



THE

Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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May 15 JHS Zoom Program to Honor the Goldberger Family and History of The Hebrew Watchman with Gary Rosenblatt as Special Guest



Gertrude and Leo Goldberger

The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South (JHS) has finalized plans for its spring Zoom program in the Sumner Levine Speaker Series 2021-2022, Sunday afternoon, May 15, 2022, at 2 p.m. Central Time. There will be a special tribute to Herman and Bobbie Goldberger, editors emeriti of *The Hebrew Watchman* and the Goldberger family for founding, editing and

publishing the newspaper from 1925-2021.

Gary Rosenblatt, former editor of the *Jewish Week* of New York and often called the “Dean of Jewish Journalism,” will be a special guest. He will be in conversation with David Krueger, JHS board member and lay leader – in a discussion entitled “Confessions of a Jewish Journalist.”

Herman has worked on his family’s newspaper since his early teen years, becoming editor and publisher after his father, Leo Goldberger, retired in 1970. Nevertheless, Leo would go into the office most days until the day he died in 1989. Herman’s wife, Barbara (Bobbie) Buring, whom he married in 1964, also became part of the Watchman staff as associate editor, and the two worked together tirelessly until their retirement in January 2021.

Active in the Memphis Jewish community, Herman studied journalism at Memphis State University. Herman is a board member of the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South. He is a past member and board member of Sam Schloss Lodge of B’nai Brith, and one of the founders and former vice-president of the Paul and Leslie Belz Lodge of B’nai Brith. He served for 26 years as advisor to Lester S. Okeon AZA. A past board member of the Memphis Hebrew Academy, he was former co-chairman of the telephone division of the Memphis Jewish Federation. In 1992, he was the recipient of the Sam Schloss Lodge Community Service Award for outstanding and dedicated service to the Jewish community of Memphis. He and Bobbie are members of Baron Hirsch Congregation.

The Hebrew Watchman received the

Memphis Jewish Federation’s Community Service Award presented in 1992 “for outstanding service to the Memphis Jewish community through coverage of local, national and worldwide Jewish concerns.” In 2003, the Memphis chapter of Hadassah presented Herman and Bobbie with the Myrtle Wreath Award because “they have kept the flame of knowledge burning from generation to generation with outstanding service commitment to the Memphis Jewish Community.” In 2016, Bobbie and Herman received the Daniel Pearl Legacy Award presented by Pearl BBG for their dedication to Jewish Journalism at Hillel of Memphis’ Annual Daniel Pearl program. In 2021, Jewish Community Partners presented the couple with a special gift of round-trip tickets to Israel for their dedicated and devoted service to the community.

In 1925, Leo Goldberger realized the need for a Jewish newspaper in Memphis after *The Jewish Spectator*, a regional Jewish newspaper had ceased publication. Leo was just a kid when in 1913, his older brother, Emanuel, began a ‘tiny, two press operation behind his father, David Goldberger’s, tailor shop. Later, the firm was expanded to 409 Second Street.

(See **Goldberger** Page 3)

Who Counts as a Jew? A Pioneering Yeshiva Fumbles Admissions Criteria, Renewing Debate

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – The modern yeshiva Hadar was founded 15 years ago to widen access to traditional Jewish learning. So it came as a surprise to many in its orbit when for a moment last week it seemed that doors to Hadar’s flagship program had been closed to many Jews.

The group had posted language on its website informing people who were interested in its Beit Midrash fellowship, a full-time study program, that those with two Jewish parents or who had under-

gone a formal conversion to Judaism could participate.

That standard for defining Jewishness is more stringent than any used by Jewish denomination – and, because the majority of non-Orthodox Jews in the United States marry non-Jews, a challenging one for many potential students to meet.

“Hadar doesn’t consider me Jewish,” wrote one person who shared a screenshot of the admissions standards on so-

cial media, where it circulated widely last Monday.

Within hours, Hadar had communicated with its graduates and supporters, telling them that the language had been posted in error and that its admissions standards had not changed. And within days, one of its founding rabbis had apologized over a six-year-old essay that Hadar’s critics had cited in decrying the apparent new policy.

“I am saddened to discover the extent

to which my teaching and writing about Jewish lineage has had the potential to be confusing, destabilizing and to cause needless pain,” Rabbi Ethan Tucker wrote in a message sent to Hadar’s yeshiva alumni email list, adding, “I am planning on adding some clarifying language.”

Still, the episode has left many in the small but influential community with

(See **Counts** Page 4)

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My Teen Israel Experience

Benjamin Siegel, son of Dr. Joel and Rachel Siegel, is a senior at Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemksy Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of his Ramah Israel Seminar in Israel.

By Benjamin Siegel

During this past June and July, I was fortunate to experience the summer of a lifetime. Not only was I in the holy land of Israel, but I was there touring and traveling the entire country, visiting sites from west to east and north to south. It was an extraordinary trip.

In the famous episode of Jacob's dream, God promises him in Genesis 28:14 that "your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south." This verse perfectly encapsulates my experience. I am one of Jacob's descendants and my Israel experience allowed me to see the entire country. Touring Israel truly exceeded my expectations. I was privileged to visit holy places, walk in the footsteps of my ancestors, and meet new people from around the country. Ramah Seminar was an enlightening and inspiring adventure that I will never forget.

Although this summer was my third time in Israel, it was the most meaningful one. While we toured for six weeks, there were a few experiences that stood out to me. Within our first week, my favorite experience was rafting near the Sea of Galilee. For two hours, we were able to relax and meet new people while drifting on the water and occasionally falling into it. A few weeks later, we reached Jerusalem. While I had been to the Kotel previously, this time the Kotel had an additional level of meaning. I wrote notes to place in it and said a personal prayer with my hand resting on it. But leading davening there with a minyan brought me to an entirely new spiritual level.

Next, we moved on to the Negev, southern Israel, where we lived on a kibbutz adjacent to the grave of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister. I learned that while he was focused on establishing a Jewish state in general, he paid particular attention to developing the Negev. I was surprised to learn that it comprises approximately half of Israel. If no one lived there, Israel would be more vulnerable to attack from the South. Our kibbutz had a beautiful view overlooking many nearby canyons. At



Benjamin doing a handstand with a statue of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, at his childhood home on a Kibbutz in the Negev desert.

sunset, the magnificent nature and wildlife were even more impressive. I now fully understand Ben-Gurion's attraction to the Negev.

As we returned to Jerusalem for the last week, I began reflecting on how much I had seen and accomplished. We traveled throughout the entire country in a span of six weeks. I completed the Yam L'yam (Sea to Sea) adventure, walking and biking from the Sea of Galilee to the Mediterranean Sea. We hiked up Masada at dawn, and I was fortunate to lead davening at the summit overlooking the Dead Sea at sunrise. We walked in our ancestors' footsteps across the land, which was promised to their descendants. I made lifelong friends from across the country and met many Israelis, including some who just finished their army service. My trip and experience were all so spectacular.

I am grateful to the Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping to make my Ramah Israel Seminar trip to Israel possible. I highly recommend that other high school students visit Israel whenever possible. There is truly no other place like it on Earth.

All rising high school juniors and seniors in the Memphis Jewish community are eligible for grants up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Teen Israel Experience applications for Summer 2022 are now available online.

To learn more and apply, please visit www.jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund HW

THE Hebrew Watchman

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Weekly Torah Portion: Kedoshim

Pete Davidson to Star in
Autobiographical Comedy Series
with a Yiddish Name

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Bupkis – meaning nothing, absolutely zilch – is one of those few Yiddish words that have become part of the American lexicon. It's also the name of Pete Davidson's new show.

The series, which will air on NBC's Peacock streaming service, Deadline

reported, is a "Curb Your Enthusiasm"-style R-rated comedy that "will combine grounded storytelling with absurd elements," and reflect Davidson's self-deprecating sense of humor.

The title certainly makes it seem like Davidson, who found out his father was Jewish later in life, will be mining some Jewish humor for his work – or at least aping the famous "Seinfeld" tagline: "The show about nothing."

The "Saturday Night Live" star and current Kim Kardashian squeeze has already made a feature-length comedy film based on his life, "The King of Staten Island," with Jewish director Judd Apatow. Davidson's character in that film, like in real life, lost his firefighter father in the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Peacock announcement comes shortly after Hasidic rapper Nissim Black announced he would be developing a new scripted TV comedy based on his life.

Davidson's other upcoming projects include providing the voice of Marmaduke in a new animated film about the large dog and co-starring in this summer's dark murder-mystery comedy "Bodies Bodies Bodies" with "Shiva Baby" star Rachel Sennott. HW

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Goldberger...
(Continued From Page 1)

Older brother Sam, Leo, and their younger brother, Milton, would join the growing enterprise. Leo used the printing company to begin publishing *The Watchman* “as it was first called at the suggestion of his friend, Max Boshwitz, and later renamed *The Hebrew Watchman*,” wrote Jack Lewis, a local JHS and Temple Israel Archives volunteer. Older brother Sam was the Attorney for the new endeavor.

In 1933, the brothers purchased a trade typesetting service, which Emanuel and his wife, Regina (Schwartz), and later their sons, Eugene and Samuel, operated as Goldberger Composition Service. Leo, Milton and Sam ran the Goldberger Printing Company and after World War II, Emanuel and later his sons, Eugene and Samuel, organized Tri State Press, Inc., located first at 188 Jefferson and then at 277 Jefferson Avenue. Eugene’s wife, Wilma, was the bookkeeper and receptionist. *The Hebrew Watchman* office was now in the back room of The Remembrance Shop, a greeting card store started by the two brothers, Leo and Milton, at the corner of November 6th Street and Union Avenue. In the mid-50s, Leo moved *The Hebrew Watchman* office to Tri State Press at 277 Jefferson where it was published for many years.

The Hebrew Watchman continued – its first publication had come out right at Rosh Hashana in 1925. Leo always said he started the paper because he want-

ed to bring the Memphis Jewish community together and “unify Jews from all over Memphis and the Mid-South,” according to his son, Herman. From the beginning, all the synagogues and Jewish organizations in Memphis received special coverage along with national and international news of Jewish concern. The paper reported engagements, weddings, births and deaths.

An active community leader and ardent Zionist who was influenced by his sister, Regina (Pearlman), who became one of the organizers of Memphis Hadassah, Leo made sure that the early days before the state of Israel was founded and the many challenges of the young Jewish state of Israel were well covered. Brother Milton wrote editorials and special essays and served as editor for a number of years assisted by Miriam Weiss. Leo was over all editor when he founded the paper, then managing editor and later in the 1950s became fulltime editor once more until his retirement. In 1987, Leo received the Joseph Polakoff Award for Integrity in Journalism at the American Jewish Press Association’s annual convention in Philadelphia.

The Hebrew Watchman was really a family affair. The whole family took their values from their parents, David and Josephine Selka Goldberger, who had immigrated from Austria-Hungary and Germany respectively as youngsters and met and married in Memphis in 1889. They became active members of the community “and their children followed in their footsteps,” according



Leo Goldberger meets Hubert Humphrey, Jr.

to local historian Sam Shankman. It was said that Baron Hirsch Congregation started in their living room.

Everyone helped with the *Watchman*. Sister Alwena (Ollie) sold advertising and her daughter, Florence (Engelberg), headed the social section and wrote a special column entitled Private Correspondence, an imaginary letter exchange between Charlotte and Sylvia, which focused on who was seen with whom at local functions and parties. Other writers later took on the job and remained anonymous. As Jack Lewis wrote: “To make the list was all important. To make the list multiple times was heaven on earth. To be overlooked was catastrophic.”

Leo’s daughter, Dotty Katz, wrote a column entitled “The Purrfect Line to Good Eating” and included recipes

from local Jewish women. Leo’s daughter, Shirley Roberts, helped on the paper as a teen and her husband, Ted, would write humor columns much later that appeared in the *Watchman* even until today. Leo’s wife, Gertrude (Scheinberg), sold subscriptions. Later, Leo’s nephews, Samuel and Eugene Goldberger, also wrote for the paper, and for several years in the 80s, nephew Frank Goldberger published the paper. At one time, Bobbie’s mother, Hattie Ruth Buring, worked on the paper as well as their daughter, Jodie Faber. Others outside the family also helped including Barry Markowitz, who was writer/photographer for many years, and most recently Shoshana Cenger. In the later years, *The Hebrew Watchman* office moved to 4646 Poplar Avenue – printing presses were a thing of the past as the computer took its place. Finally, the work of the paper was done at the home of Bobbie and Herman Goldberger on Meadvale until their retirement. Through the centuries, for the Goldberger family, putting out the paper every week was a labor of love, a gift to the community.


Publisher of *Jewish Scene Magazine*, Susan Nieman bought *The Hebrew Watchman* in January 2021 and is editor and publisher of the paper today.

Bobbie and Herman have two daughters, Bonnie Kwatnez, who is married to Bob, and Jodie Faber, who is married to Henry. They have five grandchildren.

The community is invited to attend this Zoom program. For more information and for the Zoom link visit jhsmem.org. **HW**

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Counts...
(Continued From Page 1)

bruised feelings and bewildered about how such a significant error could have occurred. It has also underscored the degree to which even institutions that aim to be inclusive can struggle when it comes to balancing Jewish tradition and contemporary values related to identity.

“It didn’t represent the Hadar that I know and love and it didn’t represent the Torah of Hadar that I feel like I have been teaching over the years in my own way,” said Rabbi Eric Woodward, a Conservative rabbi who said that Hadar, not Conservative institutions, had been most welcoming to him as the child of an interfaith marriage pursuing serious Jewish study.

Even among a group of Jews who are committed to debating the particulars of Jewish law, the screenshot of the admissions criteria for Hadar’s Beit Midrash fellowship stirred unusual fervor when it circulated last week.

Traditional Jewish law holds that anyone born to a Jewish mother is Jewish. Two liberal denominations, the Reform and Reconstructionist movements, also recognize as Jewish people whose only Jewish parent is the father and who are raised with a Jewish identity.

Hadar, founded in 2007 by Tucker and two Conservative rabbis who wanted to create an egalitarian version of traditional Orthodox yeshivas, appeared to have set a different standard.

“In addition to having a strong Jewish identity, participants’ Jewish status should be determined either by a) conversion to Judaism with circumcision (where required) and immersion in the presence of a beit din of three or b) being born to two Jewish parents,” an FAQ on Hadar’s website read.

It went on, “If you do not fit into either of these categories please contact us so we can have an honest and discrete conversation about the best path forward to participate in Hadar’s learning opportunities. We know that this is a deeply personal, sensitive, and sometimes painful subject.”

The FAQ had been online since February, Hadar officials said. But the screenshot, to which someone added red underlining the words “two Jewish parents,” ignited discussion about it only last week.

Criticism ranged from flip – “Great! Now there’s no stream of Judaism in which I fully fit in!” one person wrote – to furious at the idea that Hadar would define a Jew in ways that excluded large swaths of people.

“Such ideologies, on the one hand, betray a deep anxiety over intermarriage, and on the other, ensure the alienation of intermarried families/children of intermarried parents from Judaism and

Jewishness,” tweeted Sheera Talpaz, an assistant professor of Jewish studies at Oberlin College.

By the end of the day, Hadar had removed the language in its FAQ and clarified that its longstanding policy – that participants must either have a Jewish mother or have undergone a formal conversion – remains unchanged.

“We’re really sorry for the communication and certainly for any hurt or confusion it caused and hope the new language gets us back on the footing we wanted to be on,” Tucker told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “We wanted to be clear about our approach to these questions and to warmly encourage and welcome people to be part of the Hadar learning community.”

Hadar officials also emphasized that only the Beit Midrash Fellowship and one other program among the many the yeshiva offers, in person in New York City and online, have any requirements related to participants’ Jewish status and observance of Jewish law, known as halacha, at all.

“It’s for this particular context where we want to and need to create a religious community based on halachic practice embedded in a larger institution that strives to share its Torah and convene people around learning without any assumption about where people are coming from,” Tucker said.

Hadar officials did not explain how the incorrect language wound up on the yeshiva’s website. What’s clear is that the criteria outlined there were in line with an intellectual argument that Tucker has been developing for more than a decade.

Tucker began teaching about the topic of matrilineal descent over a decade ago, arguing that the growing number of children of intermarriages called for a different approach to deciding which are Jewish. Parents of both sexes can confer Jewish identity, he concluded, and so, too, can it be important for Jews to have their non-Jewish parentage recognized by their Jewish communities.

Several years ago, Tucker outlined those thoughts in a public paper making the case for what he calls “modified duolineality.” Based on the work of Eliezer Hayyim Deutsch, a 19th to early 20th century Hungarian rabbi, the framework “insist[s] that only two Jewish parents confer uncomplicated Jewish status by birth,” Tucker writes. The framework, he writes, demands that the community “recognize, honor, and meet the challenges” of those with one Jewish and one non-Jewish parent.

Later in the essay, he says, “contemporary intermarriages are best described as an act of ‘ethnic apostasy.’”

Apostasy refers to the abandonment of religious belief, and Tucker’s term drew particular criticism this week from people who interpreted it as an indict-

ment of marriages between Jews and non-Jews, which a recent study found make up the vast majority of unions including non-Orthodox Jews in America since 2010.

In fact, Tucker told JTA, he had sought to explore the topic precisely because so many people who identify as Jewish can feel hurt when they are not accepted as such. The essay, he said, was more of a “thought experiment” than a policy prescription.

“This has been such a painful and stuck topic in the Jewish community for a generation and more, and it was an effort to do some creative thinking about how we might think about it in a different way,” he said.

“I was exploring in that essay, what would it look like to have a full communal reconfiguration about this in future generations? How could you imagine reconstructing a communal approach for this?” he added. “That’s not something you can or should do overnight.”

Woodward said he had found Hadar to be welcoming of his identity since he began studying there more than a decade ago. He had even used some of Tucker’s teachings about interfaith families in his own work as a Conservative rabbi, because he liked that they didn’t totally discount the non-Jewish aspect of people’s identities.

That’s also why Woodward found the admissions criteria included in Hadar’s FAQ disturbing.

“I know how many children of interfaith relationships often feel like we walk around with a target on our backs,” Woodward said. “We feel like we are criticized by sociologists and rabbis and by people in the movements and it’s not fair and it’s not right.”

Hadar may not be adopting “modified duolineality” as an admissions standard, but some believe doing so would be in line with its egalitarian values. Rabbi Emily Cohen, who leads a Reconstructionist synagogue in New York City, argued that matrilineality – the idea that a parent who happens to be a woman has a special power to confer Jewishness onto children – conflicts with egalitarianism, or the belief that men and women are equally responsible for upholding Jewish law and values.

“Any Jewish organization that calls itself egalitarian has an obligation to either count all children born to 1 Jewish parent as Jews, or to require 2 Jewish parents for Jewish status,” she wrote.

“If you’re egal[itarian], you don’t get to keep matrilineal descent as a fun little holdover. Go more lenient or go more stringent, but either way it goes,” Cohen added. “And if you’re upset about that, maybe think about why other egal Jews might be reasonably upset to see matrilineal descent upheld.”

Hadar is far from the only Jewish in-

stitution grappling with the challenge of being inclusive while also hewing to traditional Jewish law.

“I would be wrong to suggest that it is only Hadar that has ever suggested that matrilineal interfaith Jews are less-than,” Woodward said. “I don’t think that was their intention, but as a matrilineally interfaith Jew, I have felt that from other spaces, even if it hasn’t been an explicit questioning of my status.”

Woodward says the situation of his birth – his mother is Jewish and his father is not – is “just luck.” Because of which parent happened to be Jewish, he faced no obstacles in being accepted in the Conservative movement, in which rabbis are not permitted to officiate interfaith weddings and synagogues typically bar non-Jewish family members from participating in some ritual activities.

“I feel a responsibility to pay that forward by helping patrilineal Jews who are often shamefully excluded by my movement, by the Conservative movement, to feel like they belong and to feel like they have rich spiritual lives that really matter,” he said.

The very use of firm standards to define identity has grown increasingly fraught in many corners of society, especially in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, Woodward noted, and that is heightening already fierce debates within Jewish communities.

“A lot of people who have felt like their identities have been marginalized by institutions of power are really willing to speak up bravely to assert the importance and the value of their identities and to use social media to do so,” he said.

These dynamics all fueled the intensity of the response this week to the policy posted on Hadar’s website, Woodward said.

“The anger on this – this is a spark that lit a tub of gasoline that’s been sitting there,” he said. “And that gasoline tank has been filled by all sorts of other institutions over the years.”

“This is a bigger story than Hadar,” Woodward added. “This is really a story about lots of Jewish organizations that are not going to be given a free pass for things that they once were given a free pass for.”

Even after the apology and removal of the language from the website, Tucker said he recognizes that the conversation isn’t over. Indeed, the same online groups that exploded over the FAQ language were dissecting the apology email last Wednesday.

“People have been grappling with questions of Jewish identity and status since the time of the Talmud and I think particularly in late modernity there’s been a major flurry of contention and schism around it,” Tucker said. “I don’t think the question is going away.” **HW**

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Maintaining Their Memory: A Remembrance of the Holocaust

By Julia Zabek

11th Grade, Knoxville Catholic High School

First Place, Memphis Jewish Federation’s 13th Annual Holocaust Essay Contest

Internationally, January 27 is dedicated as a day of Holocaust remembrance to keep alive the memory of millions of lives taken heinously in this genocide. But is a singular day enough to encapsulate the grief and tragedy that plagued those directly affected and their families? In short answer – no. Maintaining the legacy of all those who suffered and died is a continuous and global effort that is observed on a public and personal scale.

When American troops moved with Allied forces to liberate concentration camps at the end of World War II, Supreme Commander Eisenhower enforced detailed documentation on the state of the camps and their many horrors. Amidst a time of vicious war and great propaganda, this documentation was crucial to maintain the validity of the story without convoluting it with false information meant to harness fear. The crimes committed within the barbed-wired and cemented walls deserve to remain in the light with excruciating detail, for downplaying and moving such stories out of sight would be to erase their meaning in all. These events were real, and the story of its victims deserves to be told and remembered for centuries to come.

The Holocaust proves to be a deeply unsettling topic, one that channels pure grief into anyone’s chest. I recall my experience in the Holocaust Memorial Museum in D.C. on a school field trip. As our pack of 8th graders shuffled through the museum, it was not uncommon to encounter another student brought to tears or others to utter silence. I remember specifically a room filled with the shoes of Holocaust victims, hundreds upon hundreds of pairs. Seeing numbers attributed to something so horrific creates a statistic, one that strips the individuality of each victim. Yet each shoe was different, different styles and sizes, some even belonging to children. Standing there in that room, one is brought to think of how each shoe belonged to an individual – one with a life, a family, goals, aspirations, all wiped away with a simple number. It is crucial to bring up this fact to preserve the memory on an individual level. Though many victims were unidentified, unnamed, and unfound, we cannot allow them to be



Julia Zabek

erased from history as Hitler intended to do in his deranged pursuit of an Aryan race.

On a personal level, it is important to delve deep into history and if applicable, pass on the stories of our ancestors. My family comes from Poland, myself being the first born in America. When I was younger, I was able to visit my great-grandmother regularly and was often reminded of the sacrifices of my great-grandfather who was the commander of a rural rebellion amidst World War II. He was killed by Nazis, leaving his pregnant wife with only memories, and we honor his memory by visiting a scantily marked tomb. My great-grandmother lived on to tell his story, just as those who were lucky enough to survive the concentration camps lived on to tell the stories of the less fortunate. In this way, I believe the most fundamental part of safeguarding the memory of those who were lost is by keeping alive the most personal and intimate accounts, the ones that capture the pain and sacrifice in its entirety. Though these lives have been lost, their memory lives on through institutions, memorials, and the ones who pass on their stories – the ones who care the most. **HW**

Former Iranian Parliament Member: Goal of Nuclear Program was to Build Bomb

(JNS) – Former Iranian Parliament member Ali Motahari said in an April 24 interview on the Islamic Republic’s ISCA News that when Iran began developing its nuclear program, the goal was to build a nuclear bomb.

According to a report by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), the bomb would have been used as a “means of intimidation” in accordance with a Koranic verse about striking “fear in the hearts of the enemies of Allah,” said Motahari.

He noted the nuclear bomb program would have been “a done deal” if Iran had kept it a secret until a nuclear test was conducted, as Pakistan did.

Motahari added that in such a case, Iran would have been “taken into con-



Former Iranian Parliament member Ali Motahari said in an April 24, 2022, interview on the Islamic Republic’s “ISCA News” that when Iran began developing its nuclear program, the goal was to build a nuclear bomb. Credit: MEMRI.

sideration” by the world even more than it is today. **HW**





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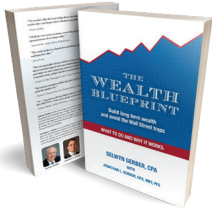
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Last Jewish Mobster to Talk at Chabad Shabbat Dinner

The history of the Mob and the history of Jews in America are intertwined, and it's a history that Myron Sugerman, author of the recently released book, "The Last Jewish Gangster: from Meyer to Myron," traces from the earliest days of the Mafia to the present day.

Mr. Sugerman, a New Jersey native, will be in Memphis and share this spell-binding story as a part of the TGI Shabbat Dinner at Chabad Center for Jewish Life on Friday night, May 13.

Sugerman will tell the story of the Mob from a Jewish viewpoint, with stories gleaned from his firsthand experiences and family connections with some of the most infamous Jewish mobsters. For well over half a century, Myron did business with some of the most dangerous characters known to the public, including top-ranking members of the Genovese and Gambino crime families, La Corporacion, the Yakuza, and the Cali Cartel, and rubbed shoulder with legendary mob figures like Longie Zwillman, Meyer Lansky, Joe "Doc" Stacher, Gerry Catena, Tony Bananas Caponigro, Tommy Ryan Eboli, among others. While his story is chock-full of

hilarious anecdotes about Mr. Sugerman's hapless cohorts in what he calls "disorganized crime," it also contains life lessons for those perceptive enough to look for them.

While this talk does not condone any of the illegal activities that the mob is accused of, it does, however, share some of the unknown positive contributions of some of the most fascinating Jewish Mobster personalities. Some of the Mob's contribution to the Jewish people and the state of Israel include how the Mob fought the American Nazi Party in the 1930s, provided vigilance on the piers of New York during World War II, and how they secured arms, together with the Italian and Irish Union members, for Palestine in violation of the Neutrality Act.

Kabbalat Shabbat Services will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 13 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life followed by a four-course dinner and Myron's fascinating story. RSVP required before Wednesday, May 11 at JewishMemphis.com/TGIS or call 901-754-0404 for more information. Dinner reservations are \$25 per person. Space is limited. **HW**

MHA-FYOS to Hold its 72nd Annual Scholarship Banquet



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MHA '57



MIKE STEIN
MHA '68



LEE BAUM
MHA '74



SANDRA OSDOBA
YOS '80



AMARA LEVINE-REICH
FYOS '97



RICHARD LEWIS
FYOS '03



JAMIE GIBBER
FYOS '14

On Monday, May 30, 2022, the Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstone Yeshiva of the South will hold its 72nd Annual Scholarship Banquet. The evening will pay tribute to seven decades of alumni leaders: Lester Lit, Mike Stein, Lee Baum, Sandra (Loterstein) Osdoba, Amara Levine-Reich, Richard Lewis, and Jamie (Epstein) Gibber. The program will also include a special tribute to Rabbi Benjy Owen. The event, which is chaired by Chana Dina Goldblatt, Dena Wruble and Cindi Weinstein, promises to be a uniquely special and meaningful evening.

This event is a critically important fundraiser for the school. The funds raised allow MHA-FYOS to continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for its students. Please consider submitting an ad for publication in the Ad Journal, either to show appreci-

ation to our honorees, to congratulate a graduate for completing kindergarten, 8th grade or 12th grade, to memorialize a loved one or to advertise your business.

It's been an incredible year at MHA-FYOS. Nights of Torah, Celebrations of Learning, Science Expo, Sports and Basketball tournaments are only a few of the added highlights in a MHA-FYOS student's career. Within the next month, the school will gather for the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Parade, the Grand Opening of the Mary Pikelnny Innovation Center, and kindergarten, eighth grade, and 12th grade graduations.

The Banquet will be an incredible celebration of another successful school year.

Tickets and sponsorships for the dinner and advertisements in the Banquet Journal may be purchased at www.mhafyos.org/journal. **HW**

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Plough Towers Recognizes that our Youth are our Future



Temple Israel Scout Troop #25 butterfly garden at Plough Towers

By Harleen Tague

There is an old saying that “April Showers Bring May Flowers.” As we celebrate the spring holidays and the beautiful growth around the Towers, we must recognize that without the young adults planting the Temple Israel Sisterhood Tulip Bulbs or the B’nai Mitzvah youth helping the residents with their peanut butter and jelly sandwiches there would be a definite void in our close-knit community.

Throughout the year, Plough Towers’ volunteers of all ages, under the leadership of Audrey Johnson for the past 25 years, has proven with her leadership, that anything and everything is possible and can be accomplished.

There is a group of young people in the Jewish community who study and decide how to divide monies to donate to various Memphis Jewish organizations. These B’nai Tzedek teens, organized by the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, along with the Temple Israel Scouts, students from various Jewish day schools, the B’nai B’rith Youth Organization and Memphis Jewish Federation youth volunteers, have ensured that Plough Towers residents have greatly benefited from their generosity.

One youth group has generously impacted Plough Towers residents over the past several years. Temple Israel Boy Scout Troup 25 has built a pergola with views from the dining room, beauty shop, garden and many apartments. They installed acoustic panels to help the sound issues in the dining room in 2019. They poured concrete flooring to help make the pergola more handicap accessible in 2020, built four raised flower beds in 2021 and a butterfly garden in 2022. The scouts who are responsible for the fund raising and the completion of several of these projects are Adam Nathan, Dean Stutler, Sam Faber, Thomas Henderson and Benjamin Maeir. Scout Leader Justin Waldrip, who along with the help of the entire troop, have completed projects such as handmade mezuzahs for the doorways, a large electric Chanukah menorah and our Sukkah. These projects continue to affirm that our youth today will continue the volunteer work that will make our community the close, supportive and productive community it continues to be. **HW**

Bat Mitzvah



Nava VanderWalde

learned with her mother for several months through Baron Hirsch’s inaugural mother/daughter Matan bat mitzvah class.

Nava is currently a sixth-grade student at Bornblum Jewish Community School, where she is part of the podcasting club and National Junior Honor Society. After school Nava practices with the pre-competitive rock-climbing team at Highpoint Climbing and also loves to swim, play basketball, read books and hang out with friends.

Nava is the granddaughter of Dr. David Gorelick and Dr. Naomi Feldman of Baltimore, Maryland, and Mrs. Joan and Dr. Joseph VanderWalde of Silver Spring, Maryland. **HW**

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Key Retirement and Tax Numbers for 2022

Provided By Mike Stein, Managing Director – Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
Questions for Mike? Reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com

Every year, the Internal Revenue Service announces cost-of-living adjustments that affect contribution limits for retirement plans and various tax deduction, exclusion, exemption, and threshold amounts. Here are a few of the key adjustments for 2022.

Estate, Gift, and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax

- The annual gift tax exclusion (and annual generation-skipping transfer tax exclusion) for 2022 is \$16,000, up from \$15,000 in 2021.
- The gift and estate tax basic exclusion amount (and generation-skipping transfer tax exemption) for 2022 is \$12,060,000, up from \$11,700,000 in 2021.

Standard Deduction

- Taxpayers can generally choose to itemize certain deductions or claim a standard deduction on their federal income tax returns. In 2022, the standard deduction is:
- \$12,950 (up from \$12,550 in 2021) for single filers or married individuals filing separate returns
 - \$25,900 (up from \$25,100 in 2021) for married joint filers
 - \$19,400 (up from \$18,800 in 2021) for heads of household

- The additional standard deduction amount for the blind and those age 65 or older in 2022 is:
- \$1,750 (up from \$1,700 in 2021) for single filers and heads of household
 - \$1,400 (up from \$1,350 in 2021) for all other filing statuses
- Special rules apply for those who can be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.

IRAs

- The combined annual limit on contributions to traditional and Roth IRAs is \$6,000 in 2022 (the same as in 2021), with individuals age 50 or older able to contribute an additional \$1,000. The limit on contributions to a Roth IRA phases out for certain modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) ranges (see chart). For individuals who are covered by a workplace retirement plan, the deduction for contributions to a traditional IRA also phases out for certain MAGI ranges (see chart). The limit on nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA is not subject to phaseout based on MAGI.
- Note: The 2022 phaseout range is \$204,000–\$214,000 (up from \$198,000–\$208,000 in 2021) when the individual making the IRA contribution is not covered by a workplace retirement plan but is filing jointly with a spouse who is covered. The phaseout range is \$0–\$10,000 when the individual is married filing separately and either spouse is covered by a workplace plan.

MAGI Ranges: Contributions to a Roth IRA

	2021	2022
Single/Head of household	\$125,000–\$140,000	\$129,000–\$144,000
Married filing jointly	\$198,000–\$208,000	\$204,000–\$214,000
Married filing separately	\$0–\$10,000	\$0–\$10,000

MAGI Ranges: Deductible Contributions to a Traditional IRA

	2021	2022
Single/Head of household	\$66,000–\$76,000	\$68,000–\$78,000
Married filing jointly	\$105,000–\$125,000	\$109,000–\$129,000

Employer Retirement Plans

- Employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), and most 457 plans can defer up to \$20,500 in compensation in 2022 (up from \$19,500 in 2021); employees age 50 or older can defer up to an additional \$6,500 in 2022 (the same as in 2021).
- Employees participating in a SIMPLE retirement plan can defer up to \$14,000 in 2022 (up from \$13,500 in 2021), and employees age 50 or older can defer up to an additional \$3,000 in 2022 (the same as in 2021).

Kiddie Tax: Child’s Unearned Income

Under the kiddie tax, a child’s unearned income above \$2,300 in 2022 (up from \$2,200 in 2021) is taxed using the parents’ tax rates.

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Antisemitic Harassment Reported at Rutgers Jewish Fraternity, Including by Pro-Palestinian Demonstrators

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – A historically Jewish fraternity at Rutgers University has been the target of multiple cases of antisemitic harassment last week, prompting the school to announce it would be increasing security on campus. Authorities said the university’s AEPi house was first targeted last Friday when protestors exiting a rally for Students for Justice in Palestine, a pro-Palestinian university activist group, went to the house and shouted antisemitic rhetoric and spat at the brothers.

Rutgers Hillel Interim Executive Director Rabbi Esther Reed told local media that a group leaving the rally drove by the fraternity afterwards and yelled phrases including “terrorist” and “baby killers.” The rally was called “Defend Al-Aqsa, Defend Palestine,” a reference to the Muslim worship site in Jerusalem that has been the site of violent clashes between Israelis and Arabs in recent weeks.

Another incident occurred last Monday evening, when unidentified assailants threw eggs at the frat house as the brothers were commemorating Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, by reading out the names of Holocaust victims over a 24-hour period. It was the second year in a row in which eggs were thrown at the house during the name-reading event, according to Reed.

The fraternity’s brothers reported both events to campus police. They were also amplified by online antisemitism watchdog groups.

“We understand and are sensitive to the concerns of those who were targeted, and stand by our Jewish students, faculty and staff,” Rutgers Chancellor-Provost Francine Conway wrote in a statement sent to the entire school. “Harassment based on religious belief, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or for any reason, is antithetical to our values

at Rutgers University.” Rutgers Hillel condemned the incidents and said they did not believe the perpetrators were students. The school’s AEPi president Adam Kaufman, a junior, told a local outlet that the incidents were “an example of how the Jews as a community do not feel safe.”

In a statement last Wednesday, Rutgers SJP said that none of the individuals who antagonized the AEPi brothers following the rally were Rutgers students or formal members of their group, and that claims to the contrary were “entirely false and baseless.”

The group also claimed that it had obtained “video footage which suggests that it was members of AEPi who approached the individuals who attended our rally with slurs, Islamophobic rhetoric, and attempts to provoke physical altercation.”

SJP had not shared the video footage online as of last Friday, and the group did not immediately respond to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency request regarding the footage. But its statement said that it had shared the footage with university police and added that it would be consulting with the legal advocacy group Palestine Legal and the New Jersey chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations.

Antisemitism at Rutgers, a school in which an estimated 15% of the student body is Jewish, has been a hot topic for years. Last May, the school’s chancellor, Christopher Molloy, issued a statement condemning antisemitism on campus – only to apologize for that statement after pushback from the school’s SJP chapter.

The former longtime director of the school’s Hillel, Andrew Getraer, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency upon his retirement last year that he believed left-wing antisemitism on campus, spurred by anti-Zionist activity, was on the rise. **HW**

Anshei Building Might Have New Owner

By Shoshana Cenker

It appears plans to turn the former Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation building into Anshei Gardens, a residential development with 41 houses and a green space, may not be happening after all. Gregory Griffin bought the property for \$1.5 million through his business, Worldwide Property Hub, back in August 2020.

But Mr. Griffin encountered significant pushback from a grassroots neighborhood group, opposed to not only the 50-year-old synagogue building being torn down, but also against a new tightly packed residential community being constructed in what they believe is inadequate space.

To fight Mr. Griffin’s proposed plan, the group – Citizens for Compatible Construction (CCC) – gathered signatures and presented its paper and online petitions signed by over 340 immediate neighbors against the residential com-

munity to the Land Use Control Board in February.

Since then, a new development has come into play.

One City Church has been approved for a loan to buy and renovate the synagogue building at 120 N. East Yates, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

According to Lorraine Gagliano, who’s helping lead the CCC’s efforts, the church planned a picnic this past Sunday for church members and residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

The sale of the building is still pending at this time.

While neighborhood residents have expressed sadness at the building not being used as a shul anymore, the consensus seems to be that they’re pleased with the possibility of the building not being torn down and hopefully used as a new house of worship. **HW**

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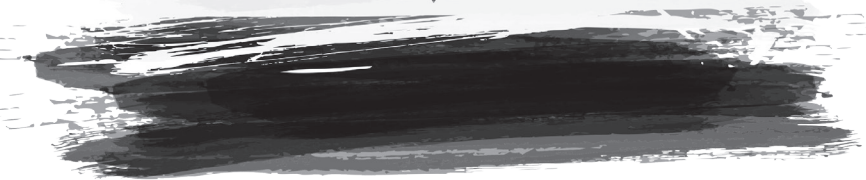

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What Is This Thing Called Mothering?



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

By Ted Roberts

I don’t have much of a love affair with formalized days of commemoration like wedding anniversaries and birthdays. This does not endear me to my wife when I perceive February 4 as the day before February 5, instead of my wedding anniversary.

However, in my scroll of holidays there’s one that demands attention. Mother’s Day. Of all the possible feminine roles; sister, aunt, grandmother, lover, wife, friend – there’s nothing like “Mother.” The old Rogers and Hammerstein classic; politically incorrect, grammatically incorrect, but bubbling with feeling said, “There ain’t nuthin’ like a Dame.” He should have said, there ain’t nuthin’ like a mother.

Consider this. Unique among all personal relationships, the mother and child contract is totally one-sided. The mother gives – the child takes. All other human pairings depend on the balance of give and take. Both partners must receive something. She’s smart and I’m dumb. Or she’s beautiful and I’m ugly, but we’re friends because my uncle’s the butcher and I bring her the best rib steak in town.

I get “look, he’s with that beautiful, smart Betty Sue Macintosh, what does she see in him?”

Notice that the whole world of rewards is encompassed by three gifts: love, friendship and money. What else does the world value? They are the currency of any relationship.

Now, examine the mother/child thing. From the first moment of conception, the mother host nourishes that new thing inside her with her own human sap. The growing clump of human cells gives nothing back. Many months later, when it painfully exits her body, it continues to suck away at her nutrients. And it screams at the slightest discomfort – demanding more nutrients and bodily comforts like dry diapers and a full stomach. It has no patience at all.

And as it grows, so stringent are the physical and emotional requirements of the newcomer, that the mother gives up all of her personal aspirations and ambitions. Forget the new novel, the screen test at United Artists, the recital at Carnegie Hall, the Passover cooking, the vacation in Miami Beach and the mall expedition. Nothing takes precedent over the requirements of this stranger from her own body. And soon, in a couple of years, it demands even more as it learns that, drugged by the culture, mothers hate to say “no” to any ridiculous request for the mother’s time or resources. This phase is followed by many years of sleepless nights by the mother creature as she worries about the new thing’s rebellious wandering through the world. Many a night the worried adult female

sponsor wishes it was back, lying by her side – even screaming.

And so, it continues until the ball of cells – that lived off the mother’s womb and metamorphasized into an adult human – forgets the mother’s phone number and address. It even forgets the mother’s pitifully brief 24 hours of honor, Mother’s Day. The child only takes – it rarely gives.

Did I hear you say something about love? You say this wailing bundle of demands cuddles up to the mother. That’s the mother’s reward? A cat does a better job and he never needs a clean diaper.

But there’s an old, old legend by a Jewish memoirist, Gluckel of Hameln, that emphasizes this imbalance of love. It tells of a mother eagle who must ferry her brood over a wide sea to a new nest. Four fledglings depend on her – four perilous trips. She fights a head wind, her wings grow weak, and there’s far to go. “Do you love me?” the mother asks her first offspring “and will you promise to repay me for this?”

“Yes, I swear,” pipes the child.

The mother knows a lie when she hears one, so she drops her burden into the sea. Same story with eaglet two and three. But number four gives the universally honest answer for offspring of every breed. “Mother,” she says, “I can only promise that when I have my own children, I shall do as much for them as you have done for me. The debt will be paid in full, but only to your grandchildren.”

The weary mother eagle knew the truth when she heard it. So, she fought the wind and her fatigue and brought her

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child and the mother of her grandchildren safely to the shore. There’s a lot of wisdom in that parable. Love has a gravity like planet earth. Generation-wise, it flows down easier than up.

So, Mothers, console yourself. Your kids, who NEVER even send you a postcard, will likewise receive no postcards from THEIR busy kids. Moreover, one day over a nice cup of coffee at the kitchen table, they’ll ask your advice on this problem; “Mom, I’m telling you they never call or write. I send presents – nothing comes back. What is it with kids?” Sip your coffee, look thoughtful, and offer some commonplace ideas that won’t work. Then tell her the parable about the mother eagle.

The syndicated humor of Ted, the Scribbler on the roof, has appeared in newspapers around the U.S., on National Public Radio, and numerous websites. HW

Insights From Israel 15 Seconds

By Howard Weisband

It’s hard to imagine or comprehend. Walking on the street, children in a kindergarten or at play in a park, shopping in a grocery store, driving your car or riding a bus, praying in a synagogue... all normal daily activities... suddenly, violently interrupted by an air raid siren and the sound of incoming rocket fire.

You have 15 seconds, that’s it, to find safety in a bomb shelter.

Such is life in Sderot... the Israeli city that sits on the Gaza border and thus exceedingly close to Hamas rocket launchers... and you never know when they might be fired.

Not being one of the approximately 25,000 people living in the city, I thought I had a so-called intellectual understanding of what daily life is like in Sderot. During the intermediate days of Passover, Kayla and I drove to Sderot and joined a small group visiting the border city, to see some of its institutions, parks, and shopping areas. My intellectual understanding quickly turned into a much deeper emotional comprehension.

We were hosted by Rabbi Ari Katz, currently a Sderot resident with his family, who taught in Memphis high schools between 1994 and 1999 and maintains a warm relationship with the community to

this day. Currently he is Director of Public Relations for the Hesder Yeshiva in Sderot, which is part of the Israeli network of post high school yeshivot promoting both Torah study and army service.

By the way, the evening before our visit, there was one rocket fired from Gaza toward Sderot, which the Iron Dome intercepted in mid-air. Otherwise, it was a quiet night and we set off for Sderot without trepidation.

With a meeting point received from Rabbi Katz, Waze (an Israeli innovation) took us to a large public park. Meeting the group in a rotunda, my first Sderot realization occurred while looking at small, nicely painted rectangular buildings, which I guessed were public bathrooms. Nope, guess again... bomb shelters! Other parks have large colorful, winding snakes in which kids can play, but designed to give them immediate shelter and protection from an incoming rocket.

We walked to the Yeshiva, passing several bus stops. At first they looked like any bus stop in Jerusalem that we often use. Then I realized a huge difference. Next to every one of them was a small rocket-proof room constructed to protect people waiting for a bus and perhaps those walking nearby should

the siren suddenly sound its warning of an incoming Hamas rocket. Within 15 seconds one can enter that tiny building and be protected.

We walked past a number of homes, both older and newer ones. The former have small family bomb shelters added on or immediately outside their door in their small yards. Newer homes have a “safe room” built within.

These safe rooms, or internal bomb shelters, have steel shutters on their windows. Old regulations considered the nature of older incoming rockets and the ability of shrapnel to penetrate the steel, which had to be 16mm thick, or .63 inches. Tragically, about a year ago a small boy was killed inside the safe room in his home when shrapnel from a more powerful Hamas rocket penetrated the steel shutter. Since then, the Israeli Ministry of Defense is paying to replace those shutters on exposed floors with steel that measures a thickness of 32mm, or 1.26 inches.

Driving to two lookouts, we could see a relatively short distance away into Gaza; nearer was Israel’s security fence along the border – above the Hamas tunnels that the IDF is busy locating and destroying – and below us new, beautiful housing being built in Sderot... the

latter a strong statement of faith in the Jewish State.

The other view we had was of two Iron Dome batteries waiting to bring down incoming rockets that threaten the population. IDF (Israel Defense Forces) personnel are stationed nearby to miraculously track those rockets and determine their exact trajectory. If they are destined to hit an open field without threatening people, the Iron Dome sits idly by. Should the enemy rocket be on a threatening trajectory, the Iron Dome interceptor missile is launched to destroy the rocket in midair. It’s proven to be 90% effective; it’s cost: about \$50,000 each launch.

Needless to say, we returned to Jerusalem with a new appreciation of life in Sderot and its deeper meaning for the State of Israel.

Howard Weisband served as Assistant Executive Director (1975-77) and Executive Director (1977-84) of the Memphis Jewish Federation. Following Aliyah with his family in 1986, he served as Secretary General of the Jewish Agency for Israel through 1997, and then in other senior professional positions in Israel. Now retired, he and Kayla live in Jerusalem. He can be reached at hweisband@gmail.com HW

Mother of Palestinian Terrorist: ‘I Will Be Happy if All my Children are Martyred’

(JNS) – The mother of “martyred” Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist Muhammad Jahjough said in an interview on Al-Quds Al-Youm TV (Islamic Jihad-Gaza) that she prays for her entire family, including her grandchildren, to

be “martyred” for the sake of Allah.

According to a report by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), the mother said in the April 16 interview that she approves of the “path” taken by her eldest son.

“I always pray that I, your father, brothers, daughters, and sons ... that all of you become martyrs for the sake of Allah, that when death comes for us, we will all be martyrs for the sake of Allah,” she told him prior to his death, as stated.

She added: “I am proud of Muhammad, obviously. Allah be praised, all my sons are religious. They are all good. By Allah, if all my children and grandchildren are martyred for the sake of Allah, it will make me happy.” HW

Rabbi Yisroel Weiner Named MHA-FYOS Head of School

Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstein Yeshiva of the South Board President Yoel Goldblatt announced that after a months-long search process, Rabbi Yisroel Weiner had been selected to be the new Head of School.

Throughout the extensive search process, Rabbi Weiner stood out as a passionate and experienced educational leader, rabbi and teacher. Rabbi Weiner shares a deep commitment to the school’s core mission and values, including Torah learning and living, rigorous academic excellence in both general and Judaic studies, and a love of HaShem, the Jewish people, and the State of Israel. Rabbi Weiner is extremely well suited to lead the MHA-FYOS, to inspire and empower its children with Torah values, and to further enrich the Judaic and General Studies curricula to ensure that the students develop into mature, successful adults. His keen intellect, strong people skills, and collaborative values-driven leadership style are a strong match for MHA-FYOS. Rabbi Weiner’s demonstrated track record of building consensus and

sensitively embracing the strengths of every element of a diverse community has earned him the respect and trust of faculty, students, parents, and the broad community in Phoenix, Arizona.

Rabbi Weiner comes to Memphis from the Phoenix Hebrew Academy, where he currently serves as Interim Head of School. During his 11 years in Phoenix, Rabbi Weiner has had significant senior level administrative experience in both Judaic and General Studies, and he has excelled in a school with a diverse student and parent body. Rabbi Weiner has Semicha from Rabbi Ephraim Greenblatt z”l and a Master of Education degree in School Administration and Supervision from Loyola University in Chicago. The leading national placement organizations and consultants who were utilized during the search, who know both MHA-FYOS and Rabbi Weiner quite well, were all very supportive of Rabbi Weiner’s candidacy for our Head of School position from the outset.

Rabbi Weiner’s hire is the culmination

of an intense and thorough search process that began last October. The Search Committee, chaired by Jonathan Kaplan and Richard Lewis, represented a cross-section of the MHA-FYOS community and consisted of Pace Cooper, Menachem Davis, Rabbi Joel Finkelstein, Chana Dina Goldblatt, Josh Kahane, Rabbi Akiya Males, and Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff, who served as Educator Liaison.

During the search process, the Search Committee held individual listening sessions with more than 80 parents, faculty, community rabbis and lay leaders, developed and broadly disseminated a detailed opportunity statement, accepted applications from numerous sources, and proactively marketed the position to candidates targeted for their excellence and potential. The Search Committee evaluated the resumes of more than 40 candidates, conducted numerous telephone interviews and some 20 in-depth video conference interviews, held in-person interviews with three candidates, and performed extensive reference and background checks. The

Search Committee was in regular contact with leading national placement organizations and consultants throughout this process, who commented on how it developed a strong positive reputation as a community based on the manner in which the search process was conducted.

After Rabbi Weiner’s most recent visit to Memphis, the Search Committee received overwhelmingly positive feedback on his candidacy from a broad spectrum of faculty, parents and community leaders. The Search Committee ultimately reached its unanimous recommendation to the MHA-FYOS Board of Trustees to retain Rabbi Weiner as the next Head of School.

The MHA-FYOS community is extremely excited to welcome Rabbi Weiner, his wife, Suri, (MHA ‘99, FYOS ‘03), and their children into the school family and community. On the weekend of May 13-15, the Weiner family will visit Memphis, and the entire community is invited to meet the Weiners on Shabbat afternoon, May 14 at the Baron Hirsch Playground. [HW](#)

Conference of Presidents Applauds U.S. States Adopting Definition of Anti-Semitism

(JNS) – The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations applauds the milestone reached last Thursday, Yom Hashoah, of half of the United States and the District of Columbia having adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism.

Alaska became the 25th state to adopt the IHRA definition through a procla-

mation last Thursday by Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

The milestone “reflects the broad support that exists for the most authoritative and internationally accepted definition of anti-Semitism, as well as the widespread view that it is critically important to recognize anti-Semitism in order to combat it,” said Conference chair Dianne Lob, CEO William Daroff and vice chair Malcolm Hoenlein in a joint news release.

“As we commemorate Yom Hazikaron, Ishaoh v’ Iagevurah – literally, the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and Heroism, which marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – almost eight decades have passed since the concentration camps were liberated, but the scourge of anti-Semitism remains with us. Yom Hashoah is therefore not just about the horrors of that genocide. It is also a testament to

our commitment to the pledge ‘Never Again.’ In that way, Yom Hashoah contains within it a balance; we memorialize the history of the past evil in order to secure a better future,” they said.

The Conference of Presidents noted the importance of the IHRA definition in its fight against Jew-hatred and anti-Semitism, expressing appreciation for member organizations and partners working towards its adoption worldwide. [HW](#)

MJCC Senior Activities



Lawson Arney presents “Social Security Information” May 12, 7pm

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club has some exciting Programs planned during the next two weeks. All daytime programs start at 12:15 p.m.

On **Tuesday, May 10**, guests will hear from Elizabeth Barton, who is with Visiting Angels. Mrs. Barton will speak about “Diets and Seniors” discussing ways seniors can improve their diet to improve their health! Her talks are always an enjoyable give and take as she makes every program fun and exciting.

On **Thursday, May 12**, Noa Lavyud, the Community Shlichah at the MJCC, will talk about the IDF Lone Soldier Services. She will explore this moving program. This talk is open to everyone in the Jewish community.

AND on **Thursday evening, May 12**, there will be a special “Social Security Informational” program at **7 p.m.** presented by Lawson S. Arney, CFP. This has been one of the most-requested programs. For anyone over 60, this talk 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 for this complimentary seminar on ways to help maximize your social security benefits.


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**, there will be a speaker on “The Meaning of Lag Ba’Omer!” This program is open to all.

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. For more information or 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](#)



Noa Lavyud will discuss the IDF Loan Soldier Service



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YOU'RE INVITED!

Join the Memphis Jewish Community Center Board of Directors, Leadership, and Staff as we commemorate 74 years of bringing meaningful programming, cultural events, and community engagement to Memphians.

Memphis Jewish Community Center

Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 26, 2022

Hors d'oeuvres at 5:00 pm • Meeting at 5:30 pm

MJCC Belz Social Hall
(6560 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38138)

Installation of New Board Members

Annual Chair's Award

Annual Bob Silver Volunteer Award

Annual Staff Award

Eli Cohen Trail to Commemorate Israel's Greatest Spy

The new Netflix original miniseries "The Spy" tells the story of Eli Cohen (pictured), Israel's most famous secret agent. Cohen was executed by Syria in 1965. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

(JNS) – A special project is now coming together to commemorate Israel's most famous spy, Eli Cohen.

The Eli Cohen Trail in the Golan Heights stretches several kilometers from Quneitra, Syria, to the Hamat Gader hot springs in the Yarmouk Valley. Its eight landmarks are situated at spots Cohen visited with the Syrian military.

The legendary spy, known as "our man in Damascus," spied on the Syrian military establishment for four years, befriending top-level Syrian officials and celebrities under the alias Kamel

Amin Thaabet. After being discovered, he was tortured by the Syrians before being executed in Damascus on May 18, 1965. His body was never returned to Israel.

In Israel, his name has become synonymous with self-sacrifice and heroism. The information he provided was fundamental to Israel's decisive victory in the 1967 Six-Day War. The great achievements of war – control of the strategic plateau, control of water resources and control of a large area for settlement – are attributed in part to the information Cohen obtained.

New Hope Knesset member Zvi Hauser recently teamed up with the Jerusalem Affairs Ministry on the initiative to memorialize Cohen's legacy. The project is headed by the ministry's Council for the Preservation of Sites and Heritage Division.

"The legacy and activity of Eli Cohen deserve to be taught and recognized by every citizen in Israel. The establishment of the legacy on the Eli Cohen Trail will help ensure his actions and heroic contribution will not be forgotten. I am happy and excited that after much work, the project is now underway and that in a few months, everyone who goes to the Golan will visit the center with a salute to Eli," said Hauser.

Construction on the museum, which will be built on the remains of a Syrian officers' club on the outskirts of Kibbutz Afik, began a few months ago. The museum will tell the story of Cohen's life and work.

This article first appeared in "Israel Hayom." HW

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