



THE Hebrew Watchman

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RJC Says Congressman-Elect Not Invited to Future Events for Lies About Jewish Heritage



Republican George Santos, who in Nov. 2022 was elected to represent New York’s 3rd congressional district. Credit: George Santos for Congress website.

(JNS) – George Santos, due to be sworn in as a congressman on Jan. 3, is no longer welcome at Republican Jewish Coalition events. “We are very disappointed in Congressman-elect Santos,” RJC CEO Matt Brooks said in a statement last Tuesday. “He deceived us and misrepresented his heritage. In public comments and to us personally he previously claimed to be Jewish. He has begun his tenure in Congress on a very wrong note. He will not be welcome at any future RJC event.” On his campaign website, Santos had

claimed his maternal grandparents were refugees who fled the Nazis to Brazil and also spoke of his mother’s “Jewish background beliefs.” In an interview with the *New York Post* last Monday, the recently elected representative for a New York congressional district on Long Island and a small part of Queens admitted to fabricating key details of his biography. “I never claimed to be Jewish. I am Catholic. Because I learned my maternal family had a Jewish background, I said I was ‘Jew-ish,’” Santos said. In a subsequent interview with the

City & State outlet, he added: “It just strikes me as so odd that people are rushing to disinherit me from being Jewish or for even allowing [me] to care for Israel and Judaism in a time and era where antisemitism is at an all-time rise.” Santos also confessed that he never graduated from any institution of higher education, despite previously claiming to have received a degree from Baruch College in 2010, and that he never worked directly for Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, despite his previous assertions. **HW**

New Lawsuit Challenges Biden Administration to Stop Funding Palestinian Terrorism

By David Swindle

(JNS) – In 2018, the Trump administration signed into law the Taylor Force Act to prevent the U.S. government from sending funds to the Palestinian Authority (P.A.) as long as it continues to fund terrorism. Now, a new lawsuit supported by victims of terror is seeking to compel the Biden administration to follow suit. Filed by America First Legal, a new firm founded and led by former Trump presidential senior advisor Stephen Miller, the lawsuit identifies the Biden administration funding the P.A. with more than \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars as a violation of the Taylor Force Act, named after a Vanderbilt University student and former army officer stabbed to death in Tel Aviv in 2016. “Joe Biden is breaking the law by allowing our tax dollars to fund terrorism in Israel, and he must be stopped. I have deep respect for my fellow plaintiffs who have been tragically and directly impacted by Pay to Slay, and I am proud to be on the same team as we hold this failed administration accountable,” U.S. Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-Texas) said, referring to the P.A. terror-funding poli-

cy’s nickname. Miller said, “Our lawsuit seeks to stop President Biden from violating the Taylor Force Act and illegally subsidizing terrorism against Americans who visit or live in Israel...Thank you to Dr. Ronny Jackson, Taylor’s parents Stuart and Robbi Force, and Sarri Singer, a survivor of a Palestinian suicide attack against a Jerusalem bus, for your courage in fighting back against the lawless Biden administration.” Advocates for victims of terror Stuart Force (Taylor’s father) and Sarri Singer, director of Strength to Strength, offered their perspectives on the new lawsuit. Force said he sought “to put a human face on the horrific effects of the Palestinian Authority’s Pay for Slay policy. Multiply the devastating loss of our beloved son, Taylor, by the hundreds of Israeli families that have also been impacted by this inhumane atrocity of Pay for Slay and you will understand why we are committed to ending the flow of U.S. dollars to the P.A.” Singer, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, described her own experience with terrorism, which inspired her to participate

and form her organization. “On June 11, 2003, I was on bus 14 in Jerusalem when a terrorist who was recruited by Hamas boarded my bus strapped with explosives and detonated,” she recalled. “He injured over 100 of us and murdered 17 innocent people including all those seated and standing around me. It is almost 20 years later, and I am still dealing with the long-term effects of the attack. There is still shrapnel in me that is not operable and not a day goes by that I am not reminded that a simple bus ride to meet a friend for dinner turned into one of the largest bus bombings in Israel during that time.” Force could not understand why Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken were breaking the law passed in his son’s name. “It is a total mystery to me why Biden and Blinken are violating a federal law, the Taylor Force Act. Only they know what motivates them,” he said. “If they understood what motivates Israel’s enemies, the elimination of the State of Israel, I would think they would stop any funding that could possibly find its way into the wrong hands. Honestly, I don’t know why this admin-

istration makes the decisions it does on any issue.” Singer echoed that sentiment. “I couldn’t even begin to guess [the Biden administration’s] motivations, but I wouldn’t think that they have bad intentions,” she said. “The fact is the law is clear and that is what matters. Many people worked very hard to pass the Taylor Force Act, which is so important. Under the law, as long as the Palestinian Authority continues to use foreign aid to fund the Pay for Slay program, U.S. funds should not be directly sent to them.” Jackson sees political motives in the Biden administration ignoring the Taylor Force Act. He said, “I believe Joe Biden is doing his best to score cheap political points with the antisemites in his party who have openly advocated for the Palestinian Authority while condemning one of our greatest allies, Israel.” Force and Singer explained how the funds provided by the Biden administration to the P.A. were in violation of the law. “Aside from the increased rocket

(See Lawsuit Page 3)



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Federation's Women's Impact Event to Highlight Their Critical Work in Ukraine



Staff from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee at the border between Romania and Moldova, preparing to assist Jewish Ukrainian refugees traveling through Moldova to Romania. Credit: Ramin Mazur/JDC

More than 200 women from across the Memphis Jewish community will gather next week at Federation's Women's Impact Event for an afternoon of inspiration and strength. Highlights include a conversation with jewelry designer Freida Rothman, Women of Strength honors for Ricki Krupp and Alla Olswanger-Lubin, and a moving presentation highlighting Memphis' support of Jewish families impacted by the war in Ukraine.

Keynoting this important component of the women's impact event will be Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Director of Strategic Partnerships Elisheva Massel.

Elisheva will share the history of JDC across the world and highlight the life-saving work taking place in Ukraine today. In cities like Kiev, Kharkov and Odessa, JDC has maintained a strong presence for decades including six JCCs and 16 welfare centers. This critical infrastructure, built over decades with the support of Jewish Federations across North America, including Memphis, was mobilized and quickly began providing humanitarian relief to thousands. Following her presentation, attendees will make their gifts to Federation's annual campaign.

"Memphis Jewish Federation has been steadfast in its support of our global Jewish family through the annual community campaign," said Laura Linder, President and CEO of Memphis Jewish Federation. "Proudly Memphis is one of the few communities that commits 50% of its unrestricted annual

community campaign to overseas partners. Additionally, in times of crisis, our generous community always comes together, and did so early in 2022 to raise close to \$500,000 in support of emergency needs in Ukraine."

According to Memphis Jewish Federation Director of Development Judy Lansky, Federation provides a way for Memphians to support global Jewish needs. "I have seen firsthand the incredible work of our overseas partners," she said. "Through them we are resettling Ethiopian Jews in Israel, providing housing for vulnerable Jewish families and supporting elderly holocaust survivors wherever they live."

She went on to share her awe in the response of our community to any global Jewish need. "We live in a remarkable community," she said. "It's incredible to see the outpouring of support every time there's a Jewish family in need. Whether they live in Memphis or in Kiev, our community always steps forward."

The event will be held at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 10 in the Memphis Jewish Community Center's Belz Social Hall. There is a \$50 couvert, with attendance open to anyone whose household has pledged or commits to pledge \$180 or more to Memphis Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign. At the time of this writing, more than 160 tickets had been sold, with reservations coming in consistently. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to act fast. Visit jcpmemphis.org/freida to learn more and buy tickets. [HW](#)

Federation Announces Memphis Women's Spiritual Journey to Vienna, Prague and Berlin in October 2023

Memphis Jewish Federation CEO Laura Linder announced last week that a second Memphis Women's Spiritual Journey is being planned for October 2023. Modeled after the first journey

held in November 2019, this trip is for those wishing to have a meaningful and spiritual experience with like-minded Memphis Jewish women.

"We are so thrilled to announce this

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Memphis Candlelighting Time

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nation of traditional sights, Jewish history, and specially curated experiences.

"We have the basics of the trip planned, and we have fabulous committees that are working on fine tuning the details," she continued. "What I can share is that this will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We are staying in luxury hotels (e.g. Four Seasons in Prague), planning cultural and culinary experiences, and will have opportunities for personal reflection and free time."

Because of the goals of the trip and a desire to create an intimate experience, space is limited to 37 participants. This trip is open to Memphis Jewish Federation donors in good standing. Once the trip is full, a waitlist will be created.

An informational meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the board room of the Memphis Jewish Community Center. You may RSVP by calling the Federation office at 901-767-7100 or email pabraham@jcpmemphis.org. Cost of the trip is \$6,299 based on double occupancy, with an early registration discount of \$300 for those who register before March 1. Registration for this journey opens February 1, 2023. [HW](#)

Lawsuit...
(Continued From Page 1)

barrages, tunnel construction, and increased frequency of attacks on innocent civilians when ‘foreign aid’ increases, the money is used in its widespread PR campaign to incite violence and foment hatred of Israel and the United States,” Force said.

Singer emphasized how these taxpayer dollars intended to aid the Palestinian people would only exacerbate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. “Funds that supposedly go to help the Palestinian people are actually being used to pay terrorists and their families,” Singer said. “Foreign aid should be going to help people, not to incentivize violence and encourage future terrorist attacks. It only gets in the way of peace. As long as the conflict continues, both sides will suffer.”

Force was realistic about the time it would take to change minds, but said this lawsuit was an important step.

“I understand that changing beliefs and ideology is a long-term prospect. By stopping the flow of dollars that funds Pay for Slay, we hope to change their criminal behavior. Ending Pay For Slay is a necessary step in the search for a better life for all,” he said.

Jackson emphasized that “the American people want their taxpayer dollars to be used responsibly.”

“In the Palestinian Authority’s case, we know they are not exclusively using our money for humanitarian efforts,” said the Texas lawmaker. “They are using it to advance their anti-Israel agenda, including paying people to carry out terrorist attacks. The Taylor Force Act gave the P.A. an ultimatum: stop funding terrorism if you want humanitarian aid. The P.A. brazenly chose terrorism over their own people, and Joe Biden has decided he simply does not care that

blood is on his hands.”

David Litman, senior analyst at Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting (CAMERA) said, “While Israel’s designation of terror-linked NGOs led to extensive, and often hyperbolic and misleading, media coverage, virtually none was given to the Palestinian Authority’s decrees that effectively nationalized Palestinian NGOs, including those to which U.S. aid is being funneled. This lawsuit should help direct attention to this reality and the implications it has for efforts to circumvent the Taylor Force Act.”

Singer pointed out the consequences of the resuming of American funding for the PA.

“Unsurprisingly, since the Biden administration resumed this illegal funding, Palestinian terrorism has greatly increased in Israel,” she said.

She also revealed how she continues to live with the painful effects of the terrorism she experienced nearly 20 years ago.

“It’s very real,” said Singer. “I think people think you go through something like this and OK, a year or two goes by, and everything’s fine, and that’s not the reality of the situation. Everyone deals with it differently and everyone deals with trauma differently...For me what’s been really incredible and has helped in the healing has been the connection with other victims of terrorism, that peer-to-peer support piece...I don’t want our club to get any bigger. This is a club none of us asked to join.”

She added, “For me in the healing process, having justice is really important...There has to be more accountability, part of that healing process is not to sit back but to take action...like taking action like these suits.” **HW**

Leading Brazilian Jewish Economist Targeted by Criticism Ripped from ‘Antisemitism Handbook,’ Jewish Groups Say

By Marcus M. Gilban

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) – Jewish groups in Brazil are calling for a retraction after one prominent Brazilian economist questioned the loyalty of a Brazilian Jewish economist during an interview streamed by a widely viewed news organization.

The comments were about Ilan Goldfajn, a Brazilian-Israeli economist who was recently elected president of the Inter-American Development Bank, which promotes economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Paulo Nogueira Batista Jr., a former executive director of the International Monetary Fund, said during the interview on *Jornal GGN* that Goldfajn is hostile to the government of President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and included his Jewish background as one of the reasons. Batista’s argument invoked multiple antisemitic tropes about Jewish power and dual loyalty.

“He is essentially a financier, connected to the U.S. Treasury, to the Jewish community. He is actually Jewish-Brazilian, born in Haifa, Israel. And the Jewish community has a strong presence in the U.S. Treasury, in the Monetary Fund, in international organizations, not only in private banks,” Batista said. “As a Brazilian, all he has is his passport.”

Batista also mocked Goldfajn’s last name, calling it “unpronounceable” for not having a Portuguese origin.

Goldfajn, 56, is a former president of Brazil’s Central Bank. He left Israel at

an early age and was raised in Rio de Janeiro, where he attended a Jewish day school and is an active member of the Brazilian Jewish community.

Batista made the statements Dec. 16, but they only gained widespread notice Dec. 24 when several Jewish groups reacted fiercely. Several other non-Jewish figures followed suit, turning the episode in a firestorm in Brazilian media this week.

The Brazilian Israelite Confederation, the country’s umbrella Jewish organization, was the first to respond. “Batista resorts to old antisemitic clichés used by fascists and racists to vilify a Brazilian citizen who contributes so much to our country,” the group said in a statement posted to social media.

The Sao Paulo Jewish Federation, which represents half of Brazil’s 120,000-strong Jewish community, followed suit.

“Associating Jews with money and power takes us back to the worst moments in human history that culminated in the persecution and death of our ancestors,” the federation said in a statement.

A note by B’nai B’rith Brazil likened Batista’s comments to the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, the infamous falsification of European antisemites. And the Jews for Democracy nonprofit called the episode “a clear example of left-wing conspiracy anti-Semitism.” (Lula is leftwing and was narrowly elected to replace Brazil’s right-wing president, Jair Bolsonaro, a Christian nationalist who has been a strong supporter of Israel.)

The Brazil-Israel Institute demanded a public apology by the attack perpetrator and the show’s host, Luis Nassif, who later tweeted that he didn’t react because he considered the statement xenophobic, but not antisemitic.

“The statements are antisemitic as in an antisemitism handbook, establishing the classic relationship between Jews and money, triggering the thesis of a Jewish plot and even repeats logic that removes from the Jews the possibility of being Brazilian,” the institute posted on social channels.

Fluent in Hebrew, English, Portuguese and Spanish, Goldfajn has a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as well as bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. In the mid-1990s he was a professor at Brandeis University.

His track record in banking in Brazil and beyond is extensive. He has served as chief economist at Itau, Brazil’s largest private bank, and deputy to the bank governor of Brazil, as well as adviser to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In 2018, Goldfajn was named central banker of the year by the British magazine *The Banker* due to his successful performance at the helm of Brazil’s Central Bank, taming the country’s annual inflation.

“Ilan Goldfajn is a unique figure within the Brazilian economic scenario and a source of great pride for Brazil and for the Jewish community. He will certainly contribute a lot with his great experience,” Renato Ochman, president of the Brazil-Israel Chamber of Commerce, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in November, when Goldfajn was elected Inter-American Development Bank for a five-year term. **HW**

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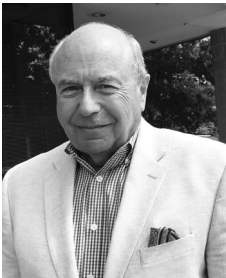
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Holocaust Survivors from Over a Dozen Countries, Including Recent Evacuees From Ukraine, Honored Globally

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) held its 6th annual International Holocaust Survivors Night (IHSN) globally and virtually on the third night of Chanukah, on Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

This year’s virtual event focused on a theme of hope in the face of rising antisemitism. Remarks were shared by dignitaries including, Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of Germany; Isaac Herzog, President of Israel; Amb. Stuart Eizenstat, Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues to the United States Secretary of State; Ellen Germain, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues U.S. State Department.

Celebrity greetings included messages from Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony Award winner Barbra Streisand; Emmy and Golden Globe-nominated, actor, writer and producer, Seth Rogen; Tony Award winning and Emmy-nominated actor, Jason Alexander from Seinfeld; Emmy and Golden Globe Award winning actor, Henry Winkler from Happy Days and his current show Barry; Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award Winning actor, David Strathairn; and Emmy and Tony-nominated actress, Tovah Feldshuh currently starring in Funny Girl on Broadway. Participants in the event were entertained by a musical performance shared from the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene cast of Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish, and a song from groundbreaking, six-man a cappella vocal band, Six13.

The virtual event also included messages of hope from Holocaust survivors recently evacuated from Ukraine as well as survivors from over a dozen countries, including, former ADL Director Abe Foxman from the U.S.; Amb.

Colette Avital from Israel; Kristallnacht survivor Charlotte Knobloch from Germany; famed Nazi hunter and Holocaust survivor Serge Klarsfeld from France; Holocaust survivor, Marian Turski from Poland who represented all survivors globally at the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz; and Holocaust survivor and famed sex therapist, Dr. Ruth Westheimer from the U.S. Survivors were joined by Holocaust envoys from the U.S., U.K., Canada, Germany and Croatia, and leaders from Holocaust institutions including, Dani Dayan, Chairman of Yad Vashem; Sara J. Bloomfield, Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Jack Kliger, President and CEO of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City; and many more.

Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of Germany delivered a message to survivors saying, “...the strength with which you, the survivors, have carried on, the strength with which you keep alive and pass on this memory, moves and impresses very many of us. It gives us hope. And we certainly need hope – particularly right now. Russia’s bombs and missile terror is endangering the lives and freedom of Ukrainians. Survivors of the Holocaust are also at risk, which is deeply shocking. The fact that some of them have now found refuge in Germany is very humbling for us. We are grateful to everyone who has helped them: The schools, which have set up ‘welcome classes’ to enable Ukrainian children and young people to have a bright future; the communities, which have taken them in. All of these examples are beacons of hope. The darker the night, the brighter they shine.”

Gideon Taylor, President of the

Claims Conference, said, “As antisemitism rises around the world and hate again becomes the normalized language of the day, survivors remind us of the importance of hope. During the Holocaust they did not give up. And after the War, they fought to carve out new lives for themselves and continue to speak and educate, all in the hope that their testimonies will win out over the hate. They never give up. Their hope is an example to us all and we have a moral imperative to carry that hope forward into the world.”

International Holocaust Survivors Night started in 2017 as the only date on the calendar celebrating Holocaust survivors and honoring them for their sacrifice and continued contributions to the world. Every year the event ends with an official menorah lighting at the Kotel in Israel in honor of Holocaust survivors. Initial ceremonies were held in Israel, the United States, and Germany. International Holocaust Survivors Night has grown each year and now includes more than 15 countries across 6 continents.

Greg Schneider, Executive Vice President of the Claims Conference said, “Now is the time to honor survivors as our opportunities to celebrate them are waning. We honor them for the example of light over darkness they give us during the festival of lights. But we also celebrate them for the immense contributions they have given to the world – to a world that turned its back on them. We celebrate their perseverance, their resilience and the example they set for all of us.”

Alla Sinelnikova, Holocaust survivor recently evacuated from Ukraine to Germany, said, “You see, I have been

living in the world for a very long time, and thanks to hope we only somehow survive. Because otherwise, you cannot live if there is no hope.”

Serge Klarsfeld, Holocaust survivor and famed Nazi hunter, said, “Chanukah, the festival of lights, is a great reminder to think of the hope we all carry. It is that hope that saw me through the Holocaust, fueled my career bringing Nazis to justice and it is that hope that I carry with me today when I see so much antisemitism and hatred in the world. We can all be a beacon of hope – a light in the darkness.”

About the Claims Conference: The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), a nonprofit organization with offices in New York, Israel and Germany, secures material compensation for Holocaust survivors around the world. Founded in 1951 by representatives of 23 major international Jewish organizations, the Claims Conference negotiates for and disburses funds to individuals and organizations and seeks the return of Jewish property stolen during the Holocaust. As a result of negotiations with the Claims Conference since 1952, the German government has paid more than \$90 billion in indemnification to individuals for suffering and losses resulting from persecution by the Nazis. In 2022, the Claims Conference will distribute over \$700 million in compensation to over 210,000 survivors in 83 countries and allocated over \$720 million in grants to over 300 social service agencies worldwide that provide vital services for Holocaust survivors, such as homecare, food and medicine. To view the presentation visit www.claimscon.org/survivorsnight2022/ **HW**

Secret Document Reveals E.U. Plans to Help Palestinian Takeover of Area C



IDF soldiers stand guard as a bulldozer demolishes a Palestinian house that was built without a permit in the village of Beit Dajan, east of Nablus, May 9, 2022. Credit: Nasser Ishtayeh/Flash90.

(JNS) – A document composed by the European Union’s mission in eastern Jerusalem and defined as secret exposes the E.U.’s intention to help Palestinians gain control over Area C of Judea and Samaria, commonly known as the West Bank, Is-

rael’s *Channel 13* revealed last Monday.

Under the Oslo Accords, Judea and Samaria is divided into three zones with Area C falling fully under Israeli control.

The six-page document calls for mapping the territory in order to prove Pales-

tinian rights to the land and monitoring Israeli archaeological activity, as ancient Jewish ties reinforce Israeli claims.

The document also recommends strengthening Palestinian infrastructure in Area C and supporting Palestinians with legal aid.

In response to *Channel 13*’s expose, the E.U. said, “As a general rule, we do not refer to documents. The policy of the E.U. is created by its 27 member states. Our policy has not changed – we are committed to a two-state solution with Jerusalem as the future capital of both states.”

The report raised an outcry among politicians and various Israeli groups.

“It is not by chance that the European Union chose to classify the document as secret since it reveals its antisemitic attitude towards Israel for all to see,” tweeted Religious Zionism Party Chairman Bezalel Smotrich.

“It’s not content with accelerating the Palestinian takeover of Area C, it is important for it to thwart Israeli archaeological activity in Judea and Samaria lest the truth be revealed: ‘We have not taken foreign land, nor foreign property

of our own; but the land of our ancestors...,’” he said, quoting the Book of the Maccabees.

Regavim, an Israeli nonprofit involved in land issues, said, “The State of Israel must take decisive action against this brazen meddling and prevent the establishment of a terrorist state in the heart of the Jewish homeland.”

Shlomo Ne’eman, head of the Gush Etzion Council and the Yesha Council, said the document shows “what we have been strongly asserting for years: The European Union is working maliciously together with the Palestinian Authority against the State of Israel.

“The matter is nothing less than bizarre – the allies of the State of Israel, the European governments, are actively working to change the borders of our country. In the past, this was a reason for wars between nations,” he said. Ne’eman called on the incoming government to make the fight against the Palestinian takeover of Area C its No. 1 priority. “Leave everything else and preserve the nation’s lands, because there is nothing more important,” he said. **HW**

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Avron B. Fogelman Awarded Honorary Doctorate from Florida Atlantic University



Avron B. Fogelman

Memphian Avron B. Fogelman, a noted philanthropist, business entrepreneur, and sports enthusiastic has been awarded by the Trustees of Florida Atlantic University an Honorary Doctorate in honor of his extraordinary life of accomplishments.

This honorary degree is awarded to those who have distinguished themselves through humanitarianism and philanthropic contributions to society. The University’s selection criteria are based on “national and international” standards of exceptional achievements that are primarily intellectual in nature. Consideration is also given to individu-

als who have contributed in significant ways to the advancement of disciplines or programs at FAU and/or the development of the state and region.

Mr. Fogelman was nominated by Dean Michael Horswell of the Arts and Letters College. “I am honored to have nominated Mr. Fogelman for a Doctorate of Humane Letters given his lifetime commitment to education, sports, preserving American history through collecting and curating, and giving his considerable collections to FAU, as well as his continuing to work in improving the general welfare of his fellowman through numerous grants, programs, and Foundations,” said Dean Horswell. [HW](#)

Plough Towers: Celebrates Winter Holidays



Above: Past President Jason Salomon and family re-tell the Story of Hanukkah.
Below: Executive Committee members Jason Salomon, Steve Baer and Julie Boshwit help light the menorah for the first night of Hanukkah.



By Harleen Tague

Hanukkah celebrates and commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem after a successful revolt led by Judah Maccabee against their oppressors who tried to assimilate the Jewish people. Today, 2000 years later we continue to celebrate the strength and learn from our ancestors.

Plough Tower residents celebrated by lighting their beautiful menorah in the lobby at sundown every night during Hanukkah and honored the first night of Hanukkah with sufganiyot (soft donuts). Plough Towers executive committee, along with staff, led the lighting and storytelling. On Tuesday, December 20, volunteers from the Jewish community helped the residents celebrate along

with the beautiful singing of Emily Groff Heiborn, Temple Israel’s musical soloist.

Residents continued to celebrate the season with a Christmas party on Thursday, December 22, with live music from the Beverly Brothers thanks to Creative Aging of the Mid-South.

The party continued on New Year’s Eve with music and dancing, thanks again to Creative Aging of the Mid-South and Joyce Cobb’s Boyfriends.

Plough Towers welcomes all family and friends to join in celebrating the holidays and activities with residents in our community. To find out more, visit [ploughtowers.org](#) or the Facebook page at Plough Towers Memphis. [HW](#)

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Schloss Lodge Donates Bears to FJFS



Joel Turetzky, Elaine Miner, Rashki Osina and Harold Steinberg

Sam Schloss Lodge #35 of B’nai B’rith recently donated 72 bears to the Fogelman Jewish Family Service. Lodge members Joel Turetzky, Elaine Miner and Harold Steinberg made the presentation to FJFS Director of Social Services Rashki Osina.

The bears were distributed at the FJFS Chanukah party and the Inclusion and Diverse Abilities Chanukah celebration. In addition, residents at the Shabbat Shalom program at Town Village and Brookdale Senior Living received bears.

One of the Inclusion clients exclaimed, “Oh, thank you - they’re cute!”

The recipient named her bear Honey.

“The project was created to supply plush bears to social service agencies and medical facilities to provide comfort and hope to children and adults who were medically fragile,” said Joel Turetzky, who founded the project more than 20 years ago. “To date, over 33,000 bears have been distributed.”

Local recipient agencies include Fogelman Jewish Family Service, Plough Towers, American Red Cross, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, West Cancer Clinic, Germantown Emergency Medical Services, Child Advocacy Center and more. **HW**

Young Israel Shares Sufganiyot with 100 IDF Soldiers



Groups of IDF soldiers enjoying Sufganiyot (jelly donuts) on Chanukah



By Rabbi Akiva Males

Chanukah has always been a time in which we share Tzedakah in a generous fashion. Chanukah is also a terrific time to reach out and share some love with the brave Chayalim (soldiers) of Israel’s Defense Forces (IDF). After all, they are doing their best to protect our brothers and sisters in Israel – while away from their own homes, friends, and families.

Before and during Chanukah, Young Israel’s (YI) Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund (RDF) was involved in sharing some Chanukah warmth with many deserving individuals and causes. While I’m not able to share the identities of those individuals our shul was able to assist, I’m happy to identify one terrific cause that Young Israel supported.


This Chanukah, YI once again partnered with www.BasketstoIsrael.com to supply active-duty IDF soldiers with Sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) to enhance their Chanukah. Thanks to our generous sponsors, this year, YI was able to share Sufganiyot with 100 soldiers!

Knowing that a caring shul in faraway Memphis, Tenn., was thinking of them on Chanukah, surely provided those IDF soldiers with a much-appreciated morale boost!


Yasher Koach to all of Young Israel’s RDF supporters who enable this fund to engage in so many meaningful good deeds!

Young Israel of Memphis’ Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbi@yiom.org **HW**



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Upcoming 2023 Programming presented by the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South as part of the Sumner Levine Speaker Series

The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South is pleased to present the following programs as part of the Sumner Levine Speaker Series. These programs are free and open to the community. They all will be held at the Memphis Jewish Community Center and will be in-person events only. Post-event recordings will be available on jhsmem.org.

“We are happy to bring this wide variety of programming relating to Jewish history to our community,” said David Ross, president of the Memphis Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South.

Genealogy / Researching Family Histories

Led by Karen S. Franklin
Sunday, January 15
Strategies for Jewish genealogical research
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Break and light refreshments
2:00-2:15 p.m.
Case studies in family histories
2:15-3:30 p.m.

Karen S. Franklin is director of Family Research at the Leo Baeck Institute and a consultant for the Museum of Jewish Heritage. She has served as president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, chair of the Council of American Jewish Museums, chair of the Memorial Museums Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), and as co-chair of the Board of Governors of JewishGen.org. She is currently on the board of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and serves as a co-editor of the memoir section of *Southern Jewish History*. She has been an active leader, lecturer, and author in the field of museums, genealogy, and looted art. We are looking forward to welcoming Karen to Memphis!

Whether you are a beginner or veteran family historian, this program will be of interest to you. Karen will provide strategies for Jewish genealogical research. She will describe the basic resources available online for research in the United States, and she will address how to “leap across the ocean” to identify where our ancestors once lived and what kinds of records might be available. In addition, Karen will share actual case studies and the surprising things that sometimes are discovered.

“The Jews and The Blues”

Sunday, February 19
2:00 -3:15 p.m.
Film shown in partnership with the Morris and Mollye Fogelman International Jewish Film Festival.

The runtime of the film is 67 minutes. This film explores how the Blues tie into the incredible mix of cultures in Israel, including Arab, Ethiopian, and Moroccan – all Jewish and all Israeli – united through the universal tie that binds us together...music. Experience the sights, sounds, and the unexpected in this musical and spiritual journey.

Children of Beale Street

Sunday, April 16
2:00-3:30 p.m.
Our panel of Memphians will share their memories of their parents’ and grandparents’ stores on Beale Street.

Egg Cream and the New York Jewish Food Experience

Sunday, May 7
2:00-3:30 p.m.
We will show “Egg Cream,” a

16-minute documentary, followed by a panel discussion with Memphians who are former New Yorkers, Rivky Klein and Enid Weiser. They will share their fond memories of their Jewish food experiences in New York. The panel discussion will be followed by a tasting of delicious New York-inspired Jewish food treats.

Light refreshments will be served at each of these programs. [HW](#)



Genealogy/ Researching Family Histories
Sunday, January 15
12:30-3:30 pm CT

Strategies for Jewish genealogical research with noted genealogist Karen S. Franklin of New York.



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What Does a Strong Dollar Mean for the U.S. Economy?

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

In late September 2022, the U.S. dollar hit a 20-year high in an index that measures its value against six major currencies: the euro, the Japanese yen, the British pound, the Canadian dollar, the Swedish krona, and the Swiss franc. At the same time, a broader inflation-adjusted index that captures a basket of 26 foreign currencies reached its highest level since 1985. Both indexes eased slightly but remained near their highs in October.¹⁻²

Intuitively, it might seem that a strong dollar is good for the U.S. economy, but the effects are mixed in the context of other domestic and global pressures.

World Standard

The U.S. dollar is the world’s reserve currency. About 40% of global financial transactions are executed in dollars, with or without U.S. involvement.³ As such, foreign governments, global financial institutions, and multinational companies all hold dollars, providing a level of demand regardless of other forces.

Demand for the dollar tends to increase during difficult times as investors seek stability and security. Despite high inflation and recession predictions, the U.S. economy remains the strongest in the world.⁴ Other countries are battling inflation, too, and the strong dollar is making their battles more difficult. The United States recovered more quickly from the pandemic recession, putting it in a better position to weather inflationary pressures.

The Federal Reserve’s aggressive policy to combat inflation by raising interest rates has driven demand for the dollar even higher because of the appealing rates on dollar-denominated assets such as U.S. Treasury securities. Some other central banks have begun to raise rates as well – to fight inflation and offer better yields on their own securities. But the strength of the U.S. economy allows

the Fed to push rates higher and faster, which is likely to maintain the dollar’s advantage for some time.

Exports and Imports

The strong dollar makes imported goods cheaper and exported goods more expensive. Cheaper imports are generally good for consumers and for companies that use foreign-manufactured supplies, but they can undercut domestic sales by U.S. producers.

At the same time, the strong dollar effectively raises prices for goods that U.S. companies sell in foreign markets, making it more difficult to compete and reducing the value of foreign purchases. For example, a U.S. company that sells 10,000 euros worth of goods to a foreign buyer would receive less revenue when a euro buys fewer dollars. Some experts are concerned that the strong dollar will dampen the post-pandemic rebound in U.S. manufacturing.⁵ More broadly, the ballooning trade deficit cuts into U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), which includes imports as a negative input and exports as a positive input.

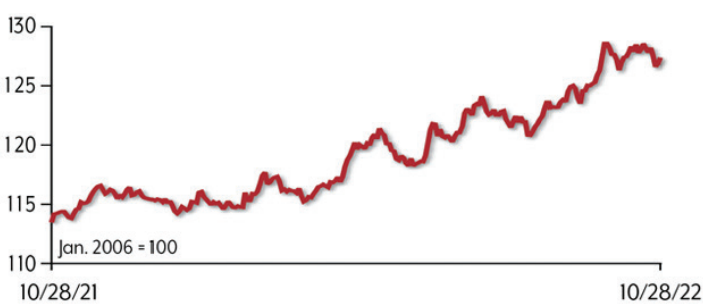
Overseas Exposure

Generally, large multinational companies have the most exposure to risk from currency imbalances, and the stock market has shown signs of a shift from large companies – which have dominated the market since before the pandemic – to smaller companies that may be more nimble and less dependent on overseas sales. The S&P SmallCap 600 index outperformed the S&P 500 index through late October; if the trend continues through the end of the year, it would be the first time since 2016 that small caps have eclipsed large caps.⁶ The S&P MidCap 400 index has done even better. (In the context of the bear market, better performance means lower losses – all three indexes have had double-digit losses through October 2022.⁷)

Surging Greenback

Over the past year, the value of the dollar has risen rapidly against a broad basket of foreign currencies.

Nominal Broad U.S. Dollar Index



Source: Federal Reserve, 2022

Global Pain

A weak currency can be a boon for a country by making its exports more competitive. But with the world economy weakening, other countries are not reaping those benefits, while paying more on debt and imported essentials such as food and fuel that are traded in dollars. The Fed is focused on domestic concerns, but it is effectively exporting inflation while trying to control it at home, and global economic pain could ultimately spread to the U.S. economy.⁸

Slowing the Dollar

In the near term, the Fed’s aggressive rate hikes may reduce domestic demand for foreign goods, reducing the trade deficit and weakening the dollar. The advance Q3 2022 GDP estimate showed the trade gap closing, but it’s unclear if the trend will last.⁹

In the longer term, as inflation eases in the United States, the Fed will likely take its foot off the gas pedal and ultimately bring rates down. This would allow other central banks to catch up if they choose to do so and would make foreign currencies and securities more appealing. Lower oil prices (denominated in dollars) and/or any reduction in world tensions – such as a slowdown in the Russia-Ukraine war – might also help reduce demand for dollars.

The dynamics of these factors are complex, and it may take time for any of them to unfold. In the meantime, the strong dollar is a sign of U.S. economic strength, and it would not be wise to place too much emphasis on it for long-term investment decisions. However, this could be a great time for an overseas vacation.

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- 1) MarketWatch, October 19, 2022 (U.S. Dollar index)
- 2) Federal Reserve, 2022 (Real Broad Dollar index)
- 3, 8) The New York Times, September 26, 2022
- 4, 6) The Wall Street Journal, October 17, 2022
- 5) The Wall Street Journal, October 9, 2022
- 7) S&P Dow Jones Indices, 2022
- 9) U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022

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Reconstructionist Judaism Moves to Back Reparations for African Americans

By Dave Schechter

(JTA) – The congregational arm of Reconstructionist Judaism has endorsed reparations for Black Americans, approving a resolution that calls for “ongoing learning,” “deep reflection” and “teshuvah,” or repentance.

But the resolution approved by Reconstructionist congregations earlier this month does not mention financial compensation for those who have been harmed by American slavery and its lasting effects.

“The goal of this resolution is to establish a moral position around reparations,” said Rabbi Micah Geurin Weiss, whose title is assistant director for thriving communities and tikkun olam specialist at Reconstructing Judaism, the movement’s official name. “We understand that as a religious movement we are uniquely positioned to do so.”

During a Dec. 11 Zoom call, representatives of 47 congregations voted in support of the resolution and 11 abstained. There were no negative votes. Reconstructing Judaism has 95 congregations and recognized havurahs, or groups that meet outside of traditional synagogues, with an estimated 50,000 members.

The vote was a penultimate step in a process that began nearly two years ago, when the movement’s 370-member rabbinical association passed a “statement of resolve on reparations and antiracism.” If approved in January by Reconstructing Judaism’s board of governors, the resolution will serve as a guide for rabbis and congregations, as well as the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the movement’s affiliated enterprises.

Reconstructing Judaism, with which about 1% of American Jews are affiliated, is not the first major Jewish movement in the United States to express support for reparations, seen by advocates as an essential step in moving toward racial equity.

The Union of Reform Judaism passed a resolution at its 2019 conference backing the creation of “a federal commission to study and develop proposals for reparations to redress the historic and continuing effects of slavery and subsequent systemic racial, societal, and economic discrimination against Black Americans.”

Reconstructing Judaism’s resolution calls for the same commission, which was first introduced in Congress in 1989 but has never come to a full vote. The resolution also urges movement congregations to engage in “ongoing learning about systems of oppression and structural racism, and about how these sys-

tems have caused, and continue to cause, harm in our communities.” It also urges them to join racial justice initiatives led by people of color, and to take “concrete steps to repair the harm” of racism and injustice. Those “concrete steps” are not specified, nor is a timetable laid out.

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, president and CEO of Reconstructing Judaism, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the resolution and its demands could feel uncomfortable for some.

“For the Jewish people, engaging in this conversation means getting real about doing this work about racial justice, facing that reality rather than using it as a pretext to shy away,” she said. “This is about urging our communities and our movement at large to look at systemic racism really squarely, and for individuals to do their own reckoning and for communities to do their own reckoning.”

It is essential for that reckoning to take place in part because Reconstructing Judaism has a diverse membership, said Rabbi Sandra Lawson, the movement’s director of racial diversity, equity and inclusion.

“The Reconstructionist movement is doing the work of how do we deal with the fact that we have people in our communities whose families have been harmed and continue to be harmed,” said Lawson, who is Black. She added, “The solutions piece is what frightens people, I think.”

Lawson’s first Jewish community was at Congregation Bet Haverim, a Reconstructionist congregation in Atlanta, a city often referred to as the cradle of the civil rights movement.

“Our congregation includes descendants of both the enslaved and their enslavers. But telling the full truth means owning the responsibility we all share,” said Bet Haverim’s rabbi, Mike Rothbaum. “My Ashkenazi Jewish ancestors were racially ‘other’ both in Europe and when they arrived in the U.S., and yet, the developments of the 20th century allowed their descendants – myself included – to access whiteness and its privileges.

“That journey across racial borders reveals the arbitrary nature of race in the U.S.,” Rothbaum added. “It demands that we as Jews talk about it, both publicly and privately. If we can be honest in private, our next step is to publicly stand in solidarity with Black folks in Georgia who continue to face the repercussions of racial injustice – substandard health-care, mass incarceration, underfunded schools, voter suppression, restricted access to employment and credit.” HW

Is There a Biblical Monster in ‘Avatar: The Way of Water’?

By PJ Grisar ... (editor’s note: spoiler alert)

This article originally appeared on Forward. Reprinted with permission.

The most arresting parts of “Avatar: The Way of Water” are less like a family drama, critique of military imperialism or action film and more like a nature documentary about a misunderstood leviathan.

The film picks up over a decade after “Avatar.” Jake Sully, the jarhead turned human-alien hybrid savior of the moon Pandora now has a family and spends his days sabotaging the supply lines of the “Sky People,” aka human colonizers. When an old enemy returns, the Sully clan find asylum among the Metkayina reef people.

There, Jake’s youngest son, Lo’ak, is almost swallowed whole by a massive sea predator. After nearly drowning, he is rescued by a tulkun, an even larger, whale-like creature with impenetrable scales – a bit like the biblical leviathan, who nearly swallowed the fish that gobbled down Jonah.

Lo’ak returns to the Metkayina village with news of his savior, but the elders are shaken by it. This tulkun, who is missing half a fin, is Payakan, and he is an outcast. He defied the sacred pacifism of his species and caused the deaths of a number of his kind. As a consequence, Payakan must live away from the pods and without a “spirit brother” from among the Metkayina. That is, until Lo’ak enters his mouth and establishes a neural link.

In the Bible and rabbinical texts, the leviathan, who rules the seas, was famously a loner. God killed his mate for fear their offspring would cause the end of the world. In Job we’re told of the fearsome sea beast, “No sword that overtakes him can prevail/ Nor spear, nor missile, nor lance./ He regards iron as straw/ Bronze, as rotted wood./ No arrow can put him to flight/ Slingstones

turn into stubble for him.”

Payakan puts proof to this idea. In the third act climax, he thrashes billions of dollars’ worth of military and commercial whaling equipment, single-finnedly prompting a capsized after casually deflecting a projectile with the impenetrable plate on its head.

You can see why these creatures opted for pacifism – they know they’re too powerful, just like God realized when he killed the leviathan’s mate, opting to salt and save her for a feast at the messianic banquet instead.

There are clear differences between the tulkun and the singularly terrifying and far less friendly leviathan. The leviathan is much, much bigger and in some descriptions more serpentine or dragon-like. The tulkun are hunted for an enzyme in their brains said to suspend the aging process (adrenochrome ambergris, we might call it). The leviathan’s chief resource is its flesh, a dainty for the righteous at the dawn of the Messianic Age, and skin, which will cover the walls of Jerusalem at that time.

But given the depth of Cameron’s research, which draws from Aboriginal tradition, Joseph Campbell and his own oceanographic fixation, we can’t rule out a biblical influence. There is, in fact, a pivotal scene that seems to rearrange the angelic intervention during the binding of Isaac.

But, like the one before it, this installment of “Avatar” (itself named for a Hindu concept of incarnated deities) leans more heavily into other faith traditions. The sequel leaves a loose thread involving an ostensible virgin birth. Will that miracle child multiply loaves and fishes or walk on water? We’ll have to wait for “Avatar 3” to see.

PJ Grisar is a Forward culture reporter. He can be reached at Grisar@Forward.com and @pjgrisar on Twitter. HW

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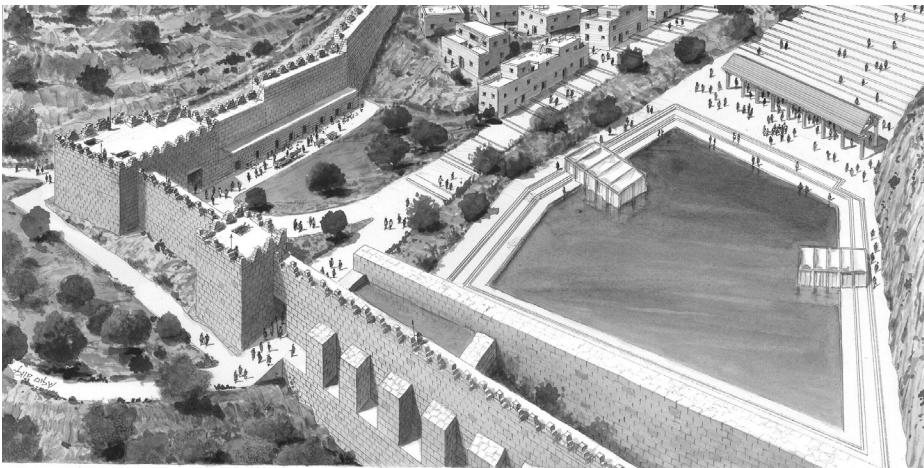
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Jerusalem’s Pool of Siloam to Be Excavated, Opened to the Public



A rendering of the Pool of Siloam in the Second Temple Period. Credit: Shalom Kveller/City of David Archives

By Etgar Lefkovits

(JNS) – An ancient Jerusalem pool that was used by millions of Jewish pilgrims during the time of the Second Temple two millennia ago as a ritual bath before ascending the Temple Mount and revered by Christians as the site where Jesus cured a blind man, will be fully excavated and then opened to the public, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced last Tuesday.

The Pool of Siloam, located in the southern portion of the City of David, the ancient epicenter of Jerusalem, and just outside the Old City walls, is expected to become one of the most important historic and tourist sites in the city.

The pool has been a focal point for archaeologists and scholars for the last 150 years. The excavations are set to begin in January and will continue for at least several months, while the site is expected to open to the public in about a year.

The City of David, a top tourist attraction in the capital, is adjacent to the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan.

The Pool of Siloam was uncovered at the end of the 19th century, when British and American archaeologists led by Frederick Jones Bliss and Archibald Campbell Dickie exposed some of the steps of the Pool, followed by some work in the 1960s by the British archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon.

The site’s scope was more fully uncovered only in 2004, when the city Gihon water company was carrying out infrastructure work and a tractor accidentally laid bare more of the location, leading to a partial excavation at the time, said Dr. Amit Re’em, the Jerusalem district archaeologist for the Israel Antiquities Authority.

The well-preserved pool covered with ashlar carved stone was a monumental site, and the consensus in the archaeological community was that this was indeed the Siloam Pool, he said.

The Pilgrimage Road

Moreover, the recently uncovered adjacent stone path, dubbed “the Pilgrimage Road,” which Jewish pilgrims used to ascend the Temple Mount during the Second Temple Period after purifying themselves in water and donning white robes, leads from the Pool to the Mount, the Israeli archaeologist said.

This pool was in use during the time of Jesus, he noted. According to the Gospel of John, it was at the Siloam Pool that Jesus healed the blind man.

“There is no doubt that this is one of the most important historic sites in Jerusalem, and as such, it should be fully exposed,” Re’em said.

It remains to be seen what lies underneath the pool, and whether an earlier stage of the pool dating back to the First

Temple will be found as well, the archaeologist said.

The Pool of Siloam was constructed as part of Jerusalem’s water system during the reign of King Hezekiah (715–687/6 BCE), as described in 2 Kings 20:20.

It served as the reservoir for the waters of the Gihon Spring, which were diverted through an underground water tunnel, and was one of the most important areas in Jerusalem in the First Temple period, the Antiquities Authority said. Due to its location and importance, the Pool of Siloam was renovated and expanded some 2,000 years ago, at the end of the Second Temple period.

The planned excavation of the five-dunam site (about 1.25 acres) is getting underway after a 14-year legal battle culminated in June when Israel’s Supreme Court found no reason to challenge the validity of the Ateret Cohanim organization’s purchase of 99-year leases, renewable for an additional 99 years,

The site is expected to become one of the city’s most important historic and tourist sites.

from the Greek Orthodox Church, the largest landowner in Jerusalem.

One of Ateret Cohanim’s goals is to purchase land in the history-rich area for public viewing, said Doron Spielman, vice president of the City of David Foundation. Previously, the area, which was off limits to everybody, lay barren for decades and was littered with garbage, he said.

“It is not every day that we find an icon in Jerusalem,” Spielman said. “This is not just a huge find, it is a mega-find.”

Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion said in a statement, “The Pool of Siloam in the City of David National Park in Jerusalem is a site of historic, national and international significance. After many years of anticipation, we will soon merit being able to uncover this important site and make it accessible to the millions of visitors visiting Jerusalem each year.”

One million visitors visited the City of David in 2019, before the outbreak of the coronavirus, and a record three million are expected next year with the launch of a cable car, said Oriya Dasberg, head of physical development at the City of David Foundation.

“The same way that this pool drew pilgrims thousands of years ago – on the path of our ancestors – it will now attract millions of tourists,” she said. **HW**

Rare White Wolf Spotted in Israel’s Negev Region



The white wolf in the Negev. Credit: Asher Peretz/Israel Nature and Parks Authority.

(JNS) – A wolf with rare white fur was photographed roaming the Negev region. Making it still rarer is that it’s not an albino.

“At first glance, you might think it is an albino wolf, but its eyes are not red,” Dotan Rotem, an ecologist with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, told Ynet in a report published last Sunday.

The wolf’s white appearance is the result of a condition known as leucism. “This is a phenomenon involving a rare genetic combination that causes the wolf to have white fur,” Rotem said.

“In small species, which are prey for

larger species, albinism can be a problem because they are more noticeable in the field. Sometimes the albinism phenomenon is also characterized by a tendency to skin diseases and other sensitivities,” he said.

The wolf was identified thanks to ground cameras set up by the Israel Parks and Nature Authority to study the behavior of wild animals in open areas of the Negev.

White wolves have been seen before in Israel, including in 2012 in Evrona, a nature preserve near Eilat, and in 2015 in Mishor Yemin, a nature park in the northern Negev. **HW**

Whoopi Goldberg Revisits Controversial Shoah Remarks



Whoopi Goldberg. Credit: Eugene Parciasepe/Shutterstock.

(JNS) – “The View” co-host Whoopi Goldberg appeared to double down on her controversial Holocaust comments that earned her a suspension from the show in February.

In an interview with the *Times of London* this week, Goldberg defended her earlier comments that “the Holocaust isn’t about race.”

“Remember who they were killing first,” she told the newspaper. “They were not killing racial; they were killing physical. They were killing people they considered to be mentally defective. And then they made this decision.”

She also said that Jews are not outwardly identifiable the way blacks are. “It doesn’t change the fact that you could not tell a Jew on a street. You could find me. You couldn’t find them. That was the point I was making,” she said.

She suggested that the reaction to her original comments was overblown. “You would have thought that I’d taken a big old stinky dump on the table, butt naked,” she said.

She also said a friend agreed with her original comments. “My best friend said, ‘Not for nothing is there no box on the census for the Jewish race. So that leads me to believe that we’re probably not a race.’”

On Feb. 1, *ABC News* president Kim Godwin announced that Goldberg would be suspended for two weeks from the morning talk show “The View” after her remarks during a Jan. 31 episode of the program.

During the episode, which focused on the recent Tennessee school board decision to ban “Maus,” a Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel about the Holocaust, Goldberg said: “Let’s be truthful about it...the Holocaust isn’t about race.”

She later apologized for making the comment, saying, “As [Anti-Defamation League CEO and National Director] Jonathan Greenblatt shared, ‘The Holocaust was about the Nazis’ systematic annihilation of the Jewish people – who they deemed to be an inferior race.’ I stand corrected.” **HW**



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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.





Artists Imagine a New Jewish Tradition in Tzedek Boxes at the Heller Museum in New York



Memphian Marisa Baggett at work in her home studio. Marisa’s piece, “Freeflow,” is included among the 29 works of art.

The Tzedek Box, a ritual object for gathering reminders of our efforts to improve the world, is the inspiration for 29 highly original works by contemporary artists on display at the Heller Museum at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion beginning January 19,

2023. Tzedek means justice; and working toward justice is a righteous duty in Judaism. Each box has a slot through which to insert a written reflection on every effort made to help the world, whether through volunteering, charita-

ble work, education or other just acts. The Heller’s call to imagine a Tzedek box has produced ingenious versions from contemporary artists from across America and around the world. Objects range from clocks to globes, from a jar that produces sparks of light with each submission to an interactive scroll. One piece is a sleek brass shaft that opens to form the scales of justice; another is a sculpture of helping hands. Each box opens so that notes can be retrieved one month after Passover on Yom HaTzedek, which is celebrated on Pesach Sheini, a Biblical holiday allowing for second chances. The goal on that day is to review the past year’s actions and dedicate oneself to do even more in the coming year. The idea of Yom HaTzedek and the Tzedek Box Project has been led by Andrew Mandel, a 5th year rabbinic student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and has quickly attracted a team of lay leaders, rabbis, and rabbinic and cantorial students to imagine how the holiday could be celebrated.

Memphian Marisa Baggett’s piece is included among the 29 works. Marisa explains, “My piece ‘Freeflow’ is inspired by and features, “*But let justice well up like water, righteousness like an unfailing stream.” from Amos 5:24. Like water, justice should flow freely into all places where it is needed. Water is persistent; in the cases where the flow is blocked, it becomes tenacious, working both tirelessly and consistently to mark a path where there is none. Water is a powerful force of nature, justice is a force of our spiritual one.*” Tzedek Boxes will remain on display in the Backman Gallery at the Heller Museum until May 18. The museum is located at 1 West 4th Street, between Broadway and Mercer Street. The hours are Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; admission is free. Free guided tours are available on Tuesday at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. For information, contact curator Nancy Mantell, nmantell@huc.edu or phone 212-824-2218. For tours contact Eleanor Berman at eberman@huc.edu. **HW**



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