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SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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More Than 1,000 Jews Rally Outside the U.S. Capitol in Support of Abortion Rights



A protester holds up a sign reading “Abortion Access is a Jewish Value” at a rally in front of the US Capitol Building organized by the National Council of Jewish Women, May 17, 2022. Credit: Julia Gergely

By Julia Gergely

(JTA) – As it was originally conceived over the last year, the Jewish Rally for Abortion Justice was meant to be a powerful closing ceremony for the National Council of Jewish Women’s annual Washington Institute conference. A few hundred attendees were expected. That all changed earlier this month, when Politico leaked a draft of a Supreme Court decision that would overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court case that protected and federally legalized access to abortion.

Instead of a standard end-of-conference gathering, the crowd last Tuesday morning on the National Mall, near the Capitol, swelled to more than a thousand Jews from New York, Washington, Chicago and across the country, and even Israel, who used the rally as an outlet to express their outrage and find intersectional solidarity in their Jewish community. “Fighting for women’s rights has been a part of my Jewish activism my whole life,” said Laura Weil, a member of the

crowd who came to the rally with her Virginia synagogue. “I came to guarantee rights for my 1-year-old granddaughter and for her mother, my daughter, to be able to decide if and when she’ll continue to grow her family.” Polls show that American Jews favor abortion rights more than any other religious group, although Orthodox groups tend to favor more restrictions on abortion than the liberal Jewish majority. Sheila Katz, the CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women and organizer of the rally, told the New York Jewish Week she had expected, or suspected, the Supreme Court’s draft ruling for some time. “But seeing it in the writing, and seeing the complete disregard for women and people who can get pregnant, was just devastating,” she said. She added that the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is “not only just a deeply Jewish issue, but also a religious freedom issue.” With the rally’s 9 a.m. start time, buses from synagogues and Jewish organizations in New York and New Jersey departed the Tri-State area at 4 a.m., the massive full moon still hanging over the city. This reporter hopped on a bus with a group of seven from Temple Emanu-El, including Senior Rabbi Joshua Davidson, Rabbi Sara Sapadin and Cantor Sara Anderson. “I only set

two alarms a year – for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. But today I had to set an alarm,” Davidson joked as the bus pulled away from East 65th Street. “We’re all here for a number of different reasons, but we all recognize our voices cannot be heard if they are not lifted, and what we’re doing today is so important.” For Allison Bell, a member of Temple Emanu-El group, the decision to attend the rally was a no-brainer, despite the early departure time. “If we say we’re pro-choice and we’re not standing up and showing up for this, then what do we stand for?” she said. “This is what is important to stand up for over everything going on in my life – for me and for my daughter.” Once at the rally, the mood was energetic, with lots of hugs shared between old friends and acquaintances. While many in the crowd were happy to be surrounded by community, lots of women expressed shock and anger that they were continuing to rally for a woman’s right to an abortion – some for the second, third, or umpteenth time in their lives. “Being pro-choice was the first political issue I remember feeling a side for, when I was maybe 12 years old,” said Lisa Mackem, who came from Virginia

(See Rally Page 3)

IAEA Head Says Iran Won’t Disclose Nuclear Activity at Undeclared Sites


(JNS) – Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi said Iran was not cooperating fully regarding uranium particles found at older, undeclared sites. “I am not trying to pass an alarmist message that we are at a dead-end, but the situation does not look very good.

Iran has not been forthcoming in the type of information we need from them,” he told European Parliament committees last Tuesday, reported Reuters. “We are, of course, still hopeful that some agreement is going to be reached within a reasonable time frame, although we have to recognize the fact

that the window of opportunity could be closed any anytime,” he said. Since March, international negotiations in Vienna over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal have stalled, mainly over Iran’s demand that Washington remove the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps from its list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. **HW**



Rafael Grossi Credit: Wikimedia Commons/Dean Calma/ IAEA.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Find Your Roots
I saw the segment [of Finding Your Roots] on Damon Lindelof and Regina King; actually, I saw it three times, once on channel 10.1 and twice on 10.2, and was moved every time I saw Lindelof’s reaction when finding out that family members had, in fact, been murdered by the Nazis, and that some of them had even been profiled at Yad Vashem unbeknownst to him even though he’d visited the memorial. Here’s where it hit home with me. You see, my maternal grandparents, Israel and Miriam Katz Sarver, came from Bialystok as did Lindelof’s great-grandparents. Obviously, they were of the same generation, witnessed by the world events taking place at the time. According to Dr. Gates’ research, Lindelof’s great-grandparents’ last name was “Lach.” Growing up in Paterson, N.J., I was familiar with two very close friends of my mother’s, the “Lash” sisters (Paula and Trudy). I don’t know for a fact that their parents came from Bialystok as did my mother’s, but it would seem logical that immigrants would tend to seek out folks from their hometown in “the old country” and my grandfather was a member of The Bialystoker Society. I’ve reached out to my siblings and maternal cousins to see if anyone has the journal from the organization (which I distinctly remember was in my mother’s home at one time) so that I can check to see if anyone named “Lash” appears in it. We’ve all heard stories (true or not) of how names were changed at Ellis Island, my favorite being the one about a Yiddish-speaking Jew ending up with the name “Shane Ferguson.” But even if we only consider the issue of transliteration from one alphabet to another, “Lach” and “Lash”

were very likely the same name back in Poland. If anyone reading this has a connection to the “Bialystokers” (my son, Avi Fisher, actually visited the city on his way back to his home in Israel after a stint working at the Israeli embassy in Moscow, but the archives center was closed for Shabbat during his visit), please get in touch with me.
Alice Zalon
Memphis, TN

Israeli Flag
As I was driving past the Yeshvia [on White Station], I noticed that they are flying the Israeli flag next to the U.S. flag. It has probably been there for years, but it never caught my attention before.
The following is a question, not a comment.
Is it appropriate for a school or any other institution that is operated and funded in the U.S., by and for U.S. citizens, to fly the flag of a foreign nation?
Does it indicate a dual loyalty? Should it have equal prominence? Does it blur the distinction of Judaism as both a nationality and a religion? Considering the times we live in, does it undermine the safety of the institution?
The suggestion of dual loyalty has plagued diaspora Jews for centuries.
I am an ardent Zionist and I understand and empathize with the reasons for doing so, but is it proper? And is it smart?
Do other groups with similar ties to their hereditary and emotional birthplace or homeland do the same?
I would appreciate hearing other opinions.
Elliott J. Saunders
Memphis, TN

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. May 27, 2022 / 26 Iyar, 57827:47 p.m.
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Weekly Torah Portion: Bechukotai

Russian-Made Weapons Reached Hezbollah with Likely Consent from Moscow

(JNS) – Russia has likely turned a blind eye to Syrian and Iranian transfers of Russian-made weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon, a new report by an Israeli defense research center has assessed.
The Alma Center said in its findings that when Russia wishes to transmit messages of displeasure to Jerusalem

over Israel’s “gray zone” campaign against Iranian targets, which Russia fears can destabilize the Syrian arena, it has, among other things, disregarded the movement of advanced Russian-made weapons from Syria to Hezbollah weapon depots in Lebanon.
The report estimates that Moscow

has enabled the transfer of a host of surface-to-air missile-defense systems to Hezbollah from Syria, as well as the supersonic anti-ship cruise missile, the Yakhont. This comes despite the fact that Russia and Israel share an overall interest in Syria to keep Iranian entrenchment efforts in check.

In addition, Russia’s handover of S-300 batteries to Syrian President Bashar Assad under the control of its military has created a new challenge for the Israeli Air Force, stated the report. That development followed the downing of a Russian intelligence-gathering aircraft on Sept. 17, 2018, by Syrian air-defense missiles that had been targeting Israeli aircraft.
In the past, and as recently as April, Moscow has released what it claimed was information on the type of attacking Israeli aircraft – their number, the direction of attack, how many missiles were intercepted, and on occasion, the type of missile used by Israel.
“The purpose of the Russian publication was to send a message of Russian dissatisfaction with Israeli activity in Syria in particular and sometimes also from overall Israeli policy in general, according to Alma’s report. “The last case of such publication was on April 16, when the Russians published the details of an airstrike carried out on April 14 west of Damascus. The purpose of this publication can be linked to the message that the Russians wanted to convey to Israel in connection with Russian dissatisfaction with Israeli policy regarding the war in Ukraine.” **HW**



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The Secret Jewish History of The Who

In honor of guitarist Pete Townshend’s 77th birthday, we return to investigate the band’s surprising Jewish resonances.



Who’s Jewish? Pete Townshend, circa 2000. Image by Getty Images
By Seth Rogovoy

This origianlly appeared in Forward. Reprinted with permission. Forward Editor’s Note: In honor of Pete Townshend’s 77th birthday, we revisit his band’s Jewish history that we first looked into in 2015.

The Who, the English rock group, is in the midst of yet another tour, one that they say may be their last – a claim they have been making since at least 1982. On this tour, The Who are mostly performing their best-known hits and fan favorites, including songs like “Pinball Wizard” from their rock opera, “Tommy.”

If the group’s visionary songwriter and guitarist Pete Townshend had had his way, “Tommy” – an allegory about a traumatized messiah – would not have been the band’s first rock opera.

Following a visit to Caesarea, Israel, in 1966 with his first wife, Karen Astley, and the subsequent outbreak of the Six-Day War, Townshend began work on “Rael,” a song cycle loosely based on Israel’s struggle to survive despite being massively outnumbered by its enemies. “Rael” – short for “Israel” – got sidetracked, partly due to the demands of The Who’s record company for faster delivery of more hit singles, and “Rael” was consigned to the shelf. The only song that has surfaced from that project is called “Rael” and appears on the late 1967 album, “The Who Sell Out.”

A deeper examination of who Pete Townshend is, which he provides in his aptly titled autobiography, “Who I Am,” reveals a man who, while not Jewish himself, has great empathy for the Jewish people and who sees the world very much through the eyes of a Jewish-influenced character.

The son of musicians with a tempestuous marriage, Townshend in his early years was shuffled around among relatives, friends and neighbors while his parents came and went, carrying on relationships outside of their marriage. In his autobiography, Townshend waxes nostalgic not for the comfort of his family, but for the Jewish world that protected him: “We shared our house

with the Cass family, who lived upstairs and, like many of my parents’ closest friends, were Jewish. I remember noisy, joyous Passovers with a lot of Gefilte fish, chopped liver and the aroma of slow-roasting brisket.”

After a stint being raised by his grandmother, a period during which he was abused by her and the parade of boy-friends tramping in and out of her flat, he returned home to his parents. Again, his surroundings gave him the most security and happiness: “I was seven, and happy to be home again, back in the noisy flat with a toilet in the back yard and the delicious aroma of Jewish cooking from upstairs. It was all very reassuring.”

The Who evolved from a band called the Detours originally led by vocalist Roger Daltrey, who played guitar at the time. The band included bassist John Entwistle, a high school chum of Townshend’s. When the group’s lead guitarist quit the band, Entwistle recommended his friend. As Townshend tells it, the audition went something like this:

Daltrey: “Can you play “Hava Nagilah”?”

Townshend: “Yes.”

Daltrey: “You’re in. See you next Tuesday night.”

And so began The Who, a unique group of misfit musicians, none of whom played their instruments in conventional fashion. Drummer Keith Moon was no mere timekeeper; his was more of a textural, orchestral approach, and if you listen to the group’s early singles you’ll be surprised to hear drum solos where there would typically be guitar solos, which Townshend rarely played. Bassist John Entwistle filled the musical mid-range with soaring arpeggios and riffs, more like the work of a keyboardist than a bassist. And Townshend approached the guitar purely as a vehicle for sound and impact. “In rock ‘n’ roll the electric guitar was becoming the primary melodic instrument, performing the role of the saxophone in jazz and dance music, and the violin in Klezmer,” Townshend wrote.

In recent years, Townshend’s thoughts have once again turned back toward the concerns he expressed in “Rael.” As he told an interviewer for Rolling Stone in 2006:

Last week, I was reading about this book that’s just come out. It’s about the Polish Jews who got out of concentration camps and went back to their homes, which had been taken over by Christians who assumed the Jews weren’t coming back. What happened was another wave of anti-Semitism in which dozens were slaughtered by Christians in Warsaw. The premise for it was that there was witchcraft going on. The Jews, of course, drank the blood of children. Been there, done that. F@#g hell. And I asked myself, ‘Why am I so heated up about this f@#g story?’ But it’s because, as a kid, my best friend, Mick Leiber, was a Jew. We grew up in a community that was about a third Polish. We lived in a house that divided in two, and in the top part lived a Jewish family who were quite devout. Polish Jews were the kids I played with. They were my people. I remember saying to my mother, ‘Aren’t Polish people from Poland?’ And she said, ‘Yes, they were Britain’s first ally in the war.’ I’d say, ‘But they’re not like foreigners. They’re just like we are.’ And she said, “Yes, they’re just like we are.”

Unlike other fellow British rockers, most notably Roger Waters and Elvis Costello, who are vocal supporters of a cultural boycott of Israel, Townshend holds a pro-Israel stance, as he told the same Rolling Stone interviewer regarding The Who’s album, “Endless Wire,” a 10-song “mini-opera” about kids forming a rock band in the post-9/11 world.

And where are we today? We’re in the same anti-Semitic apologetic denial – it’s a dishrag of a policy. Trying to blame Israel for defending a country we created. And I’m not even Jewish! Jesus f@#g Christ. And let’s start with him! Sweet Jesus. This album absolutely had to have several songs about Jesus the man, Muhammad the man, but not modern Christianity or Islam. They are both potentially anti-Semitic today. And I think the fact is that, when I was working on this album I just thought, ‘It’s f@#g about time that I completed my story.’ At this time in my life, with nuclear threats coming from Iran and Korea, I am becoming so impatient with the ex-hippies all around me. I am suddenly thinking like an extreme reactionary, right-wing, warmongering... F@#g hell, come inside my brain! The incredible numbers of dead in the last war make it clear that we can’t afford to wait to be hit again. That’s my opinion. That’s my story. Peace is something that has to be made. It doesn’t come from passivity.

Incidentally, “Endless Wire” also includes a song called “Trilby’s Piano,” a song about the hidden, forbidden love of a Jewish man named “Hymie,” sung by Townshend.

Apparently, Townshend’s immersion in all things Jewish has rubbed off on his longtime musical partner, Roger Daltrey, who, when asked a while back if the band would really stop touring, groaned like an old Jewish man, “We will always do shows for charity, when we can, because it’s of enormous value to people and Pete [Townshend] and I love to play. But we won’t do long, schlepping tours. It’s killing us.”

Seth Rogovoy frequently writes about the intersection of popular culture and Jewishness for the Forward. He has often been mistaken on the streets of major metropolitan areas for Pete Townshend. HW

Rep. Tlaib and House ‘Squad’ Introduce ‘Nakba’ Resolution



Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.)
Credit: Phil Pasquini/Shutterstock.
By Tamir Morag

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – House members led by Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) last Monday introduced a resolution calling for U.S. recognition of the Palestinian nakba, a term meaning “catastrophe” that is typically used by Palestinians to refer to the establishment of the State of Israel.

“Today, I introduced a resolution recognizing the nakba, where 400 Palestinian towns and villages were destroyed, more than 700,000 Palestinians uprooted from their homes and made refugees,” Tlaib, a Detroit-born American of Palestinian descent, wrote on Twitter.

“The nakba is well-documented and continues to play out today. We must acknowledge that the humanity of Palestinians is being denied when folks refuse to acknowledge the war crimes and human-rights violations in apartheid Israel,” she continued.

Tlaib went on to thank the co-sponsors of the resolution, Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), Cori Bush (D-Mo.), Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.), Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) and Marie Newman (D-Ill.). Along with Tlaib, the first four co-sponsors are all members of what is known as “the Squad.” The sixth “Squad” member, Ayanna Pressley of (D-Mass.), was not a co-signer.

The resolution claims that Palestinians opposed the United Nations’ 1947 recommendation to partition the territory then known as Palestine into two states, one for Arabs and one for Jews. It states that prior to Israel declaring independence on May 14, 1948, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians had fled their homes, “often after attacks by Zionist militias.” It does not make reference to the use of some of those areas by invading Arab nations to attack Israel.

The resolution also characterizes the conflict differently than the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Historian, which states that after the U.N. resolution, “[f]ighting began with attacks by irregular bands of Palestinian Arabs ... against Jewish cities, settlements and armed forces.”

Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.) reacted angrily to the resolution and urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to respond, tweeting: “Israel is our great ally and the continued anti-Semitism from radical socialists in the House is horrific. These are @SpeakerPelosi’s Democrat members. Does she agree with them? If not, she must immediately condemn this.”

The U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, an advocacy group, hailed the measure, saying, “For far too long, the Palestinian experience has been ignored by Washington, and Palestinians have been gaslit for trying to tell their story. We must shift U.S. foreign policy away from enabling Israel’s ongoing displacement of Palestinians with military funding – and towards accountability.”

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom. HW

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Honoring the Life and Legacy of HaRav Nota Greenblatt zt”l



Rav Nota Greenblatt with his wife, Miriam Kaplan Greenblatt, at a past Margolin Hebrew Academy banquet.

By Shoshana Cener

The Jewish world – and especially the Memphis community – has lost one of the greats. HaRav Nota Greenblatt zt”l passed away at the end of April at the age of 96. His funeral was held May 1 at Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem of America on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Jews throughout the world joined the streamed service online. To honor Rav Nota locally, there was a community-wide memorial service on May 8 at Margolin Hebrew Academy (MHA), which he helped found.

Rav Nota was a highly regarded *av bais din* (head of the Jewish rabbinical court) of Memphis and prominent rabbi, *posek* (Jewish law decision-maker) and *sofer* (Hebrew scribe). Born in 1925 in Washington, D.C., his family moved to New York in 1928.

Rav Nota, who spoke fluent Yiddish, lived in Israel (then Palestine) from age 8 to 12. Upon his return to America in 1937, he studied at Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim in Williamsburg, N.Y. In 1941 he joined a private kibbutz organized by Rav Yoshe Ber Soloveitchik in Boston – 16-year-old Rav Nota was the youngest there.

A year later, he moved back to New York to learn at Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem of America, where Rav Moshe Feinstein zt”l – the eminent *posek hador* (decision-maker of his generation) was *rosh yeshiva* (head of school). It was at yeshiva that Rav Nota began answering *shylahs* – questions from Jews around the world about *halacha* (Jewish law), even at such a young age.

From 1946 to 1948, Rav Nota studied in Chevron, Israel, before coming back to the U.S. because his father was sick, though he thankfully recovered. In 1949, Rav Nota saw an ad for an assistant rabbi and *Talmud Torah* (Study of Torah) rebbi in Memphis – his dad encouraged him to go for that position. Rav Nota did and then spent the next few years traveling to and from New York to see his dad, until his father’s passing.

Jewish Memphians had founded Beth El Emeth congregation in 1862 and Anshei Sphard congregation in 1893 – the two synagogues merged in 1966, but the only Jewish education in town at the time was the Talmud Torah from Rav Stampfer. Rav Nota Greenblatt taught Talmud Torah, but he envisioned a comprehensive Torah day school. So just six months later in 1949, he and Rabbi Seymour “Sy” Kutner founded the Memphis Hebrew Academy (which later became Margolin Hebrew Academy), along with help from locals. There were 34 students in the

first class. There was no school tuition for the first 15 years of MHA, as Rav Nota feared students wouldn’t come if it wasn’t free. The community stepped up to help make the school successful, holding bake sales and other fundraising events. MHA is still going strong 70 years later.

The same year the school opened, Rav Nota met and married his wife, Miriam Kaplan Greenblatt. Their first date was on a city bus, and then they took a walk together. As Rebbetzin Greenblatt raised their five children – Dovid, Rochel, Leah, Jacob, Joey – she was instrumental in helping the Jewish community thrive.

In the early 1950s, Rav Nota became a *mohel*, performing *bris milot* throughout the South. He also began writing *gittin* (Jewish divorce papers). He traveled across the U.S. for many decades, ensuring that secularly divorced Jewish women received their get. Rav Nota also built *mikvaos* (ritual baths) in many Southern cities. He also worked with the OU and oversaw *shechitah* (animal slaughter) in the OU kosher meat plants in Iowa. And, Rav Nota formed the Vaad Hakehillot of Memphis.

In 1964, the Yeshiva of the South, which later became Feinstone Yeshiva

of the South, was founded as an extension of the Memphis Hebrew Academy. Yeshiva of the South, for young men, later became the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys, and the school for young women was named Goldie Margolin School for Girls.

Rav Nota also served as *baal koreh* (Torah reader) and *chazzan* (cantor) of Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth for many years, and later held *minyan* (prayer service) at his home every Shabbos for 50 years. And throughout his illustrious career, he answered countless questions from Jews, as well as rabbis throughout the world.

Of course, it’s impossible to capture Rav Nota’s lifetime of commitments to our faith and people – these are simply a handful of the immeasurable highlights. So many Memphians have special memories of Rav Nota, my family included. From the outpouring of tributes and support his family has received, it’s clear he impacted those in our city, throughout the country, Israel and across globe.

Rav Nota was unquestionably a pillar of our community and a giant in the Jewish world, ensuring Torah observance continuity through his countless contributions to Judaism. The Memphis Jewish community would not be the same had it not been for Rav Nota Greenblatt.

Yehi zichro baruch. May his memory be a blessing. Sincerest condolences to HaRav Nota Greenblatt’s family. May Hashem comfort the Greenblatt family among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may Rav Nota’s Torah legacy continue to inspire all Jews for many years to come. **HW**

Iran Captures Foreign Ship Attempting to Export Fuel



Iranian C-14 class missile boat. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

(JNS) – Iranian security forces seized a foreign ship attempting to smuggle fuel out of the country, state media of the Islamic Republic reported last Wednesday.

They detained the crew on the ship, which was reportedly carrying more than 550,000 liters of smuggled fuel. The vessel was escorted from Gulf waters into the harbor and is under investigation by authorities, reported Reuters.

“We were able to identify and detain a ship carrying fuel intended to transport large-scale smuggled shipments east of Maru Island,” said the chief of provincial border guards, Hossein Dehaki.

Other ships attempting to do the same have been captured in recent months, according to reports, which point to the cause as being U.S.-imposed sanctions on Iranian oil exports.

According to a report in The Washington Post earlier this year, smuggling often occurs at night. The Iranian ships draw as close as 14 to 20 miles off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and switch off their automatic identification system so they cannot be tracked. **HW**



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Four Reasons Why a Racist and Antisemitic Theory has Become So Dangerous – and Why We Need to Stop it



People light candles at a makeshift memorial near a Tops Grocery store in Buffalo. Credit Getty Images

By **Aviya Kushner**

This first appeared in Forward. Reprinted with permission.

Let’s talk about “The Great White Replacement Theory.” If you would rather not, or if you believe it’s too ridiculous a lie to confront, please consider just one

simple and undeniable fact documented by new polling – how popular it is in America.

For the uninitiated, “The White Replacement Theory” claims that there is a grand plan to replace the white population of Western countries with people of

color. “Since many white supremacists, particularly those in the United States, blame Jews for non-white immigration to the U.S. the replacement theory is now associated with antisemitism,” the Anti-Defamation League explains. In other words, white supremacists believe Jews are masterminding a plan to replace whites.

The “white replacement theory” is becoming a more and more mainstream belief in America – and it is colliding with other dangerous ideas, like the claim of election fraud.

A new Associated Press–NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll found that a whopping 32% of Americans believe that “a group of people is trying to replace native-born Americans with immigrants for electoral gains.” This figure includes nearly half of Republicans polled.

I urge you to re-read that. “A similar share (29%) also express concern that an increase in immigration is leading to native-born Americans losing economic, political, and cultural influence,” the Associated Press reported.

The AP spelled out why those two beliefs – “replacement” and loss of power – are so dangerous. “These two key measures tap into the core arguments of Replacement Theory, a decades old idea, which posits that there is a group of powerful people in this country who are trying to permanently alter the culture and voting strength of native-born Americans by bringing in large groups of immigrants – the study indicates about one in five (17%) adults agree with both of these central tenets.”

The Buffalo massacre represents another red-alarm moment that Jews are obligated to confront

These statistics present a red-alarm moment.

Nearly one in five Americans agree with the Buffalo supermarket shooter, who made his belief in the “replacement theory” evident in his 180-page manifesto. And one in three hold beliefs that take them dangerously close to “the white replacement theory.”

This “theory” has inspired multiple mass shootings, including this weekend’s deadly and racist mass shooting in Buffalo, which left 10 people murdered; the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting in which 11 Jews were murdered; the 2019 New Zealand mosque shooting, in which 51 people were murdered, and the 2019 El Paso, Texas, Walmart mass shooting, targeting Latinos, in which 23 people were murdered.

Why is this false idea spreading? Three mass phenomena are providing gasoline for this hatred, which combines the classic antisemitic canard that Jews are behind the scenes, controlling the world, with racist hatred of people who are not white.

First, “Tucker Carlson Tonight” program on Fox News with 3.39 million viewers according to Nielsen, is provid-

(See **Theory** Page 7)

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Theory...
(Continued From Page 6)

ing a gigantic nightly platforming of this lie. Even if you personally never watch Carlson, it matters that you acknowledge its reach. As a point of comparison, the widely respected “PBS News Hour” had 1.197 million viewers in 2020, according to Pew Research.

Second, social media platforms from Twitter to YouTube are reaching people like the Buffalo shooter and helping these lies take root in their brains. Live video of shooting has been broadcast, inspiring future shooters. It’s also important to understand that this hateful delusion is international; “Le grand remplacement” became popular in France a decade ago, and today, hundreds of thousands of tweets about this theory can be found in multiple languages.

“We identified around 1.5 million tweets referencing the Great Replacement theory between April 2012 and April 2019 in English, French and German language,” Jacob Davey and Julia Ebner of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue wrote in a research paper on the subject.

Third, politicians with national and international platforms are either using dog whistles invoking this theory or – astonishingly – openly mentioning it. In February, Valérie Pécresse, the center-right presidential candidate in France, said in a speech in Paris that France was not doomed to the “great replacement” and called on supporters “to rise up,” The New York Times reported.

Former President Trump’s shameful response to torch-bearing neo-Nazis yelling “Jews Will Not Replace Us!” was to claim that there are “very fine people” on “both sides.” The current third-ranking Republican in Congress, Representative Elise Stefanik, echoed the “replacement theory” in her ads, a move that has not gotten enough condemnation.

And of course, there is a fourth toxic element. Easy access to guns is making

everything worse – and that’s how a conspiracy theory powers mass murder.

We must do something. It’s now clear that leaders of all communities must join forces and present a united front against these four scourges, all making a dangerous lie more dangerous.

Major media companies who give airtime to the lie of the “great replacement” – whether on television or on Twitter – must be treated as parties to mass murder by consumers and advertisers.

Politicians who use this theory to gain votes must be voted out, as part of a concerted joint effort between multiple communities whose leaders must be wise enough to recognize that lives are on the line. This must be a red line.

As a nation, and as an international community, we must get beyond the belief that this is the work of a few lone wolves. We must face the fact that horrifying as it is, a significant percentage of Americans adhere to this false belief.

We also must recognize that this idea reached the highest levels of national elections in France, and that Hungary has long been overrun by an obsessive focus on George Soros and the lie of “replacement.” This is a global problem, getting larger because of major media, social media, and politicians using it as a path to power. Only a great movement of responsible individuals, acting together, can stop it.

Jews have a special obligation at this moment. We must consider the threat of false yet wildly popular beliefs, a theme throughout Jewish history. We cannot hide behind the excuse of “that’s just absurd.”

I keep thinking back to the last Yom Kippur service I attended, not knowing the world would shut down by the time the next year rolled around. “To be Jewish is not to be popular,” the rabbi said.

I love that about Judaism. I love its centuries-long ability to withstand peer pressure. But I would add that to be Jewish is also to be aware of the allure – and deep danger – of the popular. **HW**

Dr. Morton Mower, Jewish Co-Inventor of a Revolutionary Defibrillator, Dies at 89

By Andrew Lapin, Steve Mark

(Intermountain Jewish News via JTA) – The implantable defibrillator, a small device that can be installed under a patient’s skin and immediately send a shock to correct any irregular heart rhythms, is today implanted in more than 300,000 people every year.

Dr. Morton Mower, a Jewish cardiologist and renowned inventor who died April 25 in Denver of cancer at the age of 89, was one of the device’s two inventors. His contributions to medical science were rivaled only by his devotion to the Jewish National Fund, to which he and his wife, Dr. Tobia Mower, were significant donors.

Along with his Jewish co-inventor, Dr. Michel Mirowski, Mower began development in 1969 on a pint-sized defibrillator that could be surgically implanted underneath the abdomen to allow for quicker, more precise electric jolts. He taught himself electrical engineering in his basement in order to create prototypes for the instrument, which the pair believed could be a significant improvement on the over-the-skin defibrillator.

The Baltimore-born Mower would later joke that the two had essentially invented “a time bomb in people’s chests.” But after it was first implanted into humans in 1980, and approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1985, the device – now commonly placed in the upper chest – became a revolutionary tool for cardiologists. The

duo followed up that hit by inventing cardiac resynchronization therapy, an electric device that sends jolts to the left and right ventricles of the heart simultaneously in order to get them to beat in a more organized pattern.

Mower would later be inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame and receive the Space Technology Hall of Fame Recognition Award, and made an immense profit by licensing the defibrillator technology. The JNF was a major beneficiary of his largesse, and he served as a member of its World Chairman’s Council. The Mowers supported JNF’s Jerusalem affiliate, Nefesh B’Nefesh, where the Toby and Mort Mower Pavilion was created.

“Dr. Mower was one half of a philanthropic powerhouse couple,” said JNF CEO Russell Robinson. “The life of every single Israeli has been made richer because of them.”

Mower also served in the Army Medical Corps in Germany from 1963-65. The Mowers moved from Baltimore to Denver in 2011, and also owned residences in the Colorado resort towns of Breckenridge and Beaver Creek.

Mower is survived by his wife, Toby; children Dr. Robin Mower and Mark (Kathleen) Mower; and three grandchildren.

A version of this obituary originally ran in the Intermountain Jewish News, and is reprinted with permission. **HW**



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Working While Receiving Social Security Benefits

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director – Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com

The COVID-19 recession and the continuing pandemic pushed many older workers into retirement earlier than they had anticipated. A little more than 50% of Americans age 55 and older said they were retired in Q3 2021, up from about 48% two years earlier, before the pandemic.¹

For people age 62 and older, retiring from the workforce often means claiming Social Security benefits. But what happens if you decide to go back to work? With the job market heating up, there are opportunities for people of all ages to return to the workforce. Or to look at it another way: What happens if you are working and want to claim Social Security benefits while staying on your job?

Retirement Earnings Test

Some people may think they can't work — or shouldn't work — while collecting Social Security benefits. But that's not the case. However, it's important to understand how the retirement earnings test (RET) could affect your benefits.

- The RET applies only if you are working and receiving Social Security benefits before reaching full retirement age (FRA). Any earnings after reaching full retirement age do not affect your Social Security benefit. Your FRA is based on your birth year: age 66 if born in 1943 to 1954; age 66 & 2 months to 66 & 10 months if born in 1955 to 1959; age 67 if born in 1960 or later.

- If you are under full retirement age for the entire year in which you work, \$1 in benefits will be deducted for every \$2 in gross wages or net self-employment income above the annual exempt amount (\$19,560 in 2022). The RET does not apply to income from investments, pensions, or retirement accounts.

- A monthly limit applies during the year you file for benefits (\$1,630 in 2022), unless you are self-employed and work more than 45 hours per month in your business (15 hours in a highly skilled business). For example, if you file for benefits starting in July, you could earn more than the annual limit from January to June and still receive full benefits if you do not earn more than the monthly limit from July through December.

- In the year you reach full retirement age, the reduction in benefits is \$1 for every \$3 earned above a higher annual exempt amount (\$51,960 in 2022 or \$4,330 per month if the monthly limit applies). Starting in the month you reach full retirement age, there is no limit on

earnings or reduction in benefits.

- The Social Security Administration may withhold benefits as soon as it determines that your earnings are on track to surpass the exempt amount. The estimated amount will typically be deducted from your monthly benefit in full. (See example at bottom.)

- The RET also applies to spousal, dependent, and survivor benefits if the spouse, dependent, or survivor works before full retirement age. Regardless of a spouse's or dependent's age, the RET may reduce a spousal or dependent benefit that is based on the benefit of a worker who is subject to the RET.

The RET might seem like a stiff penalty, but the deducted benefits are not really lost. Your Social Security benefit amount is recalculated after you reach full retirement age. For example, if you claimed benefits at age 62 and forfeited the equivalent of 12 months' worth of benefits by the time you reached full retirement age, your benefit would be recalculated as if you had claimed it at age 63 instead of 62. You would receive this higher benefit for the rest of your life, so you could end up receiving substantially more than the amount that was withheld. There is no adjustment for lost spousal benefits or for lost survivor benefits that are based on having a dependent child.

If you regret taking your Social Security benefit before reaching full retirement age, you can apply to withdraw benefits within 12 months of the original claim. You must repay all benefits received on your claim, including any spousal or dependent benefits. This option is available only once in your lifetime.

1) Pew Research Center, November 4, 2021

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Back to Work

In this hypothetical example, Fred claimed Social Security in 2021 when he was age 62, and he was entitled to a \$1,500 monthly benefit as of January 2022. Fred returned to work in April 2022 and is on track to earn \$31,560 for the year – \$12,000 above the \$19,560 RET exempt amount. Thus, \$6,000 (\$1 for every \$2 above the exempt amount) in benefits will be deducted. Assuming that the Social Security Administration (SSA) became aware of Fred's expected earnings before he returned to work, benefits might be paid as illustrated below.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

In practice, benefits may be withheld earlier in the year or retroactively, depending on when the SSA becomes aware of earnings.

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OBITUARIES

Bernice Lansky Banes



Bernice Lansky Banes passed away on May 17, 2022, in Memphis, Tenn. She was born on May 30, 1931, in Memphis, daughter to Anna Sarah Mogul and Samuel Lewis Lansky. She was the last surviving sibling of the Lansky family’s nine brothers and sisters. She would have been 91 years old on May 30.

Her mother passed away when she was five years old. At that early age she helped her older sister, Mildred, in the care of their baby sister, Ann.

She grew up, as all her siblings, stocking and clerking in their family grocery store. She then moved on to work at Three Sisters Downtown at the age of 13. She was active in the Memphis Urban League. She founded a Charm School in the basement of her brother, Irvin’s, beauty supply store on Beale St.

As a young mother she worked at the U.S. Army Depot on Airways. Bernice was a real estate agent for 40 years. Her husband, Alvin, built homes and Bernice sold them. She created a colorful and informative New Homes Directory. She modeled for Sylvia’s Fashions, owned by her sister-in-law, Sylvia Lansky. She was a consummate cook, being featured in the Commercial Appeal Live Styles section twice. She was an avid Memphis Tiger fan, being featured in numerous televised courtside shots in her fascinator hats. She was always active in keeping the Lansky family together initiating many holiday dinners, picnics, pool parties, and until recently, nieces and nephews’ family nights out.

Bernice graduated from South Side High School class of 49. She married Alvin “Beanie” Banes December 19, 1954. She was a devoted member of the Baron Hirsch Congregation.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Alvin M. Banes. She leaves behind her children and their spouses Brian and Beth Banes, Lisa and Dave Hamann, Joel Banes, grandchildren Brandon, Jodi and Morgan. Her children are eternally grateful to Ms. Cathy Williams, longtime friend, and Ms. Alberta Adams who lovingly provided support this past year.

The funeral was held on Thursday, May 19 at Baron Hirsch Cemetery. Donations in her memory can be sent to Baron Hirsch Congregation, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Hadassah. **HW**

Peggy Weiller Seessel



With deep sadness, the family of Peggy Weiller Seessel, born May 12, 1941, announces her death of natural causes at the age of 81 on May 14, 2022. Peggy was our sister, mother, aunt, grandmother and special friend to many. She will be missed.

Peggy was born in Baltimore, Md., to Donald and Doris Weiller. She attended Milford Mill High School, Simmons College and graduated from Northwestern University at the age of 21. Peggy was a gifted student, fierce tennis and field hockey player and spent summers at Tripp Lake Camp in Maine. She and her older sister, Nancy, were best of friends, so inseparable that their mother dressed them alike. They were so close that they chose to share a room together all the way through high school. They attended camp together where Peggy began asserting her independence, a quality that only grew stronger over the years. While at Northwestern she studied Education of the Deaf. She married her former husband, Art Seessel, in 1962 and moved to Memphis, Tenn., soon after. Having only been to the south once to meet the Seessel family, Peggy embraced her new life as a southerner, joining in the long history of Seessel family traditions, making friends and becoming involved in the community. Art and Peggy had two children, Andrew and Kay.

Upon moving to Memphis, Peggy worked at Dr. John Shea’s Ear Clinic. She always loved the field of education and was drawn towards work with at risk and underserved children. She worked at the Auburndale School, Runaway House, Lakeside Hospital, and eventually combined her love of education and the arts as the director of Arts Education at the Memphis Arts Council. She made an impact on countless youth through her work.

Walking into Peggy’s house it was immediately clear what the most important things were to her: her family and her community. Every bare space is

covered with photos of her children and grandchildren and memorabilia from the numerous non-profit events she participated in or helped organize. Kay, Doug, Wilson and Cameron of Seattle and Andy, Jen, Katherine and Lauren of Bozeman were the lights of her life. She was very proud of her grandchildren and loved every opportunity to spend time with them or talk to them on the phone. Peggy was also a devoted supporter of the arts community in Memphis. It was impossible to be around her and not be impressed by her true devotion to the arts and the importance of the arts in improving the lives of all Memphians, but especially those less advantaged.

Peggy’s loyalty and commitment to Memphis was evident in her service to the city. Over her years she gave countless hours to many nonprofit organizations. She deeply believed in the potential of the city and never shied away from giving her time, talent and passion to make the city a better place. Some of the organizations that have benefited from Peggy’s spirit of volunteerism are Arts Memphis, MIFA, The United Way, Memphis Park Commission, Memphis Symphony League, The Memphis Zoo, Memphis Botanic Garden, Bridges, Carpenter Art Garden, St. Mary’s Episcopal School and Memphis River Festival.

Peggy leaves behind her children, Andy (Jennifer) of Bozeman, Mont., and Kay (Doug) of Seattle, Wash., her four cherished grandchildren, her beloved older sister, Nancy, and many nieces and nephews who adored her.

The family extends its gratitude to the amazing nurses on the Restorative Care Floor at Baptist Hospital who took care of Peggy during her last weeks. We also want to thank Whitney Thacker who started as Peggy’s Care Manager over two years ago and became her friend and confidant and a member of our extended family. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Carpenter Art Garden or Arts Memphis. There will be a celebration of Peggy’s life this fall. **HW**

Church Buys Anshei Building

By Shoshana Cenker

The former building of Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation at 120 N. East Yates Road has officially been sold to One City Church. The sale closed on Tuesday, May 17, according to Lorraine Gagliano. She helped lead the grassroots neighborhood group, Citizens for Compatible Construction, which was against an original plan to build a residential development on the property.

There are also plans to have a historic marker placed on the site.


“I know that several of us are relieved for the building not to be torn down,” Lorraine added, “and for the character of our beloved neighborhood to be preserved.” **HW**

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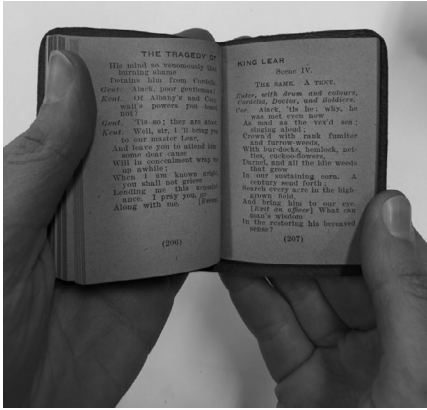


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A Holocaust Survivor’s Collection of Over 1,000 Miniature Books Speaks Volumes about Her Resilience



One book from Toth’s series of miniature Shakespeare volumes. Credit: Toth Collection 15.C.11-17 By Aviva Engel

MONTREAL (JTA) – In her 96 years on earth, Lilly Toth didn’t get much of a formal education. Born in Budapest in 1925, the self-proclaimed spoiled brat often misbehaved and was frequently suspended from school.

But instead of attending university in her late teens, the Holocaust survivor was literally running for her life – hiding with neighbors, surviving an attempted execution on the shores of the Danube, then working for the very fascist organization that attempted to take her life.

Despite these huge upheavals and larger losses, Toth managed to amass something very small, and very valuable: a collection of 1,119 miniature books that are a testament to Toth’s resilience and worldliness.

Toth’s collection, which she bequeathed to Montreal’s Jewish Public Library prior to her death last May – and which the library will honor in an exhibit starting May 15 – is as diverse as the inside of a Barnes & Noble. There are cookbooks, musical scores, sports-themed books, novelties known as “mass-market minis” because of their ubiquity, and children’s literature, including “The Tales of Peter Rabbit,” first published between 1902 and 1909. Shakespeare features prominently in two nearly complete 24-volume sets published between 1890 and 1930.

“I’ve never seen anything like this before and I’ve been working here for 26 years,” said Eddie Paul, senior director of Library and Learning Services at the Jewish Public Library.

It’s also one of the finest miniature

book collections in Canada, and likely of Hungarian miniature books in North America, according to the exhibit’s curator, historian Kristen Howard.

The earliest mini books date back to around 2,000 BCE, Howard noted. In order to qualify as miniature, she says, a book must be bound and smaller than three inches in length and width. Books up to four inches are considered “macrominiatures,” while “microminiatures” are less than one inch, and “ultra-microminiatures” are smaller than a quarter inch. Toth’s collection encompasses all of these, with many so tiny they can only be read with a magnifying glass. For collectors, the allure of minis extends far beyond their cuteness.

“Miniature books are fascinating,” said Howard. “Besides being quaint, practically they’re so easy to transport. So if you have one that is very prized, like a religious book, you can keep it close and safe in a pocket or purse. There’s also something really special about being able to carry all the words of God or works of Shakespeare in your hands.”

Toth’s collection also includes an early-20th-century English-Yiddish dictionary printed in Germany that packs 1,200 words, sample conversations and vocabulary lists in a palm-sized book. As Howard discovered, the vocabulary lists are curiously all food related.

“They’re grouped by course,” she said. “Appetizers, mains, desserts, drinks. It’s a nice insight into how it was intended to be used. You could take the dictionary with you to a restaurant and order effectively.”

Raised in a secular home, Toth treasured both Jewish and Christian books, some dating back several centuries. These include Bibles, an ornate Hebrew-Hungarian Passover haggadah and an ultra-microminiature volume of “The Lord’s Prayer” in seven languages. There is an abridged Hebrew-English prayer book, intended for Jews serving in the U.S. armed forces, was first created in 1917 by the National Jewish Welfare Board days after the U.S. declared war on Germany.

While the collection contains English, Hebrew, French, Spanish, German and Russian books, a notable portion comprises Hungarian literature and poetry – a nod to Toth’s roots.

“In the mid-20th century, miniature book collectors considered Hungarian minis to be some of the finest and most prized in the world,” said Howard. “One reason is because they were multilingual, which enabled people from various places to read them, instead of simply admiring them.”

Howard believes Toth was likely drawn to the Hungarian minis because they represented a link to her past and a means of preserving her identity.

“Lilly remained in contact with family and friends in Hungary throughout her time in Canada,” said Howard. “These books were an important touchstone to her culture.”

For Paul, Toth’s rich collection speaks volumes about her family’s scholarship and sophistication.

“Her parents were worldly,” he said. “They were from Austria-Hungary; that was their tradition. Lilly was probably exposed to music, art, various kinds of culture and manifestations of beauty.”

Paul also speculates that the Holocaust inspired her collection.

“The Holocaust motivated people to create and collect beautiful things and preserve them so that others could appreciate them,” said Paul.

While little is known about Toth in later life, she recorded her oral history in 1994 for the Montreal Holocaust Museum and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

“We only know Lilly’s story because she shared it with us,” said Eszter Andor, the Montreal museum’s oral history and commemorations coordinator. “Every testimony is precious, and we are so grateful to all of the survivors who have and continue to tell us their stories.”

Toth was born in Budapest, the only child of Viktor and Carla Gluck. After Germany invaded Hungary in 1944, the fascist Arrow Cross movement united with the Nazis and seized the Hungarian government. Viktor Gluck was sent to a forced labor unit and shot in Austria. Her mother, aunt and uncle were arrested by the Arrow Cross and shot near Győr, close to the Austrian border. Toth hid with neighbors until they were betrayed and forced to flee.

“She was taken with another friend to the shores of the Danube where they were tied together,” said Paul. Her

friend was shot and killed. “Lily managed to unfasten her bonds and swam a kilometer down the icy river.”

A Hungarian police officer rescued her, and, upon learning that she was Jewish, turned her over to German soldiers who brought her to a Jewish hospital to recover. Toth survived the mass deportations of Hungarian Jews that began on May 15, 1944; she survived the rest of the war by working under an assumed identity as a cleaning lady at an Arrow Cross building.

During the Hungarian Revolution in 1957, Toth moved to Canada to be close to family in Montreal. Sometime after she began collecting her prized minis, which she displayed on custom-built shelves in her bedroom.

“The Hungarian Revolution was the second huge break in Lilly’s life,” said Howard. “It makes sense after these very traumatic experiences that one would be drawn to collecting something so easy to transport.”

Said Andor: “If you think about the history of the Jewish people, how many times we’ve had to flee at short notice, it’s interesting that a Holocaust survivor collected books that would be very easy to just put in your pocket and run for it.”

A year before her death, Paul and a colleague visited Toth to view the collection the Jewish Public Library was to inherit.

“Lilly was a remarkable lady,” Paul said. “She was very understated in her assessment of her life and legacy. To her it was as though everybody had collections like this; it wasn’t a big deal. I had the sense that because Lilly never had children, these books were, in a sense, symbolic children for her.”

Andor is moved by Toth’s resolve to rebuild her life after losing her parents and experiencing such trauma.

“Resilience is a common theme in many survivors’ stories,” she said. “They not only survived; they rebuilt their lives. It’s very important that the next generation does not only see the destruction, but the reconstruction.”

On May 15, Montreal’s Jewish Public Library launched the Lilly Toth Miniature Book Collection together with the Montreal Holocaust Museum and pay tribute to Toth’s life and legacy. There is an online version of the exhibit here. **HW**

Ben Platt to Play Jewish Lynching Victim Leo Frank in a Revival Of Broadway Musical ‘Parade’

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Broadway’s Jewish golden boy is set to play one of the most infamous victims of antisemitism in American history.

“Dear Evan Hansen” star Ben Platt will star as Leo Frank in a new revival of the 1998 Broadway musical “Parade,” a dramatization of Frank’s 1915 lynching at the hands of a gang of white Southerners. The show will have a limited run Nov. 1-6 at the New York City Center as its annual gala presentation.

Frank was a pencil factory manager in Atlanta who was tried and sentenced to death, on specious evidence, of assaulting and murdering a teenaged factory worker in 1913. The case of “Little Mary Phagan” became national tabloid fodder as, unusually for the time, an all-white jury accepted the testimony of a Black man who identified Frank as the perpetrator and portrayed him as a sexual pervert. Numerous elements of the trial had antisemitic connotations, including the fact that one jury member was overheard saying, “I’ll hang that

Jew for sure.”

The story had many dramatic twists and turns. Frank made numerous appeals to higher courts, all of which were rejected, but the governor of Georgia unexpectedly commuted his sentence to life in prison. Then a mob of men, several of whom would go on to become prominent politicians in the state, broke into the prison hospital where Frank was held and lynched him in Marietta, Georgia – Phagan’s hometown.

Frank’s case was cited in 1913, the year of his trial, in the formation of the Anti-Defamation League.

An effort to posthumously pardon Frank in the 1980s based on new evidence ultimately proved unsuccessful, but in 2019 the local district attorney announced he would formally reopen the case in an effort to clear his name. Some followers of the case, including descendants of Phagan, continue to believe in Frank’s guilt. His story is also chronicled in author Steve Oney’s 2003 book “And The Dead Shall Rise: The



Ben Platt attends an event at 92Y in New York City, May 9, 2022. Credit: Jamie McCarthy/Getty Images

Murder of Mary Phagan and the Lynching of Leo Frank.”

The new production of “Parade” promises it will be “a true-crime version” of the musical, which was originally written by Jason Robert Brown and Alfred Uhry (whose great-uncle owned the pencil factory where Frank

worked). Director Michael Arden, who was raised Southern Baptist and attended an Episcopal school, also helmed an acclaimed 2016 revival of “Spring Awakening” performed simultaneously by deaf and hearing actors. The new production will incorporate real-life photographs from the Frank trial. **HW**

Shalom Y'all: Cook Through the Temple Israel Cookbook



Roasted Eggplant with Harissa + Tahini Sauce

Add this to your summer reading list: Shalom Y'all: The Jewish Cookbook for Every Generation by Temple Israel. This treasured book is a compilation of classic and contemporary recipes submitted by congregants of all ages.

Each of the more than 100 recipes is a tried-and-true family favorite for occasions ranging from Shabbat dinner to Yom Kippur break fast and Passover seder. While not every recipe is “Jewish” – you’ll find weeknight dinner ideas, party appetizers, and festive desserts – the book boasts a variety of brisket and challah renditions.

A true team effort, the book brought together dozens of recipe contributors, taste testers and editors. Each recipe includes an anecdote by the contributor, who shares where it came from and what it means to their family and Judaism.

Temple Israel offers free local pickup or can ship anywhere in the U.S. Shop at timemphis.org/cookbook. [HW](#)

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Not Only Twins: A Partnership Between Shoham and Bornblum Jewish Community School



Shoham and Memphis students at the Western Wall

By Michal Almalem

This year Bornblum students had the opportunity to connect with students at Yahalom and Shachaf schools in Shoham, Israel. The partnership between Yahalom and Bornblum Middle Schools began earlier this school year with students from each class meeting virtually, sending slides and clips about themselves, their city and the landscape. Classes discussed Jewish and Israeli identity, received tools to become young photographers, and used their cameras to capture a moment or scene reflecting Judaism and a connection to Israel with their lenses. The two classes met online to share their art and chose six photos to represent them in an art exhibit at the ANU Museum in Tel Aviv. The museum chose two of the pictures from dozens submitted by different partnerships. “The Tree of Life” by Emma Berger at

Bornblum, representing the shared connections between Yahalom and Bornblum Jewish Community School, won a special mention in the international competition TwinLens 5782/2022. “The Blood of the Maccabees,” a photograph by Porat Cohen at Yahalom, won a special mention for a memorable image that tells a story of the Jewish people and their values.

Bornblum’s eighth grade traveled to Israel and spent two days with their partner class. Together, they attended the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony at Yahalom, went to the Western Wall Tunnels, saw the light show in the David Tower Museum, visited Yad Vashem, and shopped at the shuk. They were not separate classes anymore; they became one group! The idea of peoplehood and shared responsibility for each other took



Shoham and Memphis students at the Western Wall tunnels, standing by a 650-ton stone.

on a new meaning after visiting these sites together as one. Their experience will grow beyond the school walls and this school year.

In the past year, the partnership between Morah Elazar’s third grade class at Bornblum and Morah Iris at Shachaf was interactive, fun and creative. Through the eighth graders who were visiting Israel, the third-grade students sent letters, cards, candies and gifts to their Shachaf partner class. The Shoham peers sent gifts back to Bornblum too. We hope it is the beginning of a long friendship between these young students.

All these could not have happened without the support of the Jewish Community Partners, Mrs. Zimrat Naeem from the Israeli Ministry of Education, and Mr. Amir Sela from the Jewish Agency. **HW**



The Blood of the Maccabees by Shoham student Porat Cohen



The Tree of Life by BJCS student Emma Berger

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