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Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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Memphis Jewish Community Center Maccabi Delegation Receives 14 Medals



The Memphis Jewish Community Center sent a delegation of 17 athletes to the JCC Maccabi Games in San Diego, California, July 31-August 5. The Memphis delegation joined over 1600 Jewish teen athletes from communities across the United States, Canada, Israel, Mexico and Bulgaria, for a magical week of Jewish sport, community and peoplehood. What made this year's games even more special was the return of the JCC Maccabi Games after a two-year hiatus due to COVID and the inauguration this year of JCC Maccabi Access for Jewish teens with cognitive and developmental disabilities as part of the games.

Unforgettable Jewish memories and

connections were made in San Diego, and everywhere you looked there were smiles all around as the MJCC participants enjoyed the time of their lives. Memphis was well represented, and our athletes gave it their all. The MJCC received a total of 14 medals at this year's games, including three for swimmers Ethan Vanderwalde and Sam Cohen. who collectively received three medals – a gold, silver, and bronze. The boys 14-and-under basketball team, which included Alan Hamburger, Jack Kampf, Benjamin Freiden, Riley Kaminsky, Ari Usdan, Jonah Siegel, William Jolly and Max Levy, won a silver medal at this year's games under the coaching leadership of Jonah Wexler. MJCC delegation member Sarah Kahane won seven medals in dance, including four gold, two silver and one bronze. The JCC Maccabi Games also awards special recognition medals throughout the games, and the MJCC was excited that two of its coaches, Joe Galloway and Hayley Levy, were awarded this prestigious medal as well as one of its athletes, Sarah Kahane. Mazal tov to all of the athletes and coaches for their outstanding achievements!

As the Memphis teens arrived home

they not only shared details of their sports triumphs and medal wins, but many equally shared incredible stories of sportsmanship, camaraderie, community, inclusion and giving back, all of which are rooted in the six official JCC Maccabi Midot (Values) of Rina (Joy), Kavod (Respect), Ga'ava (Pride). Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World), Amiyut Yehudit (Jewish Peoplehood), and Lev Tov (Open-Hearted). Rosalyn Knox, one of the MJCC's assistant directors and the delegation head for the Memphis Maccabi Delegation reflected, "it was special to watch the teens experiencing what it means to be a part of a Jewish Olympic-style experience that is truly so much more than just sports. This experience created Jewish connections and memories that will last a life-

Even though this year's games have just ended, the Memphis Jewish Community Center is already looking ahead to next year's JCC Maccabi Games scheduled to take place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, August 6-11, 2023. For more information on next summer's games, you can contact MJCC Assistant Director Rosalyn Knox at rknox@jccmemphis.org or 901-259-9210. HW

MHA-FYOS Starts New School Year with Record Breaking Enrollment



MHA first graders with their General Studies teachers Ms. Pam Buchwalter and Ms. Lauren Lashlee

By Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky

On Wednesday, August 17, MHA-FYOS started the school year with 43 new students – for a grand total of 216 students

The first day of school began as Pre-k - 8th grade students were greeted on Wednesday morning by administrators and PTA volunteers, who took first-day pictures of the students and provided a delicious staff breakfast. Students in the high school began the day with davening and a welcome breakfast. They ended the day with ice breaker activities to acquaint the new students with their peers.

The school's Parent/Teacher Associ-

ation created many exciting welcome programs for the new families including new student welcome bags and new family Shabbat bags that included Ricki's challah, chipsticks and wine. The bags were delivered to the new families' homes by students. The PTA also held a Back-to-School Barbecue in the MHA Moss Gym and newly remodeled Lunchroom, where parents and students enjoyed a delicious dinner to celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

"Our enrollment has grown by 27 percent in the last five years," said MHA-

(See Enrollment Page 3)



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Cookbook Author and Food Blogger to Headline Pre-Rosh Hashanah Women's Gourmet Dinner at Chabad



Cookbook Author Rivky Kleiman with her latest cookbooks.

Chabad Women's Circle has selected cookbook author Rivky Kleiman, who is also a recipe columnist and kosher food blogger, to headline their annual pre-Rosh Hashanah Dinner & Cooking Demonstration, to be held on Monday, September 12 at 7 p.m. at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 2570 Kirby Parkway.

The evening will include a full gourmet dinner including appetizer, entree and dessert, with a cooking demonstration by Rivky Kleiman and inspirational thoughts about Rosh Hashanah by Mrs. Rivky Klein, co-director of Chabad of Tennessee. Recipes, ideas and food preparation tips for the holiday as well as year-round, will also be shared.

Rivky Kleiman is Brooklyn born and bred. She remembers being her mother's sous chef at a very young age. Her mother had attended culinary school before pursuing a career in medicine, which resulted in Rivky's cutting edge, gourmet style. Her creativity in the kitchen was honed during her mother's schooling. By the time she was in the 8th grade, salads, baking and desserts were totally her domain. Rivky got married and taught for many years as her passion in the kitchen never abated. Rivky

authored two very popular cookbooks titled "Simply Gourmet" and "Simply." She also co-authored the wildly popular Bais Yaakov cookbook and was regulary featured in Mishpacha magazine's "Family Table." Rivky likes to classify her style as simple gourmet that is doable for all, no matter what level. Rivky resides in Lakewood, New Jersey, with her husband and family.

"Whether feeding a family on a busy weeknight, preparing a Shabbos meal or a holiday dinner for 20, Rivky, will share tips and advice that you can use in your home" said Mrs. Rivky Klein. "I'm really excited about this year's program. We get to talk to Rivky, watch her prepare her recipes as she shares her expertise and enjoy an evening of gourmet food, laughter, and wonderful desserts. And you will come away with new ideas and empowered to impress."

The cost for the evening is \$36 and includes dinner. Women and girls should RSVP by registering online at www. jewishmemphis.com/dinner by September 8, or by calling Rivky Klein at 901-219-7004. You can pre-order Rivky's cookbooks on the registration page and have them signed by the author. HW

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Established September, 1925

By Leo I. Goldberger (1902-1989)

MAILING ADDRESS THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

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THE HEBREW WATCHMAN

(USPS #807-360) is published weekly every Thursday for \$36 per year by JEWISH LIVING OF THE SOUTH, Inc.

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
PO Box 770846
Memphis, TN 38177-0846

Periodical postage paid at Memphis, Tenn.

POSTMASTER: Send address change

Send address changes to: THE HEBREW WATCHMAN PO Box 770846 Memphis, TN 38177-0846

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Memphis and Mid-South \$36 Out-of-State \$50 Payable in Advance

Submissions

Send editorial submissions (calendar items, news releases, event photos, and letters to the editor) at least 9 days prior to publication date to

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The Hebrew Watchman is a Member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and Jewish News Service

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Congressman Cohen Announces \$2 Million in Homeland Security Grants

Six Memphis non-profit organizations share \$767,399 in grant funding

Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-09), a senior member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, last week announced U.S. Department of Homeland Security Port Security Grants to the City of Memphis (\$398,250), the Memphis and Shelby County Port Commission (\$638,769) and Shelby County Government (\$238,078), totaling \$1,273,095.

In addition, six Memphis institutions received Department of Homeland Security Nonprofit Security grants: Margolin Hebrew Academy-Feinstone Yeshiva of the South (\$150,000); Memphis Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witness (\$135,000); Memphis Jewish Community Center (\$46,000); Memphis Jewish Federation (\$136,400); Temple Israel (\$150,000); and Young Israel of Memphis (\$149,999), totaling \$767,399.

Congressman Cohen made the following statement:

"Memphis' busy waterways are an important economic engine for the Mid-South region. These investments in port security assure unimpeded commercial access and create good-paying jobs.

"There have been too many attacks on houses of worship, and these nonprofit security grants for places susceptible to terrorism are an important tool to protect people and assure public safety." HW

Birth Announcement

Lele and Aryeh Roberts are the proud parents of a daughter born July 12, 2022, in Melbourne, Australia.

Grandparents are Sharon and Russell Roberts of Jerusalem, Israel, and Deena and Max Kaltmann of Melbourne, Australia. Great-grandmothers are Barbara Kupfer of Worcester, Massachusetts, Shirley Roberts of Huntsville, Alabama, and Shulamit Kalmann of Melbourne, Australia. HW

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Beginning September 11: Temple Israel's Virtual Adult Hebrew Classes

It is never too late to start learning Hebrew or brush up on what you once knew.

For six years, Barbara Mansberg has taught Temple Israel University's Hebrew Class, also known as Adult Ulpan. Her knowledge and experience make learning Hebrew fun and easy. Aleph, the introductory class, is open to all and the perfect place to start for a quick refresh or to begin your Hebrew journey. Hebrew classes are held on Zoom beginning September 11, 2022 – you don't even have to leave your house!

"I have always loved learning new things, so when I read about the virtual Hebrew class at Temple, I was excited," said Deedee Perel. "Barbara Mansberg has made learning to read Hebrew fun. Not only does Barbara help us learn to

pronounce and 'speak,' but she also explains the history behind many of the customs and pronunciations, teaches us the background of prayers and makes the class come alive. I am amazed and thrilled that each week I can read more and more quickly."

Carolyn Mizne never learned Hebrew as a child but began learning at the age of 73 in the Adult Ulpan class at Temple Israel. "I am finding new meaning in the prayers, and the best part may be that I am able to tell my children to never believe they are too old to learn something

For more information on the intermediate and advanced classes or to register, please contact Rabbi Jeff Dreifus at rabbijeff@timemphis.org. HW

Troop 25 Hosts Cookout on September 11

If you liked the archery at Temple Israel in April, you will love this cookout that will introduce families with youth to the adventures of scouting.

Cub Scout Pack 25 includes boys and girls k-5th grade, while Boy Scout Troop 25 includes boys 10 and 1/2 years-through 17 years old.

This Temple Israel group is recruiting youth who want an adventure. Cub scouting gives families an opportunity to make memories with your child while they grow up. Time you can't get back. Enjoy hikes, camping, campfires, skits, songs and a whole lot more, all while making new friends and learning important life skills.

Temple's Troop 25 has been active for 108 years. Throughout the years they have gone hiking, canoeing, rifle and shotgun shooting, camping, built campfires, cooked over a fire with and without utensils, as well as learned life skills, all while having lots of fun.

Have your whole family join us for a hotdog/hamburger (beef or vegi) lunch at Temple Israel on Sunday, Sept. 11, at noon immediately after religious school.

Guests may participate in several games and an obstacle course run by the Troop 25 scouts, while parents learn more about the programs. Older youth can learn more about the troop while interacting with the scouts.

To learn more about Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, contact Troop 25 Committee Chairman Dr. Mark Clemons at Markpclem@aol.com. HW

(Continued From Page 1) FYOS Director of Recruitment and Marketing Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky. "We're thrilled to have so many new students, and we can't wait to see what

MHA-FYOS Head of School Rabbi Yisroel Weiner shared, "After many weeks away for the summer, our students acclimated to their new teachers and classrooms and renewed connections with their classmates - both old and new - so well. Everyone is very

excited to be back in school. This year

In addition to welcoming several new

students in the lower school, the school

has 11 new dorm students in the girls'

and boys' dorms. The Goldie Margolin

School for Girls and Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys welcomed stu-

dents from St. Louis, Denver, Orlan-

do, Phoenix, New York City and even international students from Belarus and

MHA-FYOS has so much to look

forward to this year. This past summer, the school held the Grand Opening for

the Mary Pikelny Innovation Center, a

3500-square-foot center, which features a Think Tank, a top-of-the-line Science Lab, a fully equipped Art Studio, and an outdoor classroom. On September 11, it

will formally dedicate the beautiful Irby and Bernice Cooper Beit Midrash. Additionally, the school's faculty has grown, and the junior high and high school have

expanded their math, science and Judaic

studies curricula. Stay tuned for excit-

ing announcements from MHA-FYOS throughout the school year! HW

Enrollment...

this year has in store."

promises to be fantastic!"

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Jimmy Ringel – My Jewish Journey



Jimmy Ringel

In the periodic Jewish Foundation of Memphis and Memphis Jewish Federation series My Jewish Journey, community members share the story of their personal relationship with Judaism and Jewish identity. Told their way and in their words, these stories are as unique and distinct from each other as the storytellers themselves, and together will begin to tell the colorful and multi-textured story of Jewish Memphis.

Today, I am deeply engaged with the Memphis Jewish community, volunteering as a lay leader with local organizations as much as my schedule allows. I'm a Memphis Jewish Federation board member and serve as co-chair of its Annual Community Campaign and have a clear understanding of the many ways Federation supports every person and place in Jewish Memphis in some way. I am also an active member of Temple Israel and a former board member, as well as a past president of Plough Towers. But I often think of the path that led me here, and I am now able to track the course of my Jewish journey.

It began during a three-year period in

the early 1970s, when I was between the ages of 7 to 10 years old. It was during this time that I first became aware of my Judaism and began to understand its meaning to my family, the role that Memphis played in being Jewish, as well as our place in the overall world. Specifically, a series of events - some that were seminal moments in history, and some that were more personal - combined to influence me as to the importance of Judaism and the need to ultimately be active. Upon reflection, the lessons I learned then - 50 years ago - still resonate today in our families, in the Memphis Jewish community and abroad.

Three events, which occurred in 1972 and 1973, highlighted to me how vulnerable we were as Jews. During my first summer of playing JCC T-Ball in the summer of 1972, all of the teams were pulled from the field one Sunday afternoon to gather with many in the Jewish community at the southeast side of the JCC to dedicate the Holocaust memorial, which still stands to this day.

This was the first time that I had heard of the Holocaust, and I remember being confused when my parents explained to me that week that Jews were killed in Europe during World War II simply for being Jewish. Two months later, as I was just becoming a sports fan, I was glued to the Munich Summer Olympics when the 11 Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists. Again, this was a jarring development, and I remember my parents being very upset over the tragedy.

One of the hostages, American David Berger, was originally from the town of Shaker Heights, Ohio, before making aliyah – the same suburb of Cleveland where my parents grew up before moving to Memphis. In fact, my grandmother knew David Berger's mother. This news made a worldwide tragedy seem to be more personal and identifi-

able to me.

Finally, a year later, Israel was attacked on Yom Kippur, and the entire Memphis Jewish community rallied to support Israel in its fight for survival. Attending a carnival organized by friends of my sister, Betsy, as a fundraiser for Israel, I was now part of the effort. At this time, I was a student at a Christian elementary school, and I realized that my non-Jewish friends were not affected by these events. The lessons that I learned were that – yes, we were a small vulnerable minority in the world. However, we were also tough, and we supported each other passionately both in Memphis and abroad.

During this time, my family began to celebrate Passover with some of my parents' best friends – Judy and Morris Kriger, and their family. As we didn't have any relatives in Memphis, the Krigers were among our local family, and celebrating Passover Seders with them became a very fun and meaningful tradition that we looked forward to every year. From this, I realized that while Judaism could be serious, it could also be festive and fun with your family and with friends.

A couple of years later, my mother began to work at what is now known as the Wendy & Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service. Soon after the Vietnam War ended in 1975, JFS was a participating agency in the effort to help Vietnamese refugees relocate to Memphis and begin a new life. During the summer of 1975, Mom dragged my sister, brother and me to the airport to welcome the refugees to Memphis, and then to help them move into apartments with supplies. These people didn't know anyone in town, didn't speak English and didn't have anything. Mom explained to us that as Jews, we gave back, helping not only our own but other people who were also in need. Besides, she

explained, the Vietnamese refugees weren't all that different from my relatives – specifically my grandfather and his siblings – who moved to the United States from Hungary in the aftermath of World War I in the early 1920s.

Fast forward from my life as a young kid in the 1970s to my life as an adult today. The Memphis Jewish community that impacted my formative years is just as active today. In fact, most of the local agencies and institutions have impacted my family throughout our entire life cycle. My family continues to worship at Temple Israel, and my kids attended their preschool and kindergarten. The JCC continues to represent a focal point of Memphis Jewish life. Growing up in Memphis, my two sons experienced a Jewish Memphis that is in many ways even better than the one I experienced they played sports at the JCC and went to camp there. They also had the opportunity to attend the Bornblum Jewish Community School, which didn't exist when I was a kid.

Thanks to Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund, they were able to visit Israel on BBYO programs while in high school. My father recently was at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab to rehab a broken leg. Other friends have depended on Plough Towers, or even the Fogelman Jewish Family Service to be there for them during times of need. We all know the expression, "To whom much is given, much is expected." The Memphis Jewish community is an incredibly unique and special community. We are blessed and fortunate to have a community that is giving, connected, spiritual and fun. In one way or another, every Jew in Memphis has benefited from this community. Ultimately, it's up to us to protect our community so that it's here for the next generation of Jewish Memphians to experience these same benefits. HW

Memphis-Based Highland Capital Management, LLC Supports Jewish Memphis Through Federation, Foundation



Steve Wishnia

"Highland Capital Management, LLC always wants to make sure that we give to institutions who act as careful stewards of the community's money by consistently making a positive impact," said Steve Wishnia, CEO of Highland Capital, a wealth management company that has been providing investment advisory services to clients since he founded it in 1987. "When we give, it's to partners

who have a mission that we agree with and lines up with our company's morals."

In 2021, Highland Capital became an official Corporate Partner of Jewish Community Partners, which manages the Jewish Foundation of Memphis and Memphis Jewish Federation. By investing in efforts to serve the Jewish community in Memphis, as well as those in Israel and around the world, Highland Capital demonstrates a profound commitment to tikkun olam.

"The work that non-profit organizations do is essential for strong, vibrant, well-balanced communities. Non-profits exist to meet needs, and the best of them do their work in ways no other organization or program ever could," said Steve. "Federation and Foundation have a symbiotic relationship through Jewish Community Partners, working together to improve, enrich, and empower Jewish lives around the world, but most importantly for us our friends and neighbors in Memphis. This city's amazing

Jewish community is important to us, which is why we choose to support JCP as Corporate Partners."

Dedicated to the practice of investment management, Highland Capital has offices throughout Tennessee, Florida and Alabama, all run from its Memphis head-quarters. Nearing its 40th anniversary, Highland Capital currently has more than \$3 billion in assets under management.

"We're only able to support this wonderful Jewish community because of donors' support of what we do," said Senior Philanthropic Officer & Executive Vice President of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis Sheri Gadberry. "This is true of the donors who hold funds at the Foundation and of those who make gifts to Federation's Annual Community Campaign. Corporate Partners like Highland Capital are an important part of this dynamic, and we are grateful for their contributions to our shared goals."

In addition to the company's formal Corporate Partnership, Highland Cap-

ital team members find other ways to support Federation and Foundation. Many of their staff make family gifts to Federation's Annual Community Campaign and hold Foundation Donor Advised Funds. Senior Vice President of Private Wealth Scott Notowich also serves on the Memphis Jewish Federation Board of Directors as its Vice Chair of Israel & Overseas.

"What inspires me are the non-profits doing important work that other agencies can't," said Scott. "Highland Capital chooses to support Memphis Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation of Memphis because of their ability to empower engaged community members to make a difference locally. For example, Federation's educational programming and senior services are vital community resources. And Foundation Funds support non-profit efforts all over the country, but with a heavy emphasis on the Memphis Jewish community. Our support is a no-brainer." **HW**

Cyprus to Acquire Iron Dome Missile-Defense System from Israel

(JNS) – Cyprus has reached a deal to purchase from Israel the Iron Dome missile-defense system, *Kathimerini* reported last Friday.

According to the report, the deal has been finalized, although the number of batteries purchased and their estimated delivery date remain unknown.

Jerusalem and Nicosia have reported-

ly been holding talks about the agreement since at least early 2021.

Kathimerini reported that while Cyprus has U.S.-made short-range air-defense systems, the Cypriot National Guard insisted on acquiring Iron Dome to meet its "operational demands."

The paper cited growing concern in Cyprus over Turkish aggression amid

ongoing tensions over contested gas deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Turkish forces invaded Cyprus in 1974; nine years later, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which controls the northeastern section of the island nation, declared independence.

The head of Cyprus's military made his first official visit to Israel in March,

during which he "visit[ed] an Iron Dome air-defense system battery," according to an IDF statement at the time.

In June, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi traveled to Cyprus to take part in a joint military drill. The same month, the two countries signed several defense export agreements. **HW**

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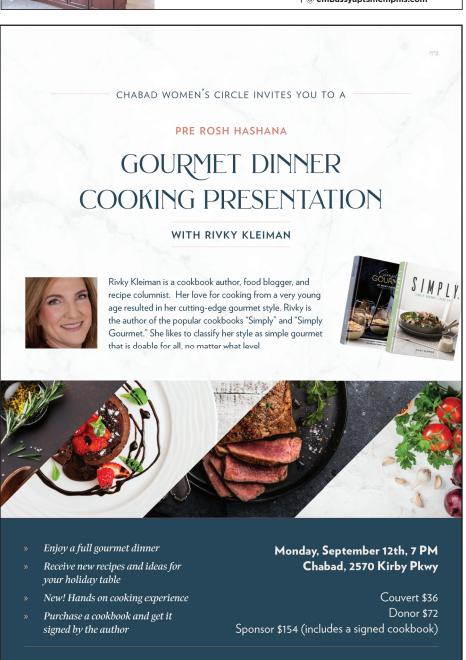
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Federation, Foundation, JCP 2022 Leadership Retreat



On Sunday, August 14, board members for Memphis Jewish Federation, Jewish Foundation of Memphis, and their managing organization Jewish Community Partners gathered for the 2022 Board Retreat. With the purpose of deepening board members' understanding of the synergistic work of Federation and Foundation, driven by support from JCP, the four-hour inspiring retreat combined presentations, interactive exercises, breakouts, and roundtable conversations to empower lay leaders to be as effective as possible in their important roles. Margolin Hebrew Academy/Feinstone Yeshiva of the South's new Mary Pikelny Innovation Center was packed with amazing technology that helped the JCP team share highly detailed information, in high volume. HW





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New School Year Starts with a New Director of Education at Beth Sholom



Beth Sholom's new Director of Education Julee Levine wants students to learn that there is a role for Jewish values, traditions and Torah in everyday life.

Beth Sholom Synagogue Religious School began Thursday, August 18 with a new director of dducation at the helm: Julee Levine, a veteran Jewish educator, who has relocated from Adat Ari El in Valley Village, California, to Memphis. Students got a taste (literally) of Levine's fresh approach to learning when an ice cream truck pulled up with treats for all. "I'm excited for us all to have a sweet year learning together," said Levine, as she led the students in the blessing before they ate.

"Julee comes to us with a wealth of experience and tremendous enthusiasm for Jewish learning," said Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, who greeted the students along with Levine, the teachers, and Larissa Kay, the synagogue's vice president for Education. Noting that Levine was honored by Builders of Jewish Education in Los Angeles in 2021, Rabbi Horwitz added. "I am excited for all that

she will bring to our community and to our students. I know that we are bound for growth with her on our professional team."

With a ready smile on her face and her upbeat interaction with children and adults, Levine's joy is infectious. She keeps pushing to make religious school as engaging as possible.

"When I went to Hebrew school, we learned facts," she said. "My head was filled with facts. But guess what?" she asked, holding up her smartphone. "I have a lot of facts in here. So, we teach 'why.' We encourage students to ask why. Why do we do this rather than that? 'Why' is really important.

"I give students permission to ask a lot of questions," Levine continued. "Students learn how to answer questions, but it is so much better when they



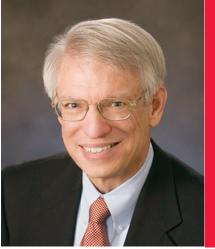
2608 Autumn Ave | Memphis, TN 38112



Levine arranged for Ms. Rainbow Clown to hand out treats to students from her ice cream truck on the first day of Beth Sholom Religious School.



Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, Director of Education Julee Levine and Education VP Larissa Kay greeted students on the first day of Religious School at Beth Sholom on August 18. Beth Sholom membership is not required to enroll children in the school.



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Levine...

(Continued From Page 6)

learn to question answers, when they want to know more."

Levine wants students to see there's a role for Jewish values, traditions and Torah in their everyday lives, because it deepens their Jewish identity. "They experience their Jewishness outside of the synagogue. They begin to create their own relationship with Judaism," she said.

To help students learn that Jewish values are universal, Levine has created unconventional learning opportunities, including what Levine calls "Torah from Springfield." It's a reference to the hometown of television's "The Simpsons." Students pick apart episodes, identify the themes and connect them to sources in Torah, Mishnah and Talmud.

Levine noted that Beth Sholom Religious School welcomes all students, whether or not their families are members of the shul. The Religious School offers K-6 classes. In September, Beth Sholom will resume its popular Teen Talmud Torah class (known as T3) for post b'nai mitzvah students.

Levine, a participant in training programs from The Mussar Institute, is looking forward to teaching Mussar classes for T3. Her other professional activities include being in the first cohort of the Hadar Jewish Wisdom Fellowship; working with M2 – the Institute for Experiential Jewish Education; and blogging for Haggadot.com. Levine also loves to sing and has appeared on four game shows. She earned her Bachelor and Master of Education in Special Education from the University of Florida, and as a consequence, she loves all things "Gator."

Levine said she and her husband Jason are enjoying getting settled in Memphis and can be found exploring the local restaurant scene. **HW**

Argentina's President Blasted for Comparing COVID-19 Pandemic to Holocaust

(JNS) – Argentinian President Alberto Fernandez came under fire for drawing similarities between the coronavirus pandemic and the Holocaust.

He compared COVID-19 to "one or two Holocausts" while speaking at a seminar for the 33 members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The event concluded on Aug. 18 in the capital of Buenos Aires.

The Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA) – the umbrella organization of Argentina's Jewish community – said "the systematic slaughter of 6 million Jews practiced by Nazism cannot and should not be equated with another situation."

The Anti-Defamation League also condemned the president's remarks, saying in a Twitter post last Monday that "evoking the 6 million Jews who were systematically murdered in the Holocaust to reference the tragic COVID global death toll is an affront to the victims of the Shoah."

B'nai B'rith International said in a statement on Twitter that Fernandez's "trivialization" of the Holocaust is "unacceptable and deeply disrespects the victims of the greatest tragedy in the history of mankind."

Also in May, Fernandez said the death toll from the coronavirus pandemic was similar to that of the 6 million people killed in the Holocaust, reported the news outlet *AJN*. **HW**



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Side Dishes (half pan serves 15-20)

Sweet Noodle Kugel	\$40/half pan
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Honey Roasted Vegetables	\$30/half pan
Potato Kugel	\$40/half pan

Entrees (half pan serves 15-20)

Slow-Braised Roast Beef with Gravy	\$75/half pan
Honey-Roasted Whole Chicken	\$25/each (serves 4)
Stuffed Cabbage	\$40/half pan
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WEP and GPO Can Reduce Social Security Benefits

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

Questions for Mike? You can reach him at 901.761.8151 or Michael.Stein@WellsFargoAdvisors.com • fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/michael-stein

The windfall elimination provision (WEP) and the government pension offset (GPO) were intended to correct a perceived unfair advantage in calculating Social Security benefits for people who earned a pension in noncovered employment – i.e., while not paying Social Security payroll taxes. In December 2020 (most recent data available), the WEP affected more than 1.9 million beneficiaries, primarily retired workers, while the GPO affected more than 700,000 spouses and widow(er)s.¹

Most of those affected earned pensions in state or local government jobs, including teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other public-service employees. In general, federal employees would be affected only if they were hired before 1984. The WEP (but not the GPO) can also affect workers who earn pensions from nonprofits and employment in foreign countries.

Opponents believe the WEP and GPO make it hard to plan for retirement and unfairly target public servants, and a number of bills have been introduced to either eliminate or modify the provisions, including a recent bill with bipartisan support. However, action on these provisions might not be considered until Congress addresses broader Social Security reform.

Windfall Elimination Provision

The formula used to calculate Social Security retirement benefits considers the highest 35 years of earnings and gives lower-wage earners a larger percentage of their wages than higher earners. So, someone who earned a pension in state government while not paying into Social Security and then worked 10 years in a job covered by Social Security taxes – the minimum required to receive retirement benefits – would appear to have very low earnings (due to 25 years of zero earnings) and would receive a higher benefit in relation to earnings. The WEP is meant to address this imbalance.

The amount of the WEP reduction depends on the year you turn 62 and the number of years with "substantial earnings" subject to Social Security payroll tax (see chart). The WEP does not apply to someone with 30 or more years of substantial earnings.² The reduction cannot be more than one-half of the pension from noncovered employment. Because the WEP reduces the Social Security primary insurance amount (PIA), spousal and dependent benefits based on the PIA may also be reduced. The WEP does not affect survivor benefits.

WEP Reductions

Maximum monthly amount that Social Security benefits can be reduced,

based on eligibility year (the year you reach age 62) and 20 years or less of substantial earnings subject to Social Security tax. The reduction amount is phased out from 21 to 30 years of substantial earnings.

If Social Security benefits start after full retirement age, or the pension from noncovered employment starts later than the eligibility year, the WEP reduction may be greater than the amounts shown. However, the reduction cannot be greater than one-half of the pension from noncovered employment.

Government Pension Offset

Under the Social Security dual entitlement rule, a spouse or survivor will receive the higher of his or her own worker benefit and a spousal or survivor benefit, but cannot receive both. The GPO is intended to address the ¬perceived unfairness of a worker receiving a pension based on noncovered employment and a spousal or survivor benefit. In this case, the GPO may reduce Social Security benefits up to two-thirds of the amount of the pension. For example, an individual who receives a \$1,200 monthly pension from noncovered employment and is eligible for a \$1,200

monthly Social Security spousal benefit would receive only \$400 per month from Social Security ($$1,200 - $800 [2/3 \times $1,200] = 400). He or she would still receive the \$1,200 pension, so the combined benefit would be \$1,600.

1) Congressional Research Service, 2021

2) The level of substantial earnings is adjusted annually for inflation. For example, it was \$6,075 in 1982 and is \$27,300 in 2022. See ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10045.pdf.

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For additional information, including calculators to estimate the potential reduction, see: ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/wep.html and ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/gpo-calc.html.

Eligibility year (age 62)	Maximum reduction	
2015	\$413.00	
2016	\$428.00	
2017	\$442.50	
2018	\$447.50	
2019	\$463.00	
2020	\$480.00	
2021	\$498.00	
2022	\$512.00	

If Social Security benefits start after full retirement age, or the pension from noncovered employment starts later than the eligibility year, the WEP reduction may be greater than the amounts shown. However, the reduction cannot be greater than one-half of the pension from noncovered employment. Source: Social Security Administration, 2022 HW



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The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Lunch is Monday-Friday at 11:30 a.m. All programs start at 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, September 6

Field Trip to Belz Museum of Asian and Judaic Art

The collection of Asian art at the Belz Museum of Asian and Judaic Art is the largest and most comprehensive collection of Chinese art in the southern region of the United States. Outstanding works of art represent China, many of which were created during China's Qing dynasty (1644-1911) and are characteristic of an ancient culture with rich artistic traditions.

Artwork from this dynasty was created by artisans and craftsmen who spent many years perfecting each piece to convey the patronage of the Qing Court. The result is some of the most exquisite treasures the world has ever seen. The collection of more than 900 objects, which range in date from 202 BC to the early 20th century, includes intricately carved jades, ivories, sculptures, paintings, ceramics, lacquer, textiles and funerary art.

The group will leave the MJCC at 12:15 p.m. and return approximately at 3 p.m. The cost is only \$2 for the roundtrip bus ride. Reservations are required by 1 p.m. the day before and are limited to 14 people. Please call 901-761-0810 to make your reservation.

Thursday, September 8 Ask the Rabbi

Enjoy Rabbi Levi Klein during this question-and-answer period, which is always popular. As close as we are to the Jewish High Holy Day season, it will be even more meaningful.

Rabbi Klein is the founder and director of Chabad Lubavitch of Tennessee, which now has five branches across the state. He and his wife, Rivky, have been the Chabad emissaries in Memphis Tennessee, since 1994. Rabbi Klein was ordained at the Central Chabad Yeshiva in Brooklyn, New York in 1991. No reservations are required.

Tuesday, September 13 Video Comedy Series

The topic will be the comedy of George Burns and Gracie Allen! Burns and Allen were an American comedy duo consisting of George Burns and his

wife, Gracie Allen. They worked together as a successful comedy team that entertained vaudeville, film, radio and television audiences for more than 40 years.

The duo met in 1922 and married in 1926. Burns played the straight man and Allen played a silly, addle-headed woman whose convoluted logic Burns was often ill-equipped to challenge. After their radio show's cancellation, Burns and Allen reemerged on television with a popular situation comedy, which ran from 1950 to 1958.

Burns and Allen's radio show was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 1994. Their TV series received a total of 11 Primetime Emmy Award nominations and produced what TV Guide ranked No. 56 on its 1997 list of the 100 greatest episodes of all time. They were inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 1988. The videos will show many of their funniest moments from TV and Movies!

Thursday, September 15 Speaker: The Torah MiTzion Memphis Shlichim.

The group will talk about Rosh Hashanah in Israel. As we get close to the Jewish High holy days, it is nice to know how it is celebrated in Israel! Please come for this lively discussion.

Wednesday September 21 MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior **Adult Club Monthly Luncheon**

Featuring Deborah Swiney Deborah is a local jazz, blues and popular vocal artist. You could close your eyes and imagine relaxing on a Copacabana or Ipanema beach. Being a Memphis native, you might even get a splash of blues. Deborah's affinity for music started at an early age with piano lessons and being active in music, whether in church or in school. Growing up in a musical family, music had no borders. Deborah has worked as a backup vocalist with the legendary Al Green and performed on the Oprah Winfrey Show, the Today Show and Carnegie Hall and has toured internationally. The kosher lunch and entertainment is only \$5! Reservations can be made by calling the MJCC Front Desk at 901-761-0810.

Please join us from Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the Kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220, stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. HW

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The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South Presents the History of the Covid Vaccine



Dr. Drew Weissman

The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South is excited to host Dr. Drew Weissman as part of the Sumner Levine Speaker Series on Sunday, September 11 at 2 p.m. central. The talk will be about the history of the COVID vaccine and will be held on Zoom. David Ross, president of the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South, is delighted to have Dr. Weissman speak saying, "This topic is incredibly important for what is going on in our community as it relates to the discovery of the COVID vaccine."

Dr. Weissman is a professor of Med-

icine at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. He received graduate degrees from Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Weissman, in collaboration with Dr. Katalin Kariko, discovered the ability of modified nucleosides in RNA to suppress activation of innate sensors and increase the translation of mRNA containing certain modified nucleosides. The vaccine platform that Dr. Weissman's lab developed was used in the first two approved COVID-19 vaccines by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. They continue to develop other vaccines that induce potent antibody and T cell responses with mRNA-based vaccines.

Dr. Weissman is married to Mary Ellen Weiss Weissman, the daughter of Morris and Anne Weiss. To learn more about Dr. Weissman, visit https://www. pennmedicine.org/providers/profile/ drew-weissman. To join the program, visit the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South's website at www.jhsmem.org for a direct link, or visit www.zoom.us/join & enter Meeting ID: 441 032 8762. You can also join by telephone (audio only) by dialing: +1-646-931-3860. **HW**

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What CNN's Dana Bash Learned Reporting on the Rise in Antisemitism



Dana Bash, CNN's chief political correspondent and co-anchor of State of the Union. Credit: YouTube/screeneshot

By Jacob Kornbluh

This originally appeared on Forward. Reprinted with permission.

When Dana Bash was in her early 20s, her grandfather, Frank Weinman, took her on a family trip through his childhood towns in Vienna, Hungary and Slovakia along with a Nazi ghetto in Czechoslovakia to give them an upclose perspective of the horrors of the Holocaust and the lessons to be learned. Three decades later, now a prominent anchor and the chief political correspondent at CNN, Bash is taking a lead role in amplifying those teachings amid a dramatic rise in antisemitic violence across the U.S.

In the CNN documentary "Rising Hate: Antisemitism in America," [which aired] last Sunday evening and available on demand, Bash visits various Jewish communities still reeling from recent attacks, including Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, and the Chabad of Poway synagogue in California. She also spoke with Ruth Steinfeld, who survived a Nazi concentration camp after being taken to safety by a French organization hiding Jewish children, who said she sees the same kind of hate bubbling up in recent years.

In an interview, Bash said she was honored when asked to do the project for the network, but was also sad that it was even necessary. The producer of the CNN documentary, Melissa Dunst Lipman, pitched the idea following the increased attacks and the hostage standoff

in Colleyville. "The numbers just made it, unfortunately, very newsworthy," Bash said.

In the opening part of the documentary, Paul Abbate, the deputy director of the FBI, confirms that the threat level against the Jewish community in the U.S. is at historic levels, higher than it is toward people of other religions. The Anti-Defamation League tallied in 2021 the highest number of antisemitic incidents since it started tabulating antisemitism in 1979.

"I honestly didn't realize how much hate was zeroing in on Jews," Bash said.

Bash, who is Jewish, said that her recent work "fits the sense of history and the sense of a family" growing up with grandparents who escaped the Nazis. A week after her mother was born, her grandmother learned that her entire family had been killed by the Nazis. Her grandfather told her stories about how the gypsies helped them get across the mountains to Hungary. "Very intuitively, I knew that it was severe antisemitism that upended and changed the trajectory of my family," she said.

Connecting to her Jewish roots

"Judaism has always been part of my life," Bash said. She said one of her "vivid memories growing up was going to services on Friday nights and having Shabbat dinner" with her parents, Stuart and Frances Schwartz. She went to the Reform movement's Camp Harlam in Kunkletown, Pennsylvania, and was bat

mitzvahed at Temple Beth Or in New Jersey. Now a member of Temple Micah, a Reform synagogue in D.C., Bash displays a mezuzah at the doorway of her residence.

In an op-ed published last Friday, Bash shared a conversation she had with her 10-year-old son, Jonah, last Hanukkah in which he asked her to wear a necklace with the Star of David to proudly display her Judaism.

Bash said the feedback she received after publishing the essay – including emails from strangers – was highly positive. She got more reaction to it than "almost anything" she's ever done, she said. "I have gotten literally no hate mail. It's all been positive." Two people who emailed her said that after reading the story they have committed to wearing the Star of David necklace they kept in their drawer.

"I'm speechless at the kind of response that I'm getting to this," she said.

Bash said she took away that, while Jews have stayed quiet as a defense mechanism to avoid drawing attention and persecution for thousands of years, "the right thing to do is, like my young son knew, innately to wear the Jewish star."

"If you are observant and you want to wear a kippah, you wear a kippah," she continued. "Keep the mezuzah on your door – because it's all about education, it's all about normalization. And it's easier to dispense with tropes and conspiracy theories when you're talking to and talking about real human beings."

Antisemitism in the political discourse

As chief political correspondent for CNN, Bash covered the antisemitic tropes that dominated the 2016 election and the reluctance of former President Donald Trump to call them out, including attacks on Jewish journalists.

In the documentary, Brittan Heller, the ADL's first director of technology and society, said she saw the largest spike in antisemitism on social media after journalist Julia Ioffe wrote an extensive profile of Melania Trump. In an appearance on CNN, Trump explicitly declined to condemn his supporters who were viciously attacking Ioffe and her Jewish faith. Heller said antisemites took it as a green light to act.

Bash spoke to the two (unrelated) Greenblatts – Jonathan Greenblatt, chief

executive of the ADL, who has repeatedly criticized Trump; and Jason Greenblatt, a longtime Trump aide and a senior administration official, who said he doesn't buy into the correlation between Trump's rhetoric and the hate that followed – but added that he "can't explain" Trump's doubling down. In one instance, Jason Greenblatt said that he felt a special responsibility to go to Trump and seek clarification. It was after Trump refused to disavow David Duke, the former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, in an interview with CNN anchor Jake Tapper. "I saw what was happening, I guess as a result of Jake's interview, and I said, 'Look, here's what is happening, here is what David Duke actually said; do you stand for this?' He said, 'Absolutely not' and he dictated a condemnation," Greenblatt told Bash, adding that maybe Trump didn't understand what was being asked of him. "It's hard to say."

The ADL's Jonathan Greenblatt called Trump a "complicated" figure, given that he's the first president in history to have a close family connection to the Jewish people. Yet his refusal to call out white supremacists and the "both sides" remarks after Charlottes-ville turned it into an issue. "If he convincingly, consistently, clearly called out the extremists and the antisemites, it wouldn't even matter what he said at that moment," he said.

Bash said she hasn't faced online antisemitism in recent years. The only time she experienced it, she said, was in 2012 when she made some comments that were misconstrued as biased against former Rep. Ron Paul, who was running in the Republican presidential primary. The attacks against her by Paul's supporters turned antisemitic. Someone created a fake Twitter account with her face on it, using her maiden name, Schwartz, and the Israeli flag behind her.

Bash noted that the dramatic rise in antisemitism occurred last year after Trump left office. She said the COVID-19 pandemic and the dire economic situation have fostered the ageold conspiracies against Jews.

Bash said that it is incumbent on people to call out politicians who make insensitive remarks that are perceived as prejudiced. "You have to call it out – as a journalist, as an American, as a human. You've got to do it." **HW**

Kari Lake, GOP Nominee for Arizona Governor, Denounces Endorsee's Statement that Jews are 'Evil'



Republican nominee for Arizona governor Kari Lake speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference, Aug. 6, 2022 Credit: Brandon Bell/Getty Images

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – Kari Lake, the Republican nominee for Arizona governor, said she would withdraw her endorsement of a candidate for Oklahoma's state senate if she verifies that he made a series of antisemitic statements.

Lake told Axios last Monday that

the military record of Jarrin Jackson, a candidate running for Oklahoma's state senate, had persuaded her to give him her endorsement, but she said that she was not aware of his statements on Jews and LGBTQ people, which she denounced.

Media Matters, a liberal media watchdog, found postings by Jackson to Telegram, a social media site favored by some far-right groups, in which he declares that he is not "beholden" to Jews, and repeats conspiracy theories about the Rothschilds, the Jewish family that has for centuries been a focus of antisemitic tropes.

In one entry, Jackson faulted a Christian film for not naming what he considers to be threats to Christianity.

"Outline and detail the evil. Amen," Jackson wrote. "The Jews. Illuminati. Covid shots kill. Rothschilds. Communists. Woke pastors. Social gospel. Christ will chuck a bunch of stuff in the fire."

Lake told Axios' local Phoenix newsletter that Jackson's record in Afghanistan impressed her, but she was not able to do a deep dive into his beliefs.

"It is impossible to dig into everything someone has said in their life," she said in a statement. "If his reported comments are true, I obviously rescind my endorsement. I respect Jarrin's service to our Nation, but clearly denounce that kind of derogatory language. Let me be clear: Our great movement welcomes anyone and everyone who wants to fight for a better future."

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix last week called on Lake and Mark Finchem – the Republican nominee for Arizona secretary of state who has also supported Jackson – to rescind their endorsements.

"We are judged by our relations, and the company we keep," said Paul Rockower, the JCRC's executive director. "There is no room for support for antisemitic bigots from those who want to lead Arizona."

Finchem has not responded to calls to denounce Jackson.

Lake last month rejected the endorsement of Andrew Torba, the antisemitic founder of Gab, a social media site favored by extremists that was used by the antisemitic gunman who killed 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in 2018.

Finchem welcomed Torba's endorsement. So did Arizona State Sen. Wendy Rogers, who has also endorsed Jackson. Rogers is known for her own forays into antisemitic rhetoric, and the JCRC's Rockower said it was not worth making any requests of her.

"We are further disgusted by Wendy Rogers' endorsements of Jackson," he said in an email. "We are not going to bother asking Rogers to rescind her endorsement or issue a denunciation because her antisemitism is well-documented – we know who she is, and what she stands for." HW

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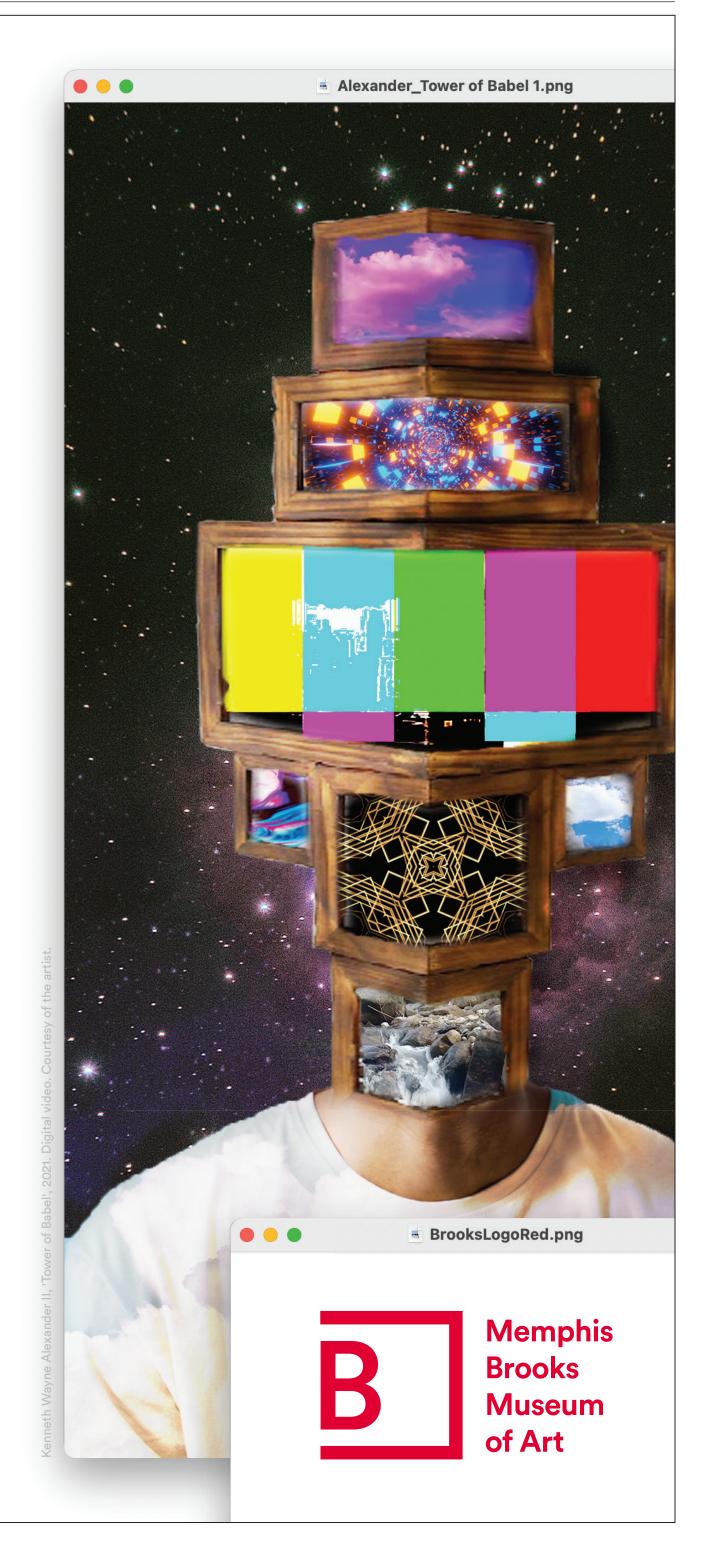
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ZBT Honors Memphis Chapter for its Partnership with Hillels of Memphis



University of Memphis Zeta Beta Tau fraternity members gathered together last Hanukkah to view Memphis Jewish Federation's Shine A Light video series, which helped the students understand ways members of the local Jewish community have experienced and confronted antisemitism. Though ZBT currently has no Jewish members, the young men nurture a meaningful connection to the fraternity's Jewish heritage through their strong relationship with Hillels of Memphis, also a program of Federation.

The Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) fraternity chapter at the University of Memphis was recently recognized at their annual International Convention in recognition of their Jewish programming with Hillels of Memphis and Memphis Jewish Federation.

While it should be no surprise that a Memphis chapter was internationally recognized for its excellence, it's worth noting that none of the men currently within the Gamma Mu ZBT chapter are

Jewish. Instead, they are inspired by their chapter's historical traditions and strive to maintain strong connections with their Chapter alumni and the local Jewish community.

Hillels of Memphis has long had a partnership with ZBT centered around various Jewish programs and events each year. Recent highlights include an annual Hamantaschen Bake during Purim, Challah Bake and Interfaith Passover Seder. Hillels of Memphis is a

program of Memphis Jewish Federation and is funded by donors' gifts to the Annual Community Campaign.

Last year, Hillels of Memphis piloted a new partnership program in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. At this inaugural event, students learned about the historical roots of antisemitism, contemporary instances of antisemitism on college campuses and the importance of non-Jewish allies in advocating for the safety and support of Jewish students today.

ZBT members also watched the "Shine a Light on Antisemitism" videos produced by Memphis Jewish Federation last Hanukkah, which helped the students understand ways members of the local Jewish community have experienced and confronted antisemitism. Each person at the commemoration read aloud the name of six Jews who perished in the Holocaust and held a 6-minute moment of silence to honor the lives who were lost in this atrocity.

"We enjoy learning about our fraternity's Jewish heritage," said Joseph Duncan, Jr., a Gamma Mu ZBT chapter member. "If it wasn't for the group of Jewish men who founded this fraternity, I couldn't have met this group of people who have become my best friends. Learning about our Jewish heritage is not only interesting, but it also brings us together as brothers."

"Since I have become the director of Hillels of Memphis, Hillel and ZBT

have worked together at least once a semester. However, I know that we have always had a close connection. We are incredibly proud of the dedication ZBT has shown to maintaining authentic connections to its Jewish roots as an organization," said Director of Hillels of Memphis Sophie Bloch. "It's more important than ever for the Jewish community to have non-Jewish allies combatting antisemitism alongside us, and the only way we can do that is by sharing information, talking about it and educating each other on its prevalence."

During the 2022 International Awards section of the convention, the University of Memphis' Gamma Mu Chapter earned several of ZBT's top awards and was among the finalists for the Brummer Cup, an award designated for the most outstanding chapter throughout Zeta Beta Tau. The chapter ultimately took home three awards for Excellence in Alumni Outreach & Programming, Outstanding Heritage Programming and Risk Management. The chapter was also the runner-up for the Excellence in Chapter Programming and Outstanding Intramural Sports Participation and Performance

"The Gamma Mu Chapter knows the meaning of Brotherhood for a Lifetime," ZBT Chief Executive Officer Libby Anderson said. "Brothers worked very hard to succeed in the Standards of Excellence program this year, and the results are clear." HW

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