



# THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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## 'After Shabbat, We Will Act': American Jews Gear Up for Wave of Post-Roe Activism



Abortion rights activists react outside the US Supreme Court in Washington, DC, Jun. 24, 2022. Credit: Stefani Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) – An array of Jewish groups across the country are kickstarting into action to protest and potentially challenge the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that had enshrined the right to an abortion in the United States.

The 6-3 decision released last Friday has many Jewish activists buzzing

about how to respond to the bombshell ruling that they find a major setback to women’s rights and in some cases an infringement on religious Jewish law.

The National Council of Jewish Women, a Jewish women’s rights group founded in 1893, said it would hold a virtual vigil on Friday [June 24] afternoon before launching into actions next week that would include training Jewish groups on how to mount challenges.

“Today is a time to mourn,” said NCJW’s CEO, Sheila Katz. “After Shabbat, we will act.”

The decision also portends profound differences among Orthodox groups over how to function in a post-Roe world. The haredi Orthodox Agudath Israel of America welcomed the decision while the Orthodox Union stood by its statement from May, when a draft version of the decision was leaked, saying that the umbrella group could neither “mourn or celebrate” the reversal of the 1973 ruling.

But most American Jews back abortion access, and Jewish groups have already taken steps to counter the decision after the draft decision was leaked.

Katz said her group would launch briefings for Jewish organizations on the ramifications of assisting women seeking an abortion, state by state.

“We can’t provide legal advice to organizations but we can recommend that organizations seek out legal advice, particularly if they are in states where abortion has been overturned,” she said, referring to a number of states that have enacted “trigger” bans on abortion to go into effect once the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. “In some of these states, there’s legal ramifications for trying to help somebody have an abortion and everybody should know what that looks like

in their states and how they’re impacted.”

The Women’s Rabbinic Network, a constituent of the Reform movement’s Central Conference of American Rabbis, in a statement pledged continued support for women seeking an abortion, and for those providing the service.

“We fully support those who have sought and are seeking abortion care and will continue to advocate for a world where they are able to do so safely, wherever they are, without fear of retribution,” it said. “We pray for the safety and wellbeing of the abortion care providers and health care workers who will be forced to decide what they are willing to risk in order to serve their patients and communities in places where abortion is now illegal.”

Rabbi Jill Jacobs, CEO of the liberal rabbi activist group T’ruah, tweeted: “Remember that when Roe v Wade came out, the right wing refused to accept their loss. They spent 50 years laser focused on un-losing. We must do the same in order to protect lives and bodily autonomy. The road will be long, but we cannot give up or turn away.”

While there is broad religious Jewish objection to abortion in cases without serious cause, Jewish law prioritizes the life of the mother.

(See **Activism** Page 3)

## \$1.2 Billion Surfside Settlement for Families and Unit Owners Approved Day Before One-Year Anniversary



In an aerial view, a cleared lot where the 12-story Champlain Towers South condo building once stood is seen in Surfside, Florida, June 22, 2022. Credit: Joe Raedle/Getty Images

anniversary of the residential tower collapse in Surfside on June 24, which killed 98 people.

Condo owners will split the estimated \$96 million in proceeds from the sale of the land where the Champlain Towers South stood. The victims’ families and

residents who were injured from the building’s collapse will share an additional billion dollars in compensation.

While Miami Judge Michael Hanzman said this was the most complicated case he had seen in his 35-year career, he called the outcome “remarkable.” No victims or their families chose to opt out of the settlement, and Hanzman said the decision avoided the need for a trial that could have lasted a decade.


Family members of the 98 victims gathered last Thursday night to mark the

moment at 1:22 a.m. when the building began to collapse last year. First Lady Jill Biden spoke at a public memorial event on the site on Friday.

The town of Surfside, where nearly half of the 6,000 residents are Jewish, has for decades served as a meeting place for geographically separated Jews. Miami has a large percentage of Hispanic Jews, many of whom come from families that came to the area after leaving Cuba, Colombia, Argentina and Venezuela. **HW**

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My Teen Israel Experience



Micah Unowsky (left) with friends during a visit to the Western Wall.

Micah Unowsky, son of Keri and Dr. Daniel Unowsky, just graduated from Memphis University School. Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsky Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of his NFTY Jacobs Camp Israel trip last summer. 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. Applications for Summer 2023 will open in the fall of 2022.

By Micah Unowsky

My most vivid moment from my Israel trip was waking up in the middle of the night on the uncomfortable desert terrain. I was by myself, and I stared up into the sky and saw the sky as I never had before. There was no light pollution, so the stars were clear and almost looked painted. You do not get a view like that in Memphis, Tennessee.

When we arrived in Israel, I was not sure about the trip. The technicians drawing our blood for Covid antibody testing upon our arrival missed our veins a few times. Then, our camp was integrated with three students who were not part of my group and it made me nervous. I was worried the trip was going to be less than ideal, but that was not the case. For the most part, the camps were on their own, but we also got to know new people. By the end of the trip, when we went back to Ben Gurion Airport, I knew I would miss Israel.

The people were one of the most fascinating parts of the trip. Four Israeli teens joined us for a week, and I noticed they were just like us, but with different accents. Living across the ocean, I usually feel detached from Israel, but I felt more connected because we met personalities and did not just walk past people. We think people are different from us

because they live far away, but we are all the same at heart.

Visiting Masada was a very surreal moment. We woke up well before dawn to make sure we reached the top of the mountain to admire the sunrise. Events in the Torah seem intangible to me because there are almost no pinpointed locations where specific actions took place, which is why Masada was so amazing. I was literally walking on history, seeing the remains of the fortress, and the ramp that the Romans built to defeat our ancestors.

Last summer was the last time that all my summer camp friends were together in one place, and to be all together in Israel was amazing. It was a great bonding opportunity that I will always remember. Even the bus rides were fun, and I ended up meeting a lot of cool new people as well, Americans and Israelis, which enhanced the trip. I also ran into the NCSY trip with people from Memphis, a crossover event greater than “The Avengers.”

Nothing beats Israeli food. I miss malawach, the flatbread with the hard-boiled eggs and the tomato dip. Malawach is also a great representation of the diversity of Israel. Malawach is a Somali dish that was brought to Israel by Yemenites. The convergence of so many cultures is impressive when put into perspective. Israel is about one-fifth of the size of Tennessee yet has a far more diverse population.

So, to close, this probably will be my most meaningful trip to Israel because I had so many friends to share in the experience. I am also a cat person, so next time I may have to steal one of the 10 million cats roaming around Jerusalem.

Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation’s Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping to make my NFTY Jacobs Camp Israel trip possible. [HW](#)

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Havdalah, Sat. July 2, 2022 / 3 Tammuz, 5782 ..... 9:02 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Korach

Tel Aviv Ranked Seventh in Survey on World’s Best Tech Ecosystem

(JNS) – U.S. research company Start-up Genome ranked Tel Aviv seventh in an annual survey of the world’s best ecosystems for startups.

“Israel has more startups per capita than any nation in the world thanks to its tight-knit entrepreneurial community, impressive R&D capabilities, edu-

cated population and strong government support,” noted Startup Genome.

Tel Aviv’s startups are valued at \$120 billion and raised a record-breaking \$20 billion in 2021, making up 63% of the country’s total. In addition, the city had 30 unicorns, which are companies valued at more than \$1 billion, and 20 that went public, raising \$4 billion.

In 2021, cybersecurity companies raised \$8.8 billion, triple the amount from the previous year, according to the research firm.

Other reasons for startups moving to Tel Aviv include tax benefits and deductions for single investors that invest in R&D during a company’s initial stages. Israel’s Ministry of Economy also offers wage subsidies for specific groups such as students and minorities. [HW](#)



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Activism...

(Continued From Page 1)

Some commentators have already noted how this could allow for Jewish-based challenges to the state abortion bans that will quickly snap into place. A synagogue in Florida this month sued the state to stop a new anti-abortion law from going into effect in July. The suit is filed on the grounds of religious discrimination.

A number of Orthodox groups and figures argue that liberal Jewish groups overstate the protections Jewish law offers to pregnant women. These groups argue that state laws with exemptions considering the life of the mother are adequate and that abortion under *Roe v. Wade* was constituted, devalues life.

The statement from Aguda, the umbrella group for haredi Orthodox synagogues and organizations, wholeheartedly endorsed the *Roe v. Wade* reversal as a celebration of life.

“Agudath Israel of America welcomes this historic development,” a statement said. “We pray that today’s ruling will inspire all Americans to appreciate the moral magnitude of the abortion issue, and to embrace a culture that celebrates life.”

Yet even among the Orthodox, there were differences and a degree of anxiety at what the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* could bring. Jewish scholars across the religious spectrum agree that mental health should precipitate an exemption to abortion bans, although they disagree about what may constitute a mental health crisis. Not every state includes a mental health exemption for pregnant women seeking an abortion, and at least one, Georgia, explicitly excludes it.

Some Orthodox scholars hold that rape triggers an exemption; a number of states also lack an exemption for rape.

“Jewish law prioritizes the life of the

pregnant mother over the life of the fetus such that where the pregnancy critically endangers the physical health or mental health of the mother, an abortion may be authorized, if not mandated, by halacha and should be available to all women irrespective of their economic status,” the Orthodox Union said in its May statement.

Rabbi Moshe Hauer, the Orthodox Union’s executive vice president, said in an interview that states excluding mental health from the abortion calculus, as Georgia does, would be a cause for concern.

“Absolutely, when there will be mental health issues that impact the life of the mother” abortion should be allowed, “and, yes, in that event we would be concerned about that,” he said.

But he added that the court’s decision was an opportunity to consider the value of life in a number of spheres.

“You know, there are definitely concerns,” he said. “But there may also be an opportunity here to shift the discussion of life to a more responsible space.”

NCJW was also planning a rally in Washington DC when Congress reconvenes after the summer; their rally in May attracted more than a thousand protesters. Democrats have said they will make the repeal of *Roe v. Wade* an issue in the midterm elections.

Katz also wants Jewish organizations to set an example by giving women reproductive leave that would accommodate the extended time needed to get an abortion the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* would trigger.

Within a week or so of the leaked decision in May, the NCJW almost immediately entered a partnership with the National Abortion Federation, which raises funds for women who want abortions. That process is set to become more

expensive in states with restrictive laws ready to kick in, requiring women seeking abortions to take time off work and pay for travel to where it is permitted.

The funds the NCJW raises for the National Abortion Federation “will help people across state lines, it’ll help fund abortions for people who can’t afford it,” Katz said.

Within minutes of the court decision, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington said that it was ready to assist such actions: Maryland, one of the JCRC’s constituent states, has liberal abortion laws and is the closest state to a number of states that do not.

“We will work in coalition to ensure that the state is prepared to welcome and serve the thousands of additional women who will travel to our state to seek medical care and exercise reproductive rights,” the JCRC said in a statement.

The Washington D.C.-area JCRC said it would push back against further restrictions on abortion access in Virginia, and it would lobby to keep Congress, which has a degree of jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, from imposing abortion restrictions on an overwhelmingly liberal population there that rejects such restrictions.

“We will also mobilize our local Jewish community at the grass-roots level, connecting synagogues and individuals to meaningful opportunities to support women seeking abortions in our region,” the D.C. chapter’s statement said.

Such grass-roots initiatives may soon proliferate in Jewish communities. “We are outraged by this decision, which we do not believe represents the will of the people nor is in the best interest of the country,” said the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the umbrella body for Jewish public policy groups. **HW**

Jared Kushner, Ivanka Trump Visit Israel, Pray at Western Wall in Jerusalem



Ivanka Trump, the daughter of U.S. President Donald Trump, at the Western Wall in Jerusalem on May 22, 2017. Credit: Mendy Hechtman/Flash90.

(JNS) – Jared Kushner, a senior adviser and envoy to the Middle East in the Trump administration – also the son-in-law of former President Donald Trump – and his wife, Ivanka Trump, visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem last Wednesday.

They were seen praying at the Western Wall (Kotel) and left prayer notes between the cracks of its stones, as is customary, reported Arutz Sheva.

Last year, Kushner established the Abraham Accords Peace Institute and tasked it with ensuring that the accords, which saw Israel normalize relations with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan, reach their full potential.

“The Abraham Accords is the rare foreign-policy effort that has achieved a bipartisan consensus, and this is very, very important,” he stated in September 2021.

The Wall Street Journal reported last month that Saudi Arabia plans to invest millions of dollars in Israeli startups through a new private-equity fund set up by Kushner.

Kushner’s fund is expected to “invest Saudi money directly in Israeli companies – a symbolic measure that demonstrates the readiness of Saudi Arabia to be a part of the Israeli economy,” the Israeli business daily Globes said in May. **HW**

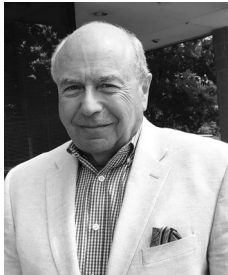
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# Simon Wiesenthal Center Grants Pope Francis 1919 Anti-Semitic Letter by Hitler



**Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and CEO of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and Dawn Arnall, its chairwoman, present a letter written and typed by Adolf Hitler in 1919 documenting plans for German and world Jewry to Pope Frances at the Vatican on June 22, 2022.**  
**Credit: Vatican Media, Courtesy of Simon Wiesenthal Center.**

(JNS) – A 30-member Simon Wiesenthal Center international delegation met with Pope Francis last Wednesday to present a facsimile of an original four-page 1919 document authored and signed by Adolf Hitler, in which he openly espouses the destruction of the Jewish people by “a government of national strength.”

The facsimile, whose original is displayed at the SWC’s Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, was presented by Simon Wiesenthal Center founder and CEO Rabbi Marvin Hier and Dawn Arnall, chairwoman of the leading NGO for Jewish human rights.

In Hier’s remarks to Pope Francis, the Jewish leader first enumerated statistics on both sides of the Atlantic that confirm surging anti-Semitism, including violent hate crimes. He then spoke about the human-rights organization’s namesake, Holocaust survivor turned Nazi hunter, Simon Wiesenthal, and how he would react to current events.

“Against such a tidal wave of hate, Simon would ask, ‘How could it possibly be that the world’s leaders knowing what’s happening still want to make a deal with Iran on nuclear weapons when her leaders deny that there ever was an Auschwitz or a Treblinka; who continues to preach that no Jews were ever murdered in gas chambers? How can the United Nations and the world trust a regime, which for the last 43 years, has never deviated from those notorious lies?’”

“If that is not scary enough, look at what [Russian President Vladimir] Putin ... is doing to the people of Ukraine. How can a country, which suffered the wrath of Hitler, turn around and adopt his very same tactics? Slaughtering innocent people, bombing hospitals, orphanages and schools.”

“Your Holiness,” continued Hier, “we stand before you today, 80 years after the infamous Wannsee Conference, where 15 Nazi officials – eight of them

Ph.D.s from some of the finest universities – made the decision, agreeing with Hitler’s orders, to mass murder all of Europe’s Jews. By May 1945, in addition to 6 million Jews, millions of non-Jews, including gypsies, Slavs, homosexuals and other enemies of the Reich, were also killed.

“That is why we’ve come here to present to the Vatican Archives one of the most significant documents in the history of humankind; a copy of an original letter, typed and signed by Hitler on Sept. 16, 1919, in which he openly maps out the need for the final removal of the Jewish people in Europe.”

Hitler, in the letter, wrote: “Our final aim ... must be the uncompromising removal of the Jews altogether. Both are possible only under a government of national strength, never under a government of national impotence.”

“What began as one man’s opinion,” noted Hier, “would become state policy of Nazi Germany 22 years later, which led to the systematic murder of one-third of world Jewry. This document shows the power of words and is a warning for everyone to take threats of any demagogue seriously.

“As the Psalmist teaches, ‘the Heavens belong to G-d, but the land was given to man’ [Psalms 15-16]. It is ‘we the people,’ men and women, who must lead the fight against anti-Semitism, bigotry and genocide.”

The pope denounced the current wave of anti-Semitism and cautioned about the threat of populism. He acknowledged that the letter revealed that Hitler didn’t care about the German people, only about promoting a dangerous ideology.

Pope Francis urged the SWC to continue to serve as a bridge between the past and the future. Continue “recalling history so it can be of service to the future,” he said. **HW**

# Australian State of Victoria Bans Display of Nazi Swastika



**A Nazi swastika and iron crosses were spray-painted on Congregation Shaarey Tefilla in Carmel, Ind. Source: Debby Barton Grant/Facebook.**

(JNS) – Victoria has become the first Australian state to ban the display of the Nazi swastika, the BBC reported last Wednesday. Under a new law, people who intentionally promote the symbol face up to a year in jail and a \$15,000 fine.

“Nobody has the right to spread racism, hate or anti-Semitism,” said Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews, according to the report. Australia has witnessed a significant increase in anti-Semitic incidents in recent years, said the BBC.

In 2020, a couple residing in Victoria flew a Nazi flag above their home, sparking public anger.


State officials called the new legislation a “proud moment,” and the report said that three other states intend to introduce a similar law.

“The Nazi symbol glorifies one of the most hateful ideologies in history – its public display does nothing but cause further pain and division,” said Victoria Attorney General Jaclyn Symes in a statement.

Dvir Abramovich, chairman of the B’nai B’rith Anti-Defamation Commission, described the new legislation as a “thunderous blow” to neo-Nazi elements.

“As our nation confronts the deep stain of a resurgent white-supremacist movement that peddles a dangerous and dehumanizing agenda, this parliament [in Victoria] has declared that the symbol of Nazism will never find a safe harbor in our state,” Abramovich told the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation*. **HW**

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# Beth Sholom Sisterhood Announces 'Honey from the Heart' for Rosh Hashanah

It's never too early to send sweet greetings for the High Holidays! Start by ordering delicious honey through Beth Sholom Sisterhood. Beautifully decorated jars of honey will be delivered in time for Rosh Hashanah, which begins at sundown on September 25. Everyone in Memphis and Shelby County are invited to place their orders now.

Beth Sholom Sisterhood has partnered with "Honey from the Heart," ORT's fundraising program in Atlanta, to be the only organization in West or Middle Tennessee selling this timeless Rosh Hashanah symbol.

The honey, certified Kosher by the Orthodox Union, can be purchased online by going to the Beth Sholom Synagogue website, [www.bsholom.org](http://www.bsholom.org), and clicking the ORDER HONEY link, or by clicking the link in the Beth Sholom weekly e-newsletter.

Susan Stein, Sisterhood member who leads this project with Barbara Hellman, program chair for Beth Sholom's Sisterhood, encourages members of the community to participate in this fundraiser, spreading the sweetness even further. "It's a sweet way to express your love and appreciation" she explains. "Everyone needs honey at Rosh Hashanah. I've received 'Honey from the Heart' gifts, and it's really sweet to be on the receiving end as well as giving it to others who will appreciate such a gift."

Orders placed online by the deadline of August 1 pay just \$13.50 per jar with free shipping anywhere in the United States, making this the perfect way to wish friends and relatives a sweet New



Year, no matter where they live. Each eight-ounce jar of honey comes with a personalized gift card and a keepsake enclosure with the traditional blessings for eating apples dipped in honey. Additional information concerning shipping charges for orders placed after August 1 or to other countries can be found at the Order Honey link. Those unable to order online are invited to order in-person at Beth Sholom Synagogue, 6755 Humphreys Blvd, on Sunday morning, July 10, between 10 and 11 am. For questions about ordering, payment methods, or other information, please contact Susan Stein, Barbara Hellman, or email [bsholom-honey@gmail.com](mailto:bsholom-honey@gmail.com). **HW**

# Actor, Producer Ben Stiller Visits Kyiv, Meets His 'Hero,' Volodymyr Zelensky

He told Ukraine's president: "What you've done—the way that you've rallied the country, the world—it's really inspiring."

(JNS) – Jewish film actor, director and producer Ben Stiller visited Kyiv, Ukraine, last week, where he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky – a man Stiller called as a "hero" for his leadership during Ukraine's war with Russia, which began in late February.

"Really nice to meet you. It's a great honor for me ... you're my hero," said Stiller during his meeting with Zelensky last Monday, which was also World Refugee Day.

Stiller, 56, also told Ukraine's president: "What you've done – the way that you've rallied the country, the world – it's really inspiring."

Earlier that Monday, Stiller visited the Kyiv suburb of Irpin, which was severely destroyed during Russia's invasion of the country.

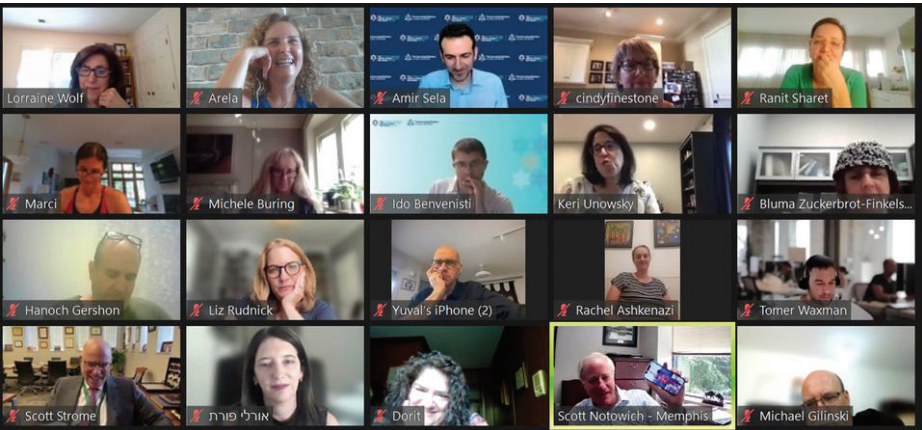
"I feel it's hard to understand what's actually going on here if you haven't been here," he told Zelensky. "I was in Irpin this morning ... and the actual level of destruction, you see it on TV, you see it on social media, but it's something else to actually see it, feel it and then to talk to the people."

Stiller's visit to Ukraine was part of a trip through Eastern Europe as a Goodwill Ambassador for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to meet and rally support for Ukrainians fleeing their home country.

"I'm here to learn, to share stories that illustrate the human impact of war and to amplify calls for solidarity," he said on an Instagram post on June 18 while in

Poland. "I hope you'll follow along and share your own messages of support, for people who have fled their homes in Ukraine and for people who have been forced to flee all over the world. Everyone has the right to seek safety. Whoever, wherever, whenever." **HW**

# Memphis-Shoham Committee Planning Meeting



Memphis-Shoham committee members, both new and veteran, met online last week for a festive gathering in order to plan Partnership programs and initiatives for the upcoming year. After catching up with each other

and getting to know the partners better through a fun icebreaker, committee members approved joint projects including school twinings, delegations to both communities, a joint Book Club and more. **HW**

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## Congressman Cohen Condemns Supreme Court Ruling Overturning Roe. v. Wade

MEMPHIS – Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-09), Chairman of the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, condemned the 6-3 ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization that effectively ends the Constitutional right to an abortion, and made the following statement:

“What has been a right for women for nearly 50 years has been struck down by this radical Supreme Court. Roe. v. Wade empowered women to make decisions about their health care and the most fundamental trajectory of their lives. That has been taken from them by an activist Supreme Court that has chosen to ignore the Court’s precedents for a political agenda.

“Lucius Burch, a great Memphis lawyer, spoke to me many years ago about the possibility of Roe v. Wade being overturned. He said it would never happen because women in this country would march in the streets in protest. Mr. Burch was wrong about Roe never being overturned. But he was right about how women will react. Women in this country will march and march and march – and they will vote and vote and vote.” [HW](#)

## Rep. Kustoff Issues Statement on the Supreme Court Dobbs Decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congressman David Kustoff (TN-08) issued a statement following the U.S. Supreme Court’s final decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. This decision upholds Mississippi’s law limiting abortion at 15 weeks, overturns Roe v. Wade, and restores the right to protect unborn children and their mothers to the American people.

“Today, the U.S. Supreme Court took a historic step overturning Roe v. Wade. This will rightfully return the authority to regulate abortion back to the states and to our elected representatives. Abortion laws should be debated and decided by the American people, not dictated by judges. I will always remain committed to advocating for strong pro-life policies and upholding the sanctity of life,” said Rep. Kustoff. [HW](#)

## Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) Statement on the Supreme Court Decision

Having worked alongside Tennesseans to protect the innocent lives of unborn children for years, I applaud today’s Supreme Court ruling. Despite false claims from the left, this decision will not ban abortion. Instead, it returns the decision to the states and empowers state legislatures with more flexibility to craft policy through the democratic process. It is unacceptable that a draft opinion was leaked in advance and that the person responsible has not been caught. The leaker has jeopardized the safety of our justices, and threats of violence by the radical militant mob are unacceptable. We appreciate the brave law enforcement officers working overtime to protect our justices and their families.” [HW](#)



## Mazel Tov



Charley Burch and Rebeca Ramirez

The marriage of Charley Burch and Rebeca Ramirez took place on Wed., June 29, 2022, at Baron Hirsch ASBEE Cooper Chapel. Rabbi Joel Finkelstein officiated along with both Cantors Arayah Samberg and Ricky Kampf.

The couple sponsored The Fleishich Kiddush after Ufruf on Sat. June 25

Charley proposed to Rivka at The New Old Synagogue in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on January 3, asking

her to meet him at The Ohel in New York to officially become engaged. The couple did so May 24, 2022, praying for a blessing from The Rebbe for their upcoming marriage.

Charley Burch is a lifelong Memphian, father of Zachary Burch, music producer, realtor, Mason and Shriner and recently appointed to The Shelby County Conservation Board by Mayor Harris and County Commissioners. **HW**

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## Last Chance to Sign Up for Senior Adult Classes at the MJCC, Starting July 11

Starting on Monday, July 11 at 6:30 until 8:30 p.m., **Mah Jongg** will be taught by Melanie Mann. Melanie has been teaching Mah Jongg for many years at the MJCC, as well as other places around town. Whether you are a beginner or relearning, Melanie can teach you this very popular game. A new Mah Jongg card is included in the class fee. Course number is 8448.

Also beginning on Monday, July 11, **Conversational Spanish** will be taught by Barbara Mansberg. Barbara has taught this popular course at the MJCC for many years. Classes are Mondays

and Wednesdays from 1 to 2 p.m. in the senior lunchroom. Come join Barbara and learn a new language or touch up your previous knowledge. Course number is 8450.

The cost is the same for all courses. \$80 for nonmembers of the MJCC and \$72 for members. Reservations can be made by calling the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810 or contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator at 901-259-9220 or email [stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org](mailto:stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org). Reservations are limited so please make your reservations before they are sold out. **HW**

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# Why Small Businesses Should Pay Attention to Accessibility

*Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director – Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors.*  
*Questions for Mike? Contact him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@wellsfargoadvisors.com*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which passed more than 30 years ago, made it illegal to deny job opportunities to people based on their disabilities, mandated “reasonable accommodations” to make buildings accessible, and required most private businesses to offer equal service to disabled customers. About 61 million people in the United States — one in every four adults — live with a disability.<sup>1</sup>

While government enforcement of the ADA tends to be weak, a disabled person who is negatively impacted can sue a noncompliant business. ADA lawsuits are on the rise, with some disability activists reportedly becoming serial litigants.<sup>2</sup> When an ADA claim is legitimate, the court can order that the violation be fixed and that the plaintiff’s substantial legal fees be paid in full by the defendant. Some state laws allow for financial damages.

If you are notified of an alleged violation or served with a complaint, don’t hesitate to consult a qualified legal professional. However, the threat of legal action is not the only reason to be aware of the accessibility requirements and guidelines that may apply to your business. Striving to better serve indi-

viduals who face immense challenges in their daily lives is simply good business practice.

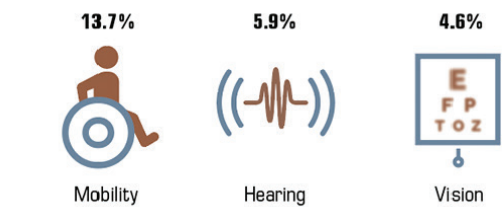
Here are several facts about the Americans with Disabilities Act that may help you work toward compliance.

ADA requirements are complex and depend on the specific business and industry. The law includes more than 279 pages of precise standards for accessible design — the grade of a ramp, width of a parking space, and height of a service counter, for example.<sup>3</sup> An experienced ADA inspector (certified access specialist) can help identify compliance issues so they can be remedied.

Website accessibility matters, too. Some businesses have been targeted over websites that don’t accommodate the blind, who often use screen-reading technology, or the deaf, who may rely on closed captions to follow video content. Though the specific requirements for website compliance are not set by law, many organizations use Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) as a helpful reference for improving digital accessibility.

There’s a tax credit to help offset compliance costs. Small businesses that earn \$1 million or less or have fewer

## Percentage of Adults with Functional Disabilities



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020

than 30 full-time employees may qualify for a nonrefundable tax credit (max. \$5,000) for each year they spend money for the purpose of providing access to persons with disabilities. The credit is equal to 50% of eligible expenses between \$250 and \$10,000 incurred during the taxable year.

1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020  
2–3) The New York Times, July 21, 2021

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# ‘His Russia is Now Illegal in Russia’ – How Exiled Musicians are Finding a Home Away from Home



*The Flying Balkan Laikas. Credit: The Flying Balkan Laikas*

**By Jon Kalish**

*This article originally appeared on Forward [June 23] and reprinted with permission. JetLAG was held June 25.*

When the JetLAG music festival kicks off Friday night in the Catskills, one of the newly arrived refugees from life in wartime Moscow will be there to perform. But another who had planned to play will be home in California preparing for his immigration hearing. Both have impressive musical pedigrees.

On Saturday night, Alyosha Levstein will take the stage at JetLAG, which is held along a mile-long strip of land along the Delaware River at the 300-acre Peaceful Valley campsite in Downsville, New York, and bills itself as the largest festival of Russian, Slavic, Balkan and East European music in the U.S. The 24-year-old former Muscovite has serious musical yichus. His father, Anatoly Gerasimov, was a jazz composer and reed player who performed with Duke Ellington, Thad Jones and Toots Thielemans.

Levstein’s grandfather, Alexey Khvostenko, was a Russian beatnik who was active in the St. Petersburg underground. He recorded several albums and was part of the bard song movement, which dates back to the early 1960s. Its practitioners sang poetry while accompanying themselves on guitar. Levstein had been carrying on the bardic tradition in Moscow but did not make his living as a professional musician.

The war in Ukraine prompted Levstein to flee Russia. He arrived in the U.S. March 5. His younger siblings, a brother and sister, went to Israel before he left. His 48-year-old mother was the last member of his immediate family to leave.

“Sometimes I wonder why I moved here and not Israel because all of them are there,” said Levstein, who told me that the fact that he wouldn’t have to speak Hebrew made coming to America more palatable to him.

Levstein now lives on a farm in Maryland owned by friends of his maternal grandmother, a well-known attorney in Moscow.

“She was in charge of sending me here,” he said. “She’s in charge of the whole family because she’s the wisest.”

Eager to contribute his labor to his hosts, Levstein, who worked as a graphic designer in Moscow, has helped build a fence, work in the garden and mow the lawn.

“I’d really like to become an American citizen and give something to my country,” he said, quickly adding, “I mean to this country.”

Levstein took his surname from his great-grandmother. He started using it several years ago instead of his famous father’s surname because, he said, “I really wanted to be something else, not just the son of my father.”

Vitaly Prismotrov, a 39-year-old bass

player, will not be part of the party this weekend at JetLAG. He had been planning to perform with a band called The Flying Balkan Laikas but pulled out last week because he felt he needed to stay home and work on his immigration case. He left Russia shortly before the war in Ukraine started and went to Mexico. His wife and 18-year-old daughter came to the U.S. before him.

Prismotrov crossed the border in Arizona Feb. 27 and was promptly taken to a detention camp before a Russian musician agreed to sponsor him and found him a place to live in California.

Speaking through an interpreter, Prismotrov said that he had to leave because of his political views. “I was harassed,” he said. “Once I spoke out about Putin, I didn’t have any option. Nothing will change while Putin is president.”

Prismotrov first came to America in 2008 when he performed with Dolly Parton’s band at her Dollywood theme park in Tennessee. In Moscow he worked as a sound man for Karlinov Most, a popular Russian folk-rock band, and also backed up a number of top Russian music acts, including Gorky Park, the first Russian band to get airplay on MTV, and Levan Lomidze, lead singer for a blues band called Blues Cousins.

He says he hopes to get more work as a musician but knows how to repair cars, so he’s willing to do automotive work to pay the bills.

But super talented musicians from Russia can struggle once they get to the U.S. Sergey Vaschenko, a conservatory-trained balalaika player who taught college before emigrating, now drives a truck to pay the rent.

One Russian rocker who has managed to make a music career for himself is Zhenya Kolykhanov; he changed his name to Zenhya Rock. He is the lead guitarist in the Flying Balkan Laikas, who are performing Saturday night at JetLAG. All of the band’s members are from Russia with the exception of Rock’s wife, who is from Turkmenistan.

“I moved from that nightmare in ’91, bro,” he said of his Russian homeland. “I know people who are planning to come to the U.S., but it’s nearly impos-

sible to escape the regime. You’ve got to be sneaky-tricky. You can’t just hop on a bus and say goodbye.”

JetLAG will suffer this year because some Russian acts were unable to get visas for travel to the U.S. Among the past festival staples who will be missing are N.O.M., an experimental rock band; the Russian reggae artist Gerbert Morales; Vanya Zhuk, who plays everything from garage rock to Roma and Klezmer music; and Leonid Fedorov, frontman of the legendary Russian alt-rock outfit Auktyon.

“We would be happy to have them and they would be happy to come,” said JetLAG’s creative director, Pavel Lion. “This is a shame. It’s a pity.”

Lion performs as Psoy Korolenko and sings comical songs with plenty of multilingual wordplay, a testament to his doctorate in Russian literature and fluency in several languages. Along with the Toronto historian Anna Shternshis, he’s involved in the Yiddish Glory project, working on hundreds of Yiddish songs from World War II. A recording of songs from the collection was nominated for a Grammy Award for best world music album. In the fall, Lion will be a visiting lecturer at Dartmouth College teaching Russian folklore.

During his set at JetLAG, Lion will perform a Ukrainian folk song.

“It’s a love song that sounds like it casts a spell,” he said. “I kept it from childhood.”

Daniel Kahn, a Berlin-based bandmate of Lion’s in the critically acclaimed Brothers Nazaroff klezmer band, said that Lion is “legendary in a Russia that is now nearly impossible to find in Russia.”

“His Russia is now illegal in Russia,” Kahn said. “But when he performs, it exists, and there is not only danger but hope. Dangerous hope.”

Lion became a U.S. citizen this spring and lives in New Jersey with his partner, Vicky Feldman, who co-founded JetLAG and runs it with her daughters and other family members and other friends. He doesn’t rule out a return to Russia some day.

“It’s home, too,” he said. **HW**

# Zelensky Singles Out Israel for Refusing to Join International Sanctions Against Russia

**By Jackie Hajdenberg**

(JTA) – In a live streamed address to students, faculty and staff at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged Israel to join the network of countries around the world that have placed sanctions on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

“We are grateful to your great nation. But we would like to also get support from your government,” Zelensky said. “Tell me, how can you not help the victim of such aggression?”

In his address, Zelensky recognized the connected histories of Ukraine and Israel, noting the Ukrainian origins of Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, Zionist leader Zev Jabotinsky and many others.

He also noted that the Russian shelling of Ukrainian cities has affected many Jewish historical sites, such as the memorial at Babyn Yar, where at least 33,000 Jews were murdered by Nazis and their Ukrainian collaborators in 1941. At least five people were killed

in the Russian shelling at Babyn Yar in March.

“The occupiers are not discretionary in how they fight,” Zelensky said, adding that more than 2,000 schools have been targeted by Russian missiles and shelling, according to the Ukrainian government.

“This is about values and general security. Everyone who is willing to destroy another nation has to be held accountable,” he said. “Many European countries act together with us against Russian aggression. And unfortunately, we have not yet seen Israel join the sanctions regime.”

In a question-and-answer portion after Zelensky’s prepared speech, a student born in Ukraine asked whether Ukraine has received any support from international Jewish organizations to address the destruction of historic Jewish sites.

“We have received support from the Jewish Congress and U.S.,” Zelensky said. “I did want to have more of that support from the government of Israel

on that particular question, because this is our joint sorrow, and that’s what it is. Just simply wanted to have more of it. But I’m not trying to hint at anything. It’s just as painful to us here in Ukraine as it is to Israel. This is a big tragedy. And I think I have nothing to add here.”

During the Q&A, another student told Zelensky that her father was fighting in the war. She asked whether the government of Ukraine would consider adopting a mandatory military service in the future, similar to the one that exists in Israel.

“This is one of the models that we are considering,” Zelensky said. “I’m not sure that this will be the exact model that we will follow, but it will be on the table and it will be discussed with the civil society.”

He added that even without a draft, Ukrainians already know how to fight. “They have been defending our country with no weapons, with bare hands – but now with weapons.”

Yishai Fraenkel, vice president of

the university, asked what the future of Ukraine might look like when the war ends.

Zelensky said there are plans for post-war reforms and improved military defense systems, and emphasized a future with the European Union.

“We are moving towards a new civilization,” he said. “And we have sacrificed a lot for that. But the most important is that this is our choice.”

“Of course, we’re still very young, but first and foremost, this is for our children,” he continued. “So we will be building a European state, which will be part of the European Union.”

He added that Ukraine and Israel have “a great future” together.

“Please remember how much we are linked, how close our ties are,” he said. “I do care about our future relations between our states and our people. This is why I’m being sincere. And I’m sure that the war will end and we will win. And we do have a joint future. A great future.” **HW**



# Freedom is a Gift, Like Springtime



*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

He had returned, just as he promised two years ago. Who could forget that day he had departed Shtetle Grinz? Isaac Abromowitz, the first to make the exodus from our village to what our Rebbe called Yennavelt. The procession of friends and villagers – almost a third of the small village – had walked with Isaac on the dusty road to the train station. It was almost like the walk to the graveyard. Amerika? He was going to Amerika – a land of Goyim?

When would we see him again? Never. Bad enough to be a Jew in Russia. The Czar could starve you to death, but at least there were Jews to say kaddish. The minute he stepped on the train he was as dead to us as Isaiah, who endlessly preached the covenant – the ketuba between Jew and G-d – that would bless us with a land of milk and honey. Not such a bargain as we saw it. Here we were in Grinz. 2000 years after Sinai and still we're paying for our Israelite ancestors' riotous night with that golden calf. I thought HE promised punishment only to the second and third generation.

Isaac Abromowitz, like the spies of

Canaan, had returned to Grinz with evidence of Amerika's prosperity. They brought fat grapes, sweet as honeycomb, proofs of the land's fertility. He arrived in Grinz wrapped in luxury. Even had he been naked and hungry, his presence would have shouted of success because the steamship fare alone was 100 rubles. Then there was the train from Odessa to Grinz; another 10 silver coins. And even the wagon ride from the train station, so he wouldn't muddy his shoes or the cuffs of his pants, cost him two more rubles.

All that afternoon and into the early night our American friend told us of the New Jerusalem. We ate and drank well. We had saved up for his homecoming. There was even honey cake covered with plums for dessert as he told tales of a shining New World. And there on the table where we sat was a jug of vodka. We listened as closely to our spy from Amerika as we listened to the Rebbe's High Holidays sermon – always his best. Many of those whom we had invited to our reunion crowded along the wall and leaned forward. Eyes and ears focused on Isaac like the Israelites focused on Ezra when he read Torah, as it says in the Book of Chronicles. The Rebbe, too. He took his place of honor in a large chair with a cushioned seat next to Isaac.

This boy who had left two years ago was now a man. We were children of the Old World. He was now a man of the New World. Our eyes had never witnessed the wonders that he spoke of. The trolley cars that ran on rails in the street.

Beds, not straw, for all. The water that came out of a pipe IN the house. Hotels with dining halls offering all manner of foods. Streets made of stone, not mud. Machines that plowed and sowed and reaped the earth outside the cities that provided the abundance of foods for all.

Isaac talked on and on as we encouraged him with more vodka. It turns out he had arrived in Amerika the first week of July. And not two days after he set foot on the shore of his new country, they had celebrated what they called Independence Day. Isaac explained it to us; a day of celebrating the anniversary of their freedom charter, which they called the Declaration of Independence. Basically, they had revolted against their English rulers and this declaration was their testament.


Back in July of 1776, the leaders of the rebellion had signed this document, according to Isaac, who by the way, had come back not to renew his friendship with the local Cossacks, but to fetch his mother – another 40 rubles, another train fare to Grinz! Maybe the stories were true. And he smoked cigarettes. And who could fail to notice the golden chain and watch on his vest that shined like a lighthouse.

Most people owned a watch in Amerika, said Isaac. And it was due to this Declaration of Independence and a longer document called a Constitution. He had studied it in order to become an American citizen. It was like the Chumash, said Isaac as we crowded around him to hear his low words. "Freedom

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comes from G-d – did he not lead us out of Egypt. It is a gift from heaven, like Springtime, not from our earthly rulers." A "right" he called it – not different from the right to eat and breathe and bear children and what to name them and how to raise them.

The Rebbe rolled his eyes heavenward as though he understood but hoped no one in a blue uniform listened at the door.

It was all in the Declaration of Independence, as Isaac of Grinz had called it. It couldn't be true. The watch, the suit, the money – undeniable. But the rest, those "rights," even the Rebbe doubted.

*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*

## Polish Man who Rescued Jews from the Nazis Dies at 102



Jozef Walaszczyk  
Credit: YouTube.

(JNS) – Jozef Walaszczyk, part of the Polish resistance during the Nazi German occupation of Poland during World War II, died at the age of 102 last Monday, according to the Institute of National Remembrance, a Polish state historical body.

The AP reported that Walaszczyk had been staying in a hotel with a Jewish woman when the German Gestapo

searched the premises. He only then discovered she was Jewish and helped her hide and distracted the Germans by playing sick.

The Gestapo later arrested the woman, Irena Front, and another 20 Jews. Walaszczyk arranged to bribe the Germans to release the Jews; he was able to get a kilogram of gold in a number of hours and saved their lives, according to

the institute.

He also hired 30 Jews to work at a potato-flour factory and kept them alive by bribing a German official. According to the Polish state historical body and the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, most of the Jewish workers he employed survived World War II and the Holocaust. HW

## Insights From Israel Fifth Time a Charm... But Who Might be Charmed?

By Howard Weisband

As I write, the first reading of a bill has been approved that in the coming days will dissolve the current Knesset. Elections will be held after the High Holidays and Sukkot.

Israel apparently is a world leader in holding national elections: five times in three and a half years. Hardly a feeling of pride!

Based on their political partnership and friendship, Naftali Bennet will relinquish his position of Prime Minister to Yair Lapid who will become Prime Minister of the Interim Government through the time of the elections and until a new Government is formed. (At this point we can hardly say a permanent Government!)

After the defection of two coalition members of Knesset in recent weeks, it was clear that the Government would neither possess a majority of parliamentary members nor approve significant legislation. Bennett and Lapid took the initiative to begin the process of going to new elections. The alternative was to try and withstand continuing legislative attacks from the opposition led by former Prime Minister Netanyahu, as well as potentially increasing negative media

coverage.

The question to be debated now and during the months preceding elections is not so much which party might win the greatest number of Knesset seats, but again, which politician will have a sufficient number of coalition partners to form a Government with a minimum of 61 Knesset members. Ideally more of course. This was the factor that ultimately caused the downfall of the Bennet Lapid-led Government.

Netanyahu desperately wants to return to his former position. He has promised his Likud party followers, right wing allies, and ultra-Orthodox partners that they all will return to power. There is a slight possibility, albeit unlikely, that he could attract a few right-wing members of the current coalition to his side, providing the ability to form a Government without going to elections.

The first of two variables that could block him are the strong anti-Bibi forces that have been created by his style of leadership, as we've discussed in prior columns. Second is the fact that he still is on trial for alleged bribery as Prime Minister, which according to law allows him to serve if not convicted but color

the trust that many in the public feel toward him.

These same variables will also affect his success factor in a forthcoming electoral campaign.

Lapid will lead his Yesh Atid (There is a Future) party and the center-left campaign, that will attract some on the center-right in the religious Zionist and secular camps, who are interested in building a broad coalition. He has experience from having served as Finance Minister in a previous Government, and currently as Foreign Minister. He will have four months until elections to demonstrate national leadership capabilities as Prime Minister, in which capacity he will soon welcome President Biden to Israel.

Likud and Yesh Atid are polling first and second, far above the other parties. But neither can do it alone.

A key unknown in the upcoming campaign will be Bennett himself, who performed well as Prime Minister. Will his Yamina (Right) party hold on to its mere six seats in the Knesset? Moreover, will he choose to remain in politics; pundits are already predicting he may step away.

Another telling question is how the

other smaller parties in the current coalition will fare among the voters: that's Blue and White, Labor, Yisrael Beytenu, New Hope, and Meretz. Lapid will need them, just as Netanyahu will need the far right and ultra-Orthodox, to cobble together a coalition.

And we must not forget Ra'am, the Arab party that is formally a part of the Bennett Lapid Government. Will its voters want to reward the party for joining the coalition and receiving resultant benefits for the Arab communities?

Meanwhile polls already are predicting another gridlock, which further shows the need to fundamentally change our political system.

Unfortunately, the fifth time around may not be charming at all.

*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*



# Everything We Know About ‘The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel’ Season 5



Credit: Jose Perez/Bauer-Griffin/GC Images

By Lior Zaltzman

Season four of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” was very, very heimish. The season, which took place in 1960s New York, brought back all the things we love about the fast-talking, sassy divorced Jewish stand-up comedian. From the quippy banter to the fabulous period costumes to all the big and small Jewish touches – Yiddishisms and a bar mitzvah scene and talks about God.

The ending of season four left a lot of things open for our heroes and left a lot of us jonesing for the next season, which, yes, is definitely happening.

So, what do we know about this upcoming season of the show? Quite a lot, actually – let us break down all the information we have about “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” season five:

**Will season five be the final season of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”?**

Unfortunately for Maisel fans, the answer to that is yes, yes it will. The news was announced by Amazon the day before the season four premiere, on February 18. Rachel Brosnahan, who plays Midge Maisel, wrote on Instagram back in February: “A few days ago we started shooting Season 5 (!) of The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel. It’s bittersweet... Rest assured our tits are up and it’s going to be a hell of a final chapter.”

“We always had a general endpoint in mind for the series, but it was somewhere at four or five or six or something like that,” co-showrunner Dan Palladino told The Hollywood Reporter. “And it just seemed to fit in season five.”

**Who will star and guest-star in “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” season five?**

Season five will feature all the usual suspects – from Broshnahan to Marin Hinkle as Rose Weissman, Tony Shalhoub as Abe Weissman, Michael Zegen as Joel Maisel, Kevin Pollak as Moishe Maisel, Caroline Aaron as Shirley Maisel, Stephanie Hsu as Meil Lin, Alex Borstein as Susie Myerson and Luke Kirby as Jewish comedian Lenny Bruce.

The last season of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” will also feature some returning season four stars.

“This Is Us” and “Gilmore Girls” sensation Milo Ventimiglia will be coming back as a “handsome man,” (Daniel Palladino said we will finally discover his name in this upcoming season, and it has been revealed that he will have a scene with Tony Shalhoub). “Gilmore Girls” favorite Kelly Bishop will also return as matchmaker Benedetta. According to Deadline, the following seven actors will join season five in recurring roles: Peter Friedman (“Succession”), Chloë Kerwin (“Asleep in My Palm”), Austin Basis (“Supernatural”), Josh Grisetti (“Nurse Jackie”), Michael Cyril Creighton (“Only Murders in the Building”),

Eddie Kaye Thomas (“American Dad!”) and Lucas Kavner (“The Jim Jefferies Show”).

Alfie Fuller, who played Dinah Rutledge, Susie’s newly hired receptionist at her new talent agency in season four, will be coming back as a series regular. Jason Ralph, who just happens to be married to Rachel Brosnahan IRL, will be reprising his role as talent booker Mike Carr on the fictional Gordon Ford show, and will also be promoted to a series regular. Reid Scott, who plays Gordon Ford himself, is another actor promoted to series regular in season five.

**What do we know about the plot of season five?**

Here’s what where season four left us, and yes, spoilers ahead: – Midge has the chance to be an opening act for Tony Bennet, opting instead to try and make it on her own – at the same time, all that sizzling on-screen chemistry between her and Lenny Bruce was finally consummated when the two slept together in the final episode of the season.

Joel and Mei are about to become parents. Rose will be continuing her undertaking as a prolific matchmaker, despite warnings from the local matchmaker “mafia” and Abe is continuing his intrepid work as a theater critic, while Susie will likely be expanding her talent agency. “This is the family she’s curating,” Borstein said in a recent interview with Variety about Susie’s aspirations for her agency. “She has her sister, but in terms of feeling like there’s a center, she’s creating this family she’s never had, taking on other clients and bringing these children into her home.”

The Palladinos and the “Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” writers’ room is known for keeping their scripts and details of upcoming seasons pretty private, but we do know some things about the happenings of season five from casting calls.

The season’s casting new secretaries for Susie’s agency, which means Dinah may be getting a promotion!

The show was also casting extras and captains for a 1960s yacht party that was filmed overnight on open waters by Battery Park in downtown Manhattan – we’re really excited for that aquatic scene.

The show will continue to explore New York’s queer community – there was a casting call for LGBTQ extras for a bathhouse scene. Borstein recently opened up about Susie’s unconfirmed queer identity: “This is an era when it was not something anyone would talk about, share, want to share or feel like it was anyone’s business – I mean, sexuality in general, across the board,” she said.

Someone in the Maisel world will once again be returning to prison – will

it be Midge, or usual suspect Lenny Bruce, or maybe someone unexpected? The show recently put out a call out for prison guards and jailbirds.

We also know that Midge will be returning to the Gordon Ford show, and perhaps, like the comedians her character is inspired by (coughJoan Riverscough), will become a late-night sensation. We also know that things between Midge and Gordon may not end up being... so platonic. An ice-skating scene between the two of them appears to feature a kiss, judging by candid shots of the shoot, which happened on the ice rink in Rockefeller Center.

It also appears that we will be meeting Joel and Mei’s new baby – or perhaps babies? The show was casting for twin babies to portray “the infant children of principal characters.”

And of course, we know that somehow, season five of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” will feature Israel! The show was casting for “Jewish types” to play in an agrarian setting in Israel – so it looks like we might have some kibbutz scenes to look forward to.

“All I can tell you about Season 5 is that our heroine will not give up on herself,” Caroline Aaron, who is about to star in an exciting new Israeli show, said in a recent interview, “I will tell you that you will see her break through the glass ceiling a little bit.” We can’t wait.

**Where is season five filming?**

Like previous seasons, “The Marvel-

ous Mrs. Maisel” will be filming where most of the series takes place – in New York and Long Island. A lot of the show is filmed at the Steiner Studios in Brooklyn, while others are filmed on location in various NYC spots, like Washington Square Park, the Strathmore building on the Upper West Side, Central Park and more.

The show’s synagogue scenes are filmed in East Midwood Jewish Center, and upcoming Israel scenes are rumored to be filmed somewhere on Long Island.

**When is season five filming?**

Right now! The season started filming around February of this year and is still casting for shoots in the New York City area at the moment.

**When will season five premiere on Amazon Prime?**

Before the pandemic, new seasons of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” would usually premiere in December, just in time for the major holidays (ok, so just in time for Christmas, which hmph).

However, after its pandemic hiatus, the show returned to Amazon on February 18, 2022, and released two episodes weekly. We don’t know when this new season will premiere. Here’s hoping the season premiere will be in late 2022 or early 2023.

As for how Amazon will release the show, we don’t really know, but here at Kveller headquarters, we didn’t really love the two weekly episode format, so this is our formal petition for a complete season drop, please and thank you. **HW**

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