance in the Hudson Valley, New York. Although the event is in-person, Groner will use Zoom to speak at the event.

Proceeds from Beth Sholom’s annual event will benefit the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ)’s Torah Fund, a grassroots fundraising program launched 80 years ago during World War II and the Holocaust. Since then, Torah Fund campaigns have raised more than \$97 million to support Conservative/Masorti seminaries and their students worldwide.

“The Torah Fund Brunch is Memphis’ opportunity to invest in the future of the Conservative/Masorti movement and help ensure the Jewish future for our children, grandchildren, and beyond,” said Barbara Hellman, who serves as vice president of Torah Fund for Southern Region WLCJ and also leads Beth Sholom’s Torah Fund. “Many seminary students cannot afford to pursue their education on their own. The scholarships and programs funded by Torah Fund help them make ends meet.”

To RSVP for the brunch, please visit www.bsholom.org/torahfund# or email pheetie@aol.com. **HW**

Discover the Values That Shape Judaism’s Civil Code

Beginning Tuesday, May 17 at 7 p.m., Rabbi Levi Klein of Chabad of Tennessee in Memphis will offer a fascinating course on personal ethics in the light of Jewish Civil Law. Beyond Right, a groundbreaking, new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), explores ethical questions big and small.

Can you help yourself to someone else’s possessions if you are sure they won’t mind? Can you use someone else’s Wi-Fi? Must you forgive and accept a repentant antisemitic tormentor? If your neighbor blocks your sunlight with a two-story fence, do you have legal recourse? Do you have a legal obligation to report someone’s plans to commit a violent crime?

“Many people are surprised to discover the attention Jewish law devotes to disputes between neighbors, ethical dilemmas involving the workplace, and maintaining a peaceful and moral society,” explained Rabbi Levi Klein of Chabad, the local JLI instructor in Memphis. “They assume Jewish law mostly addresses religious practice.”

The course, approved for Continuing Legal Education in many states, will explore six foundational Jewish values that underlie the practical application of Jewish civil legislation, translating abstract principles into detailed guidance on common real-life scenarios.

“The JLI course Beyond Right explores fundamental topics that are of vital importance for any just society in light of the profound teachings of the Jewish legal tradition,” said Professor David Flatto of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Law. “It highlights the central values and com-



Rabbi Levi Klein

mitments that are at stake in addressing these issues. I commend JLI for developing this rich and illuminating course.”

Informative, practical, and insightful, Beyond Right is sure to generate an appreciation for Jewish law as a distinctive Jewish system that can be utilized as a source of guidance and clarity when one is faced with professional or personal dilemmas. Mr. Martin Pritikin, Dean of Concord Law School at Purdue University, has praised Beyond Right as a course that “helps shine a light on what it means to be a nation living under the rule of law, and indeed, what it means to be human.”

Beyond Right is approved in Tennessee for legal professionals seeking to fulfill their CLE requirements. The course is designed for people at all levels, including those without prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated.

Interested students may call Chabad at 901-754-0404 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information. **HW**

Evening Programs to be Hosted by the MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club



Lawson S. Arney

On Thursday, May 12, at 7 p.m. Lawson S. Arney, CFP, will return to talk about “Social Security Information,” one of the most requested programs. For anyone over 60, this program is a must. You’ve paid into Social Security for decades. Don’t you want to maximize what you get back? Social Security is the foundation of retirement income, yet its complex rules and various claiming options can make choosing your best strategy a challenging proposition that deserves a well thought out plan. Join Lawson Arney, CFP for a complimentary seminar on ways to help maximize your social security benefits.

On Thursday, May 19, at 7 p.m. HOPE Hospice & Palliative Care will host “Planning for the Future,” presented by Joe Pennel and Josh Goldin.

As we age, there is a greater need to prepare for the future. From Healthcare to Spirituality there are several aspects of life and death where we can prepare for ourselves and families.



Joe Pennel



Josh Goldin

Josh, a social worker and Joe, a patient volunteer, have many years of experience guiding friends and family through the later stages of life. Join Josh and Joe at the Memphis Jewish Community Center on Thursday, May 19, to deliver a message of HOPE and answer any questions about how to best prepare for the later stages of life. **HW**

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Memphis-Shoham Cooking Webinar to Feature Gourmet Shavuot Culinary Delights



Memphis chef Marisa Baggett

The Memphis-Shoham Partnership team is gearing up for another fun and culturally fascinating cooking webinar featuring Ashkenazic and Sephardic Shavuot desserts from both cities. The live webinar will take place on Sunday, May 22 at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

With Jews customarily eating dairy foods on Shavuot, Memphis and Shoham webinar participants will have the opportunity to create mouthwatering dairy delights. Memphis gourmet chef and multi-disciplinary artist Marisa Baggett takes the traditional Ashkenazic cheesecake to a new level with her tasty fruit-swirled cheesecake bars, and Shoham Israeli Air Force veteran Lt. Col. Yuval Gelles will guide attendees in making the popular Middle Eastern dessert Malabi – a creamy, milk-based pudding.

Well-known Memphian Marisa Baggett combines contemporary sensibilities with beloved Jewish traditions via kosher food, paintings and writing. In her free time, she enjoys bird watching and reading about ancient civilizations. Last year, Marisa graciously co-led a Partnership cooking webinar guiding us in making her famous Bourbon-laced sweet potato pie.

“When I think of my favorite foods to serve for Shavuot, I gravitate towards small, bite-sized things similar to what you might have at a tea party,” notes Marisa. “A small plate filled with dainty dairy delights that one can enjoy in the garden, surrounded by nature, are my favorites.”

Yuval Gelles served 26 years as a helicopter pilot in many combat operations. He has also taken part in several hi-tech startups over the years. Currently, he is volunteering at the local police force in Shoham and is planning to fulfill a life-long dream and venture on an RV road trip across the continental USA.

Malabi is one of his most beloved Shavuot dishes. “My mother was a great cook, and the first time I started cooking was when I spent many days on alert as a helicopter pilot in the IAF in dif-



Shoham cooking enthusiast Yuval Gelles

ferent locations where we also had the opportunity to cook for ourselves,” said Yuval. “I used to call her and get the instructions on how to prepare the dishes I liked, and my colleagues never com-

plained. Since then, I have gotten a reputation for being a good cook among my family and friends. Malabi is a creamy, milk-based pudding that is easy to make, and people love it, which is why I am excited to share it with webinar attendees. It is important to hold community events like this because around food we

are always calm, relaxed, and smiling.” Open to community members of all ages, this webinar is the final one in the three-part Memphis-Shoham Partnership Spring Virtual Series and will be facilitated by Memphis Partnership Chair Keri Unowsky and Shoham Partnership Chair Arela Koter. [HW](#)

Visit jcpmemphis.org/memphis-shoham-partnership to register for the webinar and view the presenters’ full recipes and needed ingredients.

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Meaningful and Inspiring 60th Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration



Candle lighters Jack Cohen, Elaine Stegman, Dorothy Goldwin, Jeannine Paul, Rachel Shankman, Carolyn Marton-Rothschild
Credit: Rena Knopf

By Shoshana Center

On April 28, Memphis Jewish Federation’s (MJF) 60th Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration was carried out beautifully, despite some last-minute, unexpected challenges. One of which was featured guest, Elisha Wiesel, unfortunately not being able to make it to town due to an illness. Thanks to some quick thinking – and technology – audience members in person at the Jewish Community Center and over 500 tuned in online were able to hear a powerful and moving conversation between Mr. Wiesel and Rabbi Abe Schachter-Gampel.

Jewish Community Partner’s CEO and president Laura Linder opened the program, the theme of which was “Safeguarding the Sacred, Perspectives

on Holocaust Memory.” After Rabbi Cantor David Julian and Cantor Ricky Kampf led attendees in the National Anthem, Holocaust Memorial Committee Chair Margo Gruen greeted the crowd.

Congratulations were offered to the 13th Annual Holocaust Art and Essay Contest winners: Julia Zabek, 11th grader from Knoxville Catholic High School for her essay, and Bruce Black, 8th grader at Colonial Middle School for his painting.

Then, as local Holocaust survivors and second-generation survivors participated in the memorial candle lighting, I was honored to read their bios as a third-generation survivor, while third-generation survivor Adam Exelberd helped with the lighting. The special



In addition to more than 500 households that tuned in via Zoom, the audience heard a powerful and moving conversation between Elisha Wiesel and Rabbi Abe Schachter-Gampel. Credit: Rena Knopf

moment was enhanced by accompaniment from pianist Claire Julian and violinist Diane Zelickman Cohen.

A recording of the candid and thought-provoking conversation of Elisha and Rabbi Abe covered a myriad of interesting topics. Though, some may wonder why these two people were put together for this presentation. It’s because they share a unique and remarkable connection. Elisha is the son of Elie Wiesel – the globally known writer, professor, political activist, Nobel laureate, and Holocaust survivor. And Rabbi Abe is the grandson of Rabbi Herschel Schacter – a chaplain and liberator of 16-year-old Elie at the Buchenwald death camp. Yes, Rabbi Abe’s grandfather liberated Mr. Wiesel’s father in 1945. Remarkable indeed.

Rabbi Abe described Elisha as “an eloquent speaker who speaks from the heart.” All of which was proven true during their discussion. The two talked about being yet another generation removed from the Holocaust and what the legacy of the Shoah is today. “Yes, what happened was terrible,” said Elisha Wiesel. “But let’s focus on what we’re trying to keep alive: the traditions and values Jews have had for thousands of years – what our enemies tried to take away.”

Elisha also spoke about a transformative and “profound trip” he took in 1995 with his father to his dad’s hometown of Sighetu, Romania. He shared that Elie was very aware of the pressure that could be put on his son because of

(See **Yom HaShoah** Page 7)

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Yom HaShoah...
(Continued From Page 6)

Elie’s human rights work and “gave tremendous flexibility” to Elisha, trying to “shield him and lessen the burden.” In fact, Elie only asked two things of Elisha: continuity of his family’s Jewish line by marrying a Jew and saying Kaddish for Elie when he passed, which later gave Elisha “a passport to every shul as a mourner. ... The idea that this existed everywhere for the Jewish people was profound.”

Elie passed away in 2016, and Elisha explained why he decided to carry on speaking in his father’s name. “I see a lot of people get in wrong,” Elisha said. “People know him as a human rights activist but almost forget his Judaism, or they minimize it. That’s problematic. Dad was a human rights activist because he was a Jew. And he was a proud Zionist. So I remind people who Dad really was.”

Rabbi Abe added that he’d read how “Elie loved shul and hearing chazans,” and how “our universal values aren’t distinct and separate from who we are as particular Jews, but they’re an outgrowth or extension of who we are.”

Continuing the conversation about universal values, Elisha noted that Yom HaShoah commemorates the Warsaw Ghetto uprising – those who fought in the resistance; the people who weren’t going to go willingly; the victims. “Where were FDR, the U.S., the West?

Why didn’t they warn people and show solidarity?” he questioned. “The universal lesson is that we have to have resolve on global human rights scales; we have to speak up. We must deny those who want to kill us physically and spiritually.” Elisha also pointed out that we honor Yom HaShoah, which is one of the worst events in Jewish history, then just a few days later celebrate the “holy gift of Yom HaAtzmaut,” Israeli Independence Day.

Rabbi Abe and Elisha talked about several other issues, including the importance of Holocaust education and Jewish literacy, how we shouldn’t compare anything to the Holocaust, which “lessens its uniqueness,” words of Torah, and the Omer.

Rabbi Abe spoke about the 1942 letter his Zaydie had written about joining the American army because he heard “the call of G-d,” which Rabbi Abe beautifully connected to our ancestors in the Torah. And Elisha shared more insight into Elie – “a gentle soul, who’d talk to anyone who engaged him, and had a fundamentally optimistic outlook.”

Elisha’s final thoughts were about taking action as individuals and Jews, sharing that his dad lived by the concept of “love a stranger.”

“It’s not inaccessible. We can always take a step – pick up a Siddur, go to Israel, read the Torah parsha,” he said. “And we can take small steps to make change and help end people’s suffering.”

The remainder of the program included a video of local survivor, 102-year-old Sam Weinreich, singing the “Partisan Song,” as he’s done for over 55 years; Ricky Kampf leading Tehillim/Kaddish; and Cantor Aryeh Samberg singing El Maleh Rachamim, the memorial prayer.

Rabbi Micah Greenstein then shared a closing benediction with a personal story of when he drove Elisha’s father, Elie, to the airport and the meaningful conversation they had 29 years ago. Rabbi Greenstein asked Elie which of the 613 mitzvot is the most important to follow in his judgment. Elie instantly answered: You shall not stand idle while your neighbor bleeds. “Mr. Wiessel said indifference is the enemy,” Rabbi Greenstein added, before sharing

lovely blessings, “May our sorrow and tears tonight compel us to ease the pain of others. ... May we, in some small way, ease the suffering of our people in this complex life.”

To close the moving and fascinating event, Carly Abramson and local IDF soldiers led Israel’s national anthem, Hatikvah.

With few survivors living these days, it’s our duty to continue their legacy and sacred memory. We each have the responsibility to take that small step, love our neighbor and have a positive impact in the world.

May we never forget.

Watch the Memphis Jewish Federation’s 60th Annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLOK0JL9opk> [HW](#)

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Water damage to your home from a leaking pipe, a broken dishwasher, or a hole in your roof — water that comes from the top down — is typically covered by your homeowners insurance policy (up to your policy limits). However, damage from water that enters from the ground up is excluded from most homeowners policies and requires a separate flood insurance policy. To be considered a flood for insurance purposes, water must cover at least two acres or affect two properties. Typically, there is a 30-day waiting period before flood coverage goes into effect, so property owners should not wait until there is an imminent threat to buy flood insurance.



Ninety percent of natural disasters in the United States involve flooding, causing billions of dollars in annual losses.¹ Most flood coverage is provided under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Homeowners who currently have (or may purchase) a flood policy

should be aware that the NFIP has rolled out a new risk assessment model, as this change is expected to have an impact on premiums. Looking ahead, higher insurance costs could be an issue for anyone who aspires to own a coastal or water-front home.

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) calculates the degree of risk in your community based on assessments of rainfall, topography, tidal surge, flood control measures, and other variables. Under the old system, flood insurance premiums were based on the level of risk indicated on FEMA's flood-hazard maps, along with other factors such as building elevation and age. In general, all properties in a particular flood zone were rated for the same level of risk.

Expected Rate Changes with Risk Rating 2.0

Share of flood policyholders who will see their monthly premiums:

Decrease	23%
Increase up to \$10 per month	66%
Increase \$10 to \$20	7%
Increase more than \$20	4%

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2021

As of October 1, 2021, a new system called Risk Rating 2.0 provides a more individualized picture of a property's risk, using a wider range of data including the distance to the water threat and the cost to rebuild a home. This system

is intended to make it easier for homeowners to understand the actual risk to their homes and set premiums more in line with that risk. It's expected to raise premiums for higher-valued and/or higher-risk homes and lower them for lower-valued and/or lower-risk homes. For existing policies, the new pricing takes effect on April 1, 2022. To ease the transition for owners of vulnerable, high-valued homes, annual increases are capped at 18% until they reach the full rate.

1–2) Insurance Information Institute, 2021

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JCRS College Aid Program Opens Applications for the 2022-2023 School Year Deadline to Apply is May 31

Jewish Children’s Regional Service (JCRS) is now accepting college aid applications for new and matriculating undergraduate Jewish students. The priority deadline is May 31, 2022. To be eligible, students must be Jewish and reside primarily within our seven-state service region: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. Apply on the JCRS website: <https://jcrs.org/services/college-aid/>.

JCRS provides college or vocational training scholarships based on financial need. Many of the college students who receive aid from JCRS are from low-income families, but middle-class families are encouraged to apply. Over half of JCRS’s college scholarships are awarded to families whose household income is between \$50,000 and \$150,000.

In 2021, the program funded 90 students with an average award of \$3,000. Typically, freshman and sophomores are eligible for grants for the academic year. Juniors and seniors generally are eligible for a combination of grants and no-interest loans.

Caroline Samuels, a recent college graduate and former recipient of JCRS college aid, sums up the program best, “Thank you for the generous scholarships and loans. They’ve made it much more manageable to handle the various costs. I would not have been able to complete my studies without the funding you all provided, so thank you very much.”

If you have questions about the JCRS College Aid Program, contact: Lisa Tabb – Lisa@jcrs.org or if in the Greater Houston area, contact Melanie Muss-

er – Melanie@jcrs.org.

For more information on JCRS and how you can support its unique and important work with vulnerable Jewish youth, call (800)729-5277, or visit the website at www.jcrs.org.

ABOUT JCRS: Established in 1855 as an orphanage in New Orleans, JCRS is currently the oldest existing Jewish children’s social service organization in the U.S., as well as the only regional Jewish child welfare agency in the country. JCRS provides needs-based scholarships for summer camp experiences, college aid and assistance to children with special needs. Additional outreach programs include the Oscar J. Tolmas Hanukkah Gift Program and the PJ Library program for Jewish children ages 12 and under. www.jcrs.org **HW**

OBITUARY

Andrew Louis Platkin

Andrew Louis Platkin, son of Steven B. Platkin and Marci Blockman Platkin, passed away at his home in Chicago, Ill., on April 29, 2022. He was born on November 11, 1989.

Andrew was a graduate of Ridgeway High School and later Indiana University (IU), where he continued his education and received his master’s degree from the Kelly School of Business. While at IU, Andrew was a member of the Sigma Alpha Mu (Sammy) Fraternity. Andrew was employed by beehive,INC, where he was the Chief Technical Officer.

Andrew is survived by his parents, grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Blockman and Mrs. Myrna Platkin; Aunts Denise Platkin Rubenstein, Terilyn Blockman, Laurie D. Platkin and Patrice Evensky. He also leaves his many Sammy Fraternity Brothers. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Dr. Alan B Platkin.

Services were held at Baron Hirsch Cemetery in Memphis, Tenn.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Andrew Louis Platkin Memorial Fund at the Bornblum School, 6641 Humphrey Blvd Memphis, TN, 38120 online at Bornblum.org or the charity of choice. **HW**

Ohio Rep. Shontel Brown Repeats Victory Over Nina Turner in Gain for Pro-Israel Democrats



Cuyahoga County Council member Shontel Brown (left) and former State Sen. Nina Turner square off in the Democratic Party primary to fill Ohio’s 11th District congressional seat, Aug. 3, 2021. Credit Source: Facebook.

By Dmitriy Shapiro

(JNS) – Democratic incumbent Rep. Shontel Brown will run for re-election in November to keep her seat as Ohio’s 11th Congressional District representative after defeating her opponent, former State Sen. Nina Turner, in a rematch of a special election last year that attracted significant involvement from pro-Israel organizations.

Brown easily defeated Turner, winning by 66.3% of the vote against Turner’s 33.7%. Brown’s gap over Turner widened since they last went head to head in a special election to replace the retiring Congresswoman Marcia Fudge in August, winning 50.2% to Turner’s 44.5%.

Turner aligned herself and campaigned with progressive Democrats such as members of “The Squad” in the U.S. House of Representatives and was endorsed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), whose presidential run Turner served as national campaign chair.

Her alliances with left-wing Democrats also included her opinions on issues surrounding Israel, leading to pro-Israel Democratic groups like Democratic Majority for Israel (DMFI) and others spending a significant amount of money and resources to help Brown win both races.

DMFI PAC president Mark Mellman congratulated Brown on her victory last Tuesday in a news release.

“After being the prime outside supporter of now-Rep. Brown’s successful special election campaign in August 2021, we are proud to have once again played a central role backing her in this race,” said Mellman.

Mellman complimented Brown’s record in Congress over the past months, saying unlike Turner, who was previously critical of U.S. President Joe Biden, Brown seeks “to unite the party” and will work with the president and continue

supporting the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

“Congresswoman Brown’s defeat of Nina Turner last summer sent an unambiguous message that being pro-Israel is not just wise policy but also good politics,” wrote Mellman.

According to the release, DMFI has spent more than \$1 million in support of Brown.

‘Democratic electorate stands with pro-Israel leaders’

Jeff Mendelsohn, executive director of Pro-Israel America, a bipartisan organization also playing a key role in supporting Brown, expressed his satisfaction with the results.

“The U.S.-Israel relationship became a key flashpoint between the two leading Democratic primary candidates in Ohio’s 11th congressional district, and Brown’s victory proves once again that support for the U.S.-Israel relationship is not only good policy but good politics,” he said. “The pro-Israel grassroots community continues to step up for candidates who value a strong U.S.-Israel relation-

ship and are excited to carry this momentum into other upcoming primaries.”

Her campaign was also endorsed and supported by AIPAC and its new political action committee, AIPAC PAC, which can support candidates directly.

AIPAC activists and AIPAC’s Political Action Committee were deeply engaged in this race and proud to stand with a “progressive pro-Israel member of Congress against her anti-Israel opponent.”

“Congresswoman Brown’s victory sends a strong message that the pro-Israel community will stand with those candidates who support the U.S.-Israel relationship. It also shows that the Democratic electorate stands with pro-Israel leaders,” AIPAC wrote in a news release.

Sanders, through one of his Twitter accounts, called AIPAC’s support for Brown and other candidates running against those endorsed by him “pathetic,” saying that “AIPAC and their billionaire friends” had spent \$10 million

against Turner, Pennsylvania 12th Congressional District candidate Summer Lee, North Carolina 4th Congressional District candidate Nida Allam, and Texas 28th Congressional District candidate Jessica Cisneros.

“Why are they so afraid of strong, progressive women of color fighting for the working class?” he tweeted, which was answered by some tweeting back that Brown is also a progressive woman of color while others pointed out that Turner had outspent Brown.

Brown will face Republican primary winner Eric Brewer, who defeated his opponent, James Hemphill, by 57.6% to 42.4%. The district is considered a safe Democratic seat by Sabato’s Crystal Ball. **HW**

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Jews Join Fight Against Overturning Roe v. Wade as Thousands Protest in Lower Manhattan



Members of Jews For Racial and Economic Justice and IfNotNow hold signs that say “Baruch Hashem For Abortion” at the Foley Square Rally. Credit: Jacob Henry

By Jacob Henry

(New York Jewish Week) – Thousands of people, including Jewish groups, politicians and rabbis, turned out in Foley Square in Lower Manhattan last Tuesday to protest the news that the Supreme Court is preparing to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 49-year-old ruling that federally protects legal abortion in the United States.

The rally was quickly organized by a range of activists, politicians and community organizers, following last Monday’s leaked draft opinion signaling the court’s intent to overturn Roe v. Wade, which was first reported by Politico. Many in attendance were wearing green, a color that represents a woman’s right to choose, stemming from Argentina’s fight to overturn restrictive abortion laws in 2018.

Among the Jewish groups represented were the left-leaning organizations Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, the Workers Circle and IfNotNow.

JFREJ activists showed up at the rally with green signs that said, partially

in Hebrew, “Baruch Hashem for Abortion,” meaning “Thank God for Abortion.”

“Abortion is a Jewish value,” JFREJ Executive Director Audrey Sasson told the New York Jewish Week. “Our texts are very clear that we value life. We value the life of the mother. That’s what’s really important to us.”

She added that the attack on abortion is an attack from the “white Christian nationalist right.”

“That’s an attack on all of us: Jews, Muslims and people of all backgrounds,” she said. “This is an agenda that has been going on for decades to bully all the rest of us into submission.”

Many politicians were in attendance at the rally, including Speaker Adrienne Adams, representing many members from New York’s City Council; public advocate and gubernatorial candidate Jumaane Williams and Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine.

A particular highlight was New York State Attorney General Letitia James, who shared with the crowd that she had an abortion when she was first elected as a Council member in 2004. “I came to this issue in a very personal way,” she said. “I was faced with a decision, whether to have an abortion or not. I chose to have an abortion. I walked proudly into Planned Parenthood and I make no apologies to anyone, to no one.”

She also announced that New York will establish a fund for individuals who want to come to the state for an abortion.

Jewish comedian Amy Schumer introduced the attorney general, saying that the “Supreme Court is going in the wrong direction.”

“I tell jokes, but this court is a joke,” Schumer said. “This country overwhelmingly supports abortion rights. The decision to overturn Roe is radical and outrageous. We’re mad and we’re going to fight the f**k back.”

Rabbi Stephanie Kolin of Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope spoke at the rally about how Jewish tradition has had “an ancient conversation” about the right and the need for abortion in this world.

“Jewish tradition concerns itself with a pregnant person whose life or health is at risk,” Kolin said. “Not only that they might be permitted to terminate the pregnancy, but at times, it is required that they must, to save and preserve the pregnant person.”

She added that if Roe v. Wade is overturned, it will be a great risk for everyone, “Jewish people and beyond.”

“We know that the overturning of the right for abortion is going to hit mostly people of color, poor people and people who are most vulnerable,” she said. “My Jewish values do not permit me to stand idly by when that happens.”

The sentiments of the Jewish activists at the New York rally echo those expressed by liberal Jewish groups across the country that have long supported abortion rights. Pro-choice protesters, both Jewish and not, also convened in Washington, D.C. last Tuesday, as well as at local rallies held in cities and towns from coast to coast.

As the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported last Tuesday, the National Council of Jewish Women had previously announced, in April, the “Jewish Rally for Abortion Justice,” set for May 17 in Washington. The event’s aim was to



Thousands attended the rally at Foley Square to protest against the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Credit: Jacob Henry

build support among Jews for defending abortion rights at a time that the rights were under attack. Now it appears the stakes may be even higher.

So far Orthodox Jewish groups – which have increasingly aligned themselves with the Republican Party in recent years – have remained quiet on the issue. Many told our JTA colleagues that they are waiting to learn more before they express an opinion. Traditional Jewish law allows abortion in some circumstances; moreover, it requires abortion when the life or health of the pregnant person is at stake.

In Manhattan yesterday, Ann Toback, CEO of Workers Circle, a social justice group that builds Jewish identity through progressive values, said that the overturning of Roe v. Wade shows that basic rights are under attack in America.

“It’s about controlling your life,” Toback told the New York Jewish Week. “It’s about the right to control your body and your reproductive health and well-being. For the Workers Circle, these are Jewish rights, which are at the forefront of fighting for human rights. That’s what it’s all about for us.” **HW**

Remembering Neal Adams, a Comic Book Legend Who Championed Holocaust Awareness

By Rafael Medoff

(JTA) – Comic artist Neal Adams, who passed away at age 80 in New York City on April 28, is best known for having revolutionized Batman and other iconic comic book characters for both the DC and Marvel brands. But Adams himself was also a fearless crusader: He battled comics publishers for the rights of artists and writers, rescued Superman’s Jewish creators from abject poverty and campaigned for a Holocaust survivor to regain portraits she painted in Auschwitz.

Adams, who was born in New York City in 1941 and spent much of his childhood on a U.S. military base in postwar Germany where his father was stationed, was not Jewish. But he had a strong interest in the Holocaust, both because of his childhood memories from Germany and because his mother-in-law was a Jewish refugee from Nazi-occupied Poland who helped the Polish Embassy in Morocco design counterfeit documents for other Jews fleeing from the Nazis.

In school, “they showed us some pretty harrowing stuff – newsreel footage of what the Allied troops found when they liberated the camps, severely emaciated prisoners, huge piles of dead bodies,” he later recalled. “It was very hard for a 9-year-old to take. I came home from school and wouldn’t speak to anyone for days.”

Those memories would influence his interest in Holocaust education many years later.

After graduating from the School of Industrial Art in Manhattan, Adams

worked for an advertising agency where he created artwork based on copying photographs. The technique helped him develop an uncannily realistic art style which would prove revolutionary for comic books.

In 1967, Adams began drawing for DC Comics, the publisher of Batman and Superman and, a few years later, for Marvel Comics, home of Spider-Man and the X-Men. Under Adams’ pen, superheroes who previously were drawn in exaggerated, cartoonish ways, took on a new, powerfully realistic appearance. Sales of Adams-drawn comics skyrocketed.

Adams’s rendering of Batman in particular was a game-changer. He transformed the Caped Crusader – by then best-known from the campy 1960s television series – into the grim and gritty Dark Knight character that came to dominate Batman comics and more recently movies. Adams also drew groundbreaking comic stories of the superheroes Green Lantern and Green Arrow, which dealt with social issues such as racism, drug abuse and pollution.

Adams’s first dive into public controversy came about by accident. During a visit to the DC production room in 1969, he chanced upon a staff member cutting up pages of original comic book art.

“I could not believe they were destroying this beautiful artwork,” Adams said later. He launched a campaign to convince DC to recognize the art as the property of the artists and return it to them after publication. After seven years of protesting, lobbying and cajoling, both DC and Marvel gave in to Ad-

ams’s demand. The sale of original art has since become an important supplementary revenue stream for traditionally low-paid comic book artists.

Jewish artists, writers and editors have played major roles in the comic book industry from its earliest days, starting with Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the Jewish teenagers from Cleveland who created Superman in 1938. They sold the rights to the Man of Steel to DC (then National Periodicals) for \$130 and a 10-year work contract.

When Adams met them in 1971, Siegel was working as a clerk and Shuster, nearly blind, was sleeping on a cot in a relative’s apartment. Shocked to hear that Superman’s creators could not even afford tickets to see the Broadway play based on their character, Adams led a campaign to pressure DC “to just do the right thing already,” as he put it. The publicity he generated eventually convinced the publisher to give Siegel and Shuster a modest pension and health care coverage.

In 2006, Adams took up the cause of Dina Babbitt, a Czech Jewish artist seeking the return of portraits that she had been forced to paint in Auschwitz by the infamous “Angel of Death,” Dr. Josef Mengele. The Auschwitz-Birkenau museum, which acquired eight of the portraits after the war, claimed ownership.

“The fundamental principle that art belongs to the artist who created it is recognized everywhere except in totalitarian countries,” Adams and other comic book figures wrote in a petition, which echoed Adams’ earlier fight for

the return of comic book art. “Mrs. Babbitt has suffered enough. We implore you to do the right thing and give her back her paintings.”

Adams helped mobilize more than 450 comic book artists and writers to sign the petition.

“Sadly, despite Neal’s best efforts, the museum never returned the paintings,” said comics creators advocate J. David Spurlock, who worked with Adams and former Marvel Comics chief Stan Lee on the campaign.

Adams drew a comic strip about Babbitt’s plight, which was published by Marvel Comics, and then later adapted into an animated short for a DVD of Holocaust-related stories created by Disney Educational Productions. Subsequently Adams, together with comics historian Craig Yoe and myself, coauthored a book, “We Spoke Out: Comic Books and the Holocaust,” which showed how comic book stories about the Nazi genocide played a pioneering role in Holocaust education in the 1950s and 1960s.

In the course of my collaboration with Adams on these projects, we had the opportunity for many conversations about comic books as a vehicle for Holocaust education, something that Adams strongly advocated. He said his Holocaust-related efforts were “some of the most meaningful work [he] ever did.” Considering the breadth and impact of Adams’s career, that was saying a lot.

Rafael Medoff is founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies and author of more than 20 books about Jewish history and the Holocaust. **HW**

Memphis BBYO Gathers Before Summer Break



On Sunday, May 1, Memphis BBYO teens gathered one last time before summer break at the MJCC outdoor pool, where Roz had a giant to do list for them!

J-Serve is the International Day of Jewish Youth Service. Since 2005,



J-Serve has provided teens with a unique opportunity to band together through service as a united global network committed to fulfilling the Jewish values of gemilut chasidim, acts of loving kindness, tzedakah, just and charitable giving, and tikkun olam, the re-



sponsibility to repair the world. Every year, Jewish teens worldwide join each other on this special day and throughout the spring to make their community and the world a better place.

Our teens love giving back to their Memphis community. Each year BBYO



gets the outdoor pool ready to open Memorial Day! The teens cleaned the slide, pool chairs, the deck and more.

Volunteering is a big part of BBYO and our teens actively take part in community service projects around Memphis. [HW](#)

Jewish Former Trump Aide Wins GOP Primary in Ohio's 7th Congressional District



Republican candidate Max Miller, who is running for Ohio's 7th Congressional District seat, and former President Donald Trump, to whom Miller formerly served as an aide.

Credit: Max Miller campaign.

(JNS) – Jewish first-time candidate and former aide in the Trump administration Max Miller, 32, easily defeated his two opponents for the GOP nomination in Ohio's 7th Congressional District last Tuesday.

Miller, who was endorsed early in his campaign by former President Donald Trump, beat his three Republican rivals by receiving 71.8% of the vote.

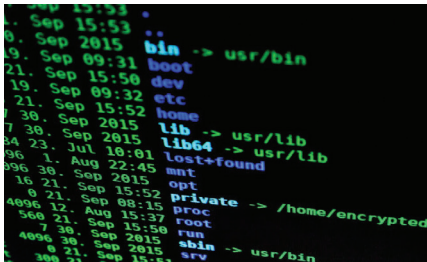
Ohio's new 7th Congressional District was recently redrawn by the GOP majority legislature to combine two districts. Both incumbents of the former districts, Reps. Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio) and Anthony Gonzalez (R-Ohio), did not seek re-election.

Miller will face Democratic primary winner media entrepreneur Matthew Diemer, 42, who is also a first-time candidate and won the primary with 55% of the vote.

The district is considered a safe Republican seat by University of Virginia politics professor Larry Sabato, known for his U.S. election predictions and analyses compiled on Sabato's Crystal Ball. [HW](#)

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Israel to Boost Supervision of Telecom Companies to Stop Hacking Attempts



Credit: Pixabay.

(JNS) – Israel's government ordered firms last Monday to increase their cyber-security systems due to an uptick in hacking and attempts to hack national systems.

New cyber-security czar Gaby Portnoy said a spike in the number of such attacks occurred in the last few weeks, reported Reuters.

Portnoy said regulations are being put into place to unify standards and increase the level of supervision of telecom companies throughout the Jewish state.

He also accused Iranians of being behind many of the incidents.

Israeli Communications Minister Yoaz Hendel said, "we are trying to put the right standard on communication companies in order to protect Israel and create a kind of 'Iron Dome' from cyber-security attacks. We are suffering from thousands of cyber attacks every year." [HW](#)

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Terror On Israel Independence Day



Israeli security and rescue personnel at the scene of a terrorist attack on Ibn Gvirol Street in Elad, east of Tel Aviv and near the city of Petach Tikvah, on Yom Ha'azmaut, Israel's Independence Day, May 5, 2022. Credit: Jamal Awad/Flash90.

By JNS Staff

(JNS) – Security forces are searching for the attackers who killed three Israelis and injured at least four people, two critically, in the central Israeli city of Elad, not far from Petach Tikvah. The attack last Thursday night came as celebrations for Yom Ha'azmaut, Israel Independence Day, were winding down.

“Unfortunately, three people who we performed CPR on have been pronounced dead,” said Moshe Sa’adon, a volunteer EMT with United Hatzalah and head of Elad Hatzalah, who was one of the first emergency-service personnel on the scene. “We also treated two people in serious condition, one person in moderate condition and a number of

people lightly injured.”

Also treating patients is Magen David Adom. Director general Eli Bin tweeted: “At the moment, reports indicate six victims in serious condition. Many MDA teams are at the scene treating the victims at this moment.”

One of the victims who was killed was reported as being a man in his 40s. A witness at the scene heard shouts of Allahu Akbar during the attack, according to Israeli media.

The suspects, who attacked people in the city’s central park by Ibn Gvirol Street, were believed to be armed with an ax and perhaps a firearm. With the aid of at least one helicopter, security forces are searching the area for the assailants. Elad Mayor Yisrael Porush told residents to stay inside while security forces were operating.

Jewish groups worldwide immediately responded to the news, offering prayers and support.

“When will the hatred and violence end?” said a tweet from the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center in Canada. “We are sickened to learn of yet another suspected terror attack in Israel, which

has taken the lives of three people and injured several others. Our thoughts are with the victims and their loved ones.”

Agudath Israel of America tweeted that it is “horrified by the news of a terror attack in Elad, Israel. We are praying for the victims and their families.” They followed up that tweet with the text of Psalm 130, which many recite in times of trouble.

Stand With Us tweeted: “At least three innocent people were murdered in tonight’s deadly terror attack in Elad, central Israel, #Israel, and at least 3 more are left fighting for their lives, as Israelis were celebrating Israel’s Independence Day. May their memories forever be a blessing.”

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean and director of global social action at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said: “No current peace partner in Holy Land. Palestinian leadership continues to praise and support terrorists, and reward them and their families for murdering and maiming Jews. It will stop when the world holds [Palestinian] leadership accountable for their incitement and support for terrorism.” **HW**

Gaza-Based Jihadi Clerics Laud Terrorist Attack in Elad

(JNS) – Hamas described the terrorist attack in Elad last Thursday evening as heroic, saying it was a response to the crimes committed against the Palestinians at Al-Aqsa mosque, according to a Jihad and Terrorism Threat Monitor report distributed by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

“The heroic ‘Elad’ operation represents a severe blow to the occupation

[i.e., Israel] and its security system in response to the crimes of the occupation and its incursions into Al-Aqsa mosque,” said Hamas spokesman Abd Al-Latif Al-Qanou.

“Our people will continue their struggle and defense of Al-Aqsa mosque using all means and tools, and its strikes will reach the Zionists and the herds of rapists, wherever they go and settle,” he added.

Jihadi cleric Nail bin Ghazi, who is based in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, published a post on the instant-messaging service Telegram praising the attack.

“The lie of the so-called Independence Day of their mutant state has ended with great pain. ... By Allah, there is no place for you on a single speck of dust from our stolen country,” he wrote.

Ahmad Qanitah, another Gaza-based

jihadi cleric, also encouraged violent resistance to Israel, posting on Telegram: “The occupier wanted this day to be a day of humiliation and oppression for our people and our nation, with their celebrations of the anniversary of occupying Palestine[;] but Allah wanted it to be a day of glory, victory, and prestige for our people and our nation, at the hands of the first servants, with great might.” **HW**



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