

2022-23 SUBSCRIPTIONS
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THE

Hebrew  Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Dr. Deena Davidovics Named Board President of MHA-FYOS



Past Presidents Aileen Cooper (l) and Yoel Goldblatt (r), newly elected president Dr. Deena Davidovics (center left), and Head of School Rabbi Yisroel Weiner

By Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky

The Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstein Yeshiva of the South held its Patrons Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on Sunday, July 31.

During the meeting, the school’s board members and supporters elected the new members of the board of trustees and the 2022-2023 slate of officers. Dr. Deena Davidovics was elected president.

Mr. Yoel Goldblatt, outgoing board president, reviewed the two years of his

presidency and thanked all of the board members, teachers, administrators and families for their support throughout his term. He remarked that the school is in an excellent position going forward and that “enrollment continues to increase – remaining at an all-time high since 2008.”

Rabbi Yisroel Weiner, MHA-FYOS’ new Head of School, addressed the gathering as well. After acknowledging Mr. Goldblatt’s dedication as president and applauding the school’s volunteers, he

shared that “this is a time of significant transition in our school. From head of school to president to Rosh Kollel and more, change is a theme of the hour. However, throughout it all, the calm and confidence of continuity remains in large part because of partners like you, members of our board, patrons of our cause and lay leaders of all sorts. And with that continuity guaranteed, our new leadership brings with it a renewed confidence in our great beacon of Torah Judaism we know as the MHA-FYOS; a confidence that together we will build upon the inspiring accomplishments of the past to reach even greater heights of achievement.”

Rabbi Weiner highlighted many successful school initiatives including the ongoing focus on growth mindset, staff professional development and new faculty members. He also shared that the school has much to look forward to for the coming year, such as expanded S.T.E.M. offerings, a new and improved parent-teacher communication portal and exciting and engaging programming for all divisions.

Retiring board member Jill Graflund was recognized for her years of service to the school and Penina Wender was elected to her first term on the board.

In assuming the office of president, Dr. Davidovics remarked that, “Leadership is in fact a team sport. As I come

into this role, humbled and honored, I think of leaders I can look to as role models – many of whom are here today, in this room, that I am grateful to look up to, learn from and to continue to partner with. As I think about the years ahead, my hope is that we can focus on our commonalities rather than our differences and band together to continue to build our school community with Shalom. My vision is that of partnership, united in our mission, based on mutual respect and assumption of best intent, grounded in ahavas chinam – unwarranted love, which will, with Hashem’s help, bring success and peace to our school, our children and our community.”

Also elected were Tracey Mendelson, Stacy Sanderson and Jonathan Wogan, vice presidents; Richard Lewis and Tracey Mendelson, co-secretaries; and Richard Lewis and Mark Kaplowitz, co-treasurers.

Dr. Davidovics and her husband, Noam, have five children, all of whom have attended MHA-FYOS. Dr. Davidovics is a pediatric palliative oncologist and bioethicist who practices clinical medicine as well as research. She has been an active community volunteer and member of the MHA-FYOS school board since 2013. **HW**

Nashville Mayor Condemns Anti-Semitic Fliers on Homes Near Synagogues

(JNS) – John Cooper, the mayor of Nashville, Tenn., said last week that “hateful, divisive rhetoric and anti-Semitism have no place” in the city after anti-Semitic propaganda fliers were discovered at residents’ homes.

The fliers targeting the Jewish community were found outside more than 40 homes in Nashville’s West End neighborhood on the morning of Aug. 3, less than a mile away from two synagogues.

They propagated anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, including language such as “gun control is Jewish,” “Disney child grooming is Jewish,” “mass

immigration is Jewish” or “the COVID agenda is Jewish.” The fliers also featured the Star of David on the forehead of various people. They were similar to other fliers found across the country in recent months, many of which have been attributed to the anti-Semitic group, Goyim Defense League.

“This disturbing anti-Semitic propaganda is similar in tone and style to that used for generations to target the Jewish people and paint them as the enemy,” Cooper said in a joint statement on Aug. 4 with vice mayor Jim Shulman, Metro Nashville Police Department chief

John Drake, Council members Kathleen Murphy and Thom Druffel, the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, and the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

“We stand united in support of the Jewish community, and against the extremism and hatred of a small but dangerous faction of our city,” they wrote. “We will not surrender to these dangerous and damaging efforts intended to divide and distort. We will not stand idle in the face of treacherous and threatening attempts to sow chaos and fear.”

The statement added that in response

to the incident, the groups plan to promote “civility, inclusion and respect for all our friends and neighbors in Nashville.”

Cooper has ordered his administration to work with Jewish community leaders to investigate and respond to the fliers.

The Metro Nashville Police Department will “remain vigilant and are coordinating appropriate responses at key Jewish landmarks and throughout the city without further emboldening the individuals and groups involved in spreading these disgusting messages,” according to the statement. **HW**



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Sofia Frisch, 10th Grade, River City BBG



Sofia Frisch enjoys BBYO summer CLTC with friends



By Sofia Frisch

About a month ago, I attended one of BBYO’s many summer experiences, CLTC. CLTC is a leadership training conference held in Poyntelle, Pennsylvania, over the course of 12 days.

Easy to say, those were the best 12 days of my life! At CLTC, we had daily Shacharit services, leadership programs and interactive sessions with people all around the country with our mock chapters.

We learned many valuable skills that we could take back to our home chapters and regions. We were taught useful recruitment strategies, chapter bonding

experiences, program planning, as well as lessons on mentorship, leadership and siblinghood.

CLTC helped me to understand how to maintain my Jewish identity in an ever-changing world. I got to meet so many teens from all around the country such as Portland, Denver, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City.

BBYO has helped me make long-lasting memories and find not only my life-long friends, but my BBYO family. I can’t wait to apply what I learned to my home chapter, River City BBG! [HW](#)

Operation Breaking Dawn
IDF Gradually Lifts Restrictions on South, Gaza Border as Ceasefire Holds

(JNS) – Israel has gradually begun lifting security restrictions on southern Israel and on the Gaza-Israel border crossings as a ceasefire with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad continued to hold last Monday morning.

Residents of Israeli communities located close to Gaza no longer have to remain close to bomb shelters, and normal train traffic between Sderot and Ashkelon was set to resume from noon,

Israeli security authorities announced.

The crossings between Israel and the Gaza Strip were open for humanitarian purposes at 9 a.m.

“The full return to ... routine will be possible following further assessments of the situation and provided that the security situation in the area is quiet,” said a statement by the Israeli military’s Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories.

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8/18/2022

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Fogelman JFS launches Inclusion and Diverse Abilities Children and Adolescent Case Management Program

Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Services at the MJCC is now offering Case Management Services for children and families of all ages.

The Inclusion and Diverse Abilities Program at Fogelman JFS provides a variety of services for the Jewish community, both educational and social, to those living with developmental and acquired disabilities, of all ages, and their caregivers. Services include assistance in navigating the legal, medical and educational systems.

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lectually,” said Emily Davis, Fogelman JFS Special Needs coordinator. “To fulfill this goal our approach is to involve and support family, friends, schools and community resources.”

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Blinken Welcomes Ceasefire Between Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad

(JNS) – As the ceasefire between Israel and the Gaza-based terrorist organization Palestinian Islamic Jihad continues to hold, ending three days of violence, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed gratitude to those parties that helped in the negotiations.

In a statement last Monday, Blinken said that he was grateful to Egypt for helping mediate between the two sides, and commended Qatar, the U.N. Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

“Our team worked around the clock with the parties to support the outcome,” he said.

The agreement, he wrote, will allow

for critical fuel and supplies to be delivered into Gaza, in addition to a welcome respite from the violence for Israelis and Palestinians.

The secretary of state also expressed condolences to the families of civilians who lost their lives or were injured.

“The United States remains dedicated to our ironclad commitment to Israel’s security and will remain fully engaged in the days ahead to promote calm,” wrote Blinken. “We will continue in the months ahead to work with partners to improve the quality of life for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Palestinians and Israelis deserve to live safely and securely and to enjoy equal measures of freedom, prosperity and democracy.” **HW**

Lebanese TV Captures Islamic Jihad Rocket Misfire Live, Averts Camera



Rockets launched from the Gaza Strip towards Israeli civilian populations on Aug. 7, 2022. Credit: Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90

(JNS) – During a live broadcast on Aug. 7, Lebanon’s Mayadeen TV caught a Palestinian Islamic Jihad rocket misfiring and coming down in a Gaza neighborhood. The correspondent can be heard telling the cameraman to avert the camera.

The correspondent can be heard in the video, a translated version of which was posted by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) last Monday, stating that rockets are being launched toward the sea, “maybe towards the gas fields.”

One of the rockets can then be seen straying off course, veering away from the coastline and impacting in a populated area.

A few moments later, a voice is heard instructing the cameraman, who followed the missile’s course, to “please, turn the camera away, turn the camera upwards.”

The presenter then attempts to continue the broadcast, saying, “Yes, Ahmad, apparently rockets were launched towards the sea.”

According to the Israeli military, during the three days of fighting between Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists that began on August 5, the Gaza-based terror group launched some 1,100 rockets at Israel, 200 of which fell inside the Gaza Strip.

Of the 990 that crossed into Israel, Israel’s Iron Dome air-defense system intercepted 380 that would have come down in populated areas; a success rate of 96%, the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement.

More Palestinian noncombatants were killed by misfired PIJ rockets than by Israeli strikes, according to the IDF. Thirty-five Palestinians, 11 of them non-combatants, were killed by Israeli airstrikes during “Operation Breaking Dawn,” while 15 Gaza civilians were killed by failed PIJ rockets, according to IDF figures. **HW**

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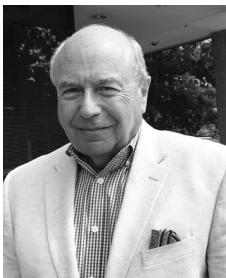


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Delivery Company Terminates Employee in United Kingdom for Anti-Semitic Language

(JNS) – The United Kingdom branch of the delivery company DHL has taken action against one of its employees after the delivery person wrote that a package was “signed for by Jews.”

According to the Campaign Against Antisemitism in the United Kingdom, two weeks ago, a resident of a heavily Jewish neighborhood in London saw a DHL driver throw the package onto the driveway without asking for a signature.

The package was damaged upon arrival. The resident received a confirmation of delivery and saw that the driver had written: “signed for by Jews.”

The resident reported the event to the Campaign Against Antisemitism, who reached out to the company.

A Campaign Against Antisemitism spokesperson told JNS that officials from DHL met with them and the resident on Aug. 5, where they were informed that the employee had been terminated. DHL also offered the resident an apology and compensation.

“This is not the first time that deliverymen, from any company, have made racial comments about Jewish people,” said the spokesperson. “For someone simply waiting to receive a package and relying on a basic service to have to endure antisemitic abuse is intolerable. We are grateful that the victim came forward and we applaud DHL for doing the right thing.” **HW**

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The KKK Once Bombed This Mississippi Synagogue. Now It's Thriving.



Credit: Found Image Holdings/Corbis via Getty Images

By Madison Hahamy

This first appeared on Alma. Reprinted with permission.

Growing up in a heavily Jewish suburb near Chicago meant running between multiple bar mitzvah services each weekend. It meant attending a public school that gave us Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and sometimes even the first days of Passover off because so many people would miss. It meant going to my Conservative synagogue in Highland Park, which, before it became known for something horrible, I knew as the place we bought our bagels – and as a town so Jewish I used to call it “Chailand Park.”

College was more of the same. My university has a thriving Hillel, Chabad and numerous other Jewish spaces. I went to student-led Passover seders and joined a Jewish writers’ group. I fasted with friends, attended Shabbat dinners

so crowded that I couldn’t see the front of the room, and again took for granted the fact that I had an overwhelming number of options for how to live Jewishly.

When I went to Jackson, Mississippi, this summer for an internship, I (rightly) assumed that the Judaism whose inundation I took for granted would look very different. There is, for example, only one full-time synagogue in the entire state. There are no kosher restaurants, no JCCs. Instead of people greeting me with rapid-fire Jewish geography upon introduction, I was often asked which church I attended. The nearest roller-skating rink was Christian (yes, that is an actual thing), with slideshows telling attendees to love Jesus projected on the wall and Bible verses scrawled on the scuffed hardwood. 120-foot-tall crosses loomed over us in front of

churches, office buildings and even a crawfish restaurant.

But while Jackson’s Jewish community is indeed very small at less than 1,000 people, I had wrongfully assumed that it was dying. That it was quiet, isolated. That Shabbat services were a sad affair. Here, I was very wrong.

Beth Israel Congregation, Jackson’s only synagogue – and Mississippi’s only one with a full-time rabbi – was founded in 1860 as an Orthodox Congregation before joining the Reform Movement, where it remains today, around 1875. It first retained a full-time rabbi in the 1920s, when a large number of Jewish families moved to the area. During the next 40 years, the synagogue moved locations, expanded its religious school and grew to a membership of 150 families.

It was then that Rabbi Perry Nussbaum took over. Though some in the congregation feared that being outspoken on issues of civil rights would lead to retaliatory and/or antisemitic attacks on the Jewish community, Rabbi Nussbaum described himself as “never a diplomat” and, throughout his tenure, was a public voice for antiracism. He acted as a chaplain for incarcerated Freedom Riders, helped raise money to rebuild Black churches that white supremacists destroyed and discussed racial justice in his sermons.

For doing so, both Rabbi Nussbaum’s house and Congregation Beth Israel were bombed by members of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum displays some broken glass from a window that was shattered in the bombing, and there is something so horribly beautiful about seeing the shards in a museum and then walking past that same

window, repaired, to sit down for Shabbat services.

The current rabbi’s office sits in the exact same location as the previously destroyed office of Rabbi Nussbaum.

That Friday, the sermon was about “South Park.” A few weeks ago, it was about abortion. There was music – Debbie Friedman and Matisyahu. We had challah and wine. The rabbi greeted everyone with “shalom y’all.” The sanctuary wasn’t full, but it wasn’t empty, either.

I went to Shabbat services the Friday after the Highland Park shooting – which meant that I wasn’t just going out of curiosity about what services at Jackson’s only synagogue might look like, but because of a genuine need for community with other Jewish people.

I had planned to mention the community during the Mourner’s Kaddish and the mi shebeirach, the prayer for healing, but another congregant named it before me.

I went up to him after services to thank him for his words, to tell him how glad I was to be able to pray in this space with him, and he told me that, before moving to Jackson decades ago, he went to a synagogue in Highland Park. A rapid-fire game of Jewish geography confirmed that he’d gone to mine. And as we stood there, challah in hand, laughing but also completely unfazed by the connection, I thought about how hard this synagogue fought to exist and thrive and how, despite pushback and tension and fear, it fiercely cared for the community around it. I felt so proud – and so ashamed for how easily I wrote off an entire region of Jewry. And so sad to be leaving a community that made me love being Jewish more than I even knew I possibly could. **HW**

Trump Wanted His Advisors to Be Like ‘German Generals In WWII,’ According to a New Book



Donald Trump, right, speaks to the press after then White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, left, was sworn in, in Washington D.C., July 31, 2017. Credit: Mike Theiler-Pool/Getty Images

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Former President Donald Trump wanted his military advisors to be more like “the German generals in

World War II,” according to a new book about the Trump presidency that quotes from his administration’s top personnel.

Trump reportedly relayed this vision

to Chief of Staff John Kelly as part of his irritation that his own generals were prone to push back on his orders rather than accept them with blind loyalty. When Kelly responded, “You do know that they tried to kill Hitler three times and almost pulled it off?” Trump disputed this history, insisting, “No, no, no, they were totally loyal to him.”

This exchange is recounted in the new book “The Divider,” from married journalist couple Susan Glasser and Peter Baker, and in a New Yorker excerpt. The book features interviews with several of Trump’s top generals, almost all of whom did not enjoy working for the president, and recounts how Trump appointed Mark Milley as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the hopes that his military advisors would serve as “yes-men” who would sign off on all of his proposals.

A U.S. president speaking admiringly of Nazi Germany’s military prowess is unusual considering it was largely employed for the systematic mass slaughter of Europe’s Jews, but Trump was known for prizing staff loyalty above all else. This made his military officers uncomfortable, yet many of them continued to stick around, according to the book.

Milley, for example, drafted a letter of resignation the week after he accompanied Trump on a militarized photo-op to a Washington, D.C., church at the height of the nationwide Black Lives Matter protests during the summer of 2020, writing that the president is “ruining the international order” formed on the back

of an earlier generation that “has fought against fascism, has fought against Nazism.” Yet Milley stayed in his role, and today remains chairman of the Joint Chiefs under President Joe Biden.

In the run-up to the 2020 election, Milley also feared that Trump might seek out a “Reichstag moment” to exploit his own lies about the election being rigged, referring to Adolf Hitler’s propagandistic exploitation of the Reichstag fire in 1933 as justification for seizing control of Germany. Milley even believed Trump’s behavior to be “Hitler-like,” according to the book. His fears included that the president could declare martial law or invoke the Insurrection Act; Milley secretly communicated with a back channel of administration and military officials in attempts to keep the peace.

Trump’s volatility in the period after the election was also provoked by Israel’s then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to Milley, who believed that Netanyahu was trying to provoke the president to launch a military strike against Iran before he left office. In a conversation Glasser first reported in the New Yorker last year, Milley said he personally confronted Netanyahu in Jerusalem and told him to back off, then warned Trump, “If you do this, you’re going to have a f–king war.”

Several attempts to assassinate Hitler were made by German military officers during World War II, of which the most famous ones were the Oster Conspiracy of 1938 and Colonel Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg’s bomb plot of 1944. **HW**

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Sam Schloss Lodge Donates Bears to West Clinic



Barbara Hellman, Dr. Joel Turetzky, Elaine Miner and Neal Berlin

Members of Sam Schloss Lodge of B'nai B'rith recently presented 324 stuffed bears to West Clinic.

"One patient stated she was having a bad day and receiving the bear made her day, said West Clinic Volunteer Coordinator Ruby Maclin. "When our patients receive a bear, they show instant gratitude."

Schloss Lodge member Barbara Hellman commented, "A lady simply told me 'I needed that today. Thank you so much.' I realized how much comfort these bears can give a patient."

The bears were delivered by Dr. Joel Turetzky, Neal Berlin, Elaine Miner and Barbara Hellman.

Since the beginning of this year, the several hundreds of bears provided by Schloss Lodge have brought smiles to the residents of the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at the MJCC, Germantown EMT, The Bowie Center and West Clinic.

Funds were provided by donations from individual lodge members and a grant from B'nai Tzedek. [HW](#)

Bornblum Judaic Studies at The University of Memphis welcomes Dr. Michael Hundley

Dr. Michael Hundley was recently named professor of ancient and world religions at Bornblum Judaic Studies at The University of Memphis. Dr. Hundley began his academic career as an economics major at Amherst, but after, as he describes it, an "existential crisis," he began the study of religion, with stops in Chicago, Boston, Jerusalem and Cambridge, where he earned his PhD. After two years as an Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Munich, he taught in the U.S. at Georgetown, St. Joseph's, Scranton, Syracuse and Central Washington University.

He is the author of three books, "Keeping Heaven on Earth: Safeguarding the Divine Presence in the Priestly Tabernacle," "Gods in Dwellings: Temples and Diving Presence in the Ancient Near East" and "Yahweh among the Gods: The Divine in Genesis, Exodus, and the Ancient Near East." He is presently working on his fourth book, "Ancient Gods and Monsters."



Dr. Michael Hundley

Dr. Hundley believes that seeking to understand the religions of the world, ancient and modern, is a transformational experience and hopes to lead his students toward a greater knowledge of religion and life. [HW](#)

Bar Mitzvah



Daniel Ethan Kahane

Daniel Ethan Kahane, son of Elana and Josh Kahane, will mark the occasion of his bar mitzvah this coming Shabbos at the Young Israel of Memphis. Rabbi Akiva Males will officiate.

Daniel will lead the morning services, read the weekly Torah portion and haftora, and deliver a speech to the congregation. A kiddush luncheon will follow.

In addition to preparing for his bar mitzvah, Daniel has spent the past year studying with Rabbi Uriel Nashofer of the Memphis Kollel.

As part of the bar mitzvah weekend, on Friday evening, the Kahane family will host an Oneg Shabbos at their home with special guest, international Jewish music sensation, Joey Newcomb.

Daniel's bar mitzvah weekend concludes on Sunday with a special Basketball Clinic led by 2022 Division III NCAA Mens' Basketball Coach of the Year Elliot Steinmetz and three of the stars from the ranked #1 in the nation, Yeshiva University Maccabees. Coach Steinmetz and the players will spend Shabbos in Memphis as part of Daniel's bar mitzvah weekend. The Basketball Clinic will take place at the FEDEX Forum.

Daniel attends the Margolin Hebrew Academy where he is in the eighth grade. He is the grandson of Joanne and Dr. Joel Kahane and Ricki and Michael Krupp. He is the maternal great-grandson of Mr. Al Thomas. [HW](#)

Rare Roman 'Goddess Coin' Discovered Off Carmel Coast

(JNS) – A rare 1,850-year-old bronze coin bearing the image of Roman moon goddess Luna and the Cancer zodiac sign has been recovered from the seabed off the Carmel coast in northern Israel, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) reported last Monday.

In Roman mythology, Luna represents the moon, and is the female counterpart of her brother, Sol, the personification of the sun. Luna wears a crescent, symbolizing the new moon, as a crown and rides a chariot.

IAA numismatics expert Lior Sandberg found the coin, the first of its type discovered in Israel, during a maritime survey designed to protect antiquities from accelerated coastal development.

The coin was minted in Alexandria, Egypt, by the Emperor Antoninus Pius



The coin dates to Year 8 of the rule of Emperor Antoninus Pius, 144-145 CE | Courtesy: Yaniv Berman/ Israel Antiquities Authority

(138–161 C.E.) as part of a series of 13 coins, 12 of which depicted the 12 signs of the zodiac and another imprinted with the entire zodiac wheel. One side of this particular coin is dated "Year Eight," a reference to the eighth year of Antoninus Pius' rule, 144/145 C.E., and the

reverse side depicts the Cancer sign underneath the goddess figure.

IAA general director Eli Eskosido said, "In the last decade, Israel has changed its perception of the sea. Rather than simply defining the country's border, the sea is now recognized as an integral part of our cultural heritage.

"In addition to security, strategic and economic concerns, Israel's territorial waters contain natural resources and cultural assets that must be explored and protected in the light of diverse development interests. The maritime survey around Haifa is part of this process, and the rare coin recovered is a vivid reminder of its cultural importance," Eskosido said.

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom. [HW](#)



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Avoiding Probate

Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors

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Probate is the process of proving the validity of a will and supervising the administration of an estate, usually in the probate court. State law governs the proceedings in the probate court, so the process can vary from state to state. Supervising the administration of an estate can result in additional expense, unwanted publicity, and delays in the distribution of estate assets for a year or longer, which is why planning to avoid the probate process may be beneficial.

There are several ways assets transfer on death directly from the decedent/owner to others without probate. The following are some of the more common ways.

Create a living trust. A revocable living trust is a separate legal entity that can be set up to hold assets. You can transfer most assets to a living trust while you're alive and have complete access to and control of those assets during your lifetime. You can also direct who is to receive assets held in trust upon your death. The use of trusts involves a complex web of tax rules and regulations, and usually involves upfront costs and ongoing administrative fees. You should consider the counsel of an experienced estate planning professional before implementing a trust strategy.

Name a beneficiary. Many types of contracts allow you, as the account owner, to designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries to receive the assets directly upon your death, avoiding probate. Examples include life insurance, annuities, and retirement accounts such as IRAs and 401(k)s.

Make accounts payable on death. Certain other types of accounts, such as bank accounts and brokerage accounts, also allow you to designate a beneficiary to inherit the account at your death without going through probate.

Own real estate jointly or create a life estate. Owning property jointly, as joint tenants with rights of survivorship, is another way to transfer property at death while avoiding probate. When one joint owner dies, property ownership automatically transfers to the surviving joint owner. You can also create a life estate in the property. In this case, you transfer ownership of the property to others, often called remainder beneficiaries, while you retain a life estate in the property. This means you have the right to use and control the property during your lifetime. Upon your death, complete ownership of the property passes to the remainder beneficiaries.

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Creators of Hulu’s ‘The Patient’ Defend Casting Steve Carell as Jewish Therapist in Latest ‘Jewface’ Flare-Up



Steve Carell plays a therapist named Alan Strauss in FX’s new series “The Patient.” Credit: Screenshot from YouTube

By Caleb Guedes-Reed, Gabe Friedman

(JTA) – The flames of the “Jewface” debate have been fanned for years, but the conversation hit a new level of prominence last fall.

Kathryn Hahn’s casting as the outspokenly Jewish comedy pioneer Joan Rivers in a TV series (which was eventually dropped) and photos of Bradley Cooper wearing a prosthetic nose to play Jewish conductor Leonard Bernstein in what should be a blockbuster film have added fuel to the discourse over whether

er non-Jewish actors should be cast as Jewish characters.

The latest who could get caught in the crosshairs? Steve Carell.

The non-Jewish actor plays a Jewish therapist in the upcoming psychological thriller “The Patient,” which premieres Aug. 30 on Hulu. In the 10-episode series, Carell’s therapist character, named Alan Strauss, is kidnapped by a serial killer named Sam Fortner, played by Domhnall Gleeson. Sam seeks out

Strauss to cure him of his desires to commit violence.

The show was created by Joe Weisberg and Joel Fields, the producers of the hit drama “The Americans” who both grew up in Jewish homes. On a virtual panel last Tuesday during the Television Critics Association summer press tour, the pair defended their casting decision.

Here’s what Weisberg had to say, via Variety:

When we came up with the original idea, the character wasn’t originally Jewish. And then you start, as you always do, looking for ways to add specificity and depth. And we came up with that idea pretty quickly. But it allowed us to tap into things from our own lives ... [it] added just certain dimensions and it became really a lot more fun to write in a certain way after that. I’d say that was number one. And casting Steve, who is not Jewish, I think our feeling has always been, as television writers, that we’re kind of in an area where people are pretending to be other people. That’s what everyone does all the time. And that’s just our main outlook on it. But we understand some people feel differently about it and that is also fine, too. But

that’s where we were coming from.

And here’s what Fields, whose father was a rabbi, had to add:

The Jewish themes are very personal and important to each of us. My dad was a rabbi, so I grew up in that world. Joe grew up with a Jewish family, as well. So we were able to tap into something very personal for us. And, ultimately, I think a big part of our belief as storytellers is that what we’re doing is trying to amplify our common humanity. And that’s something Steve does brilliantly in this part and Domhnall does brilliantly in his part. And we hope that’s ultimately what people take away from the specifics that are in the show.

As our friends at Kveller point out, Weisberg was raised in Chicago by Bernard Weisberg, a civil rights attorney and judge, and Lois Weisberg, the city’s first commissioner of cultural affairs —once dubbed “perhaps the most significant architect (or savior) of cultural Chicago the city ever has known.” And Fields’ father, Harvey J. Fields, was a Reform rabbi who led the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto before settling in Beverly Hills as the rabbi of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles until 2003. [HW](#)

How Judaism, Scientology, Christianity, Mythology and God Knows What Else Haunt the Dreams Of Netflix’s ‘Sandman’



Tom Sturridge as Dream with his very powerful and important bag of sand and gas mask thing. Credit: Courtesy of NETFLIX

By Mira Fox

This originally appeared on Forward. Reprinted with permission.

Neil Gaiman is no stranger to television and movie adaptations of his fantasy novels. There’s “Good Omens,” which he co-wrote with fellow fantasy author Terry Pratchett, a surprisingly cozy book about the Antichrist that made for a pitch perfect miniseries. “American Gods” followed ancient deities as they’re eradicated by technology; it ran for three seasons. “Stardust,” a Victorian-style fairy story, became a movie starring Claire Danes, and “Coraline,” a delightfully creepy children’s novella, made for a delightfully creepy stop-motion film.

Yet “The Sandman,” arguably Gaiman’s best-known work, and certainly the one that jump-started his career, has never been adapted – until now, with a Netflix series that premiered last Friday.

“The Sandman” is a comic series following the Sandman, or Dream, or Morpheus, or whatever other names the world has for the shadowy figure that rules our collective unconscious. It ran from 1989-1996, distributed by DC Comics, and accrued a devoted fanbase, thanks to its complex web of characters and references that characterize Gaiman’s work. It’s a story about stories and the power they hold over us to

inspire hope and fear and meaning – no small subject.

What makes Gaiman’s work great is also what makes it difficult to adapt. His worlds are meaty, full of overlapping symbolism that pulls in religion and mythology and history and sharp sociological observations and layers them all together to build something familiar yet new.

The world of “The Sandman” in particular is known for its breadth. Each issue is an entirely new story in which the King of Dreams is often a side character to a rich world populated by the likes of the three Fates, William Shakespeare, Cain and Abel, and a nightmare with teeth for eyes. Gaiman’s interview with The New York Times in advance of the series’ launch has footnotes to explain his rapid-fire references.

The rich source texts likely have something to do with Gaiman’s own spiritually eclectic upbringing, which involved a bar mitzvah facilitated by observant family members he visited in London on weekends, all while being raised by devoted Scientologists and attending schools run by the Church of England. It’s a scattered background that, along with a reading diet of Christian apologist C.S. Lewis and the Catholic, myth-inclined Tolkien, allows Gaiman to create the kind of message-driven sto-

ries that “need not have happened to be true,” as he said in a 2012 lecture.

Unfortunately, that sense of truth doesn’t quite materialize in Netflix’s adaptation. The show mines every major tradition, but somehow doesn’t have anything to say.

The episodic series follows Dream as he tries to keep control over his kingdom, The Dreaming, with the aid of his librarian, Lucienne, and a talking raven named Matthew. We see him, at various points, try to rein in the dreams and nightmares he has created when they go rogue, struggle against his siblings Desire, Destiny and Despair for control over humanity, and try to understand the very humans whose sleeping minds he rules over.

I’m a fan of Gaiman’s work, but I never read “The Sandman,” so I came to the series blind, with none of the inherent delight some other reviewers had seeing beloved characters and storylines reenacted, apparently quite faithfully. But the attempt to cram so many of those stories and characters into a 10-episode season makes for a fractured viewing experience, with little sense of throughline. All the pieces are there – rich references, creepy villains and charming heroes, visuals full of Easter eggs – yet there are no stakes, nothing the characters are fighting for or against.

The series opens with Dream captured by a rogue magician, who has stolen the tools of his trade – sand, a ruby and a weird gas mask, all of which are apparently essential to his power yet none of which have clear uses. Halfway through the season, Dream has escaped and recovered his tools, and the show has entirely forgotten the havoc supposedly wreaked on humanity by his time in captivity. Later, he destroys people’s beloved dreams of lost spouses or parents because of the strict rules that govern the Dreaming, yet we never learn why these rules exist, leaving Dream feeling bureaucratic and self-serious.

Dreams, we are told over and over, are immensely powerful and essential to life itself, but we never see how or why. The series can’t keep still long enough to build any depth, relying on the audience to inherently recognize the sinister weight of a character like Lucifer by name alone instead of having to develop it. Characters resort to making clumsy soliloquies on people’s ability to change or the power of hope, unable to naturally demonstrate those ideas.

There are standalone episodes that are quite charming, largely when the show leans into Gaiman’s talent for references and religion. (Gaiman produced the show, but only wrote the opening episode). In the sixth episode, Dream makes a man immortal and meets him every 100 years to check in on whether he hates life yet; along the way, he also helps Shakespeare get famous. In another arc, he follows his sister, Death, as she gracefully ushers people away from life, allowing an elderly Jewish man an extra moment to say the Shema before he leaves the world.

And the series excels when it abandons itself to a dark sort of whimsy instead of focusing on Dream and his pompous responsibilities. We meet Cain and Abel, for example, and learn that Cain murders Abel daily, only for him to resurrect from a shallow grave, forgiving his elder brother each time. There’s a “cereal convention” that is a thinly veiled conference for serial killers, where they all listen to keynotes in a boring hotel room just like any other conference.

All the pieces are there, and I found myself fighting to see something deeper, sure that there was a message to grasp. But perhaps the lesson to see is that while mythological and religious stories have truths to tell us, dreams can only show us fragments, just like the show. “The Sandman” might be a story about stories, but it doesn’t manage to tell one of its own. **HW**

Iran Nuclear Program ‘Moving Ahead Very, Very Fast,’ IAEA Head Warns

(JNS) – The director of the International Atomic Energy Agency said last Tuesday that Iran’s nuclear program was advancing rapidly, and that “good words” from Iran were not sufficient to satisfy inspectors.

“They have a very ambitious nuclear program that needs to be verified in the appropriate way,” he said, according to Reuters. The program was growing in “ambition and capacity” and “moving ahead very, very fast,” he added.

Speaking in response to a question about the IAEA’s role in monitoring a revived nuclear agreement with Iran, Grossi said, “When it comes to nuclear, good words will not do it.” What is

needed, he continued, is transparency and compliance.

“We are ready, and I hope they will be as well,” he added, according to the report.

Last Monday, the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization head Mohammad Es-lami said that Iran already possesses the technical capability to produce an atomic bomb, but has no intention of doing so, according to the report. **HW**

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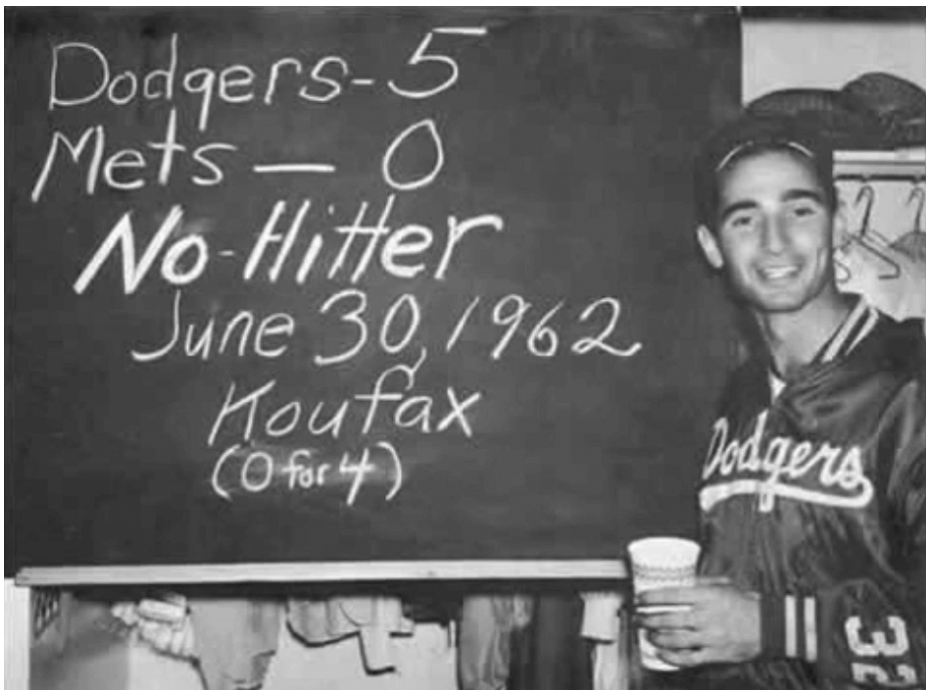
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50 Years After Making It to the Baseball Hall of Fame, Here’s How Sandy Koufax Did It



Sandy Koufax in front of a chalkboard summary of his first no-hitter on June 30, 1962. Photo by YouTube screenshot

By Frederic J. Frommer

Pitcher Sandy Koufax was the epitome of a late bloomer, not hitting his peak until his seventh season. But when it came to the baseball Hall of Fame, he was a man in a hurry.

On Aug. 7, 1972 – a half-century ago – the 36-year-old Koufax became the youngest player ever inducted, following perhaps the greatest period of dominance of any pitcher. Players must be retired for at least five years to be eligible for the baseball Hall of Fame, so Koufax’s decision to quit the sport at the age of 31 due to chronic arthritis in this throwing arm was a factor. But his selection in his first year was notable, a feat not accomplished by many of the sport’s transcendent players, such as Joe DiMaggio.

Youngest player to be inducted

Koufax received nearly 87% of the vote of the Baseball Writers Association of America, easily meeting the 75% required threshold. After the January 1972 vote, he downplayed entering the hall as the youngest player.

“Well, that’s only because I had to retire at 31,” Koufax said. “I had six good years, the last four being the best.” He added that he was surprised he got so many votes: “I didn’t have as many good years as many people who are in the Hall of Fame.”

At his induction speech seven months later in Cooperstown, New York, he remained self-effacing.

“Mine was a career that began ingloriously,” Koufax said, thanking Dodgers pitching coach Joe Becker, who “pushed me, shoved me, embarrassed me and made me work, and thank God for him.” He added: “I thought after my first six

years in baseball, it was going to be, ‘Go out and look for another job.’”

Greatest Jewish athlete ever?

Indeed, before Koufax became arguably the greatest Jewish athlete of all time, he was an out-of-control pitcher. Signed by his hometown Brooklyn Dodgers after pitching for one season at the University of Cincinnati, the southpaw piled up walks and wild pitches, and had a mostly mediocre first half-dozen seasons.

“When he first came up, he couldn’t throw a ball inside the batting cage,” quipped teammate Duke Snider.

After the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles, the change of scenery didn’t initially do Koufax any good – he was 11-11 with a 4.48 ERA and led the National League with 17 wild pitches in their first season there, 1958.

By Koufax’s reckoning, things started to turn around when he decided not to throw to spots rather than try to blow the ball past every batter – which is when he said he became a pitcher, not just a thrower. The suggestion in 1961 by his Jewish catcher, Norm Sherry, that Koufax take something off his fastball, is credited with helping the pitcher reach his potential.

His first good season

His first good season was 1961, when the 25-year-old went 18-13 with a 3.52 ERA, setting a new National League record with 269 strikeouts. The next year, 1962, he threw the first of his four no-hitters, went 14-7 and posted a league-best 2.54 ERA.

By 1963, he was virtually unhittable, leading the league in wins (25), ERA (1.88), shutouts (11) and strikeouts

(306), winning both the Cy Young and MVP Awards.

“I can see how he won 25 games,” said New York Yankees catcher Yogi Berra, one of seven other players inducted that cloudy summer day in 1972. “What I don’t understand is how he lost five.”

Over his last five seasons, Koufax led the league in ERA every time, while winning three Cy Young Awards and one MVP. He helped the Dodgers win three NL pennants and two World Series titles during that run.

In the ’63 World Series, he led the team to a sweep of the Yankees, the franchise that had bedeviled the Dodgers in multiple October subway series back when the team was in Brooklyn. Koufax went 2-0 with a 1.50 ERA, beating Yankees ace Whitey Ford in the first and final games, to claim the series MVP.

Skipping a World Series game

The Dodgers returned to the World Series in 1965, when Koufax became an even bigger hero to many Jewish fans by sitting out the first game because it fell on Yom Kippur. That didn’t slow him down on the field – he went 2-1 against the Minnesota Twins, and threw a three-hit, complete game shutout in the seventh and deciding game, winning the World Series MVP again, this time with a 0.38 ERA.

The next year, Koufax went out on top – going 27-9 with a 1.73 ERA and 27 complete games in his final season, 1966.

His combination of a devastating curveball and high-octane fastball left many hitters baffled in the early and mid ’60s.

“Either he throws the fastest ball I’ve ever seen, or I’m going blind,” said outfielder Richie Ashburn, a two-time batting champion and lifetime .308 hitter.

The ‘Melting Pot’ inductees

Koufax’s co-inductees in ’72 included catcher Josh Gibson and first baseman Buck Leonard, the first Hall of Fame selections to have played their entire careers in the Negro Leagues. Koufax, Leonard, Berra, and pitchers Early Wynn and Lefty Gomez were inducted that day, along with three others posthumously, including Gibson.

“They scarcely could have been more representative of Melting Pot USA,” The Sporting News wrote of the five living inductees. “Humble and appreciative, they stood before a microphone in typically small-town USA ... A Jew from New York, an Italian from Missouri, a Scotch-Irish-Indian from Alabama, a Spaniard from California and a Negro from North Carolina.”

Ever humble, Koufax said, “How good it feels to be in such distinguished company.” **HW**

Israeli Security Forces Kill Wanted Terrorist Ibrahim Nabulsi in Nablus

(JNS) – Israeli forces killed wanted Palestinian terrorist Ibrahim Nabulsi in Nablus last Tuesday morning during an hours-long gun battle.

One other terrorist was also killed and 10 others wounded in the raid, which was a joint operation by the Israel Defense Forces, Israel Security Agency and Israel Police.

Nabulsi and several other gunmen had opened fire on the Israeli forces after barricading themselves inside a residential building in the city’s kasbah area, according to the IDF.

Members of the Israel Police Counter-Terrorism Unit hit the building with a shoulder-fired missile, the military said in a statement.

During the operation, local residents rioted, hurling rocks and explosive devices at the Israeli forces, who responded with riot-dispersal tools as well as live fire.

Nabulsi, known locally as “The Lion of Nablus,” was a member of the unaffiliated “Baruka” terrorist cell, according to the IDF. Responsible for several shooting attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers in the Nablus region and the surrounding area, including at Joseph’s Tomb, he had narrowly escaped from the Israeli military several times in the past.

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid addressed the raid last Tuesday, calling the elimination of Nabulsi “another step in our uncompromising fight against terrorism.”

“I commend the joint action of the security organizations – ISA, IDF and the Israel National Counter-Terrorism (INCT) Unit of the Israel Police – which led to a highly successful, precise action, without [Israeli] casualties,” he said in a statement.

“The ISA has again proven its intelligence superiority against the terrorist organizations. I would like to thank the men and women of the ISA who took part in the operation for their daring, creativity and determination to find and strike terrorists in places that they mistakenly assume will be a safe haven for them,” he added. **HW**

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Lapid Proclaims ‘Strength, Ingenuity of IDF Dealt Devastating Blow to Enemy’

(JNS) – In his first public statements since the ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid characterized the successes of the Israeli Defense Forces in “Operation Breaking Dawn,” as well as outlined his plans for the future of Gaza.

Lapid said during a prime-time press conference last Monday that the IDF achieved its objectives during the operation and restored deterrence to Gaza.

He also defended the IDF’s use of force but said that the IDF made a spe-

cial effort to prevent civilian casualties.

“The State of Israel will not apologize for protecting its residents using force, but the death of innocents, especially children, is heartbreaking,” he said, according to The Times of Israel.

He added that Israel will protect itself, but that Gazans had “another way” in which they can go to provide a livelihood and a life of dignity for everyone who wants to live in peace.

“There is another way to live. The path of Abraham Accords, of the Negev Summit, of innovation and econo-

my, of regional development and joint projects,” he said. “The choice is yours. Your future depends on you.”

According to i24 News, Lapid said that Finance Minister Avigdor Lieberman was preparing an “orderly program of aid and compensation” for the residents of Gaza.

Lapid also thanked opposition leaders, including former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for supporting the military maneuver. He also thanked Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Intelligence Minister Abbas Kamel

for helping broker the ceasefire agreement.

The prime minister’s statement was followed by a statement from Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

Gantz said that the operation’s success, which was based on operational intelligence capabilities built over the years, sent a “clear message to our enemies.”

He added that “if it becomes necessary, we will launch a preemptive strike in the future as well to protect the citizens of Israel, its sovereignty and its infrastructure.” **HW**

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Kenneth Wayne Alexander II, 'Tower of Babel', 2021. Digital video. Courtesy of the artist.



Man Charged with Anti-Semitic Hate Crime Claims Jews ‘Control Everything’

(JNS) – An anti-Israel activist who allegedly attacked a Jewish man during a protest outside Israel’s consulate and Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York in April is using social media to claim that he wasn’t at fault, despite facing federal hate-crimes charges.

According to the watchdog group Canary Mission, in a TikTok video, Saadah Masoud claims: “A Zionist who came to one of our protests masked up, wearing a weapon and everything, swinging at everybody, and I disarmed him and now they are trying to charge me with a hate crime for that one.”

That’s not how the federal government sees it.

A federal complaint filed on June 10 states that based on a “review of video surveillance,” Masoud “approaches Victim-1” (identified at the time of the assault as Matt Greenman, a Jewish man from Westchester, N.Y.), “grabs Victim-1 by the shoulder and throws Victim-1 to the ground.”

“... [Masoud] begins striking Victim-1 on the head and the face, while shoving away bystanders who attempt to intervene,” the complaint continues, noting that the attack continued for “nearly 20 seconds.”

Masoud was arrested in June and released on bail; he is presently on “home detention” with a monitoring device pending a court date.

In the TikTok video, which is no longer available for viewing, Masoud resorts to the old canards of Jews controlling to media, claiming he is being portrayed as an “evil guy [who] beats up Jews in New York City. ... They, they control the media. They control everything.”

According to Canary Mission, Masoud, who is out on bail, “has a history of violence and of physically assaulting Israel supporters.”

They claim that he previously led a group of anti-Israel protesters in New York in attacking two Israel supporters and punching one of the men in the head. That assault in May 2021 came during an anti-Israel protest during the 11-day conflict between Israel and Hamas, during which the Gaza-based Palestinian terror group fired more than 4,000 rockets at civilian populations in Israel.

In a statement, Canary Mission said Masoud “is a danger to Jews and the public at large. We hope the Justice Department will see a conviction of his hate crime in the courts.” [HW](#)

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