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THE Hebrew Watchman

SERVING THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE 1925

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U.S. Needs ‘Serious Negotiators’ to Normalize Israel-Saudi Ties, Experts Say



U.S. President Joe Biden boards Air Force One for Saudi Arabia after a farewell ceremony in his honor at Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv on July 15, 2022. Credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90.

By Benjamin Weinthal

(JNS) – The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s request that the United States provide the Sunni Gulf country with iron-clad security guarantees and civilian nuclear aid in exchange for normalizing relations with Israel is casting a new light on Washington’s ability to secure a tangible Mideast foreign policy victory.

Critics of U.S. President Joe Biden’s Middle East policy see a lack of focus on advancing the negotiations between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Richard Grenell, who served as Acting Director of U.S. Intelligence during the Trump administration, told JNS, “We should continue talking to Saudi Arabia about normalizing relations with Israel. I would hope the Biden administration is exploring every possible conversation. While these can be difficult conversations sometimes, there should be an urgency to peace talks. It

is concerning that the State Department doesn’t have serious negotiators at the top. In fact, the White House is clearly shoving Secretary [of State Antony] Blinken aside, so they must realize he isn’t up to the job.”

Michael Rubin, a Middle East expert at the American Enterprise Institute, told JNS that “what makes Biden’s team more irrational is that there is precedent for what Riyadh asks. In 2004, George W. Bush proposed a Global Nuclear Energy Partnership to help countries like Saudi Arabia tap nuclear technology for energy production in a controlled, more proliferation-proof way. Riyadh isn’t asking for something new; it is asking for something that was on the table two decades ago.”

Rubin, who has written extensively about American negotiations in the Mideast, added, “As for security guar-

antees, wasn’t it Hillary Clinton who once offered to extend a nuclear umbrella across the region should Iran go nuclear? Once again, we’ve got to stop throwing our allies under the bus. Why the White House would expect Saudi Arabia to answer any of its calls when Biden, Blinken, and [National Security Advisor Jake] Sullivan treat the kingdom the way their vegan friends treat meat is beyond me.”

According to critics like Mike Doran, a senior fellow at the Washington D.C.-based Hudson Institute, the Obama administration favored a policy that sought to create a new Mideast paradigm, pivoting the United States toward the Shi’ite Islamic Republic of Iran at the expense of traditional U.S. Sunni allies such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – the formal name for the Iran nuclear deal – was considered the crowning achievement of Obama’s foreign policy agenda. The JCPOA provided Iran’s regime with over \$100 billion in sanctions relief, as well as temporary restrictions on its nuclear program. The Trump administration withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, citing what it claimed were deficiencies in the agreement, such as its failure to impose a permanent ban on Tehran’s capability to build a nuclear bomb.

“Biden’s team is neither realistic nor rational on this issue,” said Rubin. “Maybe the White House believes its own spin about the JCPOA, but everyone in the region sees it for what it is: laundering decades of Iranian cheating on its nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations. Leaving Iran with an industrial-scale program is seen throughout the region as blessing Iranian prolifera-

tion,” he added.

Saudi Arabia is following the lead of other Sunni Arab countries in its effort to secure concessions from Washington to boost its security in exchange for a regional peace agreement. The Trump administration recognized Western Sahara as Moroccan territory, leading the North African nation to normalize relations with Israel. Trump’s State Department also de-listed Sudan as a state-sponsor of terrorism, paving the way for diplomatic relations between Israel and Khartoum.

The Saudi monarchy’s acute anxiety regarding America and Europe was the subject of Saudi journalist ‘Abdallah bin Bjad Al-‘Otaibi’s March 12 column in the Saudi “Al-Sharq Al-Awsat” daily. The Middle East Media Research Institute translated significant parts of the column, that was written after China negotiated the rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

“For all of modern history, the senior allies of the Arab Gulf countries were the Western countries, America and Europe. For four decades these countries did nothing to protect the security of the Arab Gulf countries from the ongoing and constant Iranian threat; in fact, they are not prepared to do anything in this matter,” wrote the Saudi journalist.

“They signed a nuclear agreement with Iran, about which the Gulf states and the relevant Arab countries were not consulted, and did not consider these countries’ priorities or security. Furthermore, the policy they implement is reminiscent more of fawning, and the Western political apparatus has become a failure and ineffectual in dealing with Iran. There was no option but to seek a replacement for [the West]. And then along came China.” **HW**

Palestinians See U.S. Aid as ‘Opportunity to Promote Terrorism’



Terrorists from Fatah’s Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades march in a “military” parade in the Balata camp on the outskirts of Nablus, March 4, 2023. Credit: Nasser Ishtayeh/Flash90.

By Ariel Kahana

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – An Israeli nonprofit that studies Palestinian society has found a troubling possible linkage between U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority and the scope of terrorist attacks against Israelis.

Palestinian Media Watch released a study this week that analyzed statistics taken from periodic reports published by the U.S. Congressional Research Service, from 2011 (the year the nonprofit exposed the P.A.’s terror-rewarding pay-for-slay policy) through 2022.

It found that when aid to the P.A. dropped, such as during the Trump administration, attacks against Israelis also decreased. However, when such aid

was high, such as during the Obama and Biden administrations, more Israelis were killed.

There are three sources of U.S. aid to the P.A.: the Economic Support Fund, the Bureau of International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Affairs, and U.S. aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Between 2009 and 2017, the Obama administration provided the P.A. with \$6.4 billion in aid. In that time, 140 Israelis and foreigners residing in Israel were killed in terrorist attacks, an aver-

(See **Terrorism** Page 4)

My Teen Israel Experience



Yehuda (left) and friends at the Kotel

Yehuda Kahn, son of Dr. Yosef and Talia Kahn, is a junior at the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys. Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund provided him with a Teen Israel Experience grant to help offset the cost of his NCSY Kollel Israel trip last summer. All rising high school juniors and seniors in the Memphis Jewish community are eligible for grants up to \$3,000 to attend a recognized teen summer or semester program in Israel. Applications for Summer 2023 are now available online. To learn more and apply, please go to: www.jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund

By Yehuda Kahn

I spent this past summer in Israel attending NCSY Kollel and had an amazing Israel experience. It is a beautiful culture with so many amazing landmarks. Israel is a great country for hiking because everything is so close together due to it being such a small country. During my trip, I went on many different hikes, such as the one in Ein Gedi, which was a beautiful water hike. Every 50 feet or so there is another lake that we would jump into, and it would be so refreshing.

Every Friday, the campers would all drive to the Machane Yehuda shuk (market) in Jerusalem. The kosher options were phenomenal. Food that is typically difficult to find kosher in Memphis, such as falafel, shawarma, and pizza, were readily available on the trip, which made it even more enjoyable. Israel is impressive since many American chains opened up in Jerusalem in a kosher version. Pizza Hut or Big Apple Pizza are just some examples. I am sure some of you have heard about the famous Marzipan Bakery in the shuk. If you are ever in Jerusalem, you should try to go to the Marzipan Bakery and purchase some of their famous rugelach. There is no

rugelach in America that compares to Marzipan rugelach in Israel.

Every week there was one big tiyul (journey). Some of the tiyulim were hikes in great scenic sites, and others were attractions like the visit to the Blind Museum in Holon. Also, we met great Rabbis and visited a great Rabbi's grave. Every day the campers went on one or two mini tiyulim to either the mall or to the Kotel or to some fun exciting place.

NCSY Kollel took us to the Kotel many times and it was an indescribable, beautiful and a very spiritual experience.

The learning in NCSY Kollel was amazing. I was in an amazing shiur (lesson) with a truly knowledgeable rabbi. We also had chaburas (small groups studying Torah) of about four to five kids with one madrich (counselor). In chaburas we would learn and do fun activities together. Every time the whole camp goes somewhere, chaburas stayed together. My madrich was amazing and really taught us a lot and made the experience a lot better.

In NCSY Kollel I made many new friends and met amazing people throughout the entire six weeks. The kids that you are around determine how good the experience in Israel is going to be. Many nights I played pickup basketball with friends and would go to the canteen afterwards. We also had basketball leagues with about eight people on each team and 48 teams, which encouraged everyone to play basketball and have a blast. I had an amazing team and we played very well together and made it all the way to the semifinals.

I thoroughly enjoyed my fun and spiritual Israel experience this summer. Thank you to Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund for helping to make my NCSY Kollel trip possible. **HW**

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

Office: 901.763.2215
Direct: 901.827.7244

info@hebrewwatchman.com

Susan C. Nieman
Editor and Publisher

Larry Nieman
Advertising Sales Director

Toni Nieman
Office Manager

Rebecca Miller
Social Media Director
Web Development

Herman I. Goldberger
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Obituaries
901.763.2215
info@hebrewwatchman.com

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

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AJC’s Memphis Visit and Antisemitism Report

By Shoshana Cenker

The American Jewish Congress (AJC) recently released its 2022 State of Antisemitism in America report – unfortunately yet unsurprisingly, it’s troubling news. According to the global Jewish advocacy organization’s website, the annual report “assesses and compares Jewish and general population perceptions of and experiences with antisemitism in the United States. Based on one of the largest-ever combined national surveys of American Jews and the U.S. general public, the report demonstrates the deeply disturbing impact that rising hatred of Jews has on America’s Jewish community.”

Surveys were conducted in the fall of 2022, and the report comes just two months after the White House announced it’s creating a federal inter-agency group to develop a national strategy to combat antisemitism.

The report covered topics including Jewish sense of safety, campus antisemitism, workplace antisemitism, increasing familiarity with the term antisemitism, general population views on Israel, BDS, and Holocaust knowledge, and more.

Here are some key data points and takeaways:

- 41% of Jewish respondents consider the status of Jews in the U.S. less secure than a year ago, up from AJC’s 2021 report of 31%
- 9 in 10 of both American Jews (89%) and the U.S. general public (91%) agree

antisemitism affects American society as a whole

- 48% of Jews and 34% of the general population believe antisemitism is taken less seriously than other forms of hate and bigotry
- 69% of U.S. Jews experienced antisemitism online, either as a target or by seeing antisemitic content, in the past 12 months; younger Jews were more likely to have experienced antisemitism this way – 85% of those 18–29 years old compared with 64% of those aged 30 or older
- 1 in 4 Jews (26%) was the target of antisemitism in 2022
- nearly 7 in 10 U.S. adults (69%) say they’ve heard the term antisemitism and know what it means, while 22% have heard the term but are unsure of its meaning

Ahead of the report’s release, Dov Wilker, AJC’s Southern regional director, visited Memphis last month to provide training to Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF) and Jewish Community Partners (JCP) about how to speak about antisemitism. “I try to stay connected with Jewish communities across the seven Southern states and increase exposure to AJC as the premier and valuable organization it is,” explained Dov over our Zoom call. “AJC’s work complements work being done in Memphis. We even have Memphians on AJC’s board.”

“Dov’s training was very informative and helpful to community leaders

who are on the ground, hearing about antisemitic rhetoric and incidents from their congregants, constituents, and students,” said Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, MJF executive vice president & JCP chief impact officer. “It was also helpful to members of Federation’s Community Relations Council, who are working on developing multilayered strategies to take action against this rising scourge.”

Dov discussed several topics in our conversation about the AJC’s work, one of which was strong ties between Black and Jewish communities. “We need an understanding of our national history. And Memphis has a unique role, in part, because of the City’s two Jewish members of Congress – Rep. Steve Cohen and Rep. David Kustoff – with whom the AJC has important conversations, along with other local leaders,” explained Dov. “We can start at the turn of the 20th century with the founding of the NAACP, the Rosenwald School project, the Civil Rights Movement with Jewish support, and then challenges as leadership changed, with Zionism perceived by some as reverse racism. Black and Jewish relations dipped down in the 80s through the early 2000s, with limited exposure to each other as communities evolved; the changing face of Jewish advocacy for Israel; and how we connect with Black communities as some support Palestinians.”

The AJC has a continued interest in

fueling Jewish-Black relations, as well as the big challenge of understanding the important role Black Jews play in mainstream Jewish communities.

“They’re not as prominent as they should be, and we have the responsibility to ensure those voices are heard as part of this conversation,” Dov added. “The AJC also helps foster the Congressional Caucus on Black-Jewish Relations, including working on Black communities’ antisemitic attitude and creating programming of our shared history.”

Of course, we also covered antisemitism trends. Dov had recently spoken to eighth graders at a temple in Atlanta. When asked if they’d experienced antisemitism, “every single child had an experience – whether it was in public or private, or if they live in the city and suburbs – young people are experiencing antisemitism in a way older people haven’t,” he said. “It’s almost like a generation of people, ages 30–55, ‘missed out’ on antisemitism, living in a time with positive relations and feelings toward the Jewish people. Young people are now dealing with it. But students aren’t necessarily telling people, because they’re concerned about how it’s received when they do tell and how leadership, in general, is responding to issues. And, students are exhausted talking about it and dealing with it; they want to live their lives and move on. So, we’re being challenged by that and the traditional antisemitic tropes. Bring Israel into the mix and it’s a whole other ball game – how kids understand the challenges of Israel, the narratives against Israel – in the kids’ world, it’s changing behavior.”

So much so, in fact, that a survey has shown that 39% of people have changed their behavior out of fear of antisemitism. People don’t go to shul or don’t wear things that identify them as Jewish, like a yarmulka or Star of David necklace. And it’s impacted security, of course, with the State of Tennessee allocating \$487,000 for security at Jewish organizations.

“The Jewish community knows security is an issue, and awareness of our need helps us connect with elected officials and leadership to say we have a real and constant threat we’re dealing with,” Dov noted. “People don’t talk about the long-term trauma of needing armed security guards around or our appreciation for law enforcement. People feel both: We appreciate the security, and we’re also sad that we have to have it.”

As tensions in and about Israel continue rising in our increasingly polarized world, the AJC is committed to the nonpartisan nature of its work. “The AJC is a vehemently centrist nonpartisan organization, and we continue to advocate through a nonpartisan lens. Tennessee Senators Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty have met with AJC and are very supportive of Jewish communities. Even as politics in Israel challenge us in the U.S., as Israel celebrates the 125th anniversary of modern Zionism and prepares to celebrate its 75th anniversary, we need to remember that, ultimately, Israel is the safe haven of the Jewish people, welcoming thousands of Jews from around the world every year, and we need to ensure that members of Congress understand that,” Dov said. “Antisemitism is still an issue that needs to be addressed by everyone. If we’re not engaging on all sides of the political world, we’re doing a disservice.”

Read the AJC’s 2022 State of Antisemitism in America report at: www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2022 HW

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Terrorism...

(Continued From Page 1)
age of 17.5 a year.

Over the next four years, the Trump administration gradually decreased aid to the Palestinians to as little as \$670 million. Within that time period, 42 Israelis and foreigners were killed in Palestinian terrorist attacks, an average of 10.5 people a year.

Since the Biden administration took office in January 2021, the P.A. has received a billion dollars in aid. In that time, 46 Israelis and foreigners have been killed, an average of 23 a year. In January and February this year, when U.S. aid to the P.A. continued unabated, 14 Israelis and foreigners were killed in Palestinian terrorist attacks.

Maurice Hirsch, head of Legal Strat-

egies at Palestinian Media Watch, said, “The correlation is also annual. In a year when extensive economic aid to the Palestinians flows, the number of attacks increases, and vice versa. The Palestinians interpret American support, as far as it is expressed in financial aid, as approval for terrorism and the murder of Israelis.

“U.S. support is ostensibly dedicated to promoting peace, but in practice, the Palestinians see its support as an opportunity to promote terrorism. While U.S. aid to the Palestinians flows freely, Palestinian terrorists feel empowered and kill Israelis. Only when the U.S. demonstrates moral clarity and stops the aid, the Palestinians will understand that terrorism does not pay,” he said. **HW**

Israeli Political and Defense Brass Review Ukraine Policy



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leads a Likud Party meeting at the Knesset, March 13, 2023. Credit: Erik Marmor/Flash90.55

(JNS) – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a meeting last Tuesday to discuss military support for Ukraine as it fends off a Russian invasion now entering its second year.

Hebrew media reported that the premier was presented with a reexamination of Jerusalem’s policy toward the war, which Kyiv has criticized for not going far enough.

The Israeli government has countered this criticism by pointing out its security considerations, with Russia controlling much of the airspace in neighboring Syria, where Israel is attempting to counter Iranian entrenchment.

However, a senior official told “Walla! News” that an increasing number of senior officials in the defense and security establishments believe that Isra-

el should start providing more military aid to Kyiv, in ways that will not ramp up tensions with Moscow. For example indirectly, by transferring Israeli weapon systems to Ukraine via third countries.

Russia has warned Israel against supplying weapons to Ukraine.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi, Mossad Chief David Barnea, IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi, Foreign Ministry Director-General Ronen Levy, Netanyahu’s military secretary Avi Gil and others were present at the meeting.

The meeting came a day before Netanyahu’s scheduled departure for Berlin, where he was expected to meet with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz last Thursday for the first time since taking office following Israel’s Nov. 1 election.

Germany is another country that has received criticism for not providing enough military equipment to Ukraine. Under pressure from allies, Berlin in early February approved the delivery of 88 Leopard 1 tanks to Kyiv.

Military assistance to Ukraine is expected to be on the agenda during the meeting between Netanyahu and Scholz.

Israel has come under pressure from the United States and other Western allies to provide more military assistance to Ukraine, such as missile defense systems. **HW**

Groundbreaking Partnership Between Yeshiva University and Yad Vashem Combats Rise in Antisemitism through Increased Holocaust Education

Agreement Lays Groundwork for Resource Sharing and Teacher Training Initiatives

Raising to the great need for Holocaust awareness while countering the alarming increase in antisemitism and Holocaust denial in the U.S., a powerful alliance between two historic institutions – Yeshiva University’s (YU) Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center – promises to build innovative educational programs and initiatives on Holocaust studies.

The strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – signed by Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University and Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan – creates a framework for joint partnerships in curriculum building, resource sharing, educator training and event design. The agreement pledges that the two organizations will work collaboratively toward a shared goal of strengthening efforts to promote education and remembrance of the Holocaust and encourage the study of the Holocaust in schools, universities, communities and other institutions.

“Both Yeshiva University and Yad Vashem are global leaders in the field of Holocaust education, and the intention of this partnership is to amplify the impact of institutional resources during an unprecedented rise in antisemitism and decline in Holocaust literacy. We are excited to partner Yeshiva University’s world-class educators with Yad Vashem to help advance the mutual goal of increasing Holocaust awareness in America’s classrooms,” said Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University.

The signing of the MoU comes on the heels of The Fish Center’s development of an advanced certificate program designed to train middle and high school teachers to become skilled educators about the Holocaust. Recently approved by New York State, YU’s certificate program was developed to bridge the knowledge gap for the growing number of states who require some form of Holocaust and genocide studies programs in their middle and high school classrooms.

YU will bring rigorous education to these teachers, helping them spread awareness and foster understanding about the Holocaust where’s its need-

ed most, with America’s students. According to a 2020 study by the Claims Conference, and in which Yad Vashem experts were included on the Steering Committee, that covered the 50 states, New York is among those with the lowest Holocaust knowledge scores, with 58% of Millennials and Gen Z being unable to name a single concentration camp. The study also found that 60% of young people did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.

“Yad Vashem is committed to ensuring that the history of the Holocaust continues to be relevant today and for future generations and is not relegated to yet another chapter in human history,” said Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan. “This agreement with Yeshiva University provides the next generation of educators with the necessary tools and materials to address the topic of the Holocaust and engage young scholars in the need for further research into its multifaceted nature and relevance today. Yad Vashem hopes that this agreement with YU will continue to open opportunities in higher education in the United States and all over the world. It’s about reaching out to audiences around the world to ensure that the chronicles of this singular Jewish and human event reach every significant and relevant audience worldwide.”

Emil Fish, Holocaust survivor and founder of the Fish Center, reflected: “Since I came out of Bergen Belsen, the infamous Nazi concentration camp, in the summer of 1945, I promised myself that what my people, my family, and I had experienced must never happen again. And it never will, I do believe so, but only if we do all that is in our power to learn the lessons of history and educate the next generations. The partnership with a world-class international organization like Yad Vashem is exactly the kind of relationship that the Fish Center needs to form, and I am so proud of this achievement.”

For more information about this agreement and Holocaust education, please contact:

YU Contact: Hanan Eisenman, YU Director of Communications, 714-794-4288

Simmy Allen / Head, International Media Section/Yad Vashem / +972 2 644 3412 simmy.allen@yadvashem.org.il **HW**

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Young Israel Shares Purim Pizza with a Platoon of IDF Soldiers

By Rabbi Akiva Males

For me, one of the most rewarding aspects of being a congregational rabbi is being privileged to administer my Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (RDF). The RDF is a vital way for Young Israel (YI) to assist members of our local Jewish community – and even some in Israel – who at times can use a helping hand. The Purim season might be when the fund keeps me busiest – as many entrust the RDF with their special donations to be shared with those in need on Purim. I'm proud to say that thanks to the generosity of many donors, this past Purim, Young Israel's RDF was once again able to help lighten the burdens felt by many of our brothers and sisters.



IDF soldiers receiving Young Israel of Memphis' uplifting Purim gifts

This Purim, YI's RDF was also proud to engage in another uplifting project. For the seventh consecutive year, YI decided that Purim would be the perfect time to reach out and thank the brave soldiers of Israel's Defense Forces

(IDF) who are doing their best to protect our extended family in Israel. While away from the festive Purim atmospheres of their own homes and locales, those soldiers work hard to keep their fellow citizens safe and sound. Toward

that end, YI reached out again to www.Basketstoisrael.com to supply an entire platoon of active-duty IDF soldiers with enough pizza and soda to make their Purim festive.

This refreshing treat served as a long-distance embrace from our congregational family. Knowing that a caring synagogue in far-away Memphis, Tennessee, was thinking of them on Purim surely provided this IDF platoon with a much-appreciated morale boost. YI thanks the generous sponsors who made this gift possible.

With the festival of Pesach (Passover) just around the corner, I know that YI's RDF will soon be busy assisting others again. On behalf of all those who benefited / will benefit from YI's RDF, I thank the fund's many donors for their generous ongoing support. In the merit of your acts of Tzedakah, may G-d bless you and your families with a happy and healthy Pesach!

Young Israel's Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbi@yiom.org **HW**

Sorelle Dattel Joins Harkavy Shainberg Kaplan PLC



Sorelle Dattel

Harkavy Shainberg Kaplan PLC is pleased to announce that Sorelle Dattel has joined the law firm as an associate.

Ms. Dattel focuses her legal practice in the areas of estate planning, civil litigation, and transactional matters.

"We are pleased Sorelle has joined our legal team at Harkavy Shainberg," said Michael Kaplan, managing member of the law firm. "Sorelle is a young, talented, and motivated lawyer who already is highly respected by her colleagues and clients."

A native Memphian, Ms. Dattel received her Juris Doctorate magna cum laude from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 2022 and simultaneously received a Master of Business Administration. While in law school, she received six CALI awards, which are given to the student with the highest grade in the class. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman University.

Ms. Dattel is a member of the Young Lawyers Division of the Memphis Bar Association and the Tennessee Bar Association. She is the author of "Case Note: Barrows v. Becerra," published in the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) Journal.

Ms. Dattel volunteers with the Urban Bicycle Food Ministry to help feed those who are displaced or unhoused.

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Local Jewish War Veteran Celebrates 97th Birthday



By Shoshana Cenker

Born Feb. 3, 1926, Nathan Blockman has seen a lot – especially having served in WWII. To celebrate his 97th trip around the sun, family and friends from the Memphis chapter of Jewish War Veterans of the U.S. – known as Post 121 – gathered last month at the home of Rabbi Brett and Cori Oxman for Nathan’s birthday party. Nathan even sang along as guests sang “Happy Birthday” to him.

“I’m so proud to be a WWII veteran,” said Nathan. “I love being part of the Jewish War Veterans group – everyone who’s served is honored here. At 97, every day is a good day, because I wake up with my wife, Barbara, and see my family and friends. My birthday party

was such a nice surprise!” Nathan was a POW in a Nazi camp. He survived because the British officer in charge hid the fact that Nathan was Jewish. He’s alive and well at age 97 to tell his amazing story.

“It was nice to honor a Jewish patriot,” said Chaplain, Colonel (Retired) Brett C. Oxman. “Nathan fought the Nazis, was captured by the Nazis, survived the Nazis, and went on to become a living testament to triumph of good over evil. We all felt honored to gather around and celebrate this unsung American Jewish hero.”

From all of us in the Memphis Jewish community: Happy Birthday, Nathan, here’s til 120! [HW](#)

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Birth Announcement

Wendi and Jason Stec and brother Myles announce the birth of their daughter and sister, Addison Rae Stec, born March 3, 2023.

Grandparents are Sylvia and Bubba Albert of Memphis, and Cindy and Keith Stec of Chicago, Ill.

Her great-grandparents are the late Anna and Alvin Schultz and the late Belle and William Albert and Marlene and Harvey Becker of St. Louis, Mo., and Jeanne and the late Jon Stec of Chicago, Ill.

Addison’s beautiful name comes from her great-grandmother, Anna Schultz, and her great-great-grandmother, Rosalyn Critz. [HW](#)

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Monthly Luncheon Rescheduled for March 29

Due to the MJCC being closed on Wednesday, March 15, the event featuring The Beverly Brothers, will take place on March 29

The March Monthly Luncheon features The Beverly Brothers.

The Beverly Brothers perform harmony-based songs ranging from classic country to classic rock and roll favorites. This two-guitar duo always delivers a spirited, high-energy show that invites and incites audience to sing along and dance if they feel like it. The Beverly Brothers come from Creative Aging's great Cadre of entertainers!

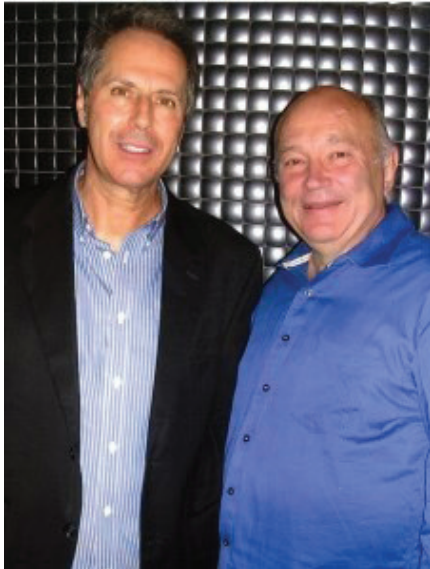
There will also be a special performance by some of the MJCC Early Childhood kids singing a few songs.

Come enjoy the terrific entertainment and enjoy a good kosher lunch all for \$5!

The luncheon and The Beverly Brothers start at noon on the March 29.

Reservations can be made by calling the front desk at 901-761-0810 or emailing Steve Kaplan at stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org.

Please come join us from Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch from the Kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only



The Beverly Brothers

\$2 for seniors.

Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. To RSVP, contact Adult Services Coordinator Steve Kaplan at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org, or call the MJCC front desk at 901-761-0810. [HW](#)

THE HEBREW WATCHMAN
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for 97 Years

The Lehrhaus at Beth Sholom Presents "At the Margins and in the Rafters: Judaism in Late Antiquity" March 28 at 7 p.m.



Dr. Ben Graham's talk, "At the Margins and in the Rafters: Judaism in Late Antiquity," takes place at Beth Sholom, March 28 at 7 p.m.

Many are familiar with the history of Masada, the destruction of the Temple, and the Bar Kochba Revolt. But what happened next? How did Jews live in the centuries between the Bar Kochba Revolt and the era of Rashi, Rambam, and the Crusades? More specifically, what do we know about Judaism and Jewish life in the late Roman Empire? In Beth Sholom's next Lehrhaus program on Tuesday, March 28, "At the Margins and in the Rafters: Judaism in Late Antiquity," Professor Ben Graham, an associate professor of history at University of Memphis, will explore this relatively unknown period of Jewish history.

Professor Graham will focus on Jewish communities after the destruction of the Temple but before the marriage of Roman Empire and Christianity. Among other sites, Dr. Graham will examine the late antique synagogue excavated at Dura Europos, a frontier city located

on the Euphrates River. That site yielded remarkable figural paintings and a well-preserved Torah shrine that offers clues into this Jewish community and its practice of religion in this period.

Dr. Graham's scholarly interest in the Dura Europos synagogue began while he was conducting a project about roofing and ceilings in late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages. He says this ancient synagogue, among its other remarkable attributes, includes an unusual, coffered ceiling with painting tiles that depicted a vast range of iconography. Professor Graham's Lehrhaus presentation asks what ceilings and roofs can tell us about a group of people in the premodern past.

Ben Graham received his PhD in 2015 from the University of Michigan in medieval history. He has a forthcoming book about environmental changes after the collapse of the Roman Empire, centered on olive trees and olive oil. He has also written articles about artificial light in the early Middle Ages, early Christian church building, and the energy demands of premodern cities. At the University of Memphis, Dr. Graham teaches courses about the Roman Empire, the Mediterranean Middle Ages, and the history of food.

Lehrhaus at Beth Sholom takes its inspiration from The Free Jewish House of Learning, the school for Jewish studies and adult education founded by Franz Rosenzweig in Frankfurt in 1920. Dr. Graham's lecture will take place at Beth Sholom on Tuesday evening, March 28 at 7 p.m. and will be livestreamed on Beth Sholom's Facebook page. Lehrhaus lectures are free and open to the general public. For more information, visit bsholom.org. [HW](#)



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Small Businesses Should Prepare for Stronger Tax Enforcement

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
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The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is providing the IRS with an influx of about \$80 billion to modernize outdated technology and rebuild a depleted workforce, which is expected to improve enforcement to the tune of about \$200 billion over a decade. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen directed the agency not to use additional resources to increase audit rates for taxpayers making under \$400,000 a year, but the tax returns of high-earning business owners are likely to face more scrutiny than they have in years past.¹

Higher audit rates won't appear overnight, but large investments to upgrade technology could eventually help the IRS develop more advanced enforcement methods. With that in mind, here are some tips to help you avoid unwanted attention from the IRS.

Understand the process. Tax returns are randomly selected, which means you might be audited even if you do everything by the book. However, when your tax return is processed, a computer program screens for anomalies and compares deductions to those of taxpayers with similar incomes. Your return

is more likely to be chosen if there's a higher chance that it would result in the collection of additional taxes, but an audit can also be triggered by a red flag on your return or a simple mistake that leads to additional questions. If selected for a correspondence audit, you may be asked to mail specific information to the IRS. A comprehensive field audit would be conducted at your home, place of business, or accountant's office.

Avoid common traps. Filing an incomplete tax return (with missing forms or schedules) and not making tax payments on time are surefire ways to attract unwanted attention from the IRS. Taking business deductions that are not in line with industry norms, not categorizing transactions consistently from year to year, having a high number of independent contractors relative to full-time employees, and reporting continuous losses are all situations that can look suspicious, even if they are valid.

Step up your record-keeping. Taxpayers are required to keep tax records for at least three years from the date the tax return was filed. Organizing and possibly digitizing your records could make it easier to respond to any requests

for information that may come from the IRS – and not being able to provide a requested document could negatively impact your audit results.

A heightened focus on compliance means it may be more important than ever to consult an experienced tax professional for personalized guidance, especially if you receive any type of communication from the IRS.

1) U.S. Treasury Department, 2022
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Man Brandishes Machete Near New Jersey Shul, No Evidence Jews were Target

By JNS Staff
(JNS) – Police in Lakewood, N.J., arrested a man last Monday night after he brandished a large knife at a group walking near a synagogue.

Max Sanchez, 22, of Lakewood allegedly approached five people with a machete at about 11:30 p.m., stated Capt. Gregory Staffordsmith at the Lakewood Police Department.

“Although no specific threats were made to any of the victims, his menacing behavior caused fear of imminent injury or harm to each of them,” he said.

Police located Sanchez quickly and recovered the weapon.

“The Lakewood Scoop,” a blog, reported that the incident happened in front of a Satmar shul. But Staffordsmith said there is no indication that Sanchez allegedly chose to “menace the victims based on their religious beliefs,” despite the area being one “where a large portion of Orthodox Jewish families reside.”

Sanchez faces “numerous charges for assault and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose,” said the captain. “This investigation is still active. Investigators are looking into several unrelated cases in which Sanchez may have some involvement.” [HW](#)

Woman Whose Two Sons Died in Jerusalem Terror Attack Gives Birth

(JNS) – Devorah Paley, whose two young sons were killed in a terrorist attack last month in Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood, gave birth to a boy overnight last Tuesday at Hadassah Medical Center Mount Scopus.

Avraham Paley, who was seriously wounded in the attack, was by his wife's side while she was in labor. The child is the Paley family's tenth.

Yaakov Yisrael Paley, 5, and Asher Menachem Paley, 7, were killed on Feb. 10 when Hussein Karaka, 31, an Arab Israeli resident of the Issawiya neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem, smashed his car into a bus stop.

Avraham Paley, 42, was recently released from Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center after spending two weeks in a coma. He learned of the death of his sons when he regained consciousness. Upon leaving the hospital last Monday, he immediately visited his sons' graves in the city's Har HaMenuchot cemetery, arriving via ambulance and using a wheelchair.

“Sweethearts, I didn't have time to say goodbye to you. I want to say thank you. What joy you had in learning, what sweetness, what joy of life,” he said at the cemetery.

Twenty-year-old Alter Shlomo Lederman, a recently married yeshiva student, was also killed in the attack. In addition to Avraham Paley, three other Israelis were wounded in the attack. Karaka was shot dead at the scene by a police officer. [HW](#)

Audit Rates Over Time

IRS audit rates for individual, partnership, and S corporation income tax returns have fallen since 2010, a trend that could reverse as the IRS ramps up enforcement. [HW](#)

Individual returns by total positive income*	Tax year 2010	Tax year 2019
\$100,000 under \$200,000	0.8%	0.2%
\$200,000 under \$500,000	2.3%	0.2%
\$500,000 under \$1,000,000	3.6%	0.6%
\$1,000,000 under \$5,000,000	8.2%	1.3%
\$5,000,000 under \$10,000,000	13.5%	2.0%
\$10,000,000 or more	21.5%	8.7%
Partnership returns	0.5%	0.1%
S corporation returns	0.4%	0.1%

*Total positive income excludes losses
Source: Internal Revenue Service, 2022

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Mike has been with Wells Fargo Advisors for 25 years and has over 40 years of experience in the financial services industry.

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CAR-0123-01924

Abraham Zarem, One of the Last Surviving Manhattan Project Scientists, Dies at 106

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) – Abraham Zarem was 28 when he joined the Manhattan Project, the vast U.S. government effort to develop the atom bomb.

Engineers like him gathered in secret laboratories in New Mexico, California, New York City and elsewhere to provide the practical know-how the theorists lacked.

“They were geniuses, but didn’t know how to build a f—king thing,” Zarem recalled, according to his long-time rabbi at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, David Wolpe.

Zaum, who went on to a distinguished career in technology, business development and leadership management training, died March 8 in Los Angeles. He was 106, and one of the last surviving members of the army of scientists, technicians, bureaucrats and clerks who helped build the weapon that would force Japan’s surrender in World War II and usher in the Atomic Age.

After the war, Zarem joined the staff of the United States Naval Ordnance Test Station at Pasadena, where as head of the electrical section of the physical research division he developed a high-speed camera used to study intense light sources and other phenomena. “Popular Mechanics” called the Zarem camera – 25,000 times faster than any movie camera then available – a “miracle.”

In 1963, Zarem served as senior vice

president of Xerox, leaving in 1970 to launch a consulting business. He returned to Xerox as founder and CEO of its Xerox Development Corporation in 1975. He later served as founder and managing director of Frontier Associates, a technology consultancy.

Born in Chicago on March 7, 1917, Zarem was valedictorian of his undergraduate class at the Armour Institute of Technology (now the Illinois Institute of Technology) and earned his doctorate on the physical properties of the electric spark at the California Institute of Technology. He headed the Stanford University Research Institute in Los Angeles while still in his 30s.

Later he served as distinguished senior advisor for Neuroscience Technology Transfer for the UCLA Brain Research Institute and a member of the Urology Advisory Board of the UCLA Geffen School of Medicine. Additionally, he served as distinguished visiting executive in Science and Technology for Caltech’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

One of Zarem’s companies, Electro-Optical Systems, developed the “world’s first practical ion engine” – an experimental high-energy thruster for spacecraft. It now resides in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Zarem was also a regular at Temple Sinai, where Wolpe said Zarem mentored him as a young rabbi. Zarem and

his wife, Esther, were generous contributors to the congregation; Wolpe remembered Zarem chanting from the book of Jonah on Yom Kippur when he was 99.

“Abe Zarem was a brilliant, buoyant, passionate, pious and philanthropic person,” Wolpe told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency this week. “He had a central role in some of the key scientific events of human history – the atomic bomb, the moon landing – and yet took an interest in everyone lucky enough to meet him. Abe was truly yachid b’mino – unique in his time. He will be greatly missed.”

Unlike with some of his collaborators on the Manhattan Project, there is no public record of Zarem grappling publicly with the moral implications of the weapon he helped develop. Years after their war work at Caltech, a man who worked under Zarem as a lab assistant said he felt no guilt, because without the detonations at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he told a local newspaper, “We would have lost 500,000 Americans in the invasion of Japan.”

But Zarem did go on the record in 1952 on a different topic, in advice he shared with a labor and management magazine: “Keep your feet warm, and your head cool. And watch out for the hotheads with cold feet.”

His survivors include his children, Janet, David and Mark. **HW**

Cameras Welcome! ChalkFest, Returns to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

ChalkFest, Memphis’ most creative dust-up, returns to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, March 25, 2023, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

“ChalkFest is one of our Memphis’ most popular and eagerly anticipated community arts events, and we’re excited to watch kids and families bring art outside into the world,” says Brooks Museum Executive Director Zoe Kahr. “The entire city is invited to help transform the Brooks Plaza with your creativity. As we say every year: our campus is your canvas.”

Families and children of all ages are welcome to come to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and decorate its sidewalks, parking areas, and other hardscape surfaces with their chalk designs. Registration is free. Attendees are encouraged to bring chalk or boxes may be purchased on-site for \$5

WHAT: ChalkFest

WHERE: Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park

WHEN: Saturday, March 25, 2023, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Rain day: Sunday, March 26, 2023, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

REGISTER: simpletix.com/e/chalkfest-tickets-125393

The Brooks Museum will be free and open to the public during the event. Local artists Craig Thompson, Sumo and Toonky Berry will be available for inspiration and collaboration. Between creating chalk masterpieces and exploring the galleries and exhibitions for inspiration, attendees can dance to music from Shorty and the Grooves and DJ Siphne Aaye, enjoy free art activities and face painting with Memphis Face Painting for \$10. TikTok and Instagram posts using the hashtag #Chalkfest2023 are strongly encouraged.

For more information on the current programming and future plans for Brooks, call 901.544-6200 or visit brooksmuseum.org **HW**

Israel Police Seize Rare, Exotic Animals in Black-Market Raid



“Boiga nigriceps,” Red cat snake (subadult), Khao Luang National Park, Sept. 7, 2016. Credit: Thai National

(JNS) – Israeli authorities have busted a massive black-market operation featuring rare and exotic animal species, the Nature and Parks Authority said last Tuesday.

The Jerusalem-area raid was a coordinated effort of the Israel Police, Border Police and the Nature and Parks Author-

ity National Wildlife Crime Prevention Unit.

“Thanks to the cooperation of the Israel Police and Border Police, we were able to stop a breeder that was illegally keeping a large number of animals, some of which were kept in poor condition,” said Nature and Parks Authority National Wildlife Crime Prevention Unit official Yaniv Shalom.

The animals, worth tens of thousands of shekels, were either set to be sold or were being kept by individuals. Those in poor condition were transported for veterinary care.

The suspect was transferred for questioning and a criminal investigation was opened.

Among the animals seized were red-eared sliders – the most popular pet

turtle in the United States and one of the most popular pets around the world – and the Boiga genus of rear-fanged, mildly venomous snakes, which are commonly known as cat-eyed or cat snakes.

In 2019, approximately 40 neglected zoo animals were evacuated from a dilapidated zoo in the Gaza Strip by an international animal-welfare group, the fourth such rescue mission from the Hamas-controlled area.

Veterinarians and volunteers from Four Paws International arrived in Rafah in southern Gaza to evacuate five lions, five monkeys, four ostriches, three peacocks, two wolves, foxes, porcupines, 10 squirrels and a hyena, in order to resituate them in Jordan and South Africa. **HW**

A Fake Reality Show Trailer Shines Light on the Real Issue of Child Marriage



Fraidy Reiss is the founder and executive director of Unchained At Last, a non-profit that’s been battling arranged and forced marriages for the past 12 years. (Photo copyright Susan Landman)

By Jon Kalish

(JTA) – A three-minute trailer teases a new reality show called “Unseen Housewives,” and features women describing their experiences as child brides in forced marriages.

“I was groomed by a pedophile at

age 14 and married by age 16,” one of four young women in the trailer tells the camera.

“I turned into a housewife at 14 but no one seemed to care when it happened,” says another.

There is no such reality show, although the trailer, making the rounds on social media, is describing a real issue. The video was produced for Unchained At Last, a nonprofit that’s been battling forced and child marriages for the past 12 years.

Founded by a woman who left what she calls an abusive forced marriage in a haredi Orthodox community in Brooklyn, Unchained At Last hopes the video will draw attention to its efforts to outlaw marriage for children under the age of 18, regardless of their background.

“We’re trying to solve a problem that most people don’t even know exists,” said Fraidy Reiss, Unchained At Last’s founder and executive director. “Most Americans have no idea that child mar-

riage is legal in the U.S. Child marriage is a nightmarish legal trap.”

Unchained At Last has led a campaign that has outlawed child marriage in seven states, including New Jersey and New York. Legislation prohibiting marriage until the age of 18 is currently pending in 11 states: Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, South Carolina, Illinois, Kansas, Texas, California, New Mexico, Washington and Hawaii. The organization is particularly optimistic about the chances for passage in Vermont and Connecticut. Reiss said the group expects similar legislation to be introduced in Michigan.

The idea for the video came from Bruno Guimaraes, the creative director at Area 23, a Manhattan ad agency that specializes in health care campaigns, said Reiss. Guimaraes’ wife, the psychiatrist Morgan Fallor, interviewed sur-

(See **Trailer** Page 10)

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

Ted Roberts

As in every construct on G-d’s world, including the cosmos, itself, there are two sides. I speak not only of stars, constellations, and galaxies, but the mind we call the universe. One side lives like us; suffering, exalting, hoping, dreaming. The other is unknown to us. In my village they tell the story of Israel, the kite flyer, who lived a mile or two down the road to Vdansk. All agreed that he was a strange man with no visible measure of support except what the charitable left at his door. His vocation was zero – his avocation was flying kites. Yes, that’s what I said, flying kites, and since he did not play cards or indulge in

Loshan Hara, and he stayed away from the village tavern, he had no friends except every child in the village under the age of twelve who were also enchanted with kites.

When Cheder was out they flocked around Israel. Every afternoon except on the Sabbath and holidays they paraded down the road. They either brought their own kites, or they flew his. And strangely enough, windy or not, the kites soared. Israel was the only adult they knew who demanded nothing of them. No chores around the house or farm for the peasant’s boy, no stacking or carrying boxes for the sons of merchants. Not even study for the Yeshiva students.

One of the older and wiser children, though, was curious. “Israel,” (they always called him by his first name) “what do you do besides fly kites? My father says you either have a rich uncle or a guardian angel.”

“I wait,” replied Israel.

“And what do you wait for?”

“I just wait.” He looked away as he adjusted the cross rib on one of his best fliers. “One day, when you are no longer

interested in kites you will understand, I hope.”


On the other side of this Cosmos, back in the village, life as usual was difficult. Almost impossible to cope with the difficulty of earning enough coins to feed your family. Corruption, disease and the drought were relentless enemies, which either wiped out your crop, your family, or your dreams. Of course, the village people weren’t ethically perfect. The Jewish community had its share of wife beaters, drunks, burglars, con men, and even worse. They were a typical mix of humanity with hearts of good and evil beset by the chilling winds of the world’s adversity. They, too, struggled for understanding and coped anyway they could get away with it – many drew inspiration from their faith, and it must be admitted, with a little help from the “evil” half of the heart. Tzadiks were as rare as lilies in the garbage dump. Sad to say, many did not follow the advice of the prophets to walk in the ways of the Lord. They strayed slightly, some monumentally.

Like all of Hashem’s creatures, from the hungry child to the bandit’s victim,

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they complained, but kept hope alive in their hearts. Just wait, they said to console each other. “Someday the Mosiach will come. Hunger, disease, and injustice will be faint memories.” They wait. So does He.

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

ISRAEL INSIGHTS Confessions of a Former Bibi Voter

By Howard Weisband

I remain a strong supporter of the myriad accomplishments of Benjamin Netanyahu as Finance Minister and through his multiple terms as Prime Minister of Israel.

Since the failure of the Oslo Process, 1993 and beyond, my own political orientation like the electorate itself, has moved to the right, all the while favoring a strong center based upon mutual respect and compromise. I consistently expressed that preference at the polls, voting for the continuation of Likud-led coalition Governments under Netanyahu’s leadership.

However, over the course of our last three national elections, I could no longer vote for Bibi nor for the Likud party. Particularly now, this past November, I voted otherwise given Netanyahu’s partners in his bid to return to power. Still, I thought, I hoped, that as Prime Minister again, his political acumen and his macro or big-picture view of Israel’s needs and place in the world would prevail. I clearly understood that this is the farthest right coalition and Government that Israel has experienced, but give Bibi time I said, have patience. Bibi’s leadership and national commitment will bring its actions toward the center.

Judicial reform is the current hot button or buzz word. Constructive thinking and analyses have realized for some

time that reform within the judicial system is needed, that greater balance between the courts and the legislative process needs to be achieved. But just as the Supreme Court under former Chief Justice Aharon Barak ventured too far into the political and legislative processes, today it’s clear that the latter is seeking to overachieve and control the courts.

As I write, President Herzog is continuing to work to create balance, to bring the political actors together, from both the Government and the opposition, to find compromise. He knows that unlike the American system, the Government in Israel with its 64-seat majority in the Knesset controls, both the executive and legislative systems. Bibi knows that too.

President Herzog also sees that the streets of Israel are consistently filled with an angry citizenry, feeling that their valued democracy is being pushed to its limits. He also sees the tensions within the cherished Israel Defense Forces where politicization has crept inside its ranks. Bibi sees these happenings as well.

President Herzog is reading the assessments of economic experts that the strong and flexible Israeli economy may become somewhat brittle and could crack given the political overreach.

Bibi, who is largely credited with having redefined and rebuilt that economy as Finance Minister (2003-2005), no doubt is keenly aware of such concerns.

I have asked myself for some time, why at the age of 73 did Bibi have to re-enter the political fray to become Prime Minister again, notably already the longest serving PM in Israel’s history. Why not retire, or “rewire,” to actively write, speak, advise, and mentor new generations of Israeli leadership?

If I were a psychologist, even an amateur one, I might say that his ego, even his super ego, and his lust for power, has not allowed Bibi to gracefully and respectfully retire. My involvement over some fifty years with Jewish leaders has taught me to respect those individuals who prepare others to assume leadership and then step away to allow a new generation to actively take the reigns.

What concerns me even more in these very days, beyond his being under indictment and in trial for alleged acts of bribery and breach of public trust, is Bibi’s own appointment and now support of Aryeh Deri, convicted of white collar crimes including tax fraud, to return to his Cabinet as a Minister.

In addition, Bibi is failing to support and allow Yuli Edelstein, who has been an ardent loyalist and political ally, to “vote his conscience” by absenting him-

self from an initial Knesset vote, hardly a defining one, on judicial reform.

To me these are serious indicators of moral and ethical decline in Bibi’s personal value system.

Bibi’s legacy has already been established. What he has accomplished for Israel in economic, diplomatic, and security terms cannot be overstated.

In June 2021, as the Bennett – Lapid Government was on the threshold of assuming power, with Bibi of course leading the opposition, Dahlia Scheindlin wrote in ‘Time Magazine:’ “Should the new government survive his efforts, Netanyahu will descend from the national stage. But his legacy will endure. Counting his three years as Prime Minister in the 1990s, Netanyahu has been in power for a total of 15 years. During that time, many believe Netanyahu remade the country.”

Bibi, it’s now time to go home.

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

Trailer...

(Continued From Page 9)

vivors of child marriage and prepared their stories for the project.

Guimaraes’s colleague, Jihane Ghos-tine, produced the “Unseen Housewives” video.

“I just wanted to shed light on this topic,” Ghostine said. “I come originally from Lebanon where it’s actually legal to marry at a very young age. I think through our art and our crafts, we are maybe able to change the world in some kind of way. And this is what pushed me to do this.”

Ghostine said Gustavo Lemme, the director for the trailer, came from Sao Paulo, Brazil, to helm the video. The actresses who appeared in the trailer worked at a discounted rate because

they support the cause, she said.

The lines in the video are based on the real-life stories of women who were married when they were legally considered children. The trailer was shot in Tampa, Florida.

Reiss, married at 19, left her marriage after 12 years and went on to attend Rutgers University. In 2011, after working as a reporter at the “Asbury Park Press” and as a private investigator at Kroll, the global investigations company, she founded Unchained At Last. Initially it helped both Jewish and non-Jewish women leave arranged and forced marriages and seek custody of their children in civil court. Reiss now describes herself as “a devout atheist.”

The organization has since begun pushing for legislation prohibiting marriage for children – which is legal in 43 states with parental consent or judicial approval. Opponents say child marriage is related to sexual exploitation, increased poverty, a higher risk of health complications and lower educational attainment.

Although the issue crosses various social and religious lines, Reiss has sometimes found herself facing off against Orthodox Jewish communities like the one she left and where, she said, friends were already married in high school. In 2018, the haredi Orthodox advocacy group Agudath Israel of America called the New Jersey legislation too strict, saying it wanted to see an exemption

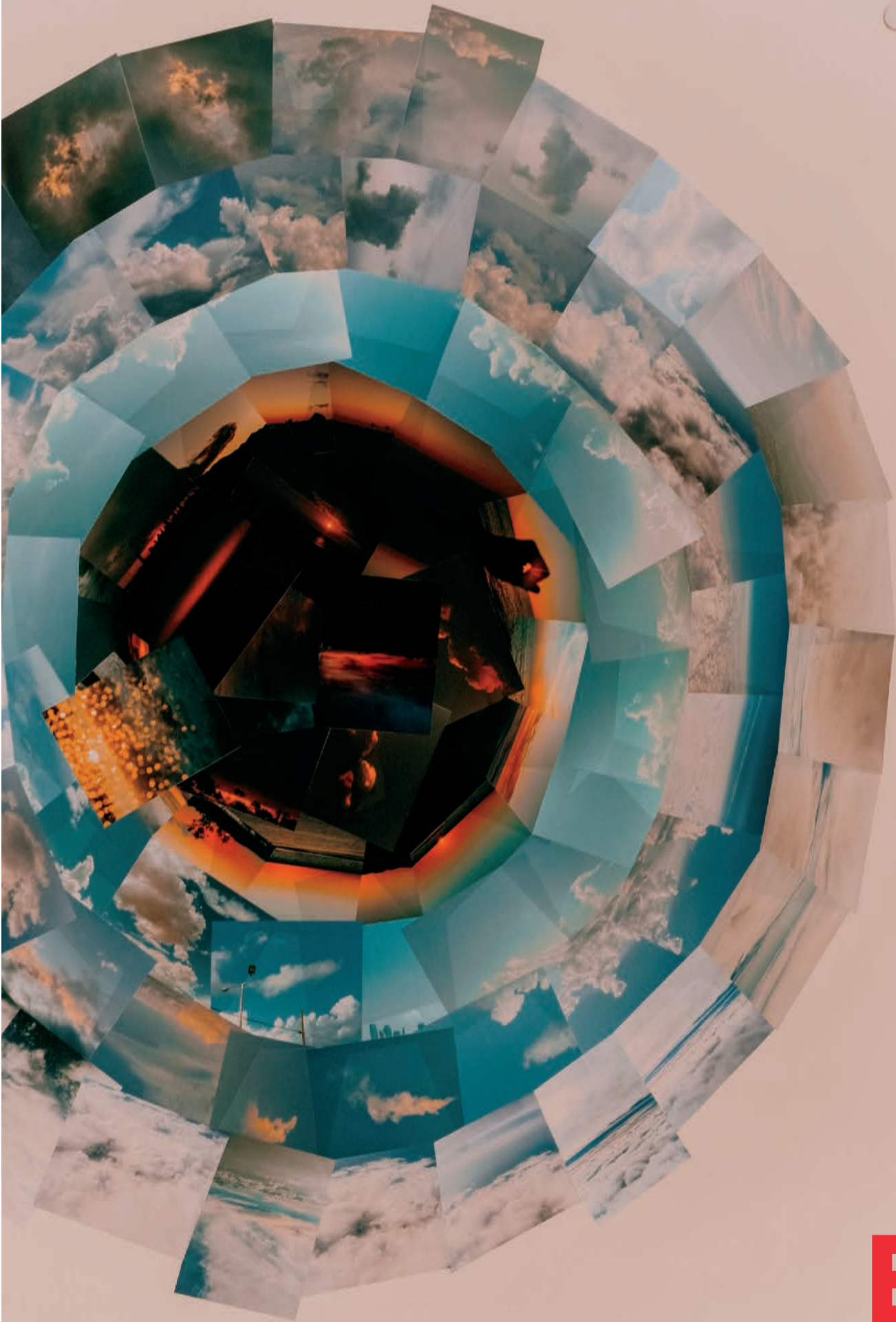
made for older teenagers who want to wed. The bill stalled under Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, and was signed into law by his Democratic successor, Phil Murphy.

Reiss hopes the “Unseen Housewives” trailer will go viral on social media. She plans to screen it during her spring travels to promote Unchained At Last’s legislative agenda.

The group plans to continue with its “chain-in” events, in which women wearing wedding dresses appear in street protests with chains on their wrists and their mouths taped shut. More than 100 wedding gowns, some dating back to the 1940s, have been donated for the demonstrations. HW

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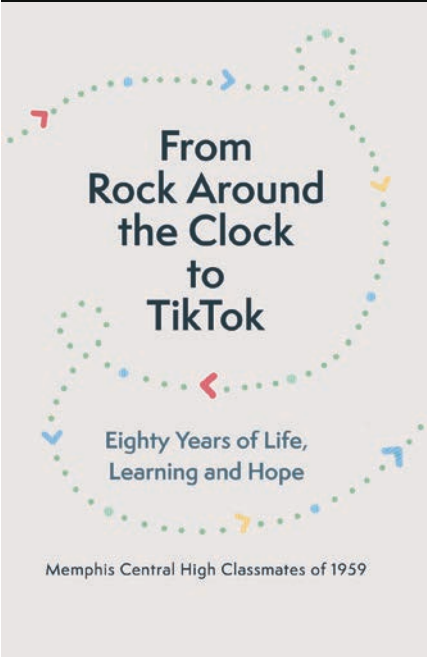
Classmates Collaborate on Collection of Life Stories



er expected, during 80 years of living. The chapters go in chronological order of whatever event or trend that person’s story includes from the 1950s to 2022.”

At the start of each chapter and in the book’s Table of Contents there is a marker of each event or trend. The first story begins with the Korean War, when the authors were in elementary school and junior high. Other stories mark events such as

- The Vietnam War
- The Integration of Little Rock Central High School
- James Meredith integrating Ole Miss
- The Moon Landing
- The first woman sports reporter breaking the glass ceiling at ABC News
- The business booms and busts of



By Emily Adams Keplinger

If you’ve ever been to a high school reunion, then you know the joy that can come from reconnecting to long-time friends. Several of the classmates of 1959 from Central High School took that reconnection one step further – they wrote a book together.

“From Rock Around the Clock to TikTok; Eighty Years of Life, Learning, and Hope, by Memphis Central High Classmates of 1959” features stories from 14 classmates.

“The book was self-published with the help of a company in New Jersey called BookBaby,” explained Eddie Felsenthal, one of the classmates who authored a story. “We had reconnected at our 60th reunion in 2019, and when

BOOK LAUNCH: March 25 at NOVEL Book Store at 2 p.m.
“From Rock Around the Clock to TikTok; Eighty Years of Life, Learning, and Hope, by Memphis Central High Classmates of 1959”
The book will be available at NOVEL in the Laurelwood Shopping Center in East Memphis, and wherever books are sold and on Amazon.

lockdown began a few of us started Zooming, and a few more joined. It wasn’t a planned, class activity. It was kind of random, like the way we would get a group together to go to a movie on a Saturday afternoon in high school.”

As the classmates talked about their lives and about turning 80, they realized they had some stories to tell that might be of interest to others. That’s when Felsenthal had the idea of putting together a book.

“Our stories are both ordinary and extraordinary, filled with dreams and realities,” said Felsenthal. “The book, taken as a whole, gives a very good overview of how life unfolds, and events and trends can take you on a course you nev-

the 1990s, and more stories all the way through to today.

The public is invited to the Book Launch on March 25 at NOVEL book store, in the Laurelwood Shopping Center in East Memphis.

The event will have a book-signing for the public, and feature a few of the authors with a panel-style presentation, and a Question & Answer session after the presentation.

“We encourage people to give our book as a gift for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day and for upcoming high school graduates,” said Felsenthal. “The proceeds from our book sales are going charity. We’ve designated Stand for Children as the beneficiary.” **HW**



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