PAGE 1 | NOVEMBER 17, 2022 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

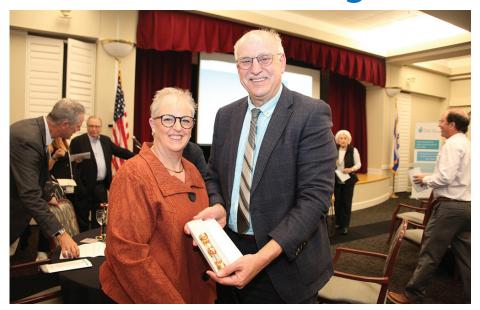
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# Hebrew Watchman

**SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925** 

HEBREWWATCHMAN.COM 23 CHESHVAN, 5783 NOVEMBER 17, 2022 VOL. 101, NO. 8

# A Rich History and a Bright Future: A Recap of MJHR's 2022 Annual Meeting



Alongside his wife, Linda, Dr. Ellis Neufeld, Physician-In-Chief at St. Jude, shows off his mezuzah, a gift from the Home for his keynote speech

On Monday, October 24, 2022, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab held its first annual meeting in nearly two years. Com-

munity members gathered to honor the Home's leadership and hear from the evening's keynote speaker, Dr. Ellis Neufeld. Dr. Neufeld is the clinical director and physician-in-chief at St. Jude Children's Hospital, where he holds the John and Lorine Thrasher Endowed Chair in Pediatric Medicine. In his address, Dr. Neufeld discussed mission-driven organizations and the legacy we, both as organizations and individuals, leave behind.

Dr. Neufeld's path crossed with the Home when his mother, Elizabeth Neufeld, needed a rehab center in 2021. While discussing the Home's mission, he said, "When we figured out that my mother was receiving such great care for no more than a penny more than Medicare, we realized we needed to support. It's amazing that not-for-profit doesn't mean destitute. We (St. Jude) are also a not-for-profit, and we are the country's largest healthcare charity."

Then, Dr. Neufeld shared details about his mother and her incredible life. Neufeld said, "My mother was born in Paris in 1928, and her family escaped

occupied France in 1940 a week before the frontier was closed by the Nazis. She spent 21 years at NIH as a scientist and then went to UCLA as the chair of biological chemistry. She worked until she was 90, which is really good for your pension by the way!" His comments reminded the audience of the stories and value we may miss if we don't ask, listen to, and engage with seniors.

The evening continued with several honors. Bobby Meadows honored the outgoing president, Howard Hayden, and gifted him a Gary Rosenthal Shabbat set to thank him for his valuable service. Scott Notowich received the Home's highest distinguished service award, the Aaron Brenner Award, and was greeted by a standing ovation.

"It was such a joy to honor Scott for all of his dedication and commitment to the Home," said Meadows. "He was there for our organization through some

(See Meeting Page 2)

# Local Leaders Represent Memphis Jewish Federation at General Assembly



Memphis Jewish Federation staff and leadership attended the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly participating in workshops and breakouts, networking with colleagues, and attending sessions with diverse influencers like Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who inspired them with his message. "The efforts of the Jewish Federations of North America at every level to assure an active, safe and flourishing Jewish home and future are vital to us all."

A coalition of staff and leadership from Memphis Jewish Federation joined over 1,200 Jewish communal leaders in Chicago at Jewish Federations of North America's three-day General Assembly (GA), where they set the shared Jewish communal agenda for the year ahead and heard from a diverse array of voices on critical issues facing the North American Jewish community. First held 90 years ago, The General Assembly is the most consequential gathering of the leadership of the North American Jewish community and brings together Jewish leaders of diverse backgrounds in a space that fosters productive dialogue and debate.

"I am always inspired to be among Federation professionals and lay leaders at the GA," said Cindy Finestone, chair of Memphis Jewish Federation's board. "We share common challenges and opportunities, and I always come away with new ideas about how we can strengthen our community. I most appreciated hearing that although we may have differing opinions, we must find opportunities to find what we have in common and build from that starting point."

This year's General Assembly focused on responses to the geopolitical challenges and global events impacting the Jewish community, and challenges and opportunities towards building flourishing Jewish communities. Topics that were discussed include the urgency of Jewish communal security, Jewish

(See **Federation** Page 3)

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#### Meeting...

(Continued From Page 1)



Jeri Moskovitz, newly elected **President of Memphis Jewish** Home & Rehab, addresses the audience.

of the toughest times I've seen in my professional career, as a donor, an advocate, and a volunteer. He undeniably deserves this award and honestly more!"

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab proudly welcomed six new board members: Russell Jackson, Marc Reisman, Mark Rosenberg, Colleen Schuetz, Charles Silverstein and Parker Trotz. And the organization honored its outgoing board members as well: Debbie Jackson, Susan Labovitz and Gregg Landau.

Finally, Jeri Moskovitz was elected as the Home's president for 2023-



**Immediate Past President** Howard Hayden (r) presents Scott Notowich with the Aaron Brenner **Distinguished Service Award** 

2024. She charmed the crowd with many laughs and a clear vision of how she will serve. Jeri said, "I'm honored to be named president of the Home. I was raised by leaders and continue to grow as a leader while surrounded by the many leaders on the Home's board of directors and a supportive staff and administration."

Her term will no doubt be lead with grace, compassion, and strategy.

If interested, you can view a recording of the meeting on Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab's YouTube channel. 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.

#### Monday, November 21 Field trip to Dixon Gallery

Come see the Newest Exhibition. Simple Pleasures: The Art of Doris Lee presents an important opportunity for rediscovering one of the most popular figurative artists in American art history. From the 1930s through the 1950s, Doris Lee (1905-1983) painted some of the most-recognizable images in American art. The cost is free including free roundtrip ride on the MJCC Bus. Leaving the MJCC at 12:15 and returning by 2:45. The other exhibitions will also be open. Come enjoy this Memphis Treasure.

Wednesday, November 23 1950's and 60's TEAM TRIVIAL

Using Trivial Pursuit Game edited for these time frames, the teams will see who can do the best!

Please join us for this fun event! This

**PURSUIT!** 

will be the Holiday edition with a few Holiday Trivia questions thrown in. Prizes for winners!!!

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. Call or email Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or call the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. HW



# Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. November 18, 2022 / 24 Cheshvan, 5783...........4:34 p.m. Havdalah, Sat. November 19, 2022 / 25 Cheshvan, 5783 ...... 5:35 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion: Chayei Sarah

## Amid Rise of Antisemitism, Christian Students are Trained to Push Back Against It

(JNS) - Confronting antisemitism on college campuses was a key topic at the recent RISE Conference, an annual gathering of alumni of Passages Israel

Passages is an organization that equips Christian college students to be informed voices for Israel on campuses around the country. In 2022, the group brought 620 multi-denominational Christian students from 23 universities

on educational trips to Israel.

At the conference near Dallas earlier this month, which drew more than 100 people from across the U.S. and Israel, Passages alumni "reencountered Israel" and held sessions on professional development.

"We stressed the importance of speaking out against antisemitism whenever we witness it – no matter where it come from – and gave our students the tools to do so," said Serene Hudson, vice president of Israel engagement for Passages.

She cited such things as "expressing written support online for Jewish friends and confronting antisemitism when it appears - in our churches or among our families and friends - rather than only joining mass campaigns against celebrities in the public eye." HW



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#### Federation...

(Continued From Page 1)

Federations' response to the Ukraine crisis and the uncertainties that lie ahead for Jews in Ukraine and Russia, and new initiatives and partnerships to combat the rise in antisemitism.

"We are living in complex times," said Laura Linder, president and CEO of Jewish Community Partners, which manages Memphis Jewish Federation. "Antisemitic incidents are increasing at an alarming rate, anti-Israel rhetoric is rampant, millions of people are displaced by war and our communities are overwhelmed by a mental health crisis. These extreme challenges require bold solutions and broad collaborations, so that we can effectively strengthen our communities and ensure that they are safe, compassionate, inclusive and vibrant. The General Assembly is a unique opportunity that comes around once-peryear for our communal leaders to come together to tackle these complex challenges, discuss practical steps towards building flourishing Jewish communities and return to our communities invigorated to implement these strategies."

Global figures, activists, public officials and communal leaders addressed the audience.

Noteworthy names include President of Israel Isaac Herzog, U.S. Ambassador to Germany Amy Gutmann, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Herzog, journalist and news anchor Andrea Mitchell, Special Envoy to Monitor and

Combat Antisemitism Ambassador Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, philosopher/author/filmmaker Bernard Henry Levy, among many others. Celebrities from the screen could also be found; a chat with Israeli actor and star of the hit show "The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem" Michael Aloni was a fun surprise for Linder and other GA attendees.

The agenda also included a special reception to mark the 60th anniversary of National Young Leadership Cabinet and the 50th anniversary of Lions of Judah, which represent models of leadership for the Jewish world.

During the opening plenary of The General Assembly, Jewish Federations of North America Board Chair Julie Platt announced that since the launch of LiveSecure last year, the number of Jewish communities in North America that have security programs has increased by 42%.

LiveSecure is a \$130 million investment in Jewish communal security that aims to protect every single Jewish community in the U.S. and Canada through a grant issued by Jewish Federations of North America, with matching funds raised by the local Federation. This funding is already working to make Jewish Memphis safer for everyone.

Also announced at The General Assembly is an agreement made between the leadership of major Jewish organizations and financial ratings powerhouse Morningstar on a new set of commitments regarding anti-Israel bias in its ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance)

ratings. The agreement follows months of deliberations between the parties.

The five-person Memphis cohort also had a surprise encounter with an emerging Memphis lay leader. Unknown to Memphis Jewish Federation, Rhodes College junior Samuel Cross received an invitation to attend this year's General Assembly representing Hillels of Memphis, a program of Federation. In July, Cross began his term as a member of the 2022-2023 Hillel International Student Cabinet based on his interest in outreach towards Jewish communities outside of the traditional Hillel network.

"Hillel tends to be Euro-centric, and my goal is to reach out to other Jewish communities that are rich in tradition and culture but have begun drifting away from the more mainstream Ashkenazi/Sephardic traditions," said Cross. "Examples include the population of Beta Israel in Ethiopia, Bene Israel in India, and Central and South American Jews. I want to find ways to bring these communities in and facilitate a closer link between groups and hard-to-reach students."

While our global Jewish family faces challenges and uncertainty, The General Assembly is a yearly reminder that dedicated professionals and volunteers are working diligently to stay ahead of these issues. This week, they returned to Memphis and to communities across the continent bursting with fresh ideas, innovative strategies, and the will to roll up sleeves and do the hard work, today, tomorrow, and always. **HW** 

# ADL, BBYO Youth Group Initiative to Help Youth Tackle Antisemitism



A man promotes an antisemitic conspiracy theory across the street from the former World Trade Center site on Sept. 11, 2011, the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Credit: Luigi Novi via Wikimedia Commons.

(JNS) – The Anti-Defamation League and BBYO (formerly known as the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization) have formed a partnership to provide students in the United States and internationally with the skills they need to respond to Jew-hatred.

"Surveys have shown that Jewish students increasingly are experiencing antisemitism at home, in their communities and online at frightening levels," said Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL CEO. "We need to prepare Jewish students to be able to understand the drivers of modern antisemitism and the ways by which they can respond safely and effectively when hate manifests in their lives."

As part of their collaboration, the ADL will train teenage members of BBYO on how to understand and respond to antisemitism. The two organizations will also open a joint incident-reporting site for teens to report acts of antisemitism and bias.

Additionally, experts from both groups will create a resource for parents and educators to use when initiating discussions on antisemitism and hate, while being mindful of the mental-health challenges facing teens today.

Matthew Grossman, CEO of BBYO, said, "As Jewish teens around the world face increased antisemitic harassment and hate speech in their schools, communities and on social media platforms, having the tools to understand and respond to antisemitism is vital.

"BBYO has a long history of supporting young people in the fight against hate in all forms, and as antisemitism grows and its sources evolve, this partnership with ADL is an ideal way for us to continue supporting our teens as they navigate the tides of intolerance," he continued.

BBYO, a pluralistic youth group, has some 70,000 members and 725 chapters in 60 countries. **HW** 

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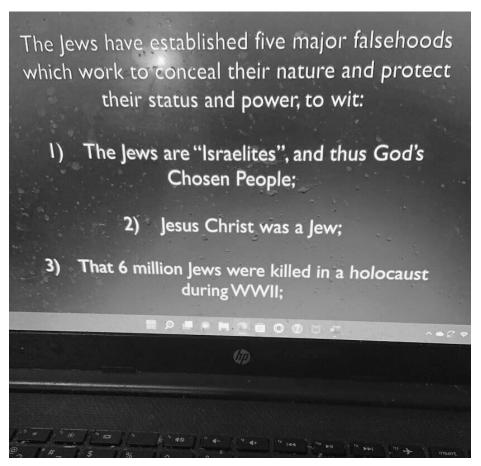
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# Jewish Community Not Buying Kyle Irving's 'Apology'



Brooklyn Nets star Kyrie Irving tweeted a link to the film "From Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America!" that lists five items it calls falsehoods spread by Jews.

#### By Alan Zeitlin

(JNS) – A group of Jews wore shirts reading "Fight Antisemitism" as they sat courtside at the Barclays Center arena in Brooklyn to protest against Nets guard Kyrie Irving during a game against the Indiana Pacers last week.

A few days earlier, Irving tweeted a link to the film "From Hebrews to Ne-

groes: Wake Up Black America!" based on a book by Ronald Dalton, who claims to have been told the truth by God, whom he refers to as the "most high."

The film castigates Jews as "Satanic" and presents a quote "believed" to have been said by Adolf Hitler in which he claimed, "The Negroes, They are the

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True Hebrews," and warned of a plan to move "false white Jews into a state of Israel." In addition, the film lists five items it calls falsehoods spread by Jews, including that Jesus was a Jew and that six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

These supposed falsehoods are attributed to an "Ashkenazi Jew" named Harold Wallace Rosenthal, who supposedly gave an interview for a pamphlet known as "The Hidden Tyranny." According to the Anti-Defamation League, the interview described in the pamphlet – which was published more than a year after Rosenthal was murdered in 1976 – never took place.

Dov Hikind, a former longtime New York State Assemblyman from Brooklyn's District 48 and founder of Americans Against Antisemitism, said Irving should get the boot.

"Throw him off the team," Hikind told JNS last Tuesday. "It's been bad in the streets and universities for the last four years and has become even worse now. You know, the blatant antisemitism that we are watching now is out of control. What do we do about this? How do we handle this?

"In 36 years in the legislature, I dealt with antisemitism, but not what we've had the last four years," he continued. "We've done research and found 70% of all hate crimes in New York are committed by minority groups. You had the problem with Kanye West and the tweet with Kyrie Irving.

"Something is wrong with us Jews," Hikind asserted. "We have a very serious situation. We don't have a plan for how to deal with it. We need to be tough and strong and proud. I don't want an apology from this guy. These are dangerous people, we need to call them out and there need to be consequences."

In a *New York Post* article by Mike Vacarro titled "Time for Nets to show some backbone and move on from Kyrie Irving," the sports columnist noted that Irving has enormous influence on social media, with 4.6 million followers on Twitter and 17.5 million followers on Instagram.

In a joint statement with Irving, the Anti-Defamation League and the Nets, Irving "took responsibility" for his actions, yet offered no apology. The Nets and Irving were said to each be donating \$500,000 to "organizations" that work to eradicate hate. Irving had another opportunity to apologize and did not, saying "I cannot be antisemitic if I know where I come from."

ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt would then tweet last Thursday: "We were optimistic but after watching the debacle of a press conference, it's clear that Kyrie has no accountability for his actions. @ADL cannot in good conscience accept his donation."

The Nets announced on Nov. 3 that Irving was suspended for at least five games. After that, Irving apologized for the first time in an Instagram post that read: "To all Jewish families and communities that are hurt and affected from my post, I am deeply sorry to have caused you pain and I apologize..."

He added that he had "no intention to disrespect any Jewish cultural history regarding the Holocaust or perpetuate hate." Irving has still not made clear what parts of the film he agrees with and what parts he disagrees with.

Last Friday morning, Nets general manager Sean Marks said the team never considered releasing Irving, views the apology as a first step and would like him to meet with Jewish leaders before returning to the court, according to *Sports Illustrated*. Later last Friday, a number of personalities on *ESPN* shows said the apology appeared to be both late and insincere.

The Nets have set six conditions for Irving's return: he must apologize and condemn the film, make a \$500,000 donation to an anti-hate cause, complete sensitivity training, complete antisemitism training, meet with the ADL and Jewish leaders and meet with team owner Joe Tsai to show he understands the seriousness of the situation. *ESPN* reported that Irving had ignored texts

## "Throw him off the team," said Dov Hikind, founder of Americans Against Antisemitism.

from the Nets' owner.

At a press conference that can be viewed online, from when the controversy first broke, Irving told a reporter that he had seen the film, rhetorically asked whether he had done anything illegal, said tweeting the link was not the same as promotion and told the reporter not to "dehumanize" him.

Rich Eisen, host of "The Rich Eisen Show" on *Roku* and a Jew with ancestors who were murdered in the Holocaust, took umbrage at that statement.

"You're dehumanizing me, Kyrie," Eisen said on his show. "[A] descendant of people who died in gas chambers and got incinerated in gas chambers by Nazis, you're dehumanizing me by putting on your platform a book and a movie that is filled with antisemitic tropes....I can't believe I gotta tell someone from Duke [University], who clearly is smart enough to know, you're not promoting it with, like, a tour...but when you put it in front of four million people who might not have already heard about it or know about it, you're promoting it."

Eisen added that Irving's actions were "offensive" and "scary."

Last Friday, Nike suspended its association with Irving and said it won't be launching the Kyrie 8, his new sneaker. Nike's statement continued that "...we believe there is no place for hate speech, and we condemn any form of antisemitism."

After a season at Duke, Irving was the No. 1 overall draft pick in the 2011 NBA draft. He helped the Cleveland Cavaliers win the NBA Championship in 2016, is a seven-time All-Star and has previously said the Earth is flat.

Nets owner Tsai's first reaction to the controversy was to tweet that he was "disappointed that Kyrie appears to support a film based on a book full of antisemitic disinformation" and that he wanted to meet with the player to make sure he understood what he had done was hurtful.

"The owner will do what he will do," Holocaust survivor and lecturer Sami Steigmann told JNS three days before Irving's suspension and apology. "Many young people do not do research and will accept it as true and put it on social media.

"I personally don't believe in punishment. I believe in education. He should be educated. An apology before he understands the subject means nothing," Steigmann said. **HW** 

# 'F— Antisemitism,' John Mellencamp Says as His Jewish Lawyer is Inducted Into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame



Attorney Allen Grubman, left, and rocker John Mellencamp speak onstage during the 37th Annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Los Angeles, Nov. 5, 2022. Credit: Amy Sussman/WireImage

#### By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – As Kanye West extended his antisemitic spree by tweeting about Jewish agents in Hollywood, the rocker John Mellencamp took the stage at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and said this about his longtime lawyer: "Allen is Jewish."

The line began an impassioned speech about the importance of non-Jews standing up for Jewish people at a time of antisemitism and anxiety for many of them, especially as white supremacists have taken up West's comments as a rallying cry.

Mellencamp was speaking on behalf of Allen Grubman, a prominent music industry attorney who was being inducted because of his efforts to strike agreements that let artists retain creative rights over their work. Onstage last Saturday night at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, Mellencamp embraced his longtime friend and called him a "true mensch."

"Allen is Jewish, and I bring that up for one reason: I'm a gentile, and my life has been enriched by countless Jewish people," said Mellencamp, whose songs "Jack & Diane," "Little Pink Houses" and "Hurts So Good" were hits in the 1980s.

"I cannot tell you how f—ing important it is to speak out if you're an artist against antisemitism," Mellencamp went on. "I don't give a f—, I don't care [about people's identity]. Here's the trick: Silence is complicity. I'm standing here tonight loudly and proudly with Allen, his family and all of my Jewish friends and all of the Jewish people of the world."

Grubman is among a cohort of Jewish attorneys and executives who sit at the top tiers of the entertainment industry. He has represented Madonna, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel, who sued him in 1992 for not disclosing that he was working for both Joel and his record label. (Joel dropped the lawsuit after the label paid him \$3 million.) Newsweek called Grubman "perhaps the music industry's wealthiest and most powerful attorney" in 2001, and a 1998 Los Angeles Times profile said he had "octopus-like grip on the upper echelon of the pop music world."

Born and raised in Brooklyn and now in his 80s, Grubman said last week that he was proud of what he had accomplished in the music industry, peppering in the Yiddish that he has used throughout his career. ("Life is 80% mazel and 20% brains," he told the *Los Angeles Times* in 1998, using the Yiddish word for luck.)

"I tried to move the leverage from the labels to the artists," he told *Variety*. "And I feel I was pretty successful doing so, which took chutzpah."

It was not the first time that Mellencamp had publicly taken a stand to support Jews: Early in his career, he used the stage name John Cougar at the encouragement of his manager. "His whole explanation to me was that Mellencamp was first of all a German name, and he was Jewish," the singer told GQ earlier this year. "And I kinda understood that point." HW

# Israeli Researchers Improve Chemotherapy Treatment for Breast Cancer Patients

(JNS) – Israeli researchers have developed a treatment that may greatly enhance the efficacy of chemotherapy in breast cancer patients, Tel Aviv University reported last Tuesday.

Researchers found that they can reduce the risk of lung metastasis following chemo from 52% to 6%. (Metastasis is the process whereby cancer cells spread to other parts of the body.)

They achieved this by adding an anti-inflammatory agent to the chemotherapy.

"[W]hile effectively killing cancer cells, chemotherapy also has some undesirable and even harmful side effects, including damage to healthy tissues," said Prof. Neta Erez of the Department of Pathology at Tel Aviv University's Sackler Faculty of Medicine, who led the study.

"The most dangerous of these is probably internal inflammations that might paradoxically help remaining cancer cells to form metastases in distant organs. The goal of our study was to discover how this happens and try to find

an effective solution."

The researchers, employing an animal model, discovered a previously unknown mechanism whereby the chemotherapy generates an inflammatory response, which sets off a chain of events that actually helps grow metastatic tumors.

"In this way, the chemotherapy, administered as a means for combating cancer, achieves the opposite result," Erez said.

The researchers then developed a way to combat the problem: chemotherapy combined with an inflammation inhibitor.

Researchers from her group included Lea Monteran, Dr. Nour Ershaid, Yael Zait and Ye'ela Scharff, in collaboration with Prof. Iris Barshack of the Sheba Medical Center and Dr. Amir Sonnenblick of the Tel Aviv Sourasky (Ichilov) Medical Center.

The paper was published in *Nature Communications*. The study was funded by ERC, the Israel Cancer Association, and the Emerson Cancer Research Fund. **HW** 





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# Dylan Cooper Awarded the Nassau Academy of Medicine Pride in the Profession Scholarship



**Dylan Cooper** 

HEMPSTEAD, NY – Memphis native Dylan Cooper, a student at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, was recently awarded the Nassau Academy of Medicine Pride in the Profession Scholarship.

The son of Pace and Aileen Cooper of Memphis, Cooper is a graduate of the Margolin Hebrew Academy and Columbia University. Currently working as the Dean's Research Fellow at the Northwell Health Cancer Institute, Cooper is one of only two medical students in Nassau County to receive this prestigious honor and \$2,000 to further his pursuit of a lifelong dedication to medicine.

"Beyond the financial support, the Pride in Profession Scholarship validates our greater Nassau community's unconditional investment in its medical students and the active role we collectively play in shaping the evolution of the medical field," said Cooper. "It's a privilege to have our work at the Cancer Institute and Department of Radiation Medicine receive public support and interest and to spotlight our school's footprint in the broader research community."

Cooper was selected for his leadership qualities and experiences, in and out of an academic setting, in teaching, and volunteering. The Nassau Academy of Medicine noted Cooper's research work at the Northwell Health Cancer Institute and his mission to ensure equity in patient care. Cooper, who completed his third year at the Zucker School of Medicine before embarking on a research year, is devoted to seeing all patients have equal access to evolving, sophisticated radiation therapy techniques and other advancements in cancer care.

According to Cooper, the scholarship came at an opportune time as he begins a new research study investigating healthcare disparities in radiation therapy delivery for head and neck cancer in the United States. "The scholarship will help fund this study and the software used to analyze nationwide data and further characterize and identify specific factors that contribute to healthcare disparities, along with ensuring equitable access to our wide array of clinical trials at R.J. Zuckerberg Cancer Center," he explained.

Zucker School of Medicine staff and students participate in a variety of initiatives that connect local communities. These initiatives, many of which are annual programs, include health education in hospitals, community fairs and elementary schools; mentoring young students interested in science and medicine; volunteering at local shelters and food pantries; and supporting medical research through fundraising for childhood cancer, women's health and other causes. Students also engage with local and national organizations that support service-learning opportunities, including the school's free medical clinic, where Cooper is an avid member.

Cooper said he often reflects on his experience volunteering at Church Health in Memphis the summer before he began college. "No matter where in the country – Queens or Downtown Memphis – we as a medical community need to be ensuring equitable access to quality medical care for all members of the community. There's always more work to be done," Cooper said.

The Zucker School of Medicine ranks among the top medical schools in the country for primary care, and is one of the most diverse schools in the country, according to US News & World Report. The Nassau Academy of Medicine is the sister organization of the Nassau County Medical Society. With 4,000 members, the organization supports physicians at every stage of their careers and is a resource to physicians throughout New York State. HW

# Bruce Pearl and Auburn Follow Up 'Birthright for College Basketball' Trip By Hosting 150 Jewish High School Students



The Auburn University men's basketball team celebrating Shabbat in Israel, July 31, 2022. Credit: Courtesy Auburn Athletics

#### By Jacob Gurvis

(JTA) – Auburn University's men's basketball team hosted more than 150 Jewish high school students from across the country for a weekend of volunteering and basketball.

Pegged as a follow-up to the university's "Birthright for College Basketball" Israel trip over the summer, this weekend's gathering is a joint program put on by NCSY, the Orthodox movement's youth arm, and Athletes for Israel, a nonprofit that brings athletes to Israel.

"The weekend is about showing appreciation to Auburn," AFI founder Daniel Posner told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, citing the success of the team's Israel trip.

During the visit to Auburn last weekend, students participated in a basketball clinic with Auburn coach Bruce Pearl; celebrated Shabbat with Pearl and the Auburn basketball team; and volunteered at a local food bank and farm for troubled teens. They also attended the Tigers' season opener last Monday against George Mason University.

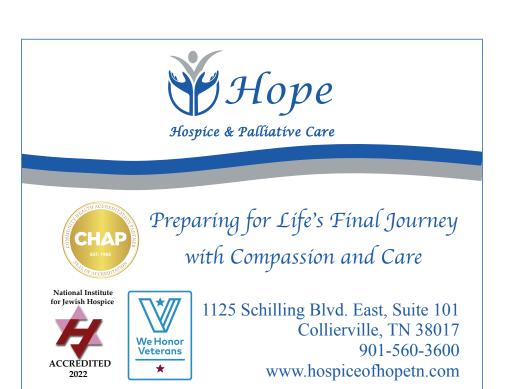
The students competed in a coed basketball tournament hosted at a local high school, featuring players from Jewish day schools from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas and Florida. "It's not just a basketball tournament," Posner said, touting the unique opportunity for students to meet with Pearl, whom Posner called "a true leader of the Jewish people."

"I owe a great debt to Athletes for Israel and Daniel Posner," Pearl told JTA. "They helped me live a dream – that is to take my basketball team and my student athletes and my staff to the Holy Land."

Pearl added that bringing the teens to Auburn is "an opportunity for us to say thanks."

Auburn's Israel trip, which was likely the first of its kind for a full Division I college or professional team, featured stops at some of the country's most famous historical and tourist sites, an interfaith basketball clinic hosted by former NBA player and activist Enes Kanter Freedom and exhibition games against Israel's top national basketball teams.

Pearl is one of the more outspokenly Jewish and pro-Israel coaches in college sports. He co-founded the Jewish Coaches Association, which hosts an annual breakfast for Jewish NCAA basketball coaches at March Madness. He also coached in the 2009 Maccabiah Games, which he has called a career highlight. HW







# Beth Sholom's Inclusion Committee to Host a Community-Wide Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20

In the last year, at least 32 transgender individuals tragically lost their lives to transgender violence and transphobia. On Sunday, November 20, the Beth Sholom Synagogue Inclusion Committee will honor their memories with a community-wide Transgender Day of Remembrance program at 3 p.m. at the synagogue at 6675 Humphries Boulevard in Memphis.

"The program will be a spiritual event that is open to the entire Memphis community," explains Ariel Figueroa, chair of the Inclusion Committee. "There will be Jewish elements, such as lighting a Yahrzeit candle and saying Kaddish, and we're designing the program so that people who are not Jewish feel included and enriched by this event."

Several local community groups will participate in the Transgender Day of Remembrance program. There will be speakers, information and food.

"There is much work to be done in the Jewish community and beyond to ensure that trans folks feel included," says Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, the spiritual leader of Beth Sholom. "Honoring the losses that the trans community has suffered is one step in making an important statement that the trans community is valued and sends an important message to people of all gender expressions that our community is a safe space. I'm so pleased that our inclusion committee has planned this program to honor the memories and legacies on this Transgender Day of Remembrance."

# **Beth Sholom's new Inclusion Committee**

Beth Sholom formed the Inclusion Committee this summer to ensure that people of different backgrounds, ages, abilities, orientations and genders feel welcomed and safe at the synagogue. After conducting an accessibility audit of the shul's physical space, the committee has labelled areas for all-gender restrooms and quiet rooms.



Ariel Figueroa, chair of the Inclusion Committee at Beth Sholom

"Beth Sholom has always been an LGBTQIA+ safe zone, and now there are stickers from the organization Keshet proudly displayed," Figueroa points out. Keshet is a national group that promotes LGBTQIA+ equality in Jewish life. In another example of inclusion based on age, a mezuzah was placed within reach of children so they could kiss it upon entering a classroom. Figueroa says that more updates are coming.

Committee members, who include Jaynie Cohen, Beth Sholom President Naomi Katz, Nathan Light, Marisa Baggett, Matthew Hollon, Carrie Webb, and Beth Sholom Executive Director Geo Poor, are also working to enhance Beth Sholom's support of the LGBTQIA+community, both inside and outside of the synagogue. For example, all genders are welcome to use the shul's Mikvah, and same-sex couples are welcome to be married at the shul.

"It's all about making everyone feel welcomed and comfortable," says Figueroa. "We want to put ourselves in their shoes and make sure they fit."

The Transgender Day of Remembrance is open to all adults and teens accompanied by an adult. The community is invited to attend. To register, please contact Ariel Figueroa at afigueroa@bsholom.org. **HW** 

# Energean Announces New Gas Discovery Off Israeli Coast

(JNS) – Energean plc announced last Monday the discovery of a commercially viable deposit of natural gas, containing an estimated 13 billion cubic meters (bcm), at its Zeus-01 drilling site located off Israel's coast, the company said in a statement.

A post-well analysis of the find is currently being conducted.

The statement added that an audit of Energean's adjacent Athena field had upgraded reserves by 3bcm to 14.75bcm, following post-well studies of drilling data.

"The results from the Zeus well and the Athena post-well analysis provide Energean with additional confidence about the volumes and commerciality of the Olympus area, and the company is now progressing its field development plan," said the statement.

The "Olympus area" is located between the Karish and Tanin fields in Israel's exclusive economic zone.

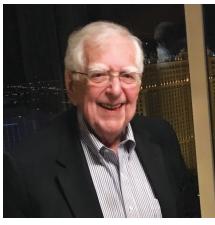
For his part, Energean CEO Mathios Rigas said: "Following the start of production from our Karish reservoir last week, I am pleased that our drilling program, which has now delivered five successful wells from five, continues to deliver value, ensuring security of supply and energy competition across the region.

"We are evaluating a number of potential commercialization options for the Olympus area that leverage both new and our existing unique [Mediterranean Sea]-based infrastructure, and we expect to commit to a development concept in [the first quarter of] 2023," Rigas continued.

The British-Greek hydrocarbon exploration and production company announced in late October that it had begun extracting natural gas from Karish, located off the coast of Haifa. At the time, Energean described the development as a significant milestone in promoting a vision of a competitive Israeli gas market and increasing the country's energy security and independence.

A day later, Israeli and Lebanese leaders formalized a United States-mediated agreement that demarcates the maritime border between the two enemy states. **HW** 

#### **OBITUARIES**



James Edward Wise

James Edward Wise, 90, of Memphis, Tenn., passed away peacefully on November 4, 2022. He is survived by numerous cousins and close friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Sol and Naomi Wise. Ed was born and raised in Sumner, Miss. He graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1953, and from law school at Vanderbilt University in 1956. After law school, Ed served in the United States Navy from May 1956 until December 1959. His service took him from San Diego to the Mediterranean. In the Navy, Ed gained a lifetime appreciation for travel and a love for the many cultures where he

Following his military service, Ed worked as a trial attorney for the National Labor Relations Board in Tampa, Fla. In 1965, Ed returned to the midsouth to join the general practice law firm later known as Armstrong Allen. His practice focused exclusively on representing management in labor and employment relations matters. He was an accomplished labor negotiator and a trusted advisor on employment issues to management teams across the region.

In 1996, Ed and several colleagues left Armstrong Allen to join others and form a regional labor and employment law firm known as Kiesewetter Wise Kaplan Schwimmer & Prather. He continued with Kiesewetter Wise until it became part of the international labor and employment practice of Littler Mendelson in 2012. Ed retired from Littler and the active practice of law in 2016. He was respected and beloved by the many lawyers who practiced with him. Even after retirement, Ed continued to mentor and share his expertise with those who entered the field.

Edward, a true Southern Gentleman, loved good food, good drinks and good company. He was an accomplished cook and food and wine critic. He was known for gathering friends and family for all special occasions. He never missed a family event and took great pride in having his family gather from all over the country for a celebration. Ed traveled the world, often with friends and his cousins. He brought those travels home, sharing stories of his travels. Ed had a kind of magic that drew the listener into every conversation, whether it be about legal precedents or faraway lands. He was simply an excellent storyteller.

The family would like to share a special thanks to his wonderful, longtime caregivers Evelyn Allen, Raymond Buring and Annie Hill, and all of the other Comfort Keeper caregivers for their love, kindness and outstanding care in his last years.

A burial took place in Clarksdale, Miss. on November 5. A memorial service was held at Temple Israel on Monday, Nov. 6, 2022. Donations in his memory can be sent to Temple Israel or to the Church Health Center. **HW** 



PAGE 8 | NOVEMBER 17, 2022 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

# Inflation Protection for Investment Dollars

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

For the 12-month period ending in June 2022, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) – the most widely used measure of inflation – increased 9.1%, the fastest pace in more than 40 years.¹ The rate may trend downward as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates and supply-chain issues improve. But inflation is likely to be relatively high for some time.

High inflation not only hits consumers in the pocketbook for current spending, it also has a negative impact on the future purchasing power of fixed-income investments. For example, a hypothetical investment earning 5% annually would have a real return of -2.5% during a period of 7.5% annual inflation. This rate of return might be further reduced by taxes.

One way to help hedge your bond portfolio against inflation is by investing in Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS).

#### **How TIPS Fight Inflation**

**WELLS** 

FARGO

The principal value of TIPS is automatically adjusted twice a year to match any increases or decreases in the Consumer Price Index. If the CPI-U moves up or down, the Treasury recalculates your principal to reflect the change.

A fixed rate of interest is paid twice a year based on the current principal, so the amount of interest may also fluctuate. Thus, you are trading the certainty of knowing exactly how much interest you'll receive for the assurance that your investment will maintain its purchasing power over time.

Like all Treasury securities, TIPS are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest. If you hold TIPS to maturity, you will receive the greater of the inflation-adjusted principal or the amount of your original investment.

#### **Pricing-In Protection**

TIPS pay lower interest rates than equivalent Treasury securities that don't adjust for inflation. The breakeven inflation rate is the difference between the yield of TIPS and nominal (non-inflation-protected) Treasury securities with similar maturities. It is the premium the investor pays for inflation protection, as well as a market-based measure of expected inflation.

If inflation runs higher than expected, TIPS will earn a better return than nominal Treasury securities. If inflation runs below the breakeven rate, then TIPS have no clear advantage. However, the increased principal due to any level of

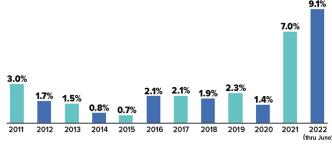
inflation can still add to the value of your portfolio.

In some situations, TIPS can have negative interest rates that might produce a positive return after the principal is increased for inflation. For example, if a five-year TIPS offers a return of -0.5% while a five-year Treasury note offers a return of 2.5%, the 3% difference between these rates is the breakeven inflation rate. If inflation were to run at 4% over the five-year period, the TIPS would return 3.5% (4%-0.5%) after adjustments for inflation, 1% higher than the return on the Treasury note.

#### **Eroding Purchasing Power**

After an extended period of low inflation, consumer prices spiked in 2021 and 2022 due to supply and demand imbalances as the U.S. economy reopened.

#### Consumer Price Index 12-month percentage change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022

TIPS are sold in \$100 increments and are available in maturities of 5, 10, and 30 years. As with all bonds, the return and principal value of TIPS on the secondary market will vary with market conditions, are sensitive to movements in interest rates, and may be worth more or less than their original cost. When interest rates rise, the value of existing TIPS will typically fall on the secondary market. Changing rates and secondary-market values should not affect the principal of TIPS held to maturity.

You must pay federal income tax each year on the interest income from TIPS plus any increase in principal, even though you won't receive the principal and interest until the bonds mature. For this reason, investors might consider holding TIPS in a tax-deferred account such as an IRA.

1) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022

2) This hypothetical example of mathematical principles is used for illustrative purposes only. Rates of return will vary over time, particularly for long-term investments. Actual results will vary.

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#### Commentary

# Jewish Wisdom is Also Jewish Power

By David Suissa

This originally appeared on Jewish Journal. jewishjournal.com

What is the mainstream expression of Jewish power? When superstars with millions of followers like Kanye West and Kyrie Irving exhibit antisemitic behavior, more often than not, it revolves around a sinister view of Jewish power. Jews are the bosses. They own the record labels, the movie studios and the sports teams. They run the world.

These stereotypes are not just sinister and antisemitic, they are also insultingly materialistic. They overlook a whole other view of Jewish power, one that has little to do with material wealth and everything to do with Jewish wisdom and universal values.

When Judaism teaches, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor" and that all of God's children are "created in the image of God," there is a special ethical power in those ideas, the kind of power that moves our hearts.

When Jews helped found some of our most important civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), that

also was Jewish power.

When, between 1910 and 1940, more than 2,000 primary and secondary schools and 20 Black colleges were established in whole or in part by Jewish philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, that also was Jewish power.

When Jews made up half of the young people who participated in the Mississippi Freedom Summer in 1964, and Jewish leaders were arrested with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. after a challenge to racial segregation, that also was Jewish power.

The power of Jewish wisdom during the era of racial upheaval was perhaps most evident when Rabbi Joachim Prinz spoke right before King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the Washington Mall in 1963. In front of one of the largest civil rights marches in our country's history, Prinz started by saying, "I speak to you as an American Jew."

Then, with brevity worthy of an Abraham Lincoln address, he shared the universal wisdom of his tradition:

"We share the profound concern of millions of people about the shame and disgrace of inequality and injustice which make a mockery of the great American idea.

"As Jews we bring to this great demonstration, in which thousands of us proudly participate, a two-fold experience – one of the spirit and one of our history.

"In the realm of the spirit, our fathers taught us thousands of years ago that when God created man, he created him as everybody's neighbor. Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept. It means our collective responsibility for the preservation of man's dignity and integrity.

"From our Jewish historic experience of three and a half thousand years we say:

"Our ancient history began with slavery and the yearning for freedom. During the Middle Ages my people lived for a thousand years in the ghettos of Europe. Our modern history begins with a proclamation of emancipation.

"It is for these reasons that it is not merely sympathy and compassion for the black people of America that motivates us. It is above all and beyond all such sympathies and emotions a sense of complete identification and solidarity born of our own painful historic experience." There is a profound, elevating power in those words and in the actions so many American Jews have taken to live up to them.

That's why it saddens me that this humanistic view of "Jewish power" gets totally lost in the modern media circus when power is measured in dollars and clicks, rather than values and wisdom.

I saw parts of the documentary, "Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America!" that Kyrie Irving posted on Twitter and that triggered his downward spiral. I saw in the film the demonizing of Jews and outrageous lies denying both Jewish biblical history and the Hologaust

Someone should encourage Irving and West to watch another film: Rabbi Prinz's heartfelt solidarity speech from the 1963 march. These two megastars both say they want to share their "light" with the world and seek a higher level of understanding. They can start by learning more about a deeper power that is anything but sinister – the one rooted in the universal wisdom of the Jewish tradition.

Then they can tweet Rabbi Prinz's speech to their millions of followers. **HW** 

# New Mexico's Cash-Strapped, Lawsuit-Plagued Jewish Federation Announces Closure



The building housing the Jewish Community Center of Greater Albuquerque and the Jewish Federation of New Mexico Credit: JCC By Asaf Elia-Shalev

(JTA) – After a series of bitter legal and boardroom battles within the Jewish Federation of New Mexico over the past two years, the 75-year-old community organization announced last Friday that it has collapsed under the weight of the discord and will shut down.

"The main task we face is an orderly shutdown of the organization," the federation's newly chosen president, Robert Efroymson, announced in an email sent out to the community.

Confirming previous reporting by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Efroymson said the federation's budget and programs have all but ceased to exist.

"We are almost out of money," he wrote. "We have no employees. Critical insurance has been canceled. We cannot fulfill the purposes for which the organization was founded."

In New Mexico, as with every state or metropolitan area served by one of the 146 Jewish federations in North America, the organization operated as a critical convener of Jewish life and distributed charitable donations to an array of local causes.

A program supporting local Holocaust survivors is now under the management of the local Jewish community center, said Efroymson, adding that the Hillel chapter at the University of New Mexico, previously a major grantee of the federation, is accepting donations directly.

Efroymson appeared to rule out the possibility of rebuilding the federation from scratch. He said the federation has

been hobbled by unspecified actions taken by previous leaders, including the federation's former executive director Rob Lennick, who has since been hired as the head of the Jewish Federation of Volusia and Flagler Counties in Florida.

"Decisions made by the prior leadership of the organization have placed us in a very poor position," Efroymson wrote.

He vowed to detail which decisions and how they contributed to this moment once the federation's new board has completed a probe into the matter.

"I would like to say more about how we came to this pass," he wrote. "The truth is that there is much we still don't know. One of the chief tasks the board has undertaken is to conduct an independent accounting review so we can report to the community what has happened."

Lennick, who was ordained as Reform rabbi, is not a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the professional association for rabbis of Reform Judaism, according to a spokesperson for CCAR.

In March, JTA revealed that two employees had sued the federation alleging misconduct by Lennick, and that about half the board resigned following a related alleged breach of trust by the federation's executive committee, with an additional four board members staying on only [to] seek redress by taking matters to court.

Responding to a request for comment, Eric Fingerhut, president and CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America, wrote in a statement, "We are saddened by the situation that led the Jewish Federation of New Mexico to make this decision, but believe it was the correct choice under the circumstance. More importantly, we commit that we will do everything we can in partnership with the Jewish community there to re-

build the kind of Federation they need and deserve so that their community can flourish."

A JFNA spokesperson added that his organization, the national umbrella group for all Jewish federations, worked locally to help maintain continuity for as many "core programs" as possible. HW

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PAGE 10 | NOVEMBER 17, 2022 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

# The Holiday Inn's First Night Clerk



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

If the modern hotel had a father beside necessity, it was Kemmons Wilson. Before this visionary there were roadside cabins: after his first Holiday Inn in Memphis, there were motels. His death this month (Feb. 12, 2003) reminded me that if I'm ever voted into the Business Hall of Fame – I'll look heavenward as I stride to the podium for my acceptance speech – and silently thank Mr. Wilson. He trusted me enough to employ me as night clerk – at that first Holiday Inn in Memphis. His first motel and my first job.

As a new husband, father, and Memphis State student, I had some heavy fiscal responsibilities. I needed a part-time job. And what could be more convenient than that shiny, new motel around the corner only a few blocks from our home.

It wasn't the usual roadside clump of cabins. The U-shaped structure, containing roughly 80 rooms, carried the brash title of Holiday Inn and the interviewer – my subsequent boss – was a gentleman named Kemmons Wilson. I had stumbled into the world's first Holiday Inn. And I was the night clerk at fifty cents an hour.

I bore heavy responsibilities for my

wages, since I was clearly instructed by management – Kemmons and his mama – on the protocol of renting rooms. His mama, I recall, actively participated in the interview.

There were rules. First and foremost, there had to be luggage. And identification had to be shown. Rejected merrymakers were to be told about the aged and weedy Bide-a-Wee cottages down the street on Summer Ave.

I was in charge – particularly from 10 p.m. on, when Mama went home. According to my instructions, anybody breathing hard or without luggage was suspect. I turned many a lover out into the storm. And I never rented a room to a thin, little overnight case. It was a heady position for a 22-year-old. I felt like Old Judge Bean in Tombstone. I was the motel law east of the Mississippi.

It was a perfect job for a student who needed three hours for homework every night, since I was seldom interrupted after 10 o'clock except by "immoral" couples. As I said, I shooed them away and went back to my English Lit text, which didn't say a word about Romeo and Juliet or Marguerite and Faust needing a hotel room. Even Heathcliff and whatshername in Wuthering Heights (I got a C on the test) were happy in the heather. Why'd these love-hungry homeless keep bothering me?

Anyhow, Kemmons and his mama were happy with their occupancy rate and their G-d fearing clerk. Besides moral delicacy, the job called for a certain tact in dealing with customer preferences. That's why he paid me fifty cents an hour. When smartacres, noticing the loud traffic on Summer Ave asked for a room "in back," I smiled and put them in the last row of rooms – about 15 feet from the L&N railroad tracks that rattled by at 65 miles per hour.

I'm afraid I wasn't the world's greatest clerk. Here I am trying to understand Beowolf – test tomorrow, first period – as some homeless tourist and his wife (maybe, maybe not) bothered me about renting a room. I had to put down my Beowolf, fill out the form, and consider the tradeoff between freight train and automotive traffic. Beowolf would have eaten both of them on the spot.

But fate beckoned. I was offered a better paying job – a few cents more an hour. I forget exactly how much; but considering that only a nickel an hour increase was a 10 percent raise, it was instant elevation to a new socioeconomic class – a concept I had learned about in my Sociology 101 course.

So, one night as the three of us sat around the office, I cleared my throat and announced that I had a better offer. Kemmons answered this threat to his infant empire by reciting the title song of the musical Annie – "The sun will come out tomorrow" – or words to that effect.

His point was that this was only the first of many family-friendly motels. To-morrow there'd be Holiday Inns all over Memphis and even Mississippi. This was the ground floor of a skyscraper and a sharp young guy, who could smile at customers and appraise luggage, was

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bound for the penthouse.

It's been 50 years since that conversation, but I definitely recall his ambitious plans. Tomorrow the world, but today the same fifty cents an hour. Kemmons, with Mama nodding in the background, urged me to stay. Not me, I grabbed that ten percent increase.

I often think back to those nights when Mama Wilson and I presided over the desk at the first Holiday Inn in Memphis. If only I had listened to Kemmons Wilson, I thought. I'll bet by now I¹d have enough bucks to retire on lobster and champagne and Winters on the Costa de Sol.

Of course, you never know I might be the oldest night clerk in the Holiday Inn chain – east of the Mississippi.

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

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# Insights From Israel Israel Moves Right; Is it Right for the State?

By Howard Weisband

When the late Menachem Begin, representing the right wing Likud party and a former leader of the pre-State Irgun, was first elected as Israel's sixth Prime Minister, an office that from 1948 until 1977 had been occupied by leaders of the left leaning Labor party, television and media sources literally screamed "Mapeicha" (Revolution).

That was a revolution in the ballot box, a sign of Israel's vibrant democracy at work. Voters rejected Labor's excuses for the blows taken in the Yom Kippur War some three-plus years earlier, and Begin wisely aimed his campaign to bring out the vote among the Sephardi and Mizrachi communities who had been somewhat disenfranchised during years of Labor leadership.\*

Swing back to our November 1 election results.

Dennis Ross and David Makovsky, both pro-Israel and liberal activists, opened their opinion piece in the *Times of Israel* by writing: "Following Israel's fifth election in less than four years, Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, is poised to return to that office again. Even if divided, the country has clearly moved to the right...

The move to the right and specifically these election results should not be a surprise to anyone. Clearly, the Israeli electorate has been pushed toward the right going back as far as the outright failure of the 1993 Oslo Accords. The earlier national successes of peace trea-

ties with Egypt and Jordan, and the invaluable recent Abraham Accords, have not outweighed the personal insecurities of a consistent barrage of rockets from the Hamas-led Gaza strip, and threats from Hizbullah in the north, all backed, armed, and funded by Iran.

Even more threatening to daily life has been the latest upsurge in terrorist attacks inside Israel and crime inside the Arab communities. Thus, it is not surprising whatsoever that Israeli voters supported those who called for greater security measures.

Add to that an observation in the JNS by Lenny Ben-David, previously long-time AIPAC activist and former Israeli diplomat in Washington: "Frankly, most Israeli voters don't care about how American Jews or politicians feel about their political choices. Indeed, some American policies and demands may have pushed voters towards the right. For example, the U.S. alliance with Iran is considered a threat to Israel. The administration, progressive Democrats and J Street still push for diplomacy with Iran and the restoration of the JCPOA - the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Benjamin Netanyahu has earned his reputation as a staunch opponent of the ayatollahs."

Yet pundits across the political spectrum are having a field day. My own reading of multiple articles emanating from both Israel and the U.S. has produced a bevy of frightening descriptive

terms (in alphabetical order): adventurist, consequences, disaster, disavow, doomsday, doomsayers, extremism, indefensible, irresponsible, precarious, provocative, racism, reverberations, toxic, threatens, traumatic and undermines.

My last column focused on the need for a strong political center; I still believe in that governing concept. Israeli Prime Ministers, including Begin, Rabin, Sharon, Netanyahu, Bennett and Lapid, by and large have established coalitions with centrist positions. Given the factors mentioned above and the current election results, Bibi will be more challenged this time to lead a coalition from the center.

Ross and Makovsky noted: "Yes, Netanyahu is in a position to form a government, and his speech on election night was far more conciliatory than his campaign posture. But he does not face a simple choice. His clearest path to government formation depends on forging a narrow right-wing coalition. Such a government would not only depend on making Ben Gvir and Smotrich senior ministers but permit them to hold the balance of power in the government."

That was countered by Elliott Abrams, a pro-Israel, conservative activist, who wrote as a senior fellow at the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations: "But the critics on the left here have gone well over the line in their comments and predictions. For one thing, Netanyahu is a known quantity as prime minister... His

party is by far the largest in his coalition and as his long record shows he is (quite) canny a politician... It is not at all to be assumed that the government will be under the thumb of Ben Gvir and or Smotrich..."

It is often said that politics is about leadership, power and the art of compromise.

The new Israeli Government, soon to be formed, will be determined by each of those elements.

\* In terms of the Israel-Diaspora relationship, Jewish Federation leaders will remember that it was Menachem Begin who announced the creation of Project Renewal, a unique program linking Jewish communities abroad to urban revitalization in the very neighborhoods where so many of the Likud supporters lived. Election payback, yes, but a very real social need and equalizer. Begin's announcement came in the Knesset's Chagall Hall during the 1977 UJA Prime Minister's Mission in which a few of us from Memphis participated.

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





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# DRAMING 10.7.22 to 1.9.23 THE CURTAIN

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**Exhibition Programming** 

### **Maurice Sendak's Second Career**

Lecture by Dr. Rachel Federman, Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Drawings at the Morgan Library & Museum

Saturday, October 8 | 2pm

### **Homeschool Day**

Art-making activities in the studio Guided tours at 10:45am & 11:30am

Thursday, October 20 | 10am – 1pm Free admission to all school students

# A Quest for the Magic Flute

A musical journey with Opera Memphis at the Brooks Saturday, November 5 | 10am - 12pm

All events free for members

brooksmuseum.org

### **Storytelling through Costume & Set Design**

Panel Discussion

Wednesday, November 16 | 6:30pm

### Wild Holiday Rumpus

A holiday party at the Brooks with art-making, cookie decorating, live performances, Sendak's Nutcracker film screening, and more

Saturday, December 3 | 2 -5pm

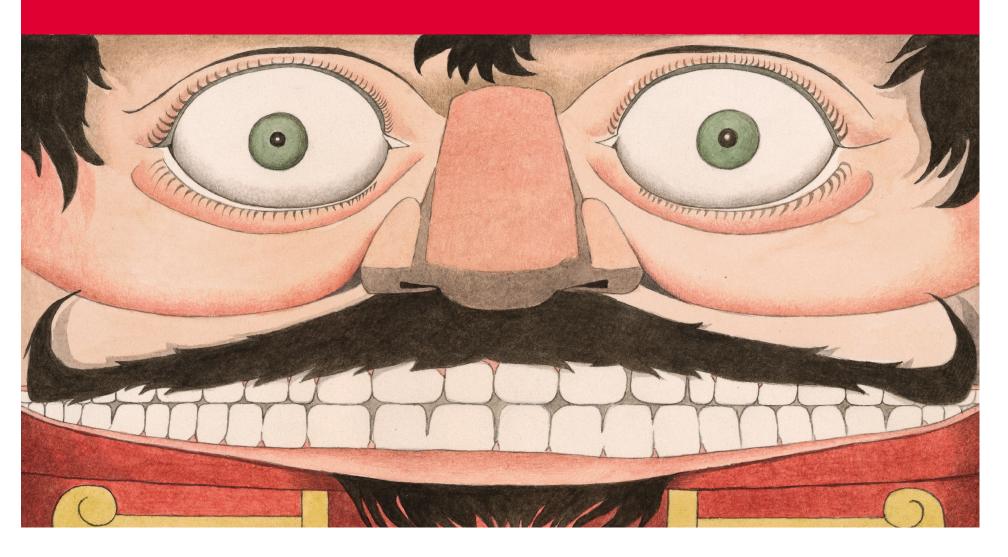
## Where the Wild Things Are

A film by Spike Jonze

Saturday, January 7 | 2pm

Sendak, Maurice. Design for show curtain from Nutcracker (No. 116). 1979-83 Credit line: The Morgan Library & Museum, Bequest of Maurice Sendak, 2013.103:58e.





PAGE 12 | NOVEMBER 17, 2022 THE HEBREW WATCHMAN | hebrewwatchman.com

## Celebrating Chany and David Fleischhacker at Gala Dinner Event



Chany and David Fleischhacker

#### By Shoshana Cenker

Baron Hirsch Congregation and the greater Memphis Jewish community is preparing for a bittersweet occasion – saying goodbye to a pivotal couple: Chany and David Fleischhacker. With their three adult children living in Israel and New York, the Fleischhackers will be embarking on their lifelong dream of making aliyah in 2023.

To offer a proper send off for these incredible folks, Baron Hirsch is honoring the Fleischhackers in a beautiful cocktail attire gala dinner celebration on Sunday evening, Nov. 20. Plans include a reception, dinner, video tribute, online journal and remarks for this special event.

Together, the couple has provided decades of service to the Memphis Jewish community – most notably, David as the executive director of Baron Hirsch since 2003, and Chany as a pre-school and art teacher at Margolin Hebrew Academy.

Though there are countless highlights from being so involved in the Memphis Jewish community for the past 20 years, David, a native Memphian, notes that the "Memphis Jewish community is more united than most," and points to the remarkable relationships he's built with Baron Hirsch's clergy and congregants, plus other community members and leaders. While Chany added that "so much is special about this community," including being "such a wonderful place to raise children," she added that celebrating chaggim (holidays) and life events here in Memphis has been exceptionally heartwarming.

The Fleischhackers actually delayed their journey to Israel for quite a while, with the charm and uniqueness of our amazing community keeping them here. Although they're leaving Memphis, Memphis will never leave them, as they'll take all their phenomenal memories and experiences with them.

They will certainly be greatly missed. Please consider joining Baron Hirsch in recognizing this terrific couple on Nov. 20. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Stay tuned for a complete follow-up of the lovely celebration in an upcoming The Hebrew Watchman issue.

Reservations, sponsorships and ad submissions are still being accepted: wizevents.com/BaronHirsch2022 901.683.7485. HW

# 400 After Criticism, Taylor Swift Adds Orthodox-Friendly Dates to Her Upcoming Tour



Taylor Swift greets fans before a conversation at the Toronto International Film Festival, Sept. 9, 2022.

#### Credit: Wesley Lapointe/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

#### By Caleb Guedes-Reed

(JTA) - "You're On Your Own, Kid," isn't just the name of a track on Taylor Swift's newest album - the phrase describes the way many of the pop star's Jewish fans were feeling after she released the dates for her upcoming tour.

This week, Shabbat-observant Swifties voiced their disappointment with the dates, which were all slated for during or just after the end of the Jewish Sabbath, on Friday or Saturday nights. (There was one scheduled for April 2, a Sunday, in Arlington, Texas.)

In response, Swift added eight more shows to the U.S. leg of her tour last Friday, all on weeknights, in cities such as Philadelphia, Seattle and Los Angeles. Many applauded the additions.

Swift's "Midnights" album sold over a million copies in its first week, and she is now tied with Barbra Streisand as the female artist with the most albums to top the Billboard chart. The singer will take the Jewish Haim sisters, who feature in the music video for Swift's song "Bejeweled," along for part of the tour. HW



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