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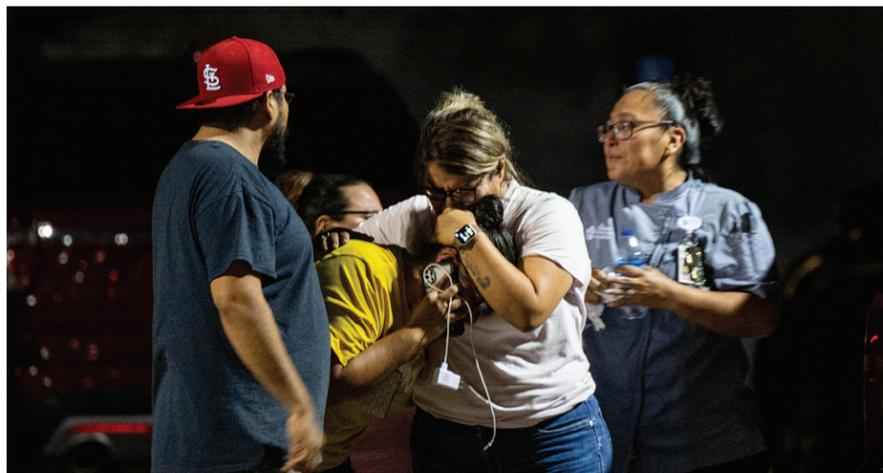
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Jewish Groups Condemn Texas Elementary School Shooting, But Only Some Push for Action



A family grieves outside of the SSGT Willie de Leon Civic Center following the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, May 24, 2022. Credit: Brandon Bell/Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – After the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, that killed at least 19 children and two adults last Tuesday, an array of Jewish groups issued statements that fell into two categories: generalized grief and recommendations for action.

The groups who repeated longstanding and direct calls for gun control included those aligned with the Reform and Conservative movement, along with B'nai B'rith International, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and

the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW).

The NCJW was arguably the most blunt.

“We must end gun violence in this country,” the group said on Twitter. “We must choose leaders and laws that regulate and restrict guns.”

The Jewish Federations of North America, which this year for a period removed gun control from its “Public Priorities” list, avoided politics. Its statement said, “our hearts break” and

that “We mourn this terrible tragedy with the Uvalde community.”

Jewish organizations were for decades united across the board in advocating for gun control, but in recent years they have retreated from the issue. Officials have said that it has become untenable to embrace advocacy that one of the two parties rejects, as the United States has become more polarized.

“When we speak out on established policy issues, we still risk creating a backlash,” David Bernstein, head of the consensus-driven Jewish public policy umbrella JCPA, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in 2018, noting that he received right-wing criticism for speaking up on guns in the wake of the Parkland school shooting. The JCPA said last Tuesday: “We must all join together to end gun violence and domestic terrorism growing on our nation.”

The majority of American Jewish groups, even many who could be characterized as center or to the right on Israel policy, remain outspoken on the issue. For example, the statement from B'nai B'rith – a nearly-180-year-old antisemitism watchdog – noted that its president, Seth Riklin, was a Texan.

“What will be the tipping point for our country to finally act on sensible gun reform measures?” read a statement in his name and of the group’s CEO,

Daniel Mariaschin. “It seems our country is paralyzed by an irrational fear of taking action to stop this plague.”

The statement by the Conservative movement’s Rabbinical Assembly suggested a barely concealed fury at the conventional calls for “thoughts and prayers” after mass shootings.

“While our hearts and sincere prayers go out to the people of Uvalde, especially the families of the victims, thoughts and prayers have never been enough; it is past time for action,” said its statement. “It is high time that United States politicians, currently obsessed with re-election campaigns, put aside partisanship in order literally to save lives.”

On the more liberal front, two Reform leaders used even stronger language. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the president of the Union for Reform Judaism, took aim at indications that the Supreme Court could soon further loosen gun ownership restrictions, and Congress’ failure to pass gun control laws. “Now two branches of government will worship a cult of death by deifying the Second Amendment,” he said on Twitter.

Rabbi Jonah Pesner, the director of the Reform movement’s Religious Action Center, described on Twitter “the rage and heartbreak of living in a soci-

(See **Groups** Page 3)

Russia Bans Entry to Numerous U.S. Jews, Including Chabad Rabbis Seeking Return of Schneerson Library

(JTA) – Among the many Jews on Russia’s latest list of Americans banned entry are three Chabad rabbis, in possible retaliation for Chabad’s decades-long effort to recover texts and artifacts that the Soviets took from the movement.

The list of 963 Americans posted last Saturday, first reported by Axios, includes three leaders of Chabad’s umbrella body, Agudas Chassidei Chabad. They are Rabbi Avraham Shemtov, the

chairman of the executive of the umbrella body, a founder of the Washington office of the movement; Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, the umbrella group’s secretary, who heads the educational and social arms of Chabad-Lubavitch; and Rabbi Shlomo Cunin, a West Coast leader of the movement who is prominent in the branch of the movement seeking the return of the texts.

Chabad Online, a news site that covers the movement, said the men were

likely included on the list because of Chabad’s continued advocacy for Russia to release the texts.

A lawyer for Chabad told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last week that Russia’s war against Ukraine has invigorated the efforts to recoup the collection of sacred texts, known as the Schneerson library and archive. That’s because the United States’ effort to seize Russian assets is seen as strengthening Chabad’s own bid to seize Russian wealth to pay

more than \$165 million in court-ordered fines that the country owes for not returning the texts.

Russia released the list explicitly to retaliate against expanded U.S. sanctions against Russia for its unprompted war against Ukraine. It’s not always clear what qualifies an American for entry on the list; some entries offer perfunctory explanations – the three rabbis

(See **Bans** Page 3)

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Melanie Fine: An Atlanta Native Finds Sense of Belonging in Jewish Memphis



When Melanie and Ricky Fine relocated to Memphis from Atlanta nine years ago, they brought their philanthropic traditions, with Melanie finding ways to plug into her new community as a hands-on volunteer and donor through the Memphis Jewish Federation Lion of Judah.

Growing up in Jewish Atlanta, Melanie Fine learned about the rewards that come from giving back from her parents, who took their then teenage daughter along with them when volunteering at organizations like Jewish residential facilities for seniors. She absorbed valuable lessons in philanthropy from things they said and did, always framed around the simple concept of ‘if it supports the community, we support it.’

“My parents were always supporters in whatever way they could be; it didn’t always have to be financial,” said Melanie. “They didn’t have super-wealth, but they participated in giving back in the ways they could. One thing that always stuck with me was their thinking that if you’re able, you should keep a membership at your local Jewish Community Center to support the community and all those children, families, and seniors that can use it.”

When she and her husband, Ricky, relocated to Memphis nine years ago, she brought these traditions with her and found ways to offer hands-on help in Jewish Memphis through the Memphis Jewish Federation Lion of Judah.

“In my teens I would volunteer at the Jewish Home, and I belonged to the youth group, which made volunteerism fun. And I think being part of the Lions for me is the adult form of creating a group situation, which makes volunteering fun,” she said. “When I first came here, I was talking to (Jewish Community Partners President and CEO) Lau-

ra Linder about how the social side of philanthropy and volunteering makes it enjoyable, which engages people and makes them want to be involved. That’s when she pulled me into the Lions circle, asking if I would plan a trip for the women to New York.”

A new Memphian who craved connections with her new Jewish community, Melanie treated making friends ‘almost like a job.’ Once the plan to move to Memphis solidified, she began carefully recording anything she could learn about the people in Jewish Memphis. When an Atlanta friend mentioned a friend or family member in Memphis, she made a point to remember names and connections.

“Instead of letting this information go in one ear and out the other, I put their contact information in my phone and worked to develop connections,” she said. “I put myself in an advanced program of Jewish geography.”

She plugged into Temple Israel, serving on their board for several years and helping organize programs and gatherings. She got involved in the Shoham-Memphis partnership, and also made connections through the MJCC, through Federation and the Lions, and simply as a byproduct of living in Jewish Memphis.

“It’s incredible to me to live around the corner from the Center, Temple, the Federation offices, and just the general geography of it all, being in this ‘golden circle.’ It is refreshing to be in a place like this, as Atlanta is spread so far apart,” said Melanie. “Memphis is a wonderful place to raise a Jewish family. Our kids were grown when I moved here, so I was able to participate (as a volunteer) more. And I always felt welcomed by the warmth here and found it easy to be involved from the very beginning.”

With her affinity for communal volunteerism, Melanie sees the Lions as perfectly positioned at the intersection of social connectivity and hands-on activism, and the right fit for her philanthropically. She understands that giving through Federation at the Lion of Judah level isn’t attainable for every donor in this community, and while her tendency leans toward inclusivity at all times, it’s the right fit for her charitable giving because of her trust in the Federation model of philanthropy.

“(Ricky and I) feel it’s important to give to Memphis Jewish Federation at this level, because the model is so carefully comprehensive,” said Melanie. “Our donation is going to help a child

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here, an adult there. It’s going to help a senior and help someone who’s disabled. It’s going to help somebody in trouble, somebody in Israel, somebody in Ukraine. It is so all-encompassing, and Federation does the research and the work for you.”

Melanie’s adult children, Steven and Rachel, are just entering the phase of adulthood when philanthropic capacity begins to catch up with ambition, and she’s pleased with the choices they are both beginning to make. While she and Ricky didn’t overtly mentor their children about the importance of volunteering and giving back, they both clearly

learned from the example their parents set.

“Just like for me in my formative years, it started with volunteering, the steppingstone to truly plugging in,” she said. “They are just about to reach a level where they feel more comfortable in philanthropy, and they already give to charity, and they volunteer. They definitely have the components to be future philanthropists.

“Although it might be easier to connect to the Jewish community today than it was for my parents,” she continued. “I still think we need to take care of ourselves. If we don’t, no one else will. It is my sincere hope that as my children and other young adults move through major life events like births, weddings and funerals, they will be drawn into the fold and realize the tremendous responsibility they have to continue the tradition of caring for our community. That’s what will drive our community for tomorrow.” **HW**



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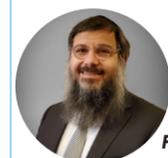
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Groups...

(Continued From Page 1)

ety that repeatedly permits the destruction of life.”

“God forgive this country for loving guns more than children,” he added.

But several groups did not mention gun control; some clarified to the JTA that they support legislation on the issue despite a lack of pointed language in their statements.

“Another unspeakable horror. Another occasion for national shock, mourning and, yes, anger,” said David Harris, the outgoing CEO of the American Jewish Committee. “Will the pandemic of violence in our nation ever end?” An AJC spokesman said that Harris and the organization were focused on the tragedy but said that the AJC had in the past pushed for more gun controls and that it would back any new measures proposed by President Joe Biden.

A JFNA spokesman, meanwhile, said it is “assessing potential next steps” with

its partner organizations. The spokesman pointed to an updated priorities document published after JTA reported that it had removed any mentions of guns from its original document. The updated document calls for improved enforcement of existing gun restrictions but does not advocate for any new proposals.

Agudath Israel of America, the umbrella body for haredi Orthodox Jews, said it was “horrified” by the attack, but a spokesman said the organization has never had a formal position on gun control and that its statement spoke “to the horrific tragedy and the pain of the bereaved.”

A number of organizations that did not mention gun control pivoted to favored issues. The Orthodox Union, which takes a lead in advocating for federal and state funding to secure Jewish institutions, said schools must be “places of safety.”

Nathan Diamant, the O.U.’s Washington’s director, said his tweet was focused on the tragedy.

But in an email, he wrote that “The

O.U. supports ‘common-sense gun safety measures’ – which includes (post-Sandy Hook) supporting the Manchin-Toomey bill,” a failed bipartisan bid, written after the 2012 mass shooting at a Connecticut elementary school, that would have strengthened background checks for gun purchases.

The Anti-Defamation League, which has a leading role in tracking extremism, said it would “investigate the shooter’s social media footprint.” A spokesman for the ADL also said the group focused first “on the tragedy, the victims,” and pointed a reporter to its statement after the Sandy Hook massacre, which read: “We firmly believe that one way to limit the power of extremists and reduce violence in our communities is to enact tough, effective gun control legislation.”

The AJC and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee also retweeted Israeli government expressions of sympathy with the victims of the attack. AIPAC quoted each tweet, “Allies stand together.” Like many other Western de-

mocracies, Israel has strict gun control laws and a much lower frequency of mass shootings.

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, the Tree of Life synagogue rabbi who called the police when a gunman murdered 11 worshippers in his Pittsburgh congregation in 2018, said in a statement that the pain of surviving that attack returned to him last Tuesday.

“This morning, as I lifted my eyes, tears fell,” Myers said. “The pain of surviving the attack here in Pittsburgh once again feels fresh in my mind after yesterday’s horrific massacre at an elementary school. I readied myself to question God, ‘Why?’ But God returned my question, ‘why?’ Today we mourn with the families and friends of 19 beautiful children and two educators. May their memories be a blessing. We offer prayers of comfort and healing for the children who are now forever changed by what they witnessed. And tomorrow, we must all return to and wrestle with God’s question for us: ‘why?’” **HW**

Bans...

(Continued From Page 1)

have their Chabad titles listed – and others that simply say “U.S. citizen.” Some people banned entry into the United States, such as former Sen. John McCain, are dead, and even listed as such.

The list also includes Nathan and Alyza Lewin, a father-daughter Supreme Court lawyer team who have represented Jewish groups on a number of religious liberty issues. Nathan Lewin has also represented Chabad in the Russia case, while Alyza Lewin is president of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law.

Also on the list are Tim Naftali, a

noted presidential historian who has analyzed Russia-U.S. tensions; Jewish Congress members, including Democrats Steve Cohen of Tennessee, Jerry Nadler of New York, Alan Lowenthal of California, Andy Levin of Michigan, Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Republicans Lee Zeldin of New York and David Kustoff of Tennessee; and Ellen Weintraub, a federal election commissioner.

Jewish actor Rob Reiner is listed, not for directing “Spinal Tap” and other comedic classics but for founding “Investigate Russia,” a now-dormant web-

site that tracked the investigation into Russia’s attempts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Among the journalists listed is Susan Glasser, the foreign affairs expert who recently co-authored with her husband, Peter Baker, “Kremlin Rising: Putin’s Russia and the Counter-Revolution.”

Then there are the mysteries, the folks with obvious Jewish names listed only as U.S. citizens, among them Moshe Cohen and Avrohom Yitzhak Weisfish.

Many of those listed have mocked their entries, noting that they have no in-

tention of entering Russia and no assets Russia can sanction. Chabad Online led its article on the listing with the Russian word for “Goodbye” – “Dasvidaniya!”

Chabad represents a prominent thread of Jewish life in Russia. The war has put its local leaders in a difficult position, as they seek to continue to serve the hundreds of thousands of Jews who live there while also remaining part of an international movement with emotional ties to Ukraine. Chabad of Russia is associated with a Jewish museum where some of the Schneerson library is currently housed. **HW**

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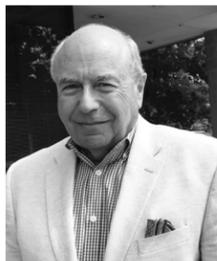


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Explosion at Iranian Military Facility Leaves 2 Dead, Several Wounded

By Neta Bar

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – An explosion at Iran’s Parchin military base has left two people dead and several others wounded, the country’s media reported last Thursday.

The Tasnim news agency cited Iranian officials as saying that an “industrial accident” had taken place in one of the facilities on base. Other Iranian media outlets reported that an explosion took place at the heart of the military compound, killing two “military experts.”

The Intellitimes intelligence blog cited media reports alleging that the explosion was the result of a drone strike.

Parchin is a large military complex located about 30 kilometers, about 20 miles, southeast of Tehran. It is closely linked to the Islamic Republic’s missile program and is also believed to house sites associated with the Iranian nuclear weapons.

While Iran denies any nefarious activity is taking place at the complex, it consistently denies International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors access to the site.

A massive blast rocked the Parchin base on June 26, 2020. The Iranian Defense Ministry said at the time that there had been an explosion at a gas storage facility in the “public area” of Parchin, not the military site.

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom. **HW**

OPINION

When It Comes to Gun Control, Why Can't the U.S. Be More Like Israel?

A girl cries outside a civic center where grief counseling is offered in Uvalde, Texas. Credit: ALLISON DINNER/AFP via Getty Images

Forward Senior Contributing Editor Rob Eshman

Common sense gun laws won't prevent the next Uvalde, but they will save thousands of lives.

This opinion article originally appeared on Forward. Reprinted with permission.

The mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, makes me want to scream.

If you are a parent, or if you were ever a child, it's impossible to read about the deliberate slaughter of 19 children and two adults at Robb Elementary School by an 18-year-old gunman and not want to just shut down and cry.

That's the natural response. After Sandy Hook. After Parkland. After Columbine. After Santa Fe.

Santa Fe?

You don't remember the high school shooting in Santa Fe, Texas, in 2018? Ten students were killed. Their parents still live with the agony of loss, but there have been 119 school shootings in the United States since then, and 212 mass shootings since January. There is no time for the rest of us to cry, much less remember.

The understandable response is to make it stop. To fix it. To draw a line in the sand.

But that is where it gets confusing. The grief and the outrage is pure. The solution is messy.

In the aftermath of a mass shooting many people will call for stricter gun control. Research is on their side, to a point: Studies show that more gun con-

trol will result in fewer gun deaths. After a mass shooting that killed 35 people in 1996, Australia imposed strict gun ownership measures and outright bans on semi-automatic and automatic weapons. Seven years after that law went into effect, its firearm homicide rate dropped by about 42% and its firearm suicide rate fell by 57%.

But – and this is as dispiriting a 'but' as you could imagine – there is little evidence to suggest that more gun control would prevent the next Sandy Hook or Uvalde.

Here's why: According to the Centers for Disease Control, 45,222 people died from gun-related injuries in the U.S. in 2020 – 123 each day. Of those, 53% (24,292) died from suicide, 43% (19,384) from murder and 3% from accidents, police shootings or undetermined causes. About 512 people died in mass shootings that year, 10 in school shootings.

Yes, it was a pandemic year, but the proportions of mass shootings to overall firearm deaths holds true in other years. In 2016, mass shootings accounted for less than 2% of the year's the 39,000 gun deaths. Tougher gun laws may prevent school shootings, but the evidence for that is not clear.

What is clear is that gun laws that reduce suicide and homicides, the two greatest sources of gun deaths, will save lives. Uvalde, coming just 10 days after the racist attack that killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo supermarket, should serve as wake up calls to sensible gun

legislation that can save thousands of lives, starting now.

One clear proof of this is Israel. Israel, like the United States, is a developed country where Uzi-toting soldiers are ubiquitous and private gun ownership is legal, though nowhere near as prevalent as it is here. But Israel had two deaths per 100,000 residents in 2019, compared to 12 per 100,000 people in the U.S.

In Israel, anyone who qualifies can get a gun – but those qualifications make all the difference. You must meet a list of criteria to ask for a license.

You need a note from your doctor assuring you are in sound physical and mental health. You can't have a criminal record. You must take a written and practical gun safety test. You are permitted only one gun and 50 bullets at any given time. About 40% of requests for gun ownership are rejected.

"Israel's social reality – the large number of firearms on the country's streets – may look like an American conservative's utopia," Haviv Rettig Gur wrote in the Times of Israel, "but it got there via a domineering statist regulatory regime that American gun control activists can only fantasize about."

Rob Eshman is Senior Contributing Editor of the Forward. Follow him on Instagram @foodaism and Twitter @foodaism or email eshman@forward.com.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Forward or The Hebrew Watchman. **HW**

Moroccan Authorities Restore Ancient Jewish Cemetery of Meknes

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) – Authorities in Morocco completed a renovation of the historic Jewish cemetery in the city of Meknes, part of a broader overhaul of Jewish heritage sites that coincides with the country's reestablishment of diplomatic ties with Israel.

The restoration was finished earlier this month ahead of a visit by several dozen Jews, many of them from Israel, on May 19, AFP reported. The 10-acre graveyard contains thousands of bodies and is centuries old. Many of the graves are built atop older ones.

Jews from Israel and beyond have visited Meknes, where only a handful of Jews live permanently, for decades.

The pilgrimages reflect the deep roots that Jews grew in this city in northern Morocco, where thousands of refugees settled after fleeing the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal in the 15th and 16th centuries.

They were able to prosper in ways that were impossible then in the Iberian Peninsula. But the community's life in Meknes, and in Morocco generally, were far from harmonious. About 180

Jews were murdered in pogroms in Meknes in 1728, and another round of killings, instigated by the sultan Yazid, occurred in 1790.

Some of the community's synagogues were stolen and turned into mosques that year, according to the ANU Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv. More atrocities occurred in 1811 and 1894, when Meknes still had over 4,000 Jews.

French rule in Morocco brought the Jews relief and their community doubled in size by 1931, but the violence against them resumed during World War II. By 1970, only a few Jews remained in Meknes after the majority of the community of about 15,000 joined waves of immigration to Israel.

The cemetery and hundreds of other Jewish heritage sites began slipping into disrepair.

But in 2010, King Mohammed VI of Morocco started a renovation program for Jewish heritage sites in his country.

Dozens in Morocco and beyond have been restored and preserved, including the Jewish Museum of Casablanca and a new Jewish culture center in Essaouira, another former hub of Moroccan Judaism.

Today, about 2,500 Jews live in Morocco on a permanent or semi-permanent basis.

In 2020, Morocco and Israel rekindled diplomatic relations as part of the Abraham Accords. The two countries had first established such ties in 1994 following the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinians, but Morocco severed them following the second Intifada in the early 2000s.

Following the rapprochement, Moroccan and Israeli airlines began operating direct flights to and from Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, dramatically boosting the volume of touristic travel between the two countries. About 200,000 Israelis are expected to visit Morocco in 2022, according to Israel's Channel 13. **HW**

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Bornblum and Bourbon



Chairs Ryan Saharovich, Max Alpert, Michal Alpert and Stacy Alpert



Wayne Sims and Alex Alpert



Wayne Sims and Head of School Dr. Daniel Weiss

Story and photos by Eli Ostrow, staff intern

On May 12 Bornblum Jewish Community School held a bourbon tasting fundraiser at the home of Michael and Stacey Alpert.

The event showcased several alumni and parent-donated bottles of top-shelf bourbon, kosher food and an appearance by Max Shapira, the president of one of the largest bourbon distilleries in the world, Heaven Hill Distillery.

After a formal welcome and a chance to mingle, attendees gathered in the living room for a 20-minute Zoom session with Mr. Shapira.

Shapira talked about how his family came to America and took out a large loan to start a distillery in hopes of becoming successful only to be shut down by the prohibition. Once prohibition was repealed, his family business began buying out other small bourbon-making companies, many of whom were also

Jewish. That very same company today now controls 22% of the world's bourbon supply and is the oldest continuously Jewish-owned bourbon company in America. Mr. Shapira very generously donated several bottles of top-shelf bourbon including a very hard-to-come-by bottle of Elijah Craig 18 year.

Most of the guests were either alumni of the school or parents of current students.

Max and Alex Alpert remarked how awesome it was that you could get alumni like this together. The relationships that they built in elementary school at Bornblum are still around today.

"Between our two weddings, 10 of the groomsmen were from our graduating class at BJCS!" said the siblings.

The chairs of the event were Michal Alpert, Stacey Alpert, Max Alpert and Ryan Saharovich. **HW**

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Memphis Jewish Federation Hosts A Night in Tel Aviv to Benefit the Crisis in Ukraine

Story by Eli Ostrow, staff intern

Photos credit Paige Miller Photography



Farryl Silver, Jamie Klazmer, Ellee Breit, Maureen Baum, and Lindsey Reef. They were members of the planning committee, which also included Emily Lennon and Jaclyn Marshall (not pictured).

Memphis' young Jewish adults were in for a rare treat on Sunday, May 19, when Memphis Jewish Federation hosted A Night in Tel Aviv.

The event focused on two main goals, engaging the next generation of Memphis Jews with Memphis Jewish Federation and raising money for the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

More than 150 guests were greeted by colorful lighting, elaborate decorations, exciting music, an open bar and kosher food by Robin Joyce's A Catered Affair.

"The large turnout shows that the young members of the community will show up for a good cause like this," said

committee member Farryl Silver.

Committee members also include Jaclyn Marshall (Chair), Maureen Baum, Ellee Breit, Jamie Klazmer, Emily Lennon and Lindsey Reef.

Everyone raved about the awesome music by DJ Wurz.

"We wanna support Ukraine and heard DJ Wurz was here," said party goers Isaac Graber and Emily Murrah. "So, we didn't want to miss it. And the food is insanely good."

The open bar featured a selection of drinks generously donated by Hampline Brewing Company, Tito's Handmade Vodka and Gaslight Wine and Spirits. **HW**



Alex Harkavy, Leor Reef, Aaron Poulin



Julie and Lawson Arney



Alex Shindler and Cara Greenstein



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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Upcoming Programs

All programs start at 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, June 7

TCBY Yogurt Social Dessert

Following our 11:30 a.m. lunch from Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab on Tuesday, June 7, enjoy our first TCBY Yogurt Social. The dessert will be chock full of toppings. The meal is only \$5 as always. Reservations are required the day before for both the lunch and the dessert. Although seniors can come for the dessert only, we ask that you RSVP, to make sure we have plenty of sweet treats.

Thursday, June 9

Rabbi Jeff Dreifus, from Temple Israel will speak about, "Jewish Values." Rabbi Dreifus joined Temple Israel in June 2021 as Director of Innovation, Engagement, & Strategic Partnerships. This is his second time speaking to the seniors. Please come enjoy this dynamic young rabbi.



Rabbi Jeff Dreifus

ASQ Recognizes Professionals for Innovative Achievements in Quality



Mike Nichols Receives Distinguished Service Medal

Michael (Mike) Nichols, formerly of Memphis, was recognized in May at the American Society for Quality (ASQ) annual World Conference on Quality and Improvement (WCQI) in Anaheim, Calif.

WCQI 2022 brought together quality professionals representing manufacturing, consulting, health care, government, education, aerospace, and more for three-plus days of learning that will produce long-term gains in an organization's quality mission.

Michael (Mike) D. Nichols (Lincoln Financial Group, N.C.) was recognized for extensive leadership in promoting and advancing quality concepts and process improvement methods with an emphasis on statistically based methodologies such as Six Sigma and leadership approaches such as process management; and for his longtime leadership within the ASQ, serving as President or Chair at the Section, Division, Committee and Society levels.

Michael's grandparents tz'l are Abe and Helen Kapell. His parents are Maurine Kapell Nichols tz'l and Ronald Nichols. His children are Lindsay (Mike) Maze, Sean Corlew and Aaron Nichols. **HW**

Tuesday, June 14

Bluma Zuckerbrot Finklestein, Chief Strategy Officer at Jewish Community Partners/Memphis Jewish Federation will discuss "Israel Security." As the world continues to change, this topic becomes more and more relevant. The seniors have always enjoyed Bluma's insightful talks. The program will be held in the senior lunchroom following lunch.

Thursday June 16

Come join our second round of Team Trivial Pursuit.

The group will be split up into teams and questions will come from a combination of regular Trivial Pursuit and Baby Boomer Trivial Pursuit. The group loved our first round. This 'contest' is open to all seniors. If you want to make your own team, call Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 to reserve your spot.

Please join us from Monday through Friday for a delicious Kosher lunch from the Kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. To make a reservation, please contact Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220, stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org, or call the front desk at 901-761-0810. **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? You can 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 to right). 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 to right). The limit on nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA is not subject to phase-out based on MAGI.

Employer Retirement Plans

- Employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), and most 457 plans can defer up to \$20,500 in compensation in

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

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.

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.

This information is not intended as tax, legal, investment, or retirement advice or recommendations, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax or legal professional. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. This material was written and prepared by Broadridge Advisor Solutions. © 2022 Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

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OBITUARIES

Martin Eugene Snyder

Martin Eugene Snyder passed away peacefully on May 21, 2022, in Memphis, Tenn., at the age of 88 with his family by his side. He was born in Forrest City, Ark., on February 28, 1934, to parents Rueben Snyder and Develling Yoffie Snyder. He attended Forrest City High School and Louisiana State University and served in the army before going into the family scrap and recycling business. Martin was a kind, loving, and generous man who was always there for his family. His favorite times were boating on Lake Ouachita with his family and traveling to Israel with the Men's Club and again with his beloved Evelyn. His interests included flying planes, reading, listening to jazz music and watching Western movies.

Martin is survived by his wife, best friend and soulmate, Evelyn Loket Snyder of 58 years; children Leslie Stein (Dr. Ira E. Stein), Kimberley Snyder; grandchildren Joshua Siegel (Heather), Stephanie Siegel, Hannah Stein and Talia Stein. He was preceded by his son, Wayne Jeffrey Snyder.

The funeral service was held, Sunday, May 22, at The Levy-Cooper Chapel in Temple Israel Cemetery.

The family requests that any donations be made to Temple Israel or to the charity of your choice. **HW**

**DEADLINES FOR
STORIES AND ADS
WEDNESDAYS AT NOON**

Curtis George Ward

Curtis George Ward died on May 23, 2022, at the age of 104. Curt, born Kurt Georg Wertheim, lived a most wonderful and interesting life, that unspooled like a cross between a History Channel documentary and Forrest Gump. "The essence of my life," Curt said, "is that I was blessed with good fortune." He indeed had good fortune, but he made much of his own good luck, through hard work, his engaging personality, and the ability to make friends wherever he went. An eternal optimist, Curt Ward was a walking advertisement for a positive attitude leading to longevity.

Born on September 13, 1917, to Hermann and Hertha Wertheim in Frankfurt, Germany, Curt was the youngest of three children, including brother Ernest and sister Kaethe. After an idyllic childhood, 1933 was a watershed year for 16-year-old Curt. Hitler came to power in Germany, his father died, he graduated from the prestigious "gymnasium" high school, and was apprenticed to L.S. Mayer, a company that exported German products. He moved to Berlin for work, while his siblings and mother were planning a move to Belgium, which was thought to be a safer place than Germany for a Jewish family. Because it was becoming increasingly dangerous to be a young Jewish man in Germany, the family put all its efforts into securing passage to America for Curt, which had been a long-held dream of his. ("I got a Sears & Roebuck catalogue, and I was captivated," he remembered. "Also, I had heard about drugstores with soda fountains, and I wanted to see them.")

Happily, Curt was lucky to get a visa, because the quota for Jews to immigrate to the U.S. was so low. This was made possible through a strong affidavit of support from his cousin, Erich Fromm, the famous German social psychologist, philosopher, and author of *Escape from Freedom* and *The Art of Loving*, who already had immigrated to America and was living in New York. "I was so lucky," Curt remembered. "I was one of the few who were allowed to come." He arrived in New York on November 11, 1937, with all of his worldly possessions in one suitcase.

After working in New York for two

years, an acquaintance put him in touch with some influential Memphians, who encouraged him to relocate to the Bluff City, which he did in 1939. After a couple of jobs with local paper companies, he landed with Edgar Haas, Sr., at Slumber Products mattress manufacturing company. He stayed with Slumber and the Haas family for the rest of his professional life, retiring as director of operations at age 70.

In 1941, Curt took leave from Slumber to enlist in the army, ahead of the Pearl Harbor attack, which turned his short-term commitment into one for the duration of the war. While Curt was in the army, he was naturalized as an American citizen, and was plucked from the ranks to go to Camp Ritchie in Maryland, becoming one of the now-famous "Ritchie Boys," a group of Jewish-German immigrants who were trained in military intelligence and became integral in the U.S. success in acquiring information from captured German prisoners of war. Recent books, movies, and television programs have focused on these heretofore little-known heroes of WWII.

The rest of Curt's family found refuge in Belgium during the war years. Curt's mother and brother were safe; tragically, his sister and her husband and daughter were deported shortly before the liberation and perished at Auschwitz. Curt said: "For a long time, I didn't talk about the Holocaust, but now I want to talk about it, because that generation is dying out, and people need to remember." Indeed, Curt's own escape from Germany in 1937 is now remembered in Berlin with a Stolpersteine, a commemorative brass plaque embedded in the pavement in front of the last voluntary address of victims of the Holocaust, including people like Curt who managed to escape.

After the War, Curt came back to Memphis, and saved enough money to bring his mother to New York to be with her sister; because of her German expatriate connections there, another Curt Ward Coincidence was born. Through those family connections, Curt made contact with Hedi Schulklopper, who was born only a few doors down from Curt in Frankfurt (albeit 13 years later

than he). Her family had also escaped to the U.S., settling in New York. Curt and Hedi began a long-distance relationship, marrying in 1957. Hedi and Curt had a happy, 50-year marriage, completing their family with their son, Jeffrey Bernard Ward. After his retirement, and until Hedi's death in 2007, Curt and Hedi were avid travelers, visiting sites all around the world, but especially loving their "special place" of Carmel, California.

A man of deep faith, Curt treasured his affiliation with Temple Israel, and was a dedicated member of the Temple Israel Brotherhood, serving on its board. Some of his volunteer work included delivering MIFA Meals on Wheels, donating and delivering blood to hospitals for Lifeblood, and working for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Jewish Community Center, the Sam Schloss B'nai B'rith Lodge, and the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (America's oldest military service organization, established in the Civil War).

Curt was well-loved by many friends, 25 of whom traveled from all over the world to celebrate his 100th birthday with him in 2017. After the party, he sent handwritten thank-you notes, along with this message: "I've had happy times throughout my life – I never had a bad day. I was blessed with a happy childhood. I was blessed to be able to come to the U.S. I was blessed with so many happy coincidences. I was blessed to have a very happy marriage with Hedi, and to have a fine son in Jeffrey."

Curt is survived by his son, Jeffrey, a niece, Susie Osnoss (Ken), a nephew, David Poll (Becky), and many grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Burial was held Wed., May 25 at 1:30 at Temple Israel Cemetery, with a celebration of Curt's life to be held at a later date. The family suggests memorials be directed to Temple Israel or the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. Or perhaps, we should just pay heed to Curt's advice: "Get a good education, work hard, enjoy life, and be good to each other."

Z"L: Zikhrono Librakha: May his memory be a blessing.

A"H: Alav Hashalom: Peace be upon him. **HW**

U.S. Treasury Targets Russian-Backed Iranian Oil-Smuggling Network

By Mike Wagenheim

The sanctioned individuals and companies are said to be generating hundreds of millions of dollars for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force and Hezbollah.

(JNS) – On the day that the Biden administration point man on Iran testified before a Senate committee, the U.S. Treasury Department announced a new sanctions package targeting an oil-smuggling and money-laundering network belonging to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force (IRGC-QF), backed by Russia.

The network, which was led by Quds Force official Behnam Shahriyari and former Quds Force official Rostam Ghasemi, "has facilitated the sale of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of oil for the Quds Force and Hezbollah, and it spans several jurisdictions, including Iran and Russia," according to a Treasury statement.

"The United States remains fully committed to holding the Iranian regime accountable for its support to terrorist proxies that destabilize the Middle

East," said Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian E. Nelson in the statement. "While the United States continues to seek a mutual return to full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, we will not hesitate to target those who provide a critical lifeline of financial support and access to the international financial system for the Quds Force or Hezbollah. In particular, the United States will continue to strictly enforce sanctions on Iran's illicit oil trade. Anyone purchasing oil from Iran faces the prospect of U.S. sanctions."

Treasury claims that Ghasemi leveraged a Russia-based company – RPP Limited Liability Company – to transfer millions of dollars from Russia to the IRGC-QF. The entity was formerly managed by Afghanistan's Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow, businessman Kamaluddin Gulam Nabizada.

Nabizada, previously linked to a scheme to defraud the Kabul Bank, is alleged to have raised funds for the IRGC-QF in tandem with unnamed

senior Russian government and intelligence officials. Mihrab Suhrab Hamidi, RPP LLC's manager, has overseen the company during some of the allegedly illicit oil sales and transport.

Treasury says the UAE-based Zaman-oil DMCC has worked with the Russian government and Russian state-owned Rosneft to ship large quantities of Iranian oil to companies in Europe on behalf of the IRGC-QF.

Four Iran-based IRGC-QF officials and associates were also targeted for sanctions, along with three Turkey-based IRGC-QF associates alleged to have concealed the source of proceeds from illicit Iranian oil and petrochemical sales. Lebanon-based Concepto Screen SAL Off-Shore, which has been accused of facilitating oil deals likely benefiting the IRGC-QF and Hezbollah, was sanctioned, in addition to other companies based in Turkey, South Korea, Hong Kong, Iran and China.

The designations will result in all property and interests in property, and all businesses owned directly, indirect-

ly or partially by the individuals named, being blocked and reported to the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). All transactions between individuals in the United States and entities designated would also be prohibited.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the Biden administration announced the sanctions even as it continues efforts to seek a joint return with Iran to compliance Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), otherwise known as the Iran nuclear accord.

U.S. Special Envoy on Iran Robert Malley discussed the new sanctions during his testimony last Wednesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, detailing the status of JCPOA negotiations. The sanctions announcement was praised by the panel's chairman, Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), but derided by Ranking Member Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho), who said the administration should turn its focus on sanctioning Iranian oil sales to China. **HW**

Ice Cream Sundaes and Torah Talks to Highlight Shavuot at Chabad

Chabad of Tennessee will host “Sundaes on Sunday: A Shavuot Ice Cream Party” on the first day of Shavuot, Sunday, June 5, at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life at 2570 Kirby Parkway at 11 a.m.

“Here’s the scoop,” said Rabbi Levi Klein, “When the Jews stood at the foot of Mount Sinai 3334 years ago and received the Torah from G-d, together we proclaimed, ‘we will do, and we will listen.’”

“Each year on the holiday of Shavuot,” he said, “this historic event is relived as we commit ourselves anew to observing the Torah.”

“Therefore,” Rabbi Klein continued, “the Mitzvah (commandment) of the day on Shavuot is to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments from a Torah scroll. Since it is also customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot, Chabad will be having its annual “Shavuot Ice Cream Party and Dairy Buffet” complete with an ice cream bar, cheesecake, blintzes, lasagna and more.”

“Adults and children are welcome” said Mrs. Rivky Klein, co-director of

Chabad, “and there will be special activities for the kids.”

As a play on the original Ten Commandments, which were delivered on stone tablets, a raffle for an Amazon Tablet will be made for all children in attendance.

Rabbi Klein also explained, “The Torah was given at daybreak. Our tradition relates that the Jewish people did not rise early to be prepared for that revelation, and that it was necessary for G-d Himself to awaken them. To compensate for their behavior, it is customary to stay up the first night of Shavuot studying Torah. This custom is called ‘Tikun Lail Shavuot.’”

On Saturday night June 4, Chabad will be hosting TorahTalks, a two-hour session featuring four community members delivering half-hour presentations on topics they are passionate about including: attaining happiness, the story of Ruth, physician-assisted suicide and honoring parents. Tikun Lail Shavuot – Learning Night will take place starting at 10:30 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 2570 Kirby Parkway. **HW**

IDF: ‘CNN’ Claim Israeli Forces Killed Journalist in ‘Targeted Attack’ is ‘Baseless’



Palestinian journalists take part in a candlelight vigil in the Gaza Strip in memory of Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed during a raid of Israeli security forces in the West Bank city of Jenin on May 11, 2022. Credit: Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90.

(JNS) – The Israeli military has dismissed as “baseless” a report by CNN last Tuesday claiming that Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was intentionally killed by Israeli forces in Jenin.

Citing “new evidence,” the CNN report claims that Abu Akleh was killed by Israeli forces in a “targeted attack” during an exchange of fire between Israeli forces and Palestinian terrorists in Jenin on May 11.

“While the footage does not show Abu Akleh being shot, eyewitnesses told CNN that they believe Israeli forces on the same street fired deliberately on the reporters in a targeted attack. All of the journalists were wearing protective blue vests that identified them as members of the news media,” said the report. It cited Palestinian journalist Shatha Hanaysha, who was on the scene, eight other eyewitnesses and various experts.

The IDF Spokesperson Unit said in response that “since the incident occurred, the IDF has been investigating and clarifying the circumstances of the journalist’s death in an in-depth and thorough manner. The intermediate investigation that was publicized found that it is not possible to determine the source of fire that ... killed the journalist,” according to Ma’ariv.

“The claim that the gunfire was targeted lacks any basis,” the spokesperson continued.

“In the context of arrests that the IDF conducts as part of its response to terrorism, widespread and uncontrollable fire was directed at an IDF unit, alongside precise fire and the hurling of explosives at military vehicles, and near the soldiers. Towards the end of the operation, a Palestinian journalist was hit as she stood within the combat zone during an exchange of fire,” said the military.

“A transfer of the bullet for a ballistic analysis could determine what happened. As of now, the Palestinians have ignored our request to hold a joint investigation or to send us the results of their investigation, including the bullet. IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi has instructed that the investigation continue and that all available tools be used to clarify the incident, out of a commitment to transparency and seeking the truth,” the statement continued.

“We express our sorrow for Shireen’s death. We view freedom of the press with great importance, and we work to preserve it. The IDF will continue to act to thwart terrorism anywhere that is necessary and will continue to meet its missions while making an effort to avoid harming noncombatants,” it said.

On May 20, 57 U.S. lawmakers called on the FBI and the U.S. State Department to investigate the Palestinian-American journalist’s death. **HW**

It’s Okay to Not Be Okay

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at the MJCC is here to listen.

Throughout the month of May, Fogelman JFS staff have been working hard to spread awareness. They have been wearing green to raise awareness, handing out stickers with phrases such as “going to therapy is cool” and “grow through what you go through” and creating an interactive wall stating “I’m struggling with...” for members of the MJCC community.

Fogelman JFS has been making phone calls and reaching out to individ-

uals about needs and services as well.

“Our main goal is to show people that they are not alone,” says Director of Social Services at Fogelman Jewish Family Services Rashki Osina. “You never know what someone is going through. Our words matter.”

In 2020, 1 in 5 adults experienced mental illness, and suicide was the second leading cause of death among people aged 10-34 in the United States. Since 2020, mental illness has only increased due to COVID. If you or someone you know need services, call Fogelman JFS 901.767.8511. We can help. **HW**

‘New York Times’: Israel Killed Top IRGC Commander as Warning to Iran

(JNS) – Israeli officials were taken by surprise last Wednesday by a report in The New York Times alleging that Israel had informed Washington it was behind the assassination of a top Iranian officer earlier in the week.

An unnamed intelligence official told the Times that the hit was meant as a warning to Iran to halt the operations of Unit 840 – a covert group within the Islamic Republic’s infamous black-ops arm, the Quds Force. According to the Israeli government, the IDF, and intelligence officials, Unit 840 is tasked with abductions and assassinations of foreigners around the world, including Israeli civilians and officials.

Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps officer Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodaei was reportedly shot five times by two men on a motorcycle in the heart of Tehran last Sunday. He was said to be involved in planning attacks against Israel, although according to other reports he was a logistics expert with a crucial role in the transportation of drone and missile technology to fighters in Syria and the Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorist group in Lebanon.

Israeli officials were taken aback by the leak, which is considered quite rare within the context of the countries’ intimate strategic relationship, Channel 12 reported. Israeli officials were “unsure what motivated the Americans to leak the information” and were trying to understand the ramifications, according to the report. The New York Times did not specify the nationality of the intelligence official.

Israel rarely claims responsibility for any operation on foreign soil, as this makes it easier for the other party to demonstrate restraint. Israeli officials were reportedly concerned that the leak will augment Iran’s desire to retaliate.

In the immediate aftermath of the assassination, the IRGC denounced it as a “criminal terrorist act” and later announced they had nabbed a “network of thugs linked with the Zionist regime of Israel’s intelligence service.”

Citing an unnamed European security official, Iran International reported that Khodaei was involved in several terrorist plots against Israelis in Asia, Europe and Africa, including the Feb. 13, 2012, attack targeting an Israeli diplomat in New Delhi, India, in which a diplomat’s wife was wounded.

He was also reportedly involved in a series of botched bombings aimed at killing Israeli envoys in Tbilisi, Georgia, and several Central Asian countries, and had masterminded the 2012 Bangkok bombings, which left five people

wounded.

“We will make the enemy regret this and none of the enemy’s evil actions will go unanswered,” IRGC commander Gen. Hossein Salami said in a speech last Monday. A member of Iran’s National Security Council, Majid Mirahmadi, said the killing was “definitely the work of Israel,” and warned that harsh revenge would follow, according to Iranian media.

The United States has designated the IRGC as a terrorist group – a decision that has been a sticking point in the negotiations with Iran to revive the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran has demanded that the designation be removed as a condition for restoring the deal, but the United States has refused, leaving the negotiations frozen.

Last Tuesday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett commended U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration for its decision to keep the IRGC on the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

“President Biden is a true friend of Israel who is committed to its strength and security. Over the past few months, we made our stance clear – the IRGC is the world’s largest terror organization, involved in planning and carrying out deadly acts of terror and destabilizing the Middle East,” the premier said in a statement.

According to a report by Politico, Biden has “finalized his decision to keep Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on a terrorist blacklist, according to a senior Western official, further complicating international efforts to restore the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.”

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom. HW

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National Skilled Nursing Care Week at MJHR



If you walked through the doors of Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab during the week of May 8 – 13, you would have heard music, games, laughter, and fun from every which way and direction. It was National Skilled Nursing Care Week, which meant tons of celebrations and giving back to staff and residents.

Established as an annual, week-long observance by the American Health Care Association (AHCA) in 1967, National Skilled Nursing Care Week provides an opportunity to recognize the essential role of skilled nursing care centers in caring for America's elders and individuals with disabilities. MJHR celebrated big with daily activities, prizes, and more. From Family Feud to Deal or No Deal, MemPops and a cookout, cake walks and escape rooms, the fun didn't stop from Sunday morning until

Friday at five.

"Day in and day out, our staff dedicate their time and abilities to ensuring our residents receive the quality care they need. It's long hours and a tough job, but they always arrive at the Home with smiles," says Director of Development Baylee Less. "National Skilled Nursing Care Week was our opportunity to make sure each of our staff, no matter which department they are in, know that their hard work never goes unrecognized. It was also loads of fun!"

The Home has been unable to host large celebrations for this annual observance over the past two years due to COVID-19, so the 2022 celebration was a special reminder of why it's so important to lift up and honor those who care for our elders and loved ones. **HW**

Memphis Jewish Federation Shoham Partnership Webinar

On Sunday, May 22, Memphis Jewish Federation's Artful and Creative Holiday Cooking webinar brought two creative chefs from opposite sides of the globe together to celebrate the Memphis-Shoham Partnership through tasty Shavuot desserts. Memphis chef Marisa Baggett taught viewers how to make Fruit Swirled Cheesecake Bars, while Israeli foodie Yuval Gelles, a resident of Shoham, Israel, Memphis' partner city in Israel through The Jewish Agency for Israel's Partnership2Gether program, demonstrated making the iconic Israel dessert, Malabi (milk pudding). A recording of the webinar can be viewed on the Jewish Community Partners YouTube Channel (JC Partners) and the recipes can be found at jcpmemphis.org/Memphis-Shoham-partnership. **HW**



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On Bob Dylan's 81st Birthday, His 10 Most Jewish Songs



Credit: Chris wood/Express/Getty Images

By Seth Rogovoy

This article originally appeared on Forward. Reprinted with permission.

Bob Dylan turned 81 on May 24. In honor of that auspicious occasion, we revisit his 10 most Jewish songs.

While Bob Dylan has, throughout his life and career, engaged in all sorts of mythologizing and playful biographical falsification, it has never been in the service of denying his heritage.

This son of a middle-class appliance salesman from the Upper Midwest, who grew up with a Yiddish-speaking grandmother down the hallway in an extended Jewish family that was at the nexus of Jewish life in Hibbing, Minn. – mom was president of the local Hadassah, and dad was president of B'nai B'rith – wound up making several trips to Israel in the late 1960s and '70s (during one visit, he even began the application process for moving his family to a kibbutz). He sent his children to the same

Jewish summer camp in Wisconsin that he attended for four or five summers as a teenager.

By the time he arrived in New York City's Greenwich Village, he intended to make a name for himself on the folk scene – and that name was Dylan, not Zimmerman (the name is German and not Jewish, anyway, although his forebears were from Russia), and Bob fashioned himself a latter-day Woody Guthrie (as it turns out, Guthrie himself had a whole secret Jewish side to his work, born of his close relationship with his mother-in-law, Yiddish poet Aliza Greenblatt).

So while Dylan didn't exactly grow up to be Shlomo Carlebach, the happy, guitar-strumming Hasid, he never strayed too far from his roots, nor did he deny them. One of his earliest original numbers, in fact, was a parody of "Hava Nagilah," then and now (thank you,

Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman) probably the best-known Jewish song in the world. Throughout his career, his songs have been peppered with biblical allusions and paraphrases and informed by Jewish themes and concepts. How much of this is the result of a conscious effort on Dylan's part to address these issues, and how much is simply the result of magpie tendencies that see him draw variously from Shakespeare, French symbolism, movie dialogue, blues clichés and even obscure Japanese yakuza novels? Well, only Dylan can answer that – and even then, probably not.

Still, based on the evidence of the songs themselves, Dylan was actually paying attention in the Hebrew classes leading up to his bar mitzvah, and also in his adult life, which has at times reportedly included private studies with various rabbis, often from the Chabad movement. A cursory review of songs from the past 50 years turns up many tunes that are inflected with varying degrees of Yiddishkeit.

1. **"Talkin' Hava Nagilah Blues"** Fresh off the boat (OK, the car) from Minnesota, the 20-year-old Dylan made this novelty in which he struggles to pronounce the words before letting loose with a yodel, a staple of his Greenwich Village folk-club gigs.

2. **"With God on Our Side"** Years before "Schindler's List," Dylan takes to task "the Germans" for having "murdered 6 million... in the ovens they fried" in this 1963 protest song.

3. **"New Morning"** Nu, morning?

4. **"All Along the Watchtower"** The 1967 song, which continues to be a cor-

nerstone of Dylan's live performances to this day, may be best known in its Jimi Hendrix version, but its narrative and imagery are basically a rearrangement of material cribbed from Isaiah 21.

5. **"Forever Young"** Dylan poetically rewrites a father's blessing over his children at the Sabbath table, invoking the story of Jacob ("May you build a ladder to the stars / And climb on every rung") to connect it to his own youngest son, who would grow up to be a rock star, outselling even his father.

6. **"Highway 61 Revisited"** A mid-rashic retelling of the sacrifice of Isaac ("Oh, God said to Abraham, 'Kill me a son!' / Abe says, 'Man, you must be puttin' me on'") by the son of Abe Zimmerman, who was born just a few miles from U.S. Highway 61.

7. **"Gotta Serve Somebody"** The Grammy Award-winning centerpiece of, and hit single from, his first so-called born again album could easily be seen as a tribute to Jewish mothers everywhere. (It also alludes to Joshua 24:14-15.)

8. **"Neighborhood Bully"** Dylan warms the cockles of the most rabid, right-wing Zionist, positing Jewish history and the State of Israel like some rock 'n' roll Vladimir Jabotinsky.

9. **"Everything Is Broken"** Swamp-rock meets Lurianic Kabbalah.

10. **"Blowin' in the Wind"** Perhaps his best-known anthem, the song that made him a household name, it is a litany of unanswered, unanswerable questions. What could be more Jewish?

Seth Rogovoy is the author of "Bob Dylan: Prophet, Mystic, Poet" (Scribner, 2009). HW



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